

Dear Friend,

You'd think that for all that veterans have done for this country, the last thing they would have to worry about is battling a bureaucracy upon their return from the real battlefields. Unfortunately, it happens too often.

Recently I helped a Long Island veteran finally get his due more than 60 years after his return from World War II. Vincent Busciolano of Greenlawn served as an airplane mechanic in the Pacific during World War II. While working on the Solomon Islands as part of a special task force, Mr. Busciolano realized that he was losing his hearing. When he came home from the war in 1946, he filed a claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs, only to be denied. What followed for the next six decades was a repeated struggle by Mr. Busciolano to try and regain his hearing, including 3 failed surgeries. Finally last year a friend suggested that he contact a caseworker in my office to try again to get the help he deserved from the VA.

I'm glad to report that on Monday, I was able to present him with a retroactive check for \$89,349 from the VA. Although my office was able to work with the VA to make it right, our veterans deserve better: Mr. Busciolano should not have been forced to wait more than half a century for approval of his service-connected disability. No one who risks their life for our nation should come home to anything but the finest care available.

If you need help working with the federal government, my office is here for you. Contact us at 631-951-2210 for help with immigration and visa paperwork, Medicare and Medicaid, veterans' benefits and other government programs. And for the latest updates on what I'm doing in Washington, visit <http://israel.house.gov>.

Sincerely,

Steve Israel  
Member of Congress