



LEGISLATIVE – NEW MEXICO

April 2017

Kelly Fouse-Department Chairman

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Please report monthly what you did to promote your Legislative Program

Promotional # 9



TO: AUXILIARY AND DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMEN:

I had the honor and privilege to be able to attend the Washington D.C. Legislative Conference. I must say there is nothing quite like the feeling of our great Capitol. Visiting with our representatives was an eye opening experience. Only one actual representatives made a point to pop in and speak with us. She only had a few minutes but made a point to hug everyone and show appreciation. Her aide was very interested in what we had to say, and listened attentively. I was only able to go to one other representative's office; and that aid was polite and took notes. If you ever get to go, be sure and go to the meeting the VFW has that explains to us how and what to talk about with our representatives and their aids. It is open to all VFW and Auxiliary members.

As I sat behind the National VFW and VFWA Officers and their spouses when Chief Duffy spoke to some of our National Representatives, I felt a sense of wonder, almost awe at what our organizations represent. We hear the VFW and it's Auxiliary is almost 1.7 million members strong. Sitting in that room, surrounded by VFW and Auxiliary members, I was able to comprehend a little better the difference our organizations make for our veterans, active duty and their families. Think about it, we represent ourselves, and more importantly those we love, our veterans and each other. I realize we don't know every veteran, active duty or family member; however, we represent all of the above. Our emails, letters, phone calls, and personal contacts make a difference! I am so grateful to President Dale that she appointed me to this Chairmanship, I have learned so much, and now have a passion for our legislative program. Thank you to all of you that have participated in changing legislation for our veterans, active duty and their families. If you made one phone call, wrote one letter, one email, or attended a function that you discussed or showed support for veteran legislation, you participated. Those that did even more, thank you for believing and understanding the difference we make!! I have no doubt that whoever is Legislative Chairman next year will be as proud of you as I am. Please keep up the great work, and if you haven't been involved, I hope you start. There is nothing like the feeling of knowing you helped change laws for the better for those that have given us everything, the very way we are able to live our lives. Never believe we don't make a difference, I was blessed enough to see it first-hand.

May God Bless you and yours,

Kelly Fouse

LAVFW NM Legislative Chairman

cc: Bette Jean Biedrzycki, National Legislative Ambassador
Carmelita Jones, Western Conference Chairman
Dale Mann, Department of New Mexico President
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