



David Linden MP

Standing up for the East End's veterans in Westminster

VETERANS NEWSLETTER - 2019

One of the great honours I have in being the MP for Glasgow East is representing our current and former service personnel.

The first duty of any Government is defence and, alongside my SNP colleagues, I am absolutely committed to ensuring those who put their lives on the line to defend our freedom are supported at every level. Whether it's standing up for the welfare of our serving personnel or ensuring that our courageous veterans get the support they need after they leave service, I'll always be a strong voice for you.

Locally, I hold a veterans surgery every quarter at the Scottish Veterans Residence in Cranhill. At Westminster, myself and SNP colleagues have been working hard to make the case for properly looking after our existing and former service personnel.

I hope you find this newsletter interesting and as ever, please don't hesitate to get in touch if I can ever be of assistance.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY EFFORTS

Primary 7 pupils at Oakwood School in Easterhouse took the initiative this year to lead Remembrance Sunday efforts in our community.

After identifying the lack of a war memorial in Easterhouse, the P7s managed to fundraise £250 from Youth Bank and created a Remembrance garden within the school grounds at which they held a Sunday service which I was privileged to attend.

One of the most special things about all this is that the kids organised this off of their own back. This is an excellent example of our future pausing to honour the past and we should be incredibly proud of the pupils at Oakwood Primary for taking the initiative to hold this very special event.

I am delighted to report that this wasn't just a one-off

and that the School has decided to make this an annual event. They are looking to partner with local veterans, so I would encourage anyone who wants to get involved - either with the garden or the Remembrance Service itself - to contact Vanessa Thomson, Head Teacher of Oakwood Primary on 773 4604.



Oakwood's P7s receive a House of Commons Early Day Motion of commendation in recognition of their special efforts to honour the fallen.

BILL TO GIVE ARMED FORCES THE EQUIVALENT OF A TRADE UNION

My parliamentary colleague Martin Docherty-Hughes MP is currently taking forward a Bill in Parliament which would bring about the equivalent of a trade union for those serving in our Armed Forces.

Martin's plans would see a body set up that is similar to the Police Federation, allowing representatives to argue for improvements in pay and conditions, offer support in personal and social matters, and make representations to the chain of command.

Anything we can do to fight for better pay and conditions has to be warmly welcomed and I fully support Martin as he takes his Bill onto the next stage in Parliament.

"Just as in any other walk of life, the interests of service personnel and their families are best represented when they speak with one voice, and on issues like the 1% pay freeze, or ongoing worries about the state or service accommodation. The worries I hear expressed are the same across all three services." - Martin Docherty-Hughes MP



VETERANS MUST BE COUNTED IN THE CENSUS!

The Government's official statistics body, the Office for National Statistics (ONS), along with their devolved equivalents, are already starting to plan what questions will be in the next UK census in three years.

After the 2011 census we knew more about the Jedi population of the UK than about those who have served in our Armed Forces! Despite an estimated 1 in 10 of the UK population being members of the Armed Forces community, there's very limited information about where they are or what their needs might be.

We have a once in a generation opportunity to change this. By adding new questions to the 2021 census we can improve our understanding of this unique community and ensure that charities and service providers fully meet the needs of our serving personnel, veterans and their families.

We count on you – so let's make sure you're counted in the census this time around!



Stay in touch with me

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Next veterans surgery

3pm - 4pm

Friday 15th February 2019

Scottish Veterans Residence
Bellrock Close
Cranhill
Glasgow
G33 3HU

No appointment necessary.