



LEGISLATIVE – NEW MEXICO

OCTOBER

Kelly Fouse-Department Chairman

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Please report monthly what you did to promote your Legislative Program

Promotional # 5



TO: AUXILIARY AND DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMEN:

Hello everyone,

Please see below some of the information that Western Conference Chairman, Carmelita Jones has sent us. Presidents please remember to go to www.nmvfw.org click on the link that states Auxiliary President, go down to legislative reports, there is the spreadsheet that tells you which Auxiliaries and Districts are reporting! It will be updated again after October 1st.

I have also attached, how to contact your National Representatives and Senators. I put our State Representatives contact information in last month's promotional. Thank you all for the great work you do for our veterans, remember contacting your State and Federal representatives is how we get the government to do right by our veterans!!

From WCLC Carmelita Jones:

Familiarize yourself with the 2016 VFW Priority Goals: It is the overarching position paper which identifies the major policy goals of the VFW which can help you discuss/ correspond with the respective Congressional Members in your District.

- a. **Budget:** End Sequestration!!! We need to force Congress to pass a long-term budget plan that would reduce government spending, thereby stopping the “automatic” cuts to all federal departments and agencies, including the Department of Defense (DOD). VFW's solution is to end sequestration, so DOD can effectively recruit and retain the highest quality personnel, and ensure equipment and training meet our readiness and response requirements to operate in an unpredictable and unstable global environment.
- b. **Accountability:** Passing the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (HR 3230) is not sufficient – it is only the first step in fixing the Veterans' Health Care System. The VFW solution is to provide oversight of HR 3230, to include holding ALL levels of VA employees accountable for misconduct.
- c. **100% GI Bill Eligibility for Combat Veterans:** The VFW believes that all veterans who served in combat should be granted 100 percent eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Currently, the veterans must serve 36 months on active duty in order to be eligible at the 100% rate.
- d. **Caregiver Services for Veterans of All Eras:** The VFW supports the VA Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Program. This is a critical benefit, allowing veterans who were severely injured in the line of duty to remain in their homes with the help of a family caregiver, rather than living in an institutional setting. However, the VFW strongly believes that it must be expanded to cover veterans of every era. All severely injured veterans have made incredible sacrifices, and all family members who care for them are equally deserving of our recognition and support.

Please use the link below to download the brochure for your use from the VFW National website:

http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFW.org/VFW_in_DC/2016PriorityGoalsBrochure.pdf

How to contact your National Senators and Representatives:

U.S. Senators:

Tom Udall (D)

The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3101

DC phone: 202-224-6621
DC fax: 202-228-3261
Contact Form: <http://tomudall.senate.gov/?p=contact>
Homepage: <http://www.tomudall.senate.gov/?p=home>
Twitter: [@tomudall](https://twitter.com/tomudall)

Martin Heinrich (D)

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3104

DC Phone: 202-224-5521, DC Fax: 202-228-2841
Contact Form: <https://www.heinrich.senate.gov/contact/write-martin>
Homepage: <http://www.heinrich.senate.gov/>

U.S. Congressional Representatives

Michelle Lujan Grisham (D)

District 1

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
United States House of Representatives
214 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3101
DC Phone: 202-225-6316; DC Fax: 202-225-4975
Contact form: <https://lujangrisham.house.gov/contact>
Homepage: <http://lujangrisham.house.gov/>
Twitter: [@RepLujanGrisham](https://twitter.com/RepLujanGrisham)

Steve Pearce (R)

District 2

The Honorable Steve Pearce
United States House of Representatives
2432 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3102
DC Phone: 202-225-2365; 855-4-PEARCE (732723); DC Fax: 202-225-9599
Contact Form: <https://pearce.house.gov/contact-me/email-me>
Homepage: <http://pearce.house.gov/>
Twitter: [@repstevepearce](https://twitter.com/repstevepearce)

Ben Ray Lujan (D)

District 3

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan
United States House of Representatives
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3103

DC Phone: 202-225-6190, DC Fax: 202-226-1528

Contact Form: <https://lujan.house.gov/contact/>

Homepage: <http://lujan.house.gov/>

Twitter: [@repbenraylujan](https://twitter.com/repbenraylujan)

Thank you, and may God Bless you and yours.

Kelly Fouse, Chairman

Contact info is above in the header

cc: Bette Jean Biedrzycki, National Legislative Ambassador
Carmelita Jones, Western Conference Chairman
Dale Mann, Department of New Mexico President
Louise Salas, Department of New Mexico Secretary
Dave Fouse, Department of New Mexico Website Manager