

Turner Announces Dayton VAMC Listed in National Register

Michael Turner, Congressman, 3rd District, Ohio, announced that the Central Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) in Dayton, Ohio, has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its historical and architectural significance.

Representative Turner marked the occasion of the Central Branch's inclusion in the National Register by calling on Congress to enact the Veterans National Heritage Preservation Act (H.R. 1762), which he authored. The bill calls for the preservation and protection of the most historically significant buildings maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Congressman Turner said, "The listing of the Central Branch, at the VAMC in Dayton is a significant first step. However, for the long-term preservation of the VA site in Dayton and ten other sites, nationwide, I call upon Congress to pass the Veterans National Heritage Preservation Act. Only then will these buildings, which pay tribute to Veterans of the past, be protected for future generations to study and appreciate."

The Central Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was created by one of the last Acts signed by President Lincoln prior to his assassination in 1865. It opened in 1867 and became known as the "Mother Home" since it was the model for later Federal government facilities established to provide veterans care.

Congressman Michael R. Turner sponsored the Veterans National Heritage Preservation Act of 2003 (H.R. 1762). If adopted, the Act would create a fund for preserving, maintaining and adaptively reusing the most historically significant buildings, including the Soldiers Home Chapel on the Dayton VAMC grounds, which was the first permanent chapel built using federal funds.