



**WHEREAS** Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States deserve our honor and respect for having stood at the tip of the spear to protect us from the uncertain threats in our uncertain world, not for money or glory, but for the love of freedoms legacy; and

**WHEREAS** Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States have gone without question when asked leaving their homes, their families and their communities in our service and it is the least we can do to ensure that their sacrifice is never forgotten; and

**WHEREAS** Veterans of the Armed Forces were ordered by their elected officials into harm's way to defend this great nation and, as they serve us, it is up to us to serve them upon their return.

**NOW THEREFORE I**, Archie Parnell, pledge that, as Congressman for South Carolina's Fifth Congressional District, I will do everything in my power to serve the Veterans of my District, the State of South Carolina and the United States of America.

In keeping with that commitment, I specifically pledge to:

- Conduct "Sounding Sessions" with small groups of Veterans focusing on Combat Veterans of Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan to further identify and understand Veterans issues with the VA and the DOD.
- Encourage all business to institute a Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program within their business to find and hire at least one Wounded Veteran who is qualified for the position and, as an example, I have already instituted this policy within my campaign.
- Reserve two positions, one in my district office, and one in Washington, specifically for Wounded Warriors through the CAO Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program.
- Support amending the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act to include reasonable medical appointments so our Veterans don't fear losing their jobs by going to a doctor's appointment for injuries suffered in the service of this country.
- Provide additional oversight to hold the VA responsible for the care and benefits with which Congress has tasked them.
- Support requiring all records for Disability claims be digitized so that we no longer see warehouses full of paper records waiting for a decision by VA Regional Offices.
- Advocate for providing Mental Health and Substance Abuse treatment to Veterans with a character of service higher than a Dishonorable Discharge.
- Complete an analysis of Homeless Veterans programs in the state of South Carolina to ensure these programs are effective at reducing Veteran Homelessness. The single largest cause of Veteran Homelessness is Substance Abuse and untreated Mental Health Issues and, while this is not the only cause for Veteran homelessness, it is a major cause. I find the fact that in the wealthiest country in the world, tonight there will be Veterans sleeping under an overpass to be unconscionable.
- Explore Federal Grant and Medicaid expansion to allow Veterans to receive treatment, especially for mental health and substance abuse, with local doctors when care cannot be obtained at local VA Facilities.
- Encourage the States to pass Veterans Courts Legislation to ensure those Veterans who need help with issues such as homelessness, mental health and addiction are actually helped rather than incarcerated perpetuating the problem.
- Prioritize treatment over prosecution for minor non-violent crimes that are discovered because a Veteran in crisis calls the Veteran Suicide Hotline.
- Work to expand the York County VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) into a "Super Clinic" in order to improve access to necessary treatment and preventative care to Veterans in the region.

So it is that I, Archie Parnell pledge on this 13th day of June in the year 2017.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Archie Parnell", written over a horizontal line.

Archie Parnell  
Democratic Nominee  
SC-5th Congressional District

June 13, 2017

DATE