

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) today announced \$1,025,000 for improvements to the Donald J. Mitchell Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Outpatient Clinic in Rome, NY, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Bill).

“Our veterans deserve nothing but the absolute best health care and services,” **Arcuri said**. “The VA Outpatient Clinic in Rome will be able to improve services for our local veterans with funding through the Recovery Bill and create jobs in the process. This is another example of how the Recovery Bill is delivering results for Upstate New York.”

Through the Recovery Bill, the Rome VA hospital will receive \$250,000 to renovate and modernize the Outpatient Clinic and \$750,000 to replace and upgrade air handling units.

The VA received a total of \$1.4 billion dollars through the Recovery Bill to stimulate the economy by making improvements to existing veterans' programs, facilities and services.

In addition, the VA will make a one-time payment of \$250 dollars to eligible veterans and survivors to mitigate the effects of the current economy. VA estimates \$700 million in payments will be made, beginning in June 2009.

To be eligible for the \$250 payment, VA beneficiaries must have received compensation, pension, dependency and indemnity compensation, or spina bifida benefits at any time between November 2008 and January 2009. No application is necessary. VA will use its existing payment records to automatically determine eligibility for the \$250 payment. Beneficiaries will receive their payments in the same way (either by direct deposit or mail) they receive their monthly VA benefits. VA will inform beneficiaries and the public when releasing the payments. The Internal Revenue Service cannot tax this payment.

The law allows only one \$250 payment per individual. VA beneficiaries who also receive benefits from the Social Security Administration or Railroad Retirement Board will be paid through those agencies, and will therefore not receive the payment from VA.

The Recovery Bill, which Arcuri voted for and the President signed into law last month, also includes job creation measures such as: funding for infrastructure improvements; aid to states and localities; tax cuts for the middle class and small businesses; and, investments in education.

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