



The Adjutant



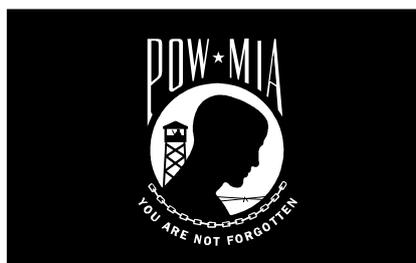
OFFICE PHONE 856-8951

EMAIL:

ADJUTANTNH@LEGIONNH.ORG

The Department of New Hampshire

TO MY LEGION FAMILY:



I hope everyone had a great holiday season. We are now headed into our Centennial years, 2018 and 2019. As we start celebrating the beginning of this great organization, let's not forget those who saw a vision and felt the need to start an organization where veterans and military members can feel welcome and come together for the betterment of this country and hold true the principles on which this country was founded.

As we go forward it is even more important to hold true those ideals and expectations of our founding fathers. We must remember the four pillars on which this organization stands, Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. Each of these pillars encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its servicemembers, their families, the youth of America and ordinary citizens. We must remember the American Legion has made a difference in hundreds of thousands if not millions of lives each year based on the programs of this organization.

Our organization's positions and programs are guided by the visions of those that came before us, and it is our duty and mission to continue these positions and programs, passing them onto our youth and beyond. If we lose focus in these ideals then we will lose this organization. Reach out to an eligible friend, neighbor or just a veteran or servicemen and let them know about the American Legion and what it can do for them.

It's who we are and what we do that makes the difference.

WINTER CONFERENCE

The Winter Conference will be on Saturday, January 27, 2018, at the Roland E. Patnode Post 7, Rochester N.H. Refreshments will start at 8:00 am, and the joint session will begin promptly at 9:00 am. The agenda this year will hopefully include speakers from the IRS, Department of Revenue, and Secretary of State for N.H., however we are still waiting on confirmation from these agencies to finalize the agenda.

But as we have done in the past, there will be a joint opening starting at 9:00 am until 10:00 am, at which time the Legion and Auxiliary split into their respective groups. We are expecting a visit from the Fisher Cats organization who are planning on holding a special game to celebrate our centennial year at the ball park during our Department Convention. This will include discounted tickets, food, raffles, and fireworks. The ball park is right around the corner of the convention center and we already have tickets available for that.

Again, each Post needs to send at least one representative to at least pick up mid-winter packets.

I would just like to remind everyone of our annual Winter Raffle which will be drawn at the Mid-Winter Conference. There was an error on the mailings which indicates two different prices for purchase of all tickets at either \$25.00 dollars or \$20.00 dollars. We will honor which ever one you wish to include for purchase of all the tickets.

As soon as I am able to finalize the agenda I will Post it on the website and send it out on email blast.

I hope to see you there.

MESSAGE FROM OUR NATIONAL COMMANDER

To my fellow Legionnaires and Legion Family members in the Department of **NEW HAMPSHIRE**:

There are many ways to demonstrate compassion for veterans, but at the top of the list is caring for their families. It is why President Lincoln included widows and orphans in his famous pledge to veterans and it's why I chose Family First as the theme for my year as national commander.

A recent White House proclamation called it "our patriotic duty" to honor veterans and military families. The American Legion wholeheartedly agrees. It is demonstrated in all 55 departments of our organization every time we award a temporary financial assistance grant, an American Legion Legacy Scholarship or answer a call from our Family Support Network. It is demonstrated every time an American Legion service officer helps a veteran access the VA health care system, which can ease the burden of expensive medical costs that so many families face today.

As the first national commander who also belongs to the American Legion Auxiliary, I am also blessed to have an immediate family that includes Sons of the American Legion members and Legionnaires. My home department of Wisconsin is also the birthplace of a company called Harley Davison, a brand that holds special significance among many of our American Legion Riders. My point is that every component of our American Legion Family is important, just as every relative in our immediate family is important.

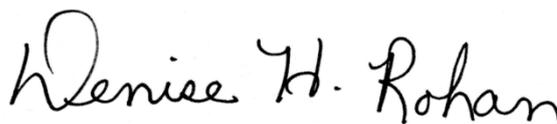
We have had some outstanding legislative accomplishments in 2017, including the signing of the Veterans Appeals Modernization Act by President Trump on the stage of our national convention and the passage of The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act. This would not have been possible without the hard work of American Legion Family members who contacted their senators and representatives and asked them to do the right thing.

Numbers equal influence, which is why it is so essential that we recruit, renew and revitalize all of our American Legion components to include posts, units, squadrons and Riders chapters. Reconnect with our active-duty, reserve and Guard units by supporting Family Readiness Groups and letting them know that they are all valued by our American Legion Family.

We have outstanding programs and I am asking for your support in raising money to provide training for our outstanding corps of service officers and temporary financial assistance for children in need.

I thank you for your service as military veterans, as Legionnaires and as members of the Legion Family. Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable conference.

For God and Country,



Denise H. Rohan
National Commander

FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK



The American Legion's long demonstrated support and commitment to our men and women in uniform and their families has never wavered. The American Legion's Family Support Network is ready to provide immediate assistance to service personnel and their families, whose lives have been directly affected by the ongoing global war on terrorism. Since September 11, 2001, the active military, National Guard, and Reserve units have been activated in record numbers and duration. As a result, the families of these men and women often find themselves unable to meet normal monthly household obligations. Assistance is needed for a variety of everyday chores and expenses. These needs range from routine household chores, grocery shopping, help with connecting to available local resources to ensuring that the grass is mowed for the expecting mother whose husband is serving abroad.

To actively connect families in need to a local American Legion post, The American Legion maintains a nationwide toll-free telephone number, 1-800-504-4098, for service personnel and their families to call for assistance. Families can also request assistance online at www.legion.org/fsn. With nearly 15,000 posts nationwide, help and support can be as close as the local post



➤ **Family Support Network (FSN)**

Provides direct, local support to service personnel and their families First Gulf War showed the need for helping families of deployed service members Activation of military units/personnel in record number of tours/duration has intensified the need Don't forget that extended training situations can leave a family in need of assistance too

Posts can provide military families assistance with, e.g.,

- Household chores,
- Repairs and maintenance
- Child care
- Expenses

Process:

- Family in need can make contact via:
- Their local Legion posts
 - Their Legion department
 - Call NHQ toll-free number
 - Online application (Legion website)

The NHQ phone calls and website applications are relayed to the appropriate Legion dept.

Dept. then relays to local Legion post
Local post makes contact with the family to assess specific need(s)
Local post coordinates resources necessary to provide direct / local assistance

- e.g.: car repairs
- mowing grass
- grocery shopping
- child care
- local financial assistance/possible TFA assistance

- FSN only works if local posts respond to needs of our comrades and their families



Don't have to wait for family to contact the post.... post can outreach and offer to families

Members know their neighbors and refer to post
Publicly promote FSN program, e.g., post in church bulletins, news stories, etc.

Contact Family Readiness Groups

- We can help ensure no family endures unnecessary hardships caused by military service
- “Veterans helping veterans / neighbors helping neighbors”



VA Choice Program to Run Out of Money

WASHINGTON — Funding for the government system that allows veterans to seek private-sector health care could be depleted as early as Jan. 2, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The agency is required to include a notice in the Federal Register informing veterans the anticipated last date that the Veterans Choice Program will have money to operate. The notice was published Wednesday and stated the program would be bankrupt sometime between Jan. 2 and Jan. 16. The VA could not pinpoint a date “due to the unique nature of health care and the variability in health care costs,” according to the notice.

The notice provides a deadline to Congress, which needs to approve more funding to keep the program running.

Last week, VA Secretary David Shulkin sent a letter to lawmakers on the veterans’ affairs committees in which he told them that the Choice program would be depleted within 30 days and urged them to pass short-term funding before the new year, or there would be consequences for the program.

As of Dec. 7, the VA had about \$490 million left for the program, he wrote. The agency spends between \$200 million to \$400 million each month on Choice.

This is the second time this year that Shulkin has gone to Congress asking for emergency funding for the program. In mid-August, lawmakers approved \$2.1 billion to keep it going.

At the time, veterans had already felt some effects of the shortfall. There were instances of veterans with long-term medical issues whose care had been interrupted, veteran’s organizations said at the time, and requests to go outside the VA system were “piling up.” A VA spokesman said the lack of funding nearly caused layoffs at the third-party companies that contract with the VA to administer the program.

In the letter to lawmakers Dec. 12, Shulkin wrote the VA’s other community care programs didn’t have the capacity to take on all of the veterans who typically use Choice. If those patients were forced to stay within the VA for care, wait times for appointments would lengthen, he added.

“Taking these actions would have a number of negative consequences, including decreased access to care, damaged community partnerships and interrupted care continuity for veterans,” Shulkin wrote.

For months, Shulkin has urged lawmakers to approve legislation overhauling the Choice program and establish a system with more dependable funding. Separate versions of bills to reform the program have passed out of committees and onto the House and Senate, but with only 11 days left in the year and a looming government shutdown, Congress tackling the issue before 2018 didn’t seem likely Wednesday.

In a statement earlier this month, Shulkin pleaded with Congress to at least pass another emergency funding bill for Choice before the end of the year, and then come back in 2018 to discuss major reforms.

Lawmakers are now attempting to have short-term Choice funding added into a year-end budget deal. Congress passed an emergency spending bill to fund the government until Dec. 22, and lawmakers were looking to approve another stopgap funding bill by the end of the week.

An additional \$2.1 billion for the program was part of a Continuing Resolution that House GOP leadership released Dec. 14, which would also fund the Defense Department through the rest of the fiscal year and other agencies, including the VA, until Jan. 19. However, it was uncertain Wednesday whether lawmakers would undertake that version of a stopgap bill or find another budget solution. *(Nikki Wendling, 2017, Stars and Stripes)*

VA ANNOUNCES ROOLOUT APPLICATION PROCESS NEW VETERANS ID CARD

VA has announced that the application process for the national [Veterans Identification Card \(VIC\)](#) is now available for Veterans — yet another action honoring their service.

Last month I ran an article on this new VA ID Card. Now the VA is putting a hold on it because there have been so many veterans applying for the card at once. However, the VA is expected to start up again once they get caught up, but we all know how that goes!!!!

American Legion Digital Dispatch Newsletter

The American legion has finally allowed members to get the Dispatch Newsletter electronically on its website. This allows members to get high quality information faster and more frequently here. <https://www.legion.org/media/212766/digital-dispatch-now-available>

Posts Newsletters

I am putting out the plea for Posts to submit their newsletters electronically to me so that I can include them on the website every month. There have been two Posts that have been consistent with this, Post 5, Peterborough, and Post 74, Brookline, and have been doing so since our last update to our website. I have received a few others from time to time from other Posts, but I would like to have more every month. I would like to give an award for the best newsletters for the calendar year and need more submissions in order to do that.

I thank Wayne Thomas from Post 5, and Greg d'Arbonne from Post 74 for submitting their newsletters every month.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

The 2018 Washington Conference will be held February 25-28, 2018 at the Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D.C. For anyone wishing to go to this conference, information can be obtained from me upon request.

Renew – Recruit - Reconnect



Please Post