

OMAHA, NE - Congressman Lee Terry (NE-02) today announced \$13,658,000 in Federal funds for a new, state-of-the-art Thomas Fitzgerald Veterans Home to benefit Nebraska veterans. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable R. James Nicholson, informed Congressman Terry that the funds have been appropriated through a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"I am pleased to announce that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable R. James Nicholson, called me today with the great news that his department will announce Monday the awarding of a grant to the state of Nebraska for the construction of a new state veterans' home located in Bellevue," Terry said. "This new home will be an updated, contemporary facility meeting the current and future needs of our state's veterans. It is fitting that we are able to look out for and care for the veterans who so bravely protected us and our nation. It is a debit of honor that we owe to those who gave so much on behalf of our grateful nation."

Ground breaking for the new veterans home occurred on June 10, 2005. Congressman Terry attended the ceremony along with Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman. The new home is a cost-sharing project between the state of Nebraska and the department of veterans affairs. The new facility, with contemporary features, is designed to meet the projected demand for the population and profile of veterans that will serve members for the next fifty years and beyond.

The present building was built in 1930 and later modified to serve as a veterans' home, currently housing approximately 110 residents.