More than 150 people came to my town hall meeting last Saturday at the Mount Prospect Public Library. We discussed a variety of issues facing the community, including my efforts to protect the Great Lakes, expand health care for millions of Americans and increase border security.

State Sen. Matt Murphy was on hand to provide an update from Springfield, including legislative efforts to fully fund public transportation in the state. We also heard from Mount Prospect Detective Bob Riordan regarding his work to combat online child predators in northwest Cook County.

We also honored a World War II veteran at the town hall.

Allan Roman Schmid was born on August 12, 1924, in Avon, Minnesota. He enlisted in the Navy during World War II on December 11, 1942, as a Pharmacists Mate.

He was an original crewmember aboard the USS Sanctuary, a Haven-class hospital ship with 786 beds. The ship's primary mission was the repatriation of former prisoners of war in the Pacific. Their first return trip, they brought more than 1,000 soldiers homes – so many that they had to call to the fleet for additional cots.

Allan and his ship also arrived at Nagaski 45 days after the dropping of the atomic bomb. He said the only structure still standing was a shrine.

He was honorably discharged on April 25, 1946, and became a specialist in blood banking after he got home. He lived in Waukegan for more than 20 years, but today lives in Mount Prospect with his family.

Allan earned, but never received the following medals that my office helped track down:

- American Campaign Medal

- Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal
- World War II Victory Medal

If you would like to be notified of a town hall in your area, please sign up for my e-newsletter here.

Congressman Kirk takes questions at the Mount Prospect town hall meeting

Congressman Kirk presents Allan Schmid with the World War II Victory Medal

Allan Schmid tells a story from his time in the Navy during World War II