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## **Bill Gillespie Qualifies for U.S. House of Representatives** **23-year Army veteran from Chatham County qualifies for First Congressional District Democratic Primary; joins four other Georgia vets qualifying for Congress as Democrats**

ATLANTA, Ga. (April 28, 2008) – Retired Lt. Colonel Bill Gillespie of Chatham County filed papers on Monday in Atlanta to officially qualify for the 2008 Democratic Party Primary in Georgia’s First Congressional District.

Gillespie held a joint press conference before qualification with Democratic Party of Georgia Chair Jane Kidd and three other veterans who are qualifying to run for Congress in Georgia as Democrats. The vets are Bill Jones (District 6), Doug Heckman (District 7) and Bobby Saxon (District 10). The press conference took place inside the State Capitol in Atlanta.

“People are frustrated that Washington and its insiders are not meeting the important challenges of our time,” said the 44-year-old Gillespie, who has launched a website, [www.BillForGeorgia.com](http://www.BillForGeorgia.com). “I understand how to lead southeast Georgia to prosperity in the global economy and to safety in an unstable world. I pledge to offer strong leadership that puts people first.”

The First Congressional District contains 25 counties and covers most of southeast Georgia, stretching along the Atlantic coast from Savannah to St. Marys, and inland from McRae to Valdosta.

Gillespie says his 23-year Army career, including time in Iraq as the Third Infantry Division’s Senior Logistician, prepared him well to be a Congressman who can defend America from terrorism and lead the United States toward winning the peace in Iraq.



His top domestic issue is creating the South Georgia Alternative Energy Initiative, making the region the center of American research and production of agri-fuel, solar, wind, methane and other alternative energies.

Gillespie’s other top issues include: stopping illegal immigration, reforming the healthcare and insurance industries, improving benefits for veterans, lowering taxes for families and small businesses, repealing the No Child Left Behind Act, balancing the federal budget, and promoting ‘sustainable development.’

Gillespie served 23 years in the U.S. Army, retiring last year as a Lt. Colonel. In 2003, he served in Iraq as Senior Logistician for the Third Infantry Division, earning a Bronze Star.

Some other positions held in the military include Inspector General, West Point professor, Chief of Staff for the Third Infantry Division Rear Command Post, Operations Director of the Army Ordinance Center and Chief of Leadership and Tactics of the Army Ordinance Center.

Gillespie has traveled to six continents and been stationed overseas in Kuwait, Korea and Germany. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, Combat Action Badge, Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award, Master Instructor Award, and three NCAA Championships as coach of the West Point Orienteering Team.

Most recently, Gillespie worked as southeast Georgia's Army ROTC Program Director, charged with supervising ROTC programs at Georgia Southern University, Savannah State University, Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah College of Art & Design and St. Leo University. He also ran all of southeast Georgia's Army Junior ROTC Programs.

Gillespie earned B.S. and M.A. degrees in Environmental Science from Towson University, and is working toward a Ph.D. in Immigration Studies and Cultural Geography at the University of Maryland. Gillespie has taught classes on Geography, Military History and Leadership at West Point, Georgia Southern, Armstrong Atlantic State and Maryland. He is also a published author on subjects such as Education, Geography and History.

He currently teaches a course to veterans at Fort Stewart in Hinesville designed to help them learn the skills necessary to transition into civilian life and gain employment.

Gillespie has been active in community organizations such as the American Red Cross, Farm Bureau, Kiwanis, Rotary, Ancient Order of the Hibernians, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Historic Savannah Foundation, Savannah Downtown Community Association, Georgia Southern Science & Technology Board, and the Georgia Southern Irish Studies Board.

Georgia's First Congressional District is currently represented by Republican Jack Kingston of Savannah. Gillespie is the only person, Democrat or Republican, to qualify to challenge Kingston in 2008.

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#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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