



**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California  
Legislative Program  
August**

Congratulations to all on your new role with the Department of California.

My name is Donna Smith I am honored to serve with you this year as your Department Legislative Chairman 2023 - 2024.

Keeping with Madam President Glenda Schultz theme, "United as One" Legislative will be known as "California Assembly" as your California Assembly speaker for District 1-30, my pledge is to make a positive effort to become familiar with and support all veteran legislation sponsored by The American Legion.

The purpose of the national Legislative Committee is to train and inform our members to become grassroots advocates for veterans and their families with local, state, and national elected officials, supporting the legislative agenda, priorities, and initiatives of The American Legion.

The American Legion, Dept of California successfully hosted its annual Legislative Day in Sacramento. About 4 dozen Legionnaires from all over our great state gathered to received briefings from our Department Legislative Commission as well as from several prominent elected and appointed officials, then they visited the offices of 40 senators and 80 assembly members to campaign for the Legion Legislative priorities.

One item that was approved prior to the 2023-2024 State Budget was SR42: Recognition Day and Womens Veterans Appreciation Day, it was signed into law on the anniversary of the day of the womans armed service integration act of 1948. (June 12) With the passing of the Veteran's Compensation Cost-of Living Adjustment Act of 2023, Service-Disabled Veteran's and families of fallen service members will see a boost in compensation payments beginning in 2024. Updates: Veterans State Tax Exemptions and Extended COVID-19 benefits included among several veterans' bills moving though California U.S. Legislatures.

I look forward to seeing and hearing from you and sharing more information on this program.



Donna L. Smith Legislative Chair (California State Assembly Speaker)

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