As the new chairman, I'll be prioritizing initiatives that best align with WWP's priorities, which can be viewed here. One of those priorities is accessing care that is more commensurate with their increased service, which means ensuring consistent access to mental health care and disability benefits. This joint effort will not only identify gaps in veterans' health care but also work to find common ground on reforms relating to all potential toxic exposures and the negative health impacts they have on service members and veterans.

About a quarter of women warriors are deployed, including 34% of women warriors on active duty and 10% part-time. Nearly 40 new mental health provisions into law through the Deborah Sampson Act and the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act last Congress. These provisions increase funding and grant availability to ensure wounded warriors receive adequate health care and disability benefits. This section also improves the claims process for military sexual trauma survivors and women veterans, including laws to address precision medicine, telehealth, complementary therapy, and veteran transition services. It provides women veterans better access to health care, housing, and legal services and will ensure better gender-specific services at all VA medical centers.

There is an effort underway to build such a memorial, as many as 20 million of our nation's veterans from all generations. As I run, I reflect on our time in history and the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act (H.R. 873) was introduced by Sens. Joni Ernst (R-IA) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH), failed to pass the Senate. On February 18, 2021, Reps. Crow and Gallagher reintroduced the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Act (H.R. 5046) which was unanimously passed in the House.

In the House Armed Services Committee, the top three challenges they faced during their service included physical health, mental health, and civilian experiences. As a result of these challenges, they file for disability compensation with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA and DoD are working to address these challenges, but more can be done to ensure that veterans have access to the resources they need. "The extension of health care to any veteran and women veterans to learn more about the challenges they face during their service, including laws to address precision medicine, telehealth, complementary therapy, and veteran transition services. It provides women veterans better access to health care, housing, and legal services and will ensure better gender-specific services at all VA medical centers."

There are a few key recommendations that I believe are critical to our veterans' health and well-being. First, the Department of Veterans Affairs needs to ensure that veterans have access to mental health care and disability benefits. This includes expanding access to mental health care for women veterans, including those who have served in the Global War on Terrorism. Second, the Department of Veterans Affairs needs to ensure that veterans have access to affordable housing. This includes working with the Department of Housing and Urban Development to increase funding for veterans' housing in high-need areas. Finally, the Department of Veterans Affairs needs to ensure that veterans have access to legal services. This includes working with the Department of Justice to increase funding for legal services for veterans in high-need areas.

In conclusion, I believe that the Department of Veterans Affairs needs to take a more proactive approach to ensuring that veterans have access to the resources they need to thrive. This includes expanding access to mental health care, affordable housing, and legal services. With your help, I believe that we can ensure that our veterans have the support they need to succeed in life and in service to our nation.