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U.S. Congressman

# Mark Steven Kirk

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U.S. Congressman Mark Steven Kirk, 10th District of Illinois

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Dear &lt;:Firstname: &gt; ,

As we gather this Memorial Day to remember Americans who wore the uniform, we must renew our commitment to all our veterans.

In recent years, we fought a Washington, D.C., plan to close our VA Hospital in North Chicago. I won that battle. Our VA will not only stay open; we are embarked on a \$100 million expansion to build a new state-of-the-art joint Navy-VA Hospital. This new medical center will serve the men and women at Great Lakes in addition to our 55,000 area veterans.

This Memorial Day weekend, I helped break ground at the site of America's only memorial to African-American Navy/Marine World War II veterans. These veterans had to fight two battles, one at home against racism and one overseas against the Nazis. We will not forget their courage both here and overseas. **Frank Sublett**, an 86-year-old Glencoe resident, is the only surviving member of the "Golden Thirteen"--the first African-American naval officers who were commissioned right here at Great Lakes. I was proud to honor Mr. Sublett and equally proud to secure the \$97,000 federal grant to make this memorial a reality.

Today, I honored **Richard L. Idstein** of Buffalo Grove and **William R. Glynn** of Glenview. Drafted in 1943, PFC Idstein fought in the Battle of the Bulge where he took a bullet in the shoulder blade from a German machine pistol. During an interview done for the Veterans History Project, I learned that Richard had not officially received his bronze star or other medals awarded for action during the battle.

### Mark Kirk In the News...

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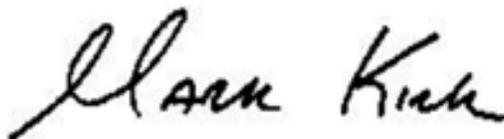
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We got him those medals.

I also honored Bill Glynn. As a member of the Army Air Force, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Glynn served in the 451<sup>st</sup> Bomber group where he flew as a navigator aboard a B-24 bomber. Bill flew 38 combat missions, many involving long flights against heavily defended areas. While running low on fuel, Lt. Glynn once had to empty everything in his plane with the exception of himself and his co-pilot. We awarded Lt. Glynn the Air Service Medal with a numeral "3" for heroic actions in flight.

To all our 10th District veterans and their families, I wish you my sincerest gratitude for your service to this great nation. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call us at (847) 940-0202 or contact us through our Web site at [www.house.gov/kirk](http://www.house.gov/kirk).

Sincerely,



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