

Says America cannot balance budget on the backs of veterans

Charleston, West Virginia – Today, Representative Walz addressed the Enlisted Association of the National Guard, saying taking care of our veterans should be a top priority for our nation.

He spoke passionately against attempts to balance the budget on the backs of veterans and their families who have already sacrificed so much for our nation. He also highlighted the work ahead to ensure returning servicemen and women have jobs when they come home and the need to never stop taking care of our veterans.

Excerpts of Rep. Walz’s speech, as prepared for delivery:

*“As our nation grapples with trying to address our growing debt, I have always been clear that these cuts should never be solely borne by our men and woman who have or are currently serving. Instead of cutting these vital benefits to our veterans, we must look at ways to save money within DOD without hurting our warriors or sacrificing our national security. I have introduced legislation to eliminate tax subsidies the federal government currently gives to wealthy yacht owners and I would suggest finding savings there before we ask members of our military and veterans to sacrifice more.”*

*“Our veterans are talented, they are capable and they have made incredible sacrifices. They have left behind their families, their homes, businesses and their jobs to serve our nation. The least we can do is make sure they have access to a good paying job when they return.”*

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*“Our wounded warriors deserve the best care and support we can give them. When a veteran suffering from Traumatic Brain Injury comes to the VA for treatment, they need to be presented with a comprehensive approach to rehabilitation that will allow them to recover function, achieve independence and fully integrate back into their communities.”*

Congressman Walz serves as a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. He spent 24 years in the National Guard and is the highest ranking enlisted soldier to serve in Congress.

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