

National Legislative Division Weekly

OPEN THE VA TO ALL WWII VETERANS!

Those who made the Greatest Generation truly great are nearly gone. According to VA's 2022 statistics, less than two hundred thousand remain of the 16 million U.S. veterans who served during World War II. You can recognize these remaining heroes with actions far more meaningful than words: by ensuring unfettered access to VA care.

Thousands of WWII veterans that have previously received care and services from the VA are no longer able to receive those same services because of means-testing implemented in 1996. The Veterans Health Care Eligibility Act of 1996 exempted all veterans who served during the Mexican Border Period and World War I from the means test required to enter the VA health care system. It is time to do the same for our World War II veterans, through inclusion of Section 5132 of the House NDAA and Amendment 5963 of the Senate NDAA in the end of year NDAA package.

Time is running out, it is vital that Congress hear our voice on behalf of the Greatest Generation.

TAKE ACTION NOW

THE APPLICATION FOR THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS NOW OPEN

With the midterm elections a month away, The American Legion is beginning the process of rebuilding its National Legislative Council for the 118th Congress. Interested candidates may submit their applications [at this webpage](#) for their departments' consideration. Legionnaires are encouraged to submit their applications before the Nov. 8 election. Thank you to those who have already applied!

The National Legislative Council (NLC) is a 535-member group designated to serve as direct liaisons to every member of the U.S. Congress. Approved in Resolution 45 by the National Executive Committee in 1975, the council's aim is to "propagate an interest in a furtherance of the legislative goals of The American Legion and to serve as a medium for disseminating information and developing an understanding with our elected representatives." Learn more about the council [in this story](#).

Members of the NLC are relied on to reinforce The American Legion's overall legislative efforts, particularly at times when immediate and personal contact with lawmakers is necessary – typically referred to as "grassroots contact."

They routinely email, write, and/or call lawmakers and their staff regarding veterans legislation. Members should strive to visit the lawmaker's local office at least once per month to discuss issues that will directly impact The American Legion's legislative goals.

Members work to:

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- Promote an interest in and a furtherance of The American Legion's legislative goals.
- Serve as a liaison for disseminating information to elected lawmakers and staff.
- Develop and maintain strong working relationships with elected lawmakers and staff.
- Disseminate information on proposed and adopted veterans legislation to posts and members of the Legion within the congressional district.

Position requirements include:

- Current member of The American Legion
- Experience working with public relations and/or elected officials is a plus.
- Excellent verbal and written communications skills are necessary.
- Comfortable speaking and making presentations to larger groups.
- Ability to use social media.
- Ability to represent The American Legion and veterans to various groups and organizations.
- Ownership of an email account and internet access is required.
- Personal relationship with the member of Congress to whom they are assigned, senior staffers in their office, or willingness and ability to establish relationships with them.

LEGIONNAIRE OF THE WEEK

In an effort 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.

Robert Lewis, Connecticut

This week, we are excited to recognize Robert Lewis from the Department of Connecticut for meeting with Rep. Courtney (D-CT) at his district office for the monthly Veterans Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Lewis and Rep. Courtney discussed The American Legion's legislative priorities, specifically the "issue of visa status of America's Afghan partners and the need to support Permanent Resident status."

Thank you, Mr. Lewis!

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 me at kisaacson@legion.org.

UPCOMING HEARINGS

Congress is out of session next week; there will be no hearings.