

The 2012 Democratic Party of Virginia State Convention Commends James Webb for His US Senate Service to the Commonwealth and the Nation

Background

James Henry “Jim” Webb, Jr. graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1968. He then finished first in his class at the Marine Corps Officers’ Basic School in Quantico, Virginia. Jim was awarded the Navy Cross, the Silver Star Medal, two Bronze Star Medals, and two Purple Hearts for his service in Viet Nam. After earning his J.D. degree in 1975, Jim served as counsel to the House Committee on Veteran Affairs from 1977 to 1981. In 1984, he was appointed Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. In 1987, he became Secretary of the Navy. Jim is also a noted commentator and has authored nine books.

In 2006, Jim Webb ran for public office in Virginia for the first time and defeated incumbent Senator George Allen for the United States Senate.

In 2007 Senator Webb, with Senator Claire McCaskill, introduced legislation to create an independent Commission on Wartime Contracting to assess and examine potential waste, fraud, and abuse in contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Commission submitted its final report to Congress on August 31, 2011 finding that at least \$31 billion, and possibly as much as \$60 billion, was wasted through government contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan. According to the Commission, “waste and fraud during contingency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan averages about \$12 million every day for the past 10 years.” In addition to the financial costs, the Commission found that poor planning, management, and oversight of contracts damaged the United States’ strategic and diplomatic objectives.

Senator Webb introduced and, on June 30, 2008, gained passage of the most significant GI Bill to be enacted since World War II. The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act (S.22) expands the educational benefits that our nation offers to those who have served honorably since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and closely resembles the educational benefits provided to veterans returning from World War II.

A visionary and leader in criminal justice reform, Senator Webb has called the nation’s attention to the irregularities and inequities in America’s criminal justice system that challenge our notions of fundamental fairness. On February 8, 2011, Senator Webb re-introduced his landmark National Criminal Justice Commission Act (S. 306), to undertake a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system, producing recommendations for changes in oversight, policies, practices, and laws designed to prevent, deter, and reduce crime and violence, improve cost-effectiveness, and ensure the interests of justice.

Heralding what he called “...the most important constitutional challenge facing the balance of power between the Presidency and the Congress in modern times,” on May 14, 2012, Senator Webb, a member of the Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees, introduced The Military Humanitarian Operations Act of 2012 (S.3176) a bill requiring that in any situation where American interests are not directly threatened, the President must obtain formal approval by the Congress before introducing American military force. Senator Webb said this legislation, “will serve as a necessary safety net to protect the integrity and the intent of the Constitution itself.”

Senator Webb announced that he will not seek re-election, and Tim Kaine is the Democratic nominee for his seat.

Action

The 2012 Democratic Party of Virginia State Convention:

1. Honors and thanks Senator Webb for his distinguished US Senate service to the Commonwealth and the Nation, and commends his exceptional vision and leadership; and
2. Wishes Senator Webb every success in his future endeavors; and
3. Urges the Senate to continue Senator Webb’s important work beyond his departure from office.