

WASHINGTON (5 Nov.) -- U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.), a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and chairman of the GOP Policy Committee's Veterans' Affairs Task Force, today joined with The Veterans Corporation (TVC) in announcing the 2008 "Honoring America's Veteran Entrepreneurs" Youth Essay Contest.

The contest is an opportunity for students between the ages of 12 to 18 to write an original essay why their parent or grandparent who is a Veteran of the United States Armed Forces or a member of the National Guard or Reserve, and who is also an entrepreneur or business owner, should be named "Veteran Entrepreneur of the Year" by TVC.

"This is a brilliant way to engage our young students in identifying those entrepreneurs, who are also veterans, while learning more about their loved one's sacrifice for this country and how they used that experience to create opportunity for themselves and for others," said Congressman Bilirakis.

"When Veterans succeed, America succeeds!" added Walt Blackwell, TVC President and CEO.

All United States students, ages 12-18, are eligible to compete in the contest. Essays should be no longer than 1,000 words and must be postmarked or emailed no later than December 14, 2007. Essays must be accompanied by a completed essay contest form. Please see the official contest rules for complete contest information and submission information.

The first-place winner will be invited to accept their award at the 2008 "Honoring America's Veteran Entrepreneurs" Reception and Awards Ceremony in February 2008, in Washington, DC. In addition, the winning essay and a photo of the winner and nominee will be featured on The Veterans Corporation's website. Learn more about the Contest at: <http://www.veteranscorp.org/essaycontest/>

ABOUT THE VETERANS CORPORATION

A federally-chartered 501(c)(3) organization created by P.L. 106-50, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999, TVC is charged with creating and enhancing entrepreneurial business opportunities for Veterans, including Service-Disabled Veterans, and members of the National Guard and Reserve. To achieve this mission, TVC provides Veterans with the tools and resources they need to be successful in business. For more information about TVC, please visit them online at www.veteranscorp.org.