

May 25, 2005) LIPINSKI STEPS UP FOR VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

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Joint Hearing Looks at Problems of Veteran Entrepreneurs

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, Congressman Dan Lipinski called for veterans to be given more help in acquiring the resources they need to succeed as small business entrepreneurs, including access to capital, business development, technical assistance, procurement opportunities, and affordable health care.

In a joint hearing of subcommittees of the Small Business Committee and the Veteran's Affairs Committee, members examined the roles of the Federal Veterans Entrepreneurship Program and the Veterans' Corporation in providing critical outreach services for veterans who own small businesses, especially service disabled veterans.

"Clearly, given the sacrifice these men and women have made, and the service they have provided to our country, it only makes sense to provide our nation's veterans with the tools to get their businesses off the ground," stated Lipinski.

Lipinski, the top Democrat on the House Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment, and Government Programs which held the hearing, would like to see a system that supports service disabled veterans in an effective, efficient manner and lends itself to the success of all veteran-owned small businesses.

"As we look at the challenges before us, our ultimate goal should be to create a plan that will facilitate the success of our nation's veteran entrepreneurs," continued Lipinski. "Our veterans deserve no less."