AMERICAN LEGION

LEGISLATIVE WEEKLY

October 11, 2024

WEEKLY GRASSROOTS NEWSLETTER

This week, we are asking Legionnaires to contact Congress to request support for H.R. 7543 – *Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act!* This legislation aims to rectify GI Bill inequality for National Guard and Reserve servicemembers. *The American Legion supports this legislation, and we appreciate all the emails you have sent so far.* ***Go to the Action Center to quickly email a letter of support to your members of Congress.***

Have you had a recent meeting or phone call with your member of Congress? Report your contact today! Click here to register your Congressional contact and demonstrate the power of The American Legion advocacy in action.

The American Legion's legislative agenda for the 2nd Session of the 118th Congress is available online. To review our priorities, you can check out our Advocacy Toolkit.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

February 22-26, 2025 (NEW DATE) – The American Legion's 65th Annual Washington Conference will be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel. This conference provides an opportunity for Legionnaires to meet with their respective lawmakers and hear from members of Congress and VA leadership. The National Commander will also address attendees on legislative priorities during the National Commander's Rally. More details, such as agendas and schedules, will be updated here.

NEC ADOPTS NEW IMMIGRATION REFORM RESOLUTION

The article's original publication can be found here.

Resolution No. 10 passed during the Fall Meetings supersedes and rescinds four resolutions related to immigration reform.

The National Executive Committee of The American Legion passed a resolution on immigration reform Wednesday, Oct. 9, during the annual Fall Meetings in Indianapolis that supersedes and rescinds four resolutions.

Resolution No. 10: Immigration Reform, resolved clause states, "That The American Legion opposes federal investment in sanctuary cities and other programs that may undermine the rule of law and incentivize illegal residency; that The American Legion calls for full reform of asylum laws and processes to ensure that this humanitarian protection is not abused by individuals who do not qualify; and that The American Legion urges the United States government to enact laws that reduce visa overstays and illegal residency while expediting the removal of individuals who violate conditions of their admission into the country."

According to the resolution, the United States Office of Immigration statistics at the Department of Homeland Security estimates that there are 11 million unauthorized immigrants currently residing within the United States, and that there are more than 850,000 immigrants living in the States on expired visas.

The resolution resolved clause continues, “That The American Legion supports any effort to streamline legal immigration processes and highlight employment-based visas, incentivizing legal immigration for the benefit of the American economy and well-being; and that The American Legion supports robust investment in the Department of State’s efforts to bolster global democracy and stability and to leverage such programs to hold accountable malicious state actors that may incentivize illegal immigration to the United States.”

This resolution will be available next week in the Legion’s Digital Archive.

Resolution No. 10 supersedes and rescinds the following four resolutions:

No. 20: Fully Enforce Immigration Laws, 2016 national convention

No. 27: Sanctuary Cities, 2017 national convention

No. 23: Immigration Reform, 2022 Spring Meetings

No. 44: Oppose Government Benefits for Illegal Immigrants, 2022 national convention

A FAREWELL TO CHAIRWOMAN HARRIS, AND A HELLO TO CHAIRMAN SHUMAN

On Thursday, October 10, National Commander LaCoursiere and the NEC announced their appointments for next year. National Commander LaCoursiere has appointed Matthew Shuman to serve as the new Chairman of the National Legislative Commission. The Legislative division welcomes Chairman Shuman and wishes him well for the next year! He has hit the ground running with ideas and strategies to keep the American Legion’s reputation strong on Capitol Hill.

The division also wants to give a warm thank you to the most recent chair, Patricia Harris (NC). *Thank you,* Chairwoman Harris, for your leadership and all that you did for the Commission!

LEGIONNAIRE OF THE WEEK

To recognize the weekly accomplishments of our Legionnaires, we will spotlight an individual every week. These individuals demonstrate exceptional grassroots activism by meeting with/contacting their Congressional Representative/Senator to advocate for veterans. Efforts like these truly make a difference and give veterans a voice in Congress.

Shawn Moore, Wyoming

Shawn, for your steadfast advocacy of Legion priorities, we are honored to name you Legionnaire of the Week!

This week, Shawn attended a conference focused on mental health. There, he spoke with Senator Cynthia Lummis's office and Representative Harriet Hageman's office to discuss Wyoming's issues with veteran mental health programs and resources. They also discussed the relocation of the City of Casper Veterans Park.

Thank you, Shawn, for your report and the time you have dedicated to the Legion's legislative priorities.

If you have made a Grassroots effort and would like to be considered for next week's "Legionnaire of the Week," please fill out the Congressional Contact Report Form here. You can also email us at grassroots@legion.org with the details.

GRASSROOTS INFORMATION

Interested in what the Legion is advocating for in Congress on ***The Veteran's Role in Supporting the Military?*** Check out our information papers in the Legislative Toolkit. This is a great starting point for a conversation with your elected officials!

As part of our ongoing Grassroots efforts, LegDiv staff is available to provide **Grassroots Training** tailored to the hosting Department's needs. If you are interested in hosting a Grassroots training event, please contact grassroots@legion.org or ejohnson@legion.org.

Register for Action Alerts today at
https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Register

UPCOMING CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

As of 9:00 am on Friday, October 4, there are NO hearings scheduled.

HVAC hearings can be viewed at: Calendar Home | House Committee on Veterans Affairs

SVAC hearings can be viewed at: Hearings - U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs
HASC hearings can be viewed at: Hearings – House Armed Services Committee
SASC hearings can be viewed at: Hearings – U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services

View The American Legion Legislative Handbook Here