

CONGRESSWOMAN SOLIS' VOTING RECORD ON IMPORTANT VETERANS LEGISLATION

- ✓ voted to restore benefits to military surviving spouses (H.R. 4200)
- ✓ voted to increase financial assistance to cover burial costs, funeral costs and plot allowances for veterans (H.R. 2217)
- ✓ voted to help military retirees with health care costs (H.R. 1231)
- ✓ voted to allow veterans of Filipino descent who served in organized military forces of the Philippines before 1946 to be eligible for veterans' benefits (H.R. 677)
- ✓ voted to make home loans more accessible to veterans (H.R. 4345)

CITIZENSHIP SOLDIERS BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

On November 24, 2003, Congresswoman Solis' proposal to facilitate citizenship and family protections to immigrant soldiers and reservists was signed into law as a part of a larger defense bill. This bill honors the sacrifice of thousands of courageous legal immigrants who have defended our country throughout our history. Under the new law, immigrants who serve our country honorably earn the opportunity to apply for citizenship without unnecessary delays for them and their families.



Congresswoman Solis speaks to Sonia Adame who holds a photo of her son, Cpl. Jerry Adam Castillo, a U.S. Marine, about her citizenship soldiers bill.

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Please visit my web site at <http://www.house.gov/solis>

Hilda F. Solis

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CONGRESSWOMAN HILDA L. SOLIS



REMEMBERING ★ OUR FALLEN LOCAL HEROES



PFC Jose Casanova Jr., US Army, 23, El Monte
LCpl. Manuel A. Cenicerros, USMC, 23, Santa Ana
LCpl. Benjamin M. Gonzalez, USMC, 23, Los Angeles
Cpl. Jorge A. Gonzalez, USMC, 20, Los Angeles
Sgt. Atanasio Haro Marin, US Army, 27, Baldwin Park
Spc. Leroy Harris Kelly III, US Army, 20, Azusa
LCpl. Francisco A. Martinez Flores, USMC, 21, Los Angeles
Cpl. Rudy Salas, USMC, 20, Baldwin Park

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

"YOUR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND YOUR SACRIFICES IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED." *Hilda L. Solis*



Dear Veteran:

Every day men and women sacrifice their lives in support of our nation as members of the armed services, both in times of peace and war. I am committed to ensuring better lives for veterans and their families. We must guarantee health care, adequate burial and bereavement services, support services for military families, and financial security to those who serve this nation.

During the Iraqi conflict, our community has suffered the loss of eight fallen heroes; our nation has lost 900 service members and 5,394 have been wounded. Their service to this community and to this nation will not be forgotten.

Sincerely,

Hilda L. Solis

HILDA L. SOLIS
Member of Congress



Congresswoman Solis discussed veterans' issues with her constituents during the annual Baldwin Park Veterans Day.



For the past fifty years Masel Spellman has been waiting for the United States Army to recognize the valor of her son Fred M. Ramos. During World War II Fred M. Ramos served in the Asian Pacific Theater as an Army Private First Class 185th Infantry; he also served in Korea. In a commemorative ceremony on September 6, 2003, Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis presented Masel Spellman and her family (pictured above) with the following awards for her son: Silver Star, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge 1st Award, United Nations Service Medal and the Honorable Service Lapel Button WW II.

If you think you and/or a family member could benefit from Congresswoman Solis' help in obtaining a military medal please contact the office at (626) 448-1271.

DUARTE POST OFFICE NAMED AFTER LOCAL HERO



Congresswoman Solis is accompanied by Martha Martinez, the mother of fallen Marine Lance Corporal Francisco A. Martinez Flores, as she speaks during the dedication ceremony of the Duarte Post Office.

On November 12, 2003, Congresswoman Solis' bill to name a post office in Duarte, California, after fallen Marine Lance Corporal Francisco A. Martinez Flores, a resident of Duarte, was signed into law. Flores died while serving in the military in Iraq; he was only two weeks away from gaining his United States citizenship. The newly named post office is a tribute to all soldiers currently serving our country, those who have died protecting it and all the families who have lost a loved one.

**"MY MOST IMPORTANT DUTY IS TO SERVE MY CONSTITUENTS. PLEASE CONTACT MY OFFICE IF I CAN BE OF ANY HELP."
— Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis**