

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Joe Courtney today announced that, since the beginning of 2011, his office has helped return \$2,663,528 to eastern Connecticut citizens who were owed Social Security checks, veterans’ benefits, tax refunds and other payments from the federal government. Since Courtney’s arrival in Congress in 2007, his casework staff has helped thousands of constituents cut through bureaucratic red tape and work with government agencies.

“Virtually every day of my six years in Congress, my office has received a phone call or visit from someone in eastern Connecticut who needs help solving a problem,” **said Congressman Courtney.** “As people run into roadblocks and difficulties in dealing with bureaucracy, my office is here to help make the process smoother. The savings we have helped recover over the past two years are more than a lump sum—they are lower mortgage payments, assistance for Vietnam veterans, and payments from the Social Security Administration that make a huge difference to seniors on fixed incomes.”

In the cases where Courtney’s office helped recovered taxpayer money, constituents have recovered anywhere from \$97.44 in a dispute with the Social Security Administration to \$124,000 – payment secured to a Vietnam veteran for service-connected disability related to Agent Orange exposure.

Congressman Courtney’s staff compiled video testimonials from some of the eastern Connecticut residents who were helped this year and whose savings contributed to the \$2.6 million total over the past two years. Residents in the video are **Candace Devendittis of New London, Stephen McGale of Dayville** and **Noreen and Ben Kepple of Stonington**. You can watch them tell their stories here:

