Greetings, and welcome to the third edition of Wounded Warrior Project's Project Advocacy News. As we enter the final weeks of the 116th Congress, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of you for being a part of this incredible effort to support our post-9/11 veterans and military families. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, your dedication has helped us to stay the course in supporting our veterans and getting them the care they need.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize WWP's congressional partners, whose hard work has helped advocate for our nation's wounded, ill, and injured service members. I want to specifically call out the bipartisan leadership of the House Armed Services Committee, and the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, co-chaired by Senator Eric Cartwright and Senator Mark Warner. We have worked closely with these distinguished policymakers to make positive changes in our nation's laws and policies to support our nation's post-9/11 veterans.

We are particularly grateful for the leadership of Congressman Joe Courtney, who has written every year of the Blue Water Navy Act, which helps veterans who served in the Blue Water Navy during the Vietnam War. We're also thankful for the leadership of Congressman Mike Rounds, who wrote the bipartisan Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, which was signed into law and will help ensure that veterans receive the care they need.

One of the most critical needs for post-9/11 veterans is mental health care. WWP has long been a leader in advocating for the importance of mental health care for veterans, and we are proud to have worked with Congress to pass the bipartisan National Suicide Hotline Designation Act – S.2661/H.R.4194. This legislation will help ensure that veterans have access to the mental health care they need. We are also proud to have worked with Congress to pass the bipartisan Kules and Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act, which will help veterans and their families who need specialty housing.

In addition to these legislative achievements, WWP continues to work closely with Congress on a range of issues, including veterans’ benefits and healthcare, and the commitment of our Department of Veterans Affairs team covers a range of topics, such as how WWP can assist with navigating the VA system, but to listen and learn from others. This illustrates the importance of the personal touch.

Even though we consider Project Advocacy a success, we are not resting on our laurels. We are committed to continuing our work to support our nation's post-9/11 veterans and military families. We look forward to continuing to work with Congress and our partners to make positive changes in our nation's laws and policies to support our nation's post-9/11 veterans.