

**WASHINGTON, DC** – After advocating for two years for the development of supportive housing for eastern Connecticut’s homeless and disabled veterans, Congressman Joe Courtney is pleased to announce that a critical supportive housing project for veterans is now close to securing full funding.

The American Legion Veterans Housing, Inc. (TALVHI) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing affordable housing for Veterans. They have developed architectural plans to renovate a 19th century, four-story American Legion LaFlamme-Kusek Post 15 building in Jewett City and to add on an additional building to provide a total of 18 single-unit dwellings for supportive housing for homeless and at-risk veterans.

It was announced today that the project will be funded by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) as part of the Next Steps initiative and the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). CHFA will allocate \$3,864,126 and DECD plans to offer \$500,000 if the project satisfies all federal requirements.

“This is very welcome news for disabled and homeless veterans in our region,” stated Courtney. “While it took more than two years to realize this critical and needed support from the state, this is nonetheless a great day for struggling veterans in eastern Connecticut. I applaud the tireless advocacy of Chairman Bill Czmyr and the entire TALVHI committee. They never relented in their mission to secure critical resources for their fellow veterans, and everyone involved has good reason to be very proud of their efforts. I also thank Griswold First Selectman Phil Anthony for his hard work and support.”

“My intention was always to build veterans housing to help my fellow veterans who were in need. Congressman Courtney helped to spearhead this effort and took our enormous effort seriously, which has helped to deliver the result we are celebrating today. Without his help and input, and that of his veterans’ aide Ed Burke, we would not have gotten this far,” stated Chairman Bill Czmyr.

Bill Czmyr’s son, Griswold resident Mark Czmyr, is a Senior Master Sergeant in the Air Force and is currently on his second tour in Iraq.

Congressman Joe Courtney secured \$200,000 in federal funding last year for the project. This was the first real investment allocated to the project, demonstrating to state and federal agencies that there was a strong committee from Congressman Courtney and local advocates to make the project happen.