

CONGRESSMAN

MIKE ROGERS

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Veterans Update

■ **Legislation Approved to Build 16 New Vet Outpatient Clinics**

The Veterans Medical Facilities Management Act was approved by the Veterans' Affairs Health Subcommittee on July 8.

The bill seeks to ensure that veterans receive better access to healthcare by authorizing the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) to open 16 new outpatient clinics across the country with medical leases totaling over \$24 million annually.

In addition, H.R. 4768 contains new language to protect VA's historic properties and change the way in which excess properties are handled by the Department. The bill allows the VA to keep the proceeds of sales, leases, and transfers of such properties and place them into a Capital Assets Fund which will be used to improve upon the delivery of healthcare services to veterans.

This measure is currently before the full House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

■ **Veterans Games Winners Qualify for 2005 Senior Olympics**

An agreement between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the National Senior Gamers Association (NSGA) will allow some finalists for this year's National Veterans Golden Age Games to qualify for the 2005 Senior Olympics, which will be held June 3-18, 2005 in Pittsburgh.

Under the agreement, veterans who win gold or silver medals in bowling, horseshoes, shuffleboard, table tennis, 50 and 100-yard freestyle, discus, and shot put will qualify, as well as other competitors who meet or exceed minimum performance standards, in certain time or distance events.

More information about VA's Golden Age Games is available on the Internet at:
www1.va.gov/vetevent/gag/2004/default.cfm

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