

American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California  
Department Executive Committee  
Legislative  
January 2024

Madam President, Officers, Chairmen, Members, and Guests,

Happy New Year! January is Legislative month and my challenge to our members is to be the voice for our veterans. One way to be the voice of our veterans is by signing up on the American Legion's grassroots website ([www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home](http://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home)). You may also subscribe to the American Legion Digital Dispatch ([www.legion.org/dispatch](http://www.legion.org/dispatch)) and Legislative E-news ([www.legion.org/newsletters](http://www.legion.org/newsletters)).

Pact Act: VA has screened 5 million veterans for toxic exposures. Of the veterans who have received the screening, 2.1 million (43%) reported at least one potential exposure. Thanks to the Pact Act and other new laws, many groups of veterans are now able to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits; including World War II veterans, Vietnam veterans, Gulf War veterans, veterans who deployed to a combat zone and transitioned out of the service less than 10 year ago, and more.

The Washington Conference is being held from February 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, which can be viewed on the Legion website, so you can watch online as the activities unfold.

There is now a QR code on the Legion website/Legislative Action. All a person must do is scan the code and a letter will be sent to your congressperson.

To find your congressional leaders, go to the Grassroots Action Center (link is above). All you need is your zip code and address. Type that in and it will pull up the representatives and senators for your area. Then click on their name and it will give you their contact information, or you can email them from there.

This concludes my report.

Donna L. Smith, Legislative Chairman