

STARS AND STRIPES®

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9.11

10 YEARS LATER

WHY YOU FIGHT



MATT McCLAIN/The Washington Post

The attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, inspired some to serve.

ONLINE

At stripes.com/whyyoufight:

- Read dozens of personal stories about the decision to join the military.
- Tell us your story in your own words.
- Pay tribute to a fallen warrior.

INSIDE

- Memorials from the Pentagon, N.Y., Pennsylvania **Page 16**
- Alumni reflect on 2001 Army-Navy game **Back page**

SUNDAY

The Sept. 11 Stars and Stripes print editions will feature more of your stories.

Maj. Tevye Yoblick sits at the Pentagon Memorial at dawn. The memorial, which has a cantilevered, illuminated bench for each victim of the attack on the U.S. defense headquarters in Arlington, Va., draws about half a million people yearly.

Congress moves ahead with vets jobs initiatives

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—The ambitious jobs plan outlined by the president Thursday night may be a tough sell in Congress, but lawmakers appear on the verge of advancing at least one piece of unemployment legislation in the near future: a new veterans jobs bill.

Just hours before the speech, members of the House Veterans Affairs committee approved a measure offering new training programs to veterans looking for jobs and tax incentives to companies that hire them.

Senate leaders have a similar measure under consideration, and members of both parties say they expect to find compromise on the issue in coming weeks, possibly before Veterans Day in November.

Obama's jobs speech stirs, but some say a bit too much

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Many of the provisions are geared toward younger veterans and those just leaving the service, because of the spike in joblessness in that group.

Labor officials announced last week that the unemployment rate among "Gulf War II era" veterans — those who have served during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars — fell to 9.8 percent in August, the first time this year that figure has been below 10 percent.

SEE JOBS ON PAGE 6



Amid DC's launch, 2 titles look at war and the military

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Officials chase unconfirmed al-Qaida 9/11 bomb threat

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Veterans group criticizes flag honor for government employees killed on duty

BY BILL MURPHY JR.
Stars and Stripes

A bill to honor federal civilian workers who die on duty by presenting U.S. flags to their family members at funerals has sparked a dispute between a veterans group and an organization of civilian federal employees.

The American Legion denounced the bill in a statement this week, saying it would blur the line between servicemembers and civilians.

Meanwhile, the president of the Senior Executives Association, one of 15 federal employee unions and groups that endorsed the bill, said Friday she hopes the Legion will either soften its stance or find itself standing

More from the

STRIPES CENTRAL  *blog:*

stripes.com/stripes-central

alone among veterans groups in opposition.

"Civil service workers do not sign a pledge to defend America with their lives," the Legion's newly elected national commander, Fang Wong, said in a statement.

"They are not forced to serve in combat zones, and their work routines do not include engaging enemy forces overseas."

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