

Department of Virginia American Legion Auxiliary Fall Conference Workshop

October 27, 2023

Fall Leadership Workshop



Representing the American Legion Auxiliary

- Follow Ethical Conduct
- Follow Governing Document
 - Practice Good conduct
- Treat others as you want to be treated
 - Red on Friday is not mandatory
 - Business casual dress code
 - Information available
- This information should be helpful information
 - ... and always be thoughtful and kind





Restricted versus Non-restricted Funds

October 27, 2023

Peggy Thomas, PNP

Restricted versus Non-restricted Funds

Accounting for donations to non-profits involves careful financial management by keeping track of where you get contributions and how and where they are spent.

Unrestricted funds may be used at the organization's discretion

- General funds
- Includes Membership dues

Restricted funds are to be used for a specific purpose and that purpose only!

- Funds raised for a specific program *must* be used for that program
- Allows donors to know exactly where their donations are going
- Makes supporters more inclined to donate

Units should have one column for restricted funds, and another for non-restricted funds. This is beneficial for internal and external audits.

Important Reminders



At the end of the year, donations to a specific program or for a specific purpose not used **do not** transfer to another account or line item for another use.

Funds remain designated for their intended purpose unless the original donor consents to use for another purpose.

Funds should not be held; they should be use for their intended purpose.

Dues are the main source of income for the Department.

• General operations

ROAR citation payments are restricted for each specific purpose

 For example: Children and Youth Assessment, Entertainment of Veterans, Veterans Rehabilitation Assessment, Bonding, Building Fund, etc.



Restricted Funds

Donations for VA Medical Centers

Donations to Poppy program

Donations to Scholarships

- Scholarships in general
- Specific scholarships

Donations to Auxiliary Emergency Fund Donations to VA&R Donations to Children & Youth Project Donations to President's Project Donations for Girls State

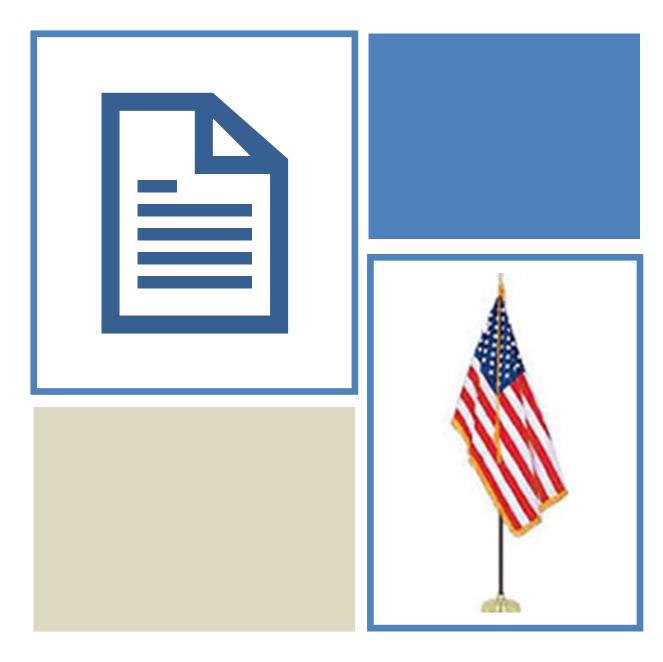






What is the Americanism essay contest?

Margaret Dellinger, PDP



Fall Conference Americanism Essay Contest

- Essay contest with a selected patriotic topic. This year's topic "what does freedom mean to me?"
- There are 6 classes and criteria for each class from 3rd grade to 12th.
- Your unit may want to give awards or sent on the department for awards
- National gives \$50 award and \$50 donation in students name to Children of Warriors National Presidents scholarship fund

Fall Conference Americanism Essay

How to get into the schools?

> Form letter explaining the contest and your local unit information.

Select "feeders" schools to the local high school.

>Knowing a specific teacher in the school is helpful.

> Do not forget private schools.

Send to your Junior ALA members.

➢Get a due date to the schools as you have to judge and sent to Department by March 15 as National wants by April 15.







Fall Conference Americanism Essay

Select a judging panel

When selection of winners notify them and send on to Department.

Have an award night and invite participants, parents and school and public.

Promote your other programs such as ALA Virginia Girls State and Boys State and scholarships with this program.



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA FALL CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

REPORTING IMPACT October 27, 2023 Lisa Chaplin, PDP

IMPORTANCE OF REPORTING ACCURATELY

Reporting impact accurately is important because Congress looks at what we and others are contributing

Under-reporting time and donations may put our non-profit status in jeopardy Over-reporting may negatively impact allocation of Federal funds to VA hospitals, veterans and military

A LOOK BACK AT WHO IS REPORTING IMPACT

2021-2022 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT	
NUMBER OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENTS	52
PERCENTAGE OF DEPARTMENTS REPORTING	94%
NUMBER OF UNITS	7,760
PERCENTAGE OF UNITS REPORTING	<mark>42%</mark>
AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERS REPORTING	9%

What if every member reported???

Impact of Volunteer Hours and Resources	2021-2022	2022-2023
Total Volunteer hours	8,004,728	6,237,391
x \$31.80 * (the value of a volunteer hour in 2022)	\$254,550,350	\$198,349,034
Dollars raised/spent for veterans, military and families	\$12,358, 431	\$14,066,097
Dollars raised/spent for youth, scholarships, and communities	\$9,831,911	\$14,732,386

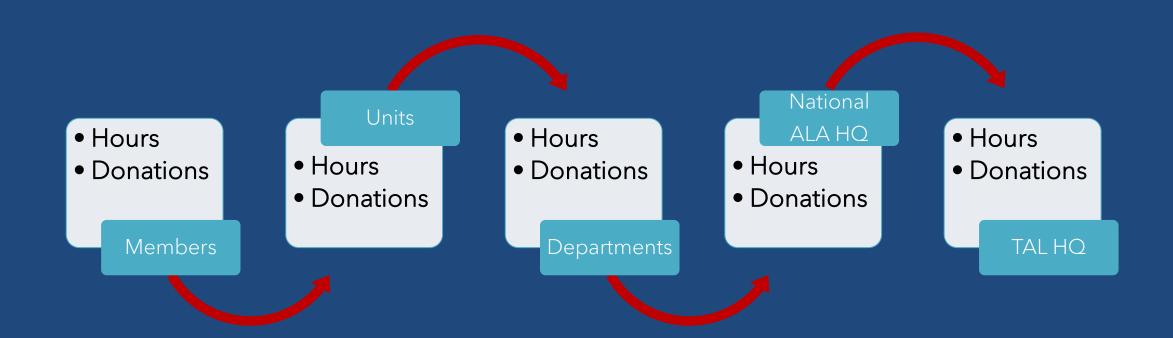
SERVICE FOR VETERANS/MILITARY/FAMILIES	
Number of veterans/active duty/reserve military served	551,825
Number of military families served	183,865
Number of youth served	405,965
VOLUNTEER HOURS	
Hours serving veterans/military	2,930,887
Hours serving family support	665,958
Hours serving youth development	447,861
Hours for ALA Girls State	199,395
Hours for community	1,993,290
Total volunteer hours	6,237,391

DOLLARS RAISED/SPENT ON YOUTH, SCHOLARSHIPS, COMMUNITY					
Youth support					
\$ spent on goods for youth activities	\$1,840,911				
\$ direct aid to needy children (cash aid)	\$683,399				
All other C&Y expenses	\$641,009				
Contributions to other child charities	\$1,562,678				
ALA Girls State	\$2,621,471				
Scholarships	\$1,274,444				
Community	\$6,108,474				
Total Youth, Scholarships, and Community	\$14,732,386				

DOLLARS RAISED/SPENT ON VETERANS, MILITARY, AND THEIR FAMILIES

Veterans/active duty/reserve	\$8,626,489
In-kind donations	\$1,601,378
Dollars raised from poppies or poppy items distributed	\$2,042,345
Total amount paid to veterans who made poppies	\$211,098
Military families	\$1,584,787
Total dollars raised/spent	\$14,066,097

WHERE THE IMPACT NUMBERS COME FROM



It all adds up: ALA Unit Reports + Consolidated Squadron Reports + Consolidated Post Reports



AND THEN....

THE AMERICAN LEGION IS REQUIRED TO REPORT TOTAL IMPACT TO CONGRESS TO MAINTAIN OUR NON-PROFIT STATUS



YOUR NUMBERS MATTER

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY TRACKING WORKSHEET - MEMBER

How to Keep Track of all you do



Use this worksheet to track your monthly service for veterans, military and their families. Transfer your "Year-End Total" to the Member Year-End Impact Numbers Report for submission to your unit.														
NOTE: Use this worksheet to keep track of your service.	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	YEAR-END TOTAL	Transfer to Member Year-End Impact Numbers Report
MY ALA SERVICE FOR VETERANS/ACT	IVE-DUTY	RESERVE	MILITARY											
Hours I volunteered														Line 1
Dollars I personally spent	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	Line 2
Number of veterans/military I assisted														Line 3
Number of "Veterans in Community School" presentations I facilitated	15.6													Line 4
MY ALA SERVICE FOR MILITARY FAMIL	LIE S		1											
Hours I volunteered														Line 5
Dollars I spent	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	Line 6
Number of military families I served														Line 7
MY ALA SERVICE FOR YOUTH		·	·····	·····	·····		·	·	·	·····	·····	·····	······	
Hours I volunteered for ALA Girls State														Line 8
Hours I volunteered for all other Legion Family youth activities														Line 9
Dollars I personally spent on goods for youth activities (i.e. parties,	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	Line 10
My direct cash aid to help a needy child	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	Line 11
Number of children/youth I served														Line 12
Dollars I donated to all other child service charities MY SERVICE REPRESENTING THE ALA	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	Line 13
Number of my hours for any service	IN MY CO		1	1	1		1		1	1	1	1		
not included in Sections 1-3 above														Line 14
Dollars I spent for any service not included in Sections 1-3 above	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	Line 15

DID YOU KNOW ...?

- Department Chairs are required to submit impact numbers specific to their program/committee to the Department President with their year-end reports.
- The Department President is required to submit impact numbers to the National Organization by June 1st each year.



ONE MORE THING...



- The VAMCs track your volunteer hours for *their* purposes.
 - VA volunteer hours pins are awarded by the VA
 - The VA tracks hours of volunteers from all organizations
- Be sure to report your VA volunteer hours to your Unit for ALA impact purposes



QUESTIONS?



Salute to Servicemembers Award

October 27, 2023

Nancy Harting, PDP

What is it and how does it work? Each Unit may nominate one servicemember from each branch of service and National Guard/Reserve.



From those nominees, the Department National Security Committee then reviews nominations and selects one from each branch and National Guard/Reserve to submit to the National Committee for further consideration.

Requirements

The nominee must be currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The person nominating the individual must submit a narrative outlining the reason for the nomination.

The nominee must write a narrative of no more than 750 words describing their service both in and out of uniform.

Requirements (continued)

The nominee must create a YouTube video of three minutes or less describing their service to the military and to the community.

Rules for the video

Must not contain copyrighted music, video, images, or text

Must be uploaded to YouTube, set to Public, not Private Must be no longer than three minutes

More requirements

Endorsement from a member of their command group must be included.

The nominee must be willing to be a guest of the ALA and speak to the general membership at the ALA National Convention if selected.

The nomination form and all supporting documents and materials must be submitted to the Department National Security Chair by the designated date.

The nomination form must be completed in full for consideration.

Questions?

LEGION



VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Dr. Kate Waller Barrett Scholarship

- \$500 Scholarship available to a daughter or son of an American Legion Auxiliary member in good standing in the Department of Virginia.
- No Unit may submit more than one application.
- Application must include an original essay consisting of no more than 500 words (typed, double-spaced) titled "Your Responsibilities as a Citizen of the United States".
- Completed application packet must be submitted to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit President in the Applicant's community by March 15th and the winning application forwarded to the Education Committee Chair by April 15th for review by a panel of judges.



Past Presidents' Parley Medical Scholarship



- The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Virginia offers a scholarship to a child or grandchild of a Veteran
- Applicant shall be pursuing a career in the medical field
- Scholarship is funded by donations.
- Department Education Chairperson will be notified in August if scholarship funds will be available for the year.

The Veterans Scholarship



- The Veterans Education Scholarship applicant must be a Veteran residing in Virginia.
- The Veteran must be eligible to join the American Legion but is not required to be a member or to join the American Legion.
- Application and information may be obtained from The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Virginia Education Chairman or from the website.

LEGION

NATIONAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS



CHILDREN OF WARRIORS NATIONAL PRESIDENTS' SCHOLARSHIP

- 15 Scholarships totaling \$5,000 each will be awarded for 2024
- 3 Scholarships will be awarded in each of the ALA five divisions

- Candidates for this award shall be direct descendants of veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion and were honorably discharged. **Membership in The American Legion Family is not required for this scholarship.**
- Applicants must be in their senior year of high school.
- This is a scholarship to attend an accredited institution of higher education.
- Applicants must complete 50 hours of volunteer service within the community during their high school years. Hours must be verified in writing by the recipient organization(s).
- Completed applications are **DUE ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2024, 11:59 PM Eastern**.

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

- One \$2,000 scholarship is awarded annually per Auxiliary geographic division. Applicant may be pursuing training in a certified, trade, professional, or technical program, or a two-year or four-year degree program.
- Applicants must be:
 - ✓ A current member in good standing of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion, must have held membership for 2022 and 2023, and be a paid member for the 2024 membership year, OR
 - ✓ A veteran who served in the United States Armed Forces and was honorably discharged, OR
 - \checkmark The spouse of an active duty servicemember or a veteran who was honorably discharged.
- Applicants must be:
 - ✓ a non-traditional student returning to the classroom after some period in which their formal education was interrupted, OR
 - \checkmark a non-traditional student beginning their education at a later point in life.

Completed applications are **DUE ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1st**

Spirit Of Youth Scholarship



- The Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund is an umbrella that supports three separate scholarship opportunities for participants in American Legion Auxiliary programs. One is for American Legion Auxiliary Junior members, another for the Junior Members of the Year, and one is for participants in the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation program.
- State/Department: National Headquarters will award each state/department winner a \$1,000 scholarship (47 scholarships total). *New for 2023-2024*
- National: From the potential 52 state/department scholarship winners, the national Education Committee will select 5 winners (1 per division) for a \$5,000 scholarship based on a scoring rubric.
- Candidates for this award shall be/shall have been Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary, have held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the past three consecutive years (2021, 2022, and 2023), and must be a paid member for the current (2024) membership year. Applicant must continue their membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the scholarship period.

DUE MARCH 1, 2024

Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship

- Junior members are the future of our organization. To reward those who retain their membership into adulthood, the American Legion Auxiliary offers the Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship to current college students.
- 10 scholarships, \$2,500 each, will be awarded. 2 scholarships will be awarded in each division
 of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Candidates for this award shall have been Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary, held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the past three consecutive years (2021, 2022, and 2023) and be a paid member for the current (2024) membership year. Applicant must continue their membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the scholarship period.
- Applicants must be completing one, two, or three years of college courses.
- An essay describing your involvement in the American Legion Auxiliary, including past involvement as an American Legion Auxiliary Junior member.
- An original essay: As a current college student and American Legion Auxiliary member, how can you "Be The One" for our veteran and military communities?
- Completed application due to the president of their American Legion Auxiliary unit ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2024.

National ALA Scholarships

For more information and applications for each of these National Scholarships, go to <u>https://www.legion-aux.org/</u> and select Scholarships



SCHOLARSHIPS

Lucien Butler Scholarship



High school boys and girls who are sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters of members of the Virginia American Legion Family who exemplify the spirit and true American values and have been admitted to an accredited four-year college or university.

Current scholarships are limited to those entering the freshman class. Awards in following years will be considered as funds are available.

Deadline for submission is March1st.

Legacy Scholarship

The American Legion legacy Scholarship is a needs- based scholarship designed to fulfill a financial gap remaining after all federal and state educational grants/ scholarships available to an eligible applicant have been utilized.

Eligibility:

Children of United States military who died while on active duty on or before September 11.2011.

Children of post 9/11veterans having been assigned a combined disability rating of 50% or greater by the Department of Veterans Affairs also qualify.

Each needs-based scholarship provides up to \$20,000.00 for children of the fallen, and up to \$5000.00 for children of the disabled for under-graduate or post-graduate college. Recipients may reapply for additional annual awards up to six times.

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 1



The American Legion Samsung Boys and Girls State Scholarship

The Samsung Scholarship applicants are restricted to students between the Junior and Senior years of high school Who attend the current session of either an American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program.

The American Legion administers the Samsung American Legion Scholarship program. These scholarships are for under-graduate study only and may be used for tuition, books, fees, room, and board.

Scholarship Awarded Every year \$300.00.00 in Samsung American Legion Scholarships are awarded to nearly 100 American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State participants.

More information: www.legion.org/scholarship/samsung

Additional Information

American Legion Department of Virginia Scholarship

(https://valegion.org/programs/scholarships/lucien-butler-scholarship)

American Legion National Scholarships (https://www.legion.org/scholarships)

□ The American Legion Baseball Scholarship

- □ The American Legion Legacy Scholarship
- □ The American Legion Samsung Boys and Girls State Scholarship
- □ The American Legion Shooting Sports Scholarship
- □ The American Legion Oratorical Contest Scholarship

ANAVICUS (Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada United States) Scholarships

VAVS (Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services) Scholarship

□ James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship (<u>https://www.volunteer.va.gov/ParkeScholarship.asp</u>)





Legislative

2023 FALL CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Pamela Elam-Lipscombe, PDP

What is purpose of the ALA Legislative Program? The purpose of the Legislative Committee is to provide information and assistance to **American Legion Auxiliary** members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion.

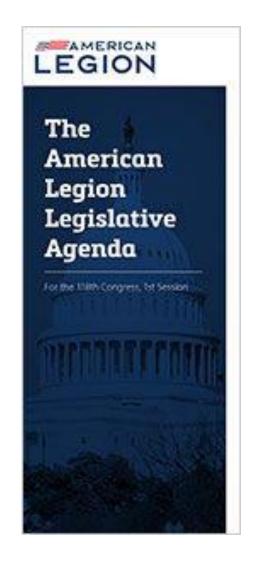
Simply.....

 The ALA follows the action of The American Legion and does not endorse any measure until The American Legion has first endorsed it.

 Never follow a policy which does not coincide exactly with The American Legion's stand. Legislative Key Resources

Legislative Agenda

Details the top priorities of The American Legion for the 118th Congress



- Mental Health & Suicide Prevention
- VA Healthcare Modernization
- PACT Act: Implementation
- Protect Veterans from Predatory Actors
- Concurrent Receipt
- Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity
- GI Bill for Honorable Service
- Support our Afghan Allies
- Military Quality of Life
- Pay the Coast Guard
- Protect the American Flag

Support our Afghan Allies

In the U.S. military, there is a code: "no one left behind" For two decades, members of the U.S. Armed Forces fought shoulder-to-shoulder with brave Afghan allies who served with and protected Americans, fighting for the freedom of Afghanistan and its people. The United States must honor its promises and provide genuine, lasting protection for the Afghans who have made it safely to the United States, and for those who were left behind. The American Legion urges Congress to reintroduce and pass legislation that would grant permanent legal status to Afghan refugees and improve the Special Immigrant Visa process for Afghans who served alongside U.S. servicemembers.

Military Quality of Life

The U.S. military's greatest resources are individual servicemembers and their families. Without highly qualified and committed men and women, even the most sophisticated weaponry will not provide the deterrent necessary to defend our nation. Factors that contribute to quality of life include proper compensation, career development, appropriate housing, quality healthcare, reasonably priced commissaries and access to affordable daycare. The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation that would increase access to child care for military families, increase appropriations to address matters involving servicemember food insecurity and increase funding to renovate military housing.

Pay the Coast Guard

U.S. Coast Guard personnel carry out vital national security missions, but they are the only U.S. military branch that works without pay during government shutdowns, due to their status under the Department of Homeland Security. The common threat of government shutdowns brings severe and unnecessary hardship on these men, women and their families. The American Legion urges Congress to reintroduce and pass the Unwavering Support for our Coast Guard Act, which would guarantee that Coast Guard personnel are paid without delay, even in the case of a government shutdown.



Protect the American Flag

The American Legion urges Congress to approve an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the U.S. flag. Additionally. The American Legion urges Congress to pass the Flag Code Modernization Act of 2021 to amend the U.S. Flag Code to codify multiple common patriotic customs and practices, as described in American Legion Resolution No. 19: Flag Code Amendment.



BLEGON23

dda 80-002





Grassroots Action Center

 Connect with members of Congress to stay informed on legislative issues.

https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home

EGION

SE

lation

GRASSROOTS ACTION CENTER

Report Meeting Sign Up for Alerts Find Officials
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Support the Veterans Service Recognition Act

Enter Keywords Search

Key Legislation

Benefits

H.R. 522: To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing a vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals to certain eligible persons, to pay expenses associated with the delivery of such vehicle, and for other purposes. | 2023-2024 Regular Session (118th)

H.R. 2971: Veterans Claims Education Act of 2023 | 2023-2024 Regular Session (118th)

HR 234: Gerald's Law Act | 2023-2024 Regular Session (118th)

HR 366: Korean American VALOR Act | 2023-2024 Regular Session (118th)

HR 562: Improving Veterans Access to Congressional Services Act of 2023 | 2023-2024 Regular Session (118th)

Legislative Advocacy Guide

Contains suggestions to help build legislative awareness in your community. Legislative Advocacy Guide

Grassroots Legislative Advocacy Guide of the American Legion Auxiliary







ALA National Legislative Facebook Page Interested in The American Legion Legislative position on issues affecting our veterans, our military, and their families

https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALALegislative

Serves as an informational group that will also allow personal, non-partisan, comments that are supportive to issues and members of the group

Include urgent action requests if a need is indicated by the American Legion Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Services Organizations Governor appointed state board of representatives of 25 VSOs.

Advises the Governor and General Assembly of active duty, veteran, and dependent needs and formulating and advocating for state legislation to address these needs.

By mutual agreement whenever a VSO goes to the General Assembly as an organization, they speak with one voice--that of the JLC.

We only advocate as an organization for those initiatives approved each year by the JLC.

Status of JLC 2023 Approved Initiatives – as of January 13, 2023

Initiative	JLC Recommendation	vso	Bill Number and Patron
JLC 2023-01 Expand Tax Relief for Surviving Spouses of Military Service Members to also include "Died in the Line-of-Duty"	That the Governor and General Assembly reform the Virginia state law, Tax Relief for Surviving Spouse of a Member of the Armed Forces "Killed in Action" through a Virginia Constitutional Amendment to include <i>died on active duty</i> in the section that addresses surviving spouses of members of the armed forces killed in action.	MOAA	HJ533 (Delegate Tran) SJ231 (Senator McPike)
JLC 2023-02 Real Property Tax Exemption Effective Date	That the Governor and General Assembly Amend the Veteran Real Property Tax law to make explicit that local jurisdictions must provide a veteran or surviving spouse the exemption as far back as the veteran or surviving spouse is eligible, but not earlier than January 1, 2011, regardless of when the veteran or surviving spouse applies.	ROA	HB1470 (Delegate Watts) HB2361 (Delegate Wiley)
JLC 2023-03 Removal of Age Requirement Income Tax Subtraction	That the Governor and General Assembly remove the 55-year age limitation on exemption of military retirement income from state tax	AL / AUSA	HB1436 (Delegate McGuire) HB1690 (Delegate Greenhalgh) SB1194 (Senator Reeves)
JLC 2023-04 Appropriate \$400,000 (GF) for State Veterans Cemeteries; Eliminate Spouse/Dependent and Guard/Reserve Burial Fees	That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate an additional \$400,000 (GF) to the Department of Veterans Services so that the spouse and Guard/Reserve burial charges may be eliminated at Virginia State Veterans Cemeteries, and that Virginia work with Congress to secure the funding (in the VA budget) to extend the VA plot allowance to spouses at all state veterans cemeteries nationwide.	FRA	HB1565 (Delegate Convirs- Fowler) HB2362 (Delegate Wiley) SB924 (Senator DeSteph) HB1400/SB800 (Budget Bills), Item 471 (Governor's Introduced Budget). \$400,000 GF increase to eliminate spouse/dependent and

Meeting with our Legislators

Meet with your Elected Officials



The American Legion Family is an apolitical organization.



Must invite all candidates to a meet and greet.



When representing The American Legion Family, must only address the initiatives set forth by The American Legion.

