

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

Rep. DeFazio works hard to make sure the federal government is accessible and responsive to the needs of fourth district residents. As the Constituent Services Director for former member of Congress Jim Weaver, DeFazio understands how important it is to have one on one help with federal problems. He was the first member of Congress representing the Fourth District to have offices outside the Eugene/Springfield area, with district offices in Eugene, Roseburg, and Coos Bay. DeFazio provides a toll free number to encourage people to call from anywhere in the district when they need help. He has met with constituents face to face at 239 town halls, is a frequent visitor at schools in the district, and speaks regularly to civic groups and organizations interested in federal issues and legislation.

- ▶ In 2003-2004, DeFazio and staff have helped nearly 30,000 constituents throughout the district with a variety of concerns.
- ▶ From 1995 to 2002, DeFazio and his staff have helped veterans get over \$5 million in retroactive benefit payments.
- ▶ Payments to veterans and their families thanks to Peter's efforts so far this year: \$1.2 million and counting.
- ▶ Payments so far this year to constituents from SSA and federal workers comp resulting from Peter's advocacy: over \$1 million w/3 months to go.
- ▶ Helped family appeal and overturn insurance company denial of wheelchair for disabled child.
- ▶ After initial denial, helped federal agency (OPM) and insurance company agree to allow constituent to travel to Florida for lifesaving cancer surgery.
- ▶ Convinced SSA to expedite case of homeless man with terminal cancer.
- ▶ Worked with VA to get retroactive payment of \$60,000 to Vietnam era veteran about to be evicted because he couldn't pay his rent.
- ▶ Helped gather and ship 425 pounds of Oregon "goodies" for troops in Iraq.
- ▶ When the City of Oakridge was stymied by a federal regulation preventing small businesses from moving into the Oakridge Industrial Park, DeFazio led the delegation efforts to fix the problem.
- ▶ In response to growing concerns about high rate of uninsured people in Lane County, DeFazio and staff working with diverse group of community leaders to resolve access to health care problems.
- ▶ (SSgt Philip Sean Davis, case #5202922) Oregon National Guard member wounded in Iraq, on

medical hold at Ft. Hood, waiting for transfer to Madigan and then home to Oregon, and waiting and waiting. He and his family think Peter's advocacy got things moving and he said so in a newspaper article.

MISC awards:

108th ▶ Awarded Service to Families Award for extraordinary efforts and sustained support for the well-being of American families. National Coalition on Family Relations, 4/1/04.

107th ▶ Received 100 percent rating from the National Association of University of women for his votes on a variety of issues important to women.

106th ▶ Received the Christian World Adoption Humanitarian Award for helping needy children.