



National Legislative Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 1 December 2017

Sons of The American Legion National Legislative Commission

Releases 2017-2018 Legislative Agenda

The Sons of the American Legion National Legislative Commission presented the 2017-2018 National Legislative Agenda to National Commander Danny Smith, our National Officers and The National Executive Committee at the Fall Meetings on October 6th 7th & 8th in Indianapolis, Indiana.

National Legislative Chairman William D (Bill) Kelly (FL) delivered the agenda in his report to The National Executive Committee on Sunday October 8th 2017 which was accepted unanimously by a voice vote.

At the Fall NEC Meeting during the newly instituted Sons of The American Legion Forum on Friday October 6th, I was proud to introduce the National Legislative Vice Chairman Thomas Deal (MD) who introduced Commission members, David Lee (NY), Richard Pfeiffer (IN), Bernie Kessler (OH), Zeste Debro (GA) who all chose to attend the meetings without a financial call in. Gentlemen, we thank you for your dedication. These Legislative Commission members have worked hard this year to provide our organization with the following four-point agenda outlining the goals of the Legislative Commission:

- 1st To assist in building stronger Detachment Legislative Commissions.
- 2nd To assist as many members as possible to join The American Legion Washington Legislative Updates
- 3rd To organize a strong turnout for Washington Conference.
- 4th To promote the George B Evans Grassroots Veteran Advocate of the Year Award.



Active Detachment Legislative Commissions

At the Sons of The American Legion Fall NEC Meeting, the Legislative Commission was asked to make a presentation to The Detachment Commanders' Class. During that presentation, all the Detachment Commanders were asked to appoint a Legislative Commission and Chairman for their state. They were reminded to get active by keeping their members informed. Having active Detachment Commissions goes a long way in supporting our National Commission.



The American Legion Washing Legislative Updates

The Sons of the American Legion National Legislative Commission is asking every member to join in and receive the Washington Legislative Update as a more efficient and effective way of receiving information from The American Legion Washington Office. There are two ways to receive the updates via your home computer or on your Smartphone. It's your choice, but please choose one (or both) of these methods. It is very important at this time that you realize that you, who vote in the national elections, have the same power to influence Congress as a Veteran's Advocate as does a Legion member .

1st Home Computer or Laptop capwiz.com/legion/home

2nd Smartphone moble.legion.org/takeaction

Please sign up for The American Legion Washington Legislative Updates Today.



The American Legion Washington Conference

The Sons of The American Legion will once again be traveling to Washington DC to join our American Legion Family as we take Capitol Hill for The American Legion Washington Conference February 25 to February 28, 2018. As in previous years, we will be staying at the Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC. 20009, 202-483-3000. However, there are many fine hotels in the

surrounding area, and since your travel and accommodations are your responsibility, it is your choice where you stay.

Please join National Commander Danny Smith, his officers and members of various Detachments from all over the nation on Sunday February 25th as we bus over to Arlington National Cemetery at 8AM EST and at 9:15AM watch Commander Smith present a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns on behalf of the Sons of The American Legion. Next stop on the tour is The Korean War Memorial at 10:45AM. This is the first option to present a wreath along with National Commander Smith that you, or your Detachment, purchase for \$150.00. Last stop is the World War II Memorial at 11:45AM and another opportunity to present a wreath with Commander Smith. We return to the Washington Hilton at 2PM in time for everyone who chooses to attend the American Legion Leading Candidate for National Commander's Reception.

Sunday is a full day, but that's just the beginning, with the Washington Conference ending with National Commander Denise Rohna's testimony before Congress. More information will be available as we get closer to the date at www.legion.org/washingtonconference/schedule. Let's get ready by making our travel reservations, hotel accommodations, ordering wreaths from the Legislative Commission, reserving a seat and box lunch for the bus trip, calling your House of Representative Member & your two Senators to schedule to meet with them and present them The American Legion Washington Conference Legislative Agenda.

All the information is available at www.legion.org/sons/commission. Scroll down to Legislative Commission. Any other questions may be e-mailed to Bill Kelly at kellyjrwmd@gmail.com or call his home 904-573-2979 or cell 904-673-8435. We look forward to seeing you in Washington!



The George B Evans Grassroots Veterans Advocate of The Year Award

Over the past few years, many of our Detachments have overlooked a person from their Detachment who has worked on their Detachment Legislative Commission for the betterment of Veterans. This is being addressed with our Detachment Commanders who were unable to attend Commanders' Class at the Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, all the Detachment Adjutants and all the Detachment Legislative Commission Chairman. Surely there are Sons of The American Legion worthy of recognition from your Detachment who should be considered for The George B Evans Grassroots Veterans Advocate of the Year Award. Adjutants, please take time when readying your Detachment's End of the Year paperwork to look over and write out a brief narrative to nominate a candidate from your detachment and submit

it to the Legislative Commission Chairman not less than thirty days before National Convention. Application and all instructions are available at www.legion.org/sons/commissions then scroll down to Legislative Commission.

Members of your National Legislative Commission Team

Zeste C. Debro(GA)

Bernie Kessler(OH)

Richard M. Pfeiffer(IN)

David W Lee(NY)

Vice Chairman Thomas Deal

Chairman William D. (Bill) Kelly

***On behalf of your Sons of The American Legion National Legislative Commission
Members we wish you***

Merry Christmas,

A Happy & Safe New Year and

Happy Holidays