

## Inhofe Scores Big Win For Oklahoma Veterans

*Restores Funding for Tulsa VA Clinic*

Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Oklahoma) praised the reintroduction of a provision into the VA Reform Bill that will allow for a new outpatient veterans clinic in Tulsa. The legislation is expected to be considered on the Senate floor this past week.

When Inhofe learned that funding for a new Tulsa VA clinic had been removed from the original VA Reform Bill considered in the Senate last month, he immediately went to work to find a solution to ensure the clinic received the critical resources it needs to keep its doors open. Since then, Inhofe has led the charge to restore the funding and guarantee that Oklahoma's veterans have access to the best care available.

"For over a month now, I have pledged to restore funding for the Tulsa VA clinic. I appreciate Congressman Jeff Miller and Senator Bernie Sanders for re-including the provision in the conference version of the VA reform legislation," said Sen. Inhofe. "This is a significant victory for Oklahoma's veterans who would otherwise be without a Tulsa facility by 2020. With this provision, the Tulsa VA clinic will have the needed resources to pursue a new facility that can meet the growing health care needs of Oklahoma's veterans. I will continue to work with the delegation and my Senate colleagues to ensure veterans across the state have access to the quality health care they have earned and deserve."

Senator Inhofe's campaign manager, Rusty Appleton said, "Despite partisan gridlock in the Washington, this is just another example of Senator Inhofe's effectiveness in representing Oklahoma. Though some were quick to criticize when the clinic funding was removed, Senator Inhofe worked behind the scenes with members of both parties to take care of Oklahoma Veterans.

This is just another example of Senator Inhofe trying to be a Do-Something Senator in Harry Reid's Do-Nothing Senate."

### New Natural Gas Plant Coming To South Central Oklahoma

A new plant projected to process 200 million cubic feet of natural gas per day is coming to the Grady/ Stephens county area.

In the announcement from ONEOK partners, the company revealed this new facility would focus on obtaining natural gas from the south central Oklahoma Oil Province, or the SCOOP shale play. The company announced the facility would be completed by the end of 2016.

"This is a tremendous announcement for our part of the state," said state Rep. Scott Biggs, R-Chickasha. "This plant will increase the state's ability to obtain natural gas from the SCOOP play, which is a massive bed of gas right under our feet here in south central Oklahoma. The citizens of Grady and Stephens counties will benefit from the new operation going on here and I'm proud that ONEOK is increasing its presence in this part of the state."

The facility, known as the Knox plant, will see heavy investment in its operations. Between \$365 million to \$470 million will be spent over the course of the next two years to construct the facility, create infrastructure for the facility and the building of natural gas pipelines and compression stations for the operation.

"This announcement is another example that pro-growth policies enacted by the Legislature are paying dividends for Oklahoma," said state Sen. Corey Brooks, R-Washington. "I'm very excited about ONEOK's plans to increase their investment in our corner of the state. This facility will bring high-quality, high-paying jobs to our district, and be a tremendous boost to the local economy. It is critical that we continue our support of policies that

encourage companies like ONEOK to grow their business within our state, employ Oklahomans, and leverage our tremendous natural resources to further our economic momentum."

"I am excited to hear the announcement of ONEOK's investment in our state," said state Sen. Ron Justice, R-Chickasha. "This is further evidence of their commitment to and

confidence in the future of the industry and our State. This is a tremendous investment that will be a benefit to this area as well as to our state for many years."

Once the Knox plant becomes fully operational, it is expected to increase the company's natural gas processing in the region to 900 million cubic feet per day.

### Governor Mary Fallin: Fort Sill Facility for Unaccompanied Minors To Be Closed By Friday

*But Federal Government Extends Lease on Facility Anyway*

Governor Mary Fallin received notice from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that the Fort Sill facility for illegal immigrant minors will be closed on Friday, August 8. The facility has been holding unaccompanied minors who illegally crossed the United States' southern border since June 13.

Fallin said she was pleased by the announcement, but worried the Obama administration might seek to reopen the facility sometime in the future.

"I am pleased that the Obama Administration is finally listening to the people of Oklahoma and acting to close the Fort Sill facility for illegal immigrants. However, I am disturbed the administration chose to renew its lease on the facility, thereby preserving the option of reopening it in the future.

"We know that illegal immigration naturally dips in the summer months, as temperatures rise at our southern border. Because of that decrease, the federal government has been able to empty the facility at Fort Sill and process the illegal immigrants they have brought to Oklahoma. There is nothing to stop this administration, however, from reopening the shelter at Fort Sill later in the year as the number of illegal immigrants apprehended naturally increases. I am calling on President Obama to set the record straight once and for all: will this facility be reopened, or can we trust that it has closed for good?

"As I have said for weeks, opening this facility at all was an improper use of our military base. It was a public health hazard. It was also an attempt to find a band-aid solution to a much larger border crisis caused by President Obama's unwillingness to enforce our laws and secure our borders. I am relieved – as are many Oklahomans – to hear this facility will be closed by the end of the week. We can now use it as it was intended: as a military resource to house and train soldiers.

"Moving forward, I would like the president to give his word that this facility will remain closed permanently."

## A Prize Winning Pig For The Common Good

*By State Representative David Perryman*

Fern Arable is a courageous eight year old who saw value in the runt of the litter, saved it and named it Wilbur. As E.B. White tells us in his 1952 novel, Charlotte's Web, Wilbur was iSome Pig.i

At a number of junctures in the book, Wilbur's future was bleak at best. His life was in danger first because of his perceived worthlessness and later because of the commercial value that he had attained.

It was through the personification of Wilbur and a spider named Charlotte and a rat named Templeton that Mr. White teaches our children the value of compassion, companionship and creative cooperation.

The odds of a litter runt ever getting to the County Fair were virtually impossible without the intercession of others. But it happened and that SOME PIG became TERRIFIC and RADIANT, was a prize winner and ultimately became HUMBLE.

Over the next several weeks throughout the state, as crops ripen and summer begins to turn to fall, we will have a number of opportunities to attend fairs, festivals and expositions, large and small in nearly every community in our state.

Whether it is the local fair in your end of the county or the county fair a few weeks later, a walk through the craft and livestock exhibits allows us to share with our children, grandchildren or even great grandchildren a special part of Americana.

It is a busy time, but sharing it with others from your community or engaged in cultural and educational activities is much more healthy than being immersed in the never ending news loop on television that frightens, angers and manipulates our emotions.

Get out and enjoy a parade, a carnival, fair food, a midway. We will be traveling across the District to support our youth and our communities in these local events. In addition to the fairs one event that has a proud history is the 83rd American Indian Exposition of Oklahoma that will take place in Anadarko August 6-9 with Gourd Dancing daily from 1 to 5 and Fancy Dance including Tiny Tot

Dancing nightly during the Exposition. The event takes place at the Caddo County Fair Grounds and will feature arts and crafts and food vendors in the Baldwin Building on the fairgrounds. The Beautiful Indian Baby Pageant is always colorful and exciting due to the traditional costumes and will take place in the Anadarko High School Auditorium on Tuesday, August 5 at 6:00 p.m. Hope to see you there.

In the closing chapters of Charlotte's Web, Wilbur realized that when he first met Charlotte, he thought that she was cruel and bloodthirsty because she was different. Yet it was she who helped

### Conference Report Provides For Our Veterans

*By Congressman Tom Cole*

There is no obligation more sacred than to provide for our service members and their families, both during and after service to their country. Many return from war forever changed, sometimes with both physical and psychological challenges. Especially when these veteran heroes require special care, they should never receive less than the best treatment. As a grateful nation, we owe them that debt for their selfless sacrifice and service.

Today, there are more than 1.4 million service members on active duty and 21 million veterans living in the United States. Following their service, our veterans should feel confident that the health services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the best care available. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Instead, thousands of veterans seeking care through VA health clinics and facilities have been neglected, due to internal mismanagement.

In one such example, a facility in Phoenix, AZ was found to have falsified records to hide actual wait times that veterans were forced to endure. Similar problems abounded across the country and revealed that many veterans waited weeks to even get an appointment. Many of them were still waiting or hadn't even been put on a waiting list after requesting an appointment.

Both Republicans and Democrats agree that we should take care of our veterans; that is an important commitment that we will always share. When we were confronted by the outrageous treatment of our veterans due to the VA's internal negligence and mismanagement, lawmakers quickly worked together to find an immediate fix that would prevent future problems. Last week, both chambers agreed on the VA conference committee's report and passed it with a strong show of bipartisanship. The legislation has been sent to the president for his signature.

The Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability and Transparency Act includes \$10 billion for the Veterans Choice Fund, \$5 billion for improving the internal medical force at the VA and \$1.5 billion to start up 27 new VA clinics, including one in Tulsa. In addition to passage of the conference report, a new VA secretary was confirmed and sworn in last week to lead the department out of corruption. Robert McDonald served in the United States Army before spending decades at Proctor & Gamble, including the roles of Chairman, President and CEO. I am optimistic that his military and management background will serve the department well, helping ensure that veterans get the care they need when they need it.

By putting new accountability measures in place, increasing the VA medical force and speeding up the process for those veterans who have been waiting, I believe we are on the right track to solving the issues that have put our veterans at risk.

In midst of controversy, it is nice to see both parties unite with urgency to protect the benefits earned by veterans through their proven valor.

thing Senator in Harry Reid's Do-Nothing Senate."

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