The U.S. House passed the bipartisan LEGION Act on Tuesday, extending the recognized wartime era back to Dec. 7, 1941. The LEGION Act — Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act — fills in the gaps of war eras and redefines The American Legion’s membership eligibility dates, beginning with the bombing of Pearl Harbor and continuing until it is determined the United States is no longer in a state of war. President Trump is expected to sign Senate bill S.504 into law later this week. When it becomes law, the legislation opens the door for hundreds of thousands of veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible.

“Today’s passage of the LEGION Act is a victory for veterans who until now have not had their service to our nation fully recognized,” American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad said. “These veterans and their family members can now enjoy all the benefits of their service which they so richly deserve.” The gaps in the war era were largely during the Cold War, a time when threats to U.S. national security was real, especially to the men and women serving in uniform. Overall, estimates show that about 1,600 U.S. servicemembers were killed or wounded in hostile operations during periods that were not previously recognized as times of war by the federal government.

Reistad credited members of Congress and American Legion Family members with the successful legislation. Their efforts fulfill Resolution No. 1, passed unanimously by the Legion’s National Executive Committee last October in Indianapolis.

On Feb. 14, Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., introduced the LEGION Act, along with Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C. Reps. Lou Correa, D-Calif., and Ben Cline, R-Va., introduced a similar measure in the House. “The American Legion appreciates the support our representatives have shown the veterans who were previously caught in the gaps,” Reistad said. “This also underscores the passion American Legion Family members have for our nation’s veterans. Their grass-roots advocacy for this bill has been inspiring.” Reistad evoked the memories of The American Legion’s founders who launched the organization 100 years ago this year.

“As we celebrate our centennial anniversary, we hold to the same truths that our founders appropriately crafted a century ago,” Reistad said. “Among those: a veteran is a veteran. It does not matter whether a veteran fought enemies on foreign soil, protected our interests in an ocean far away or secured our national defense here at home. Their service is what matters most. Now, thanks to this legislation, all veterans will be properly remembered for their service.”

Photograph courtesy of The American Legion.
Still Serving America

Do you have an ongoing program or activity that serves your community?

Do you have a friend or relative that goes above and beyond the call of duty to help others?

Drop us a line and tell us what your story is or how you or this person is demonstrating that they are Still Serving America, but must be received by the 10th of the month, the month prior.

In submitting your information, please be sure to include your full name, address and telephone number. There’s a good chance the information you send us will make it into The Observer. Please send to: Still Serving America, The American Legion, 7465 East 1st Ave. Ste D Denver, CO 80230.
I had the opportunity to attend the Department of New Jersey’s summer convention where they welcomed “The Greatest Legislation: An American Legion Centennial Salute to the GI Bill” traveling exhibit.

The multi-media exhibit produced by the Legion’s 100th Anniversary Observance Committee has toured the nation since June 2017, sharing the story of the GI Bill. The display documents the story of the “greatest legislation,” which The American Legion originally drafted and pushed to passage in 1943 and 1944. It features illustrated panels, video kiosks and artifacts that show the dramatic story of the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, the massive effects it had on U.S. society and the ongoing effort to continue improving it for new generations, through to the passage of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 – the “Forever GI Bill.”

During my remarks to the New Jersey Legion Family, I reflected on the price U.S. military personnel have paid for the abundance of opportunities they have under the GI Bill. They paid, and continue to pay, for the GI Bill through sleepless nights induced after years of heavy packs and infantry gear. The truth is, our founders understood the horrors of war as soon as they experienced World War I. But others required some reminding.

Not only was this initial investment a cost of war – in other words, payment to those who gave so much – but it paled in comparison to the higher tax revenue gained from an educated working class and a housing boom that came as a result of millions of new homeowners, courtesy of the GI Bill. This is why I keep referring to the GI Bill as an investment rather than a benefit or a welfare program. It was an investment that paid off big-time. By the mid-1950s, one third of U.S. housing starts were funded by GI Bill financing.

As the years passed, the education benefit for veterans gradually diminished, setting the stage for the Post 9/11 GI Bill, passed in 2008, a major overhaul that modernized and improved the package. Since then, The American Legion has worked with Congress and VA to continue improving it and will continue to do so. Just like The American Legion created the original GI Bill, we will fight to ensure the GI Bill indeed lasts forever and that the benefits are worthy of the GI Bill name. This is why we have an American Legion. This is what we fight for. That is who we are.

The American Legion’s GI Bill exhibit will continue to travel the nation throughout the organization’s centennial year. It will be at the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis inside the exhibit hall at the Indiana Convention Center.
All incoming Department Commanders get to choose what project they want to sponsor for their year as Department Commander. There are an infinite number of charities and programs that need our assistance and contributions to make them financially stable.

I looked hard for a project that met my criteria:
Is it a Legion Program?…√
Is it a Colorado Program?…√
Is it a Veterans helping Veterans Program?…√
Is it in need of more money…√
Is it something I can have a passion about, that changes lives?…√

I have been at Headquarters and seen the Veterans that come in and need our help, I didn’t need to look any farther, I choose:

COLORADO VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND! (CVAF)

CVAF was created to give immediate assistance to Colorado Veterans in need. It’s fast, fair and red tape free, thus getting the assistance to those in greatest need faster! Us Veterans are very stubborn, we have a hard time ever asking for help, this gives the relief where it’s needed when the Veteran finally asks for help.

Department Commander Noechel’s Challenge:

I ask that every post have at least 1 fundraising event this year that focuses on maintaining this fund with their donation. Raise the money either within your post or get contributions from your communities.

Mail your contribution check to: Department HQ, 7465 E. 1st Ave #D, Denver, Co 80230

Write Check To: The American Legion, Department of Colorado
Write Check Memo: “Department Commander Project, CVAF”

Last year the fund supported Veterans with over $30,000.00 in immediate assistance. We should be proud of what this fund achieves and preserve its contribution to our own Veterans in this state. We can continue to help Colorado Veterans for years to come…But not without your help!

In closing I ask will you help us

RE-IGNITE PATRIOTISM?

Will you help us to help our brothers and sisters in a time of need?

Vets don’t forget Vets - that walk from coast to coast

By William Shuttleworth

William Shuttleworth, a 71 year old Air Force veteran and retired educator is walking from coast to coast to raise awareness on veterans issues. From Massachusetts to California a 7 month trek during which time he has met and will continue to meet many fellow veterans. William states "I choose to meet any vet I can individually, in small groups at VA Centers, in American Legions, VFW’s, coffee shops and across a dining room table".

Veterans gave a lot and often have little to show for it. More than 25% of all homeless men are veterans, and many of these forgotten warriors struggle with employment, addiction and sobriety. These men and women have little voice in Congress. Today, less than 18% of Congress has served in the military, compared to 78% in 1972. With fewer veterans in Washington, who will speak and advocate for them?

He is raising funds to support his journeys minimalist approach to travel with the majority going to a VSO’s charity. To follow William go to vetsdontforgetvets.com and read about his adventure. Better yet, sign up to receive e-mails to walk along with his adventures as they happen.
July is the start of our 2019 year, and what a start. We finished last year on a very strong note. Let’s keep those wheels rolling and keep building for a stronger tomorrow and next 100 years.

Already, the Commander and I have been on the road visiting from far Western Colorado to the Eastern Plains. Our plan is to keep rolling as much as we can throughout the year.

I would like to ask each and every Legionnaire to keep those programs rolling strong as well. When we work our programs and tailor them to our communities the impact is 4 fold.

We have seen many acts of Patriotism all over the state. And some, show the massive Patriotic spirit of Colorado (Swink Flag pole), and many other flag poles going up all over the state.

Take a minute to listen and engage your community. Ask what we as The American Legion can do with helping and promoting that patriotism? Set up tables at community flea, farmers and evening markets with flags, patriotic pins, free constitutions and pamphlets on flag etiquette. Talk to our young students about Boys/Girl State and the Oratorical competition, find out about interest in arranging jr. programs such as Baseball, Shooting sports. These are just a very few ideas aside of the most obvious, Parades.

Get out and wear your patriotic apparel at every chance you get and especially that legion branded gear.

The momentum is there, it is up to us to keep headed in the upward direction.

Another trend is getting the whole family involved in what we do. The American Legion Family is so much more than the Post, Auxiliary and Squadron. Did you know the Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion accept juniors, So often we hear how people are busy with work and want to spend their non-working hours with their families. Well they can be a part of moving patriotism forward and doing it as a whole family. And with all the sporting programs and activities that support children and youth, just think this is a total package of involvement utilizing a minimum of time, effort and energy. After all “if you enjoy what you are doing then you will never work a day of your life”

So if we have fun being Legionnaires then everyone will want to join us in having fun and promoting Americanism and Patriotism. Let’s get out and let our communities know we are here, Maybe an open casual meeting at a park or a restaurant. Or even on occasion go downtown to the flagpole and do a flag raising ceremony with pledge and national anthem.

Let every one know we are Proud Americans and not afraid to show Patriotism.

I would like to extend a big thank-you to ALL of Colorado in accepting me as your 100th Sr.Vice Commander. I will continue to get out to as many posts and districts all year long and as often as I can throughout All of Colorado and help make a difference and re-ignite the Patriotism that drives us to support The American Legion and all of it’s four pillars. I encourage each and every member to not hesitate in asking for Senior Department Officer visits.

I believe in Visibility to our membership, and participation in many of our programs.

American Legion Westcliffe Post 170 is starting a new Americanism program in their community. With Dept Commander Dean Noechel’s Re-Igniting Patriotism motto we will be recognizing local businesses with a certificate and newspaper articles since they are re-igniting patriotism by flying the American Flag every day.

The very first business is The Silver Dome Restaurant & Bar. They serve food and beverages for our community. Photos include The Dome flying their flag, certificate and accepting the certificate is Dome employee Dave Green.
A Message From Department Jr. Vice Commander Kossow

2020 Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year Program

By: Chip Kossow, Department Jr. Vice Commander

At the 101st National Convention of The American Legion this month in Indianapolis the 2019 Law Enforcement Officer of the year was awarded to Lt. Jane Anderson from Colorado Springs Police Department. She was recognized for her outstanding 30 year career, professional achievement, and community service.

The Department of Colorado will recognize the next law enforcement officer and firefighter of the year at the 2020 Mid-Year conference.

It is now time for each Post to work on the 2020 program. The program has expanded over the last 2 years and will hopefully recognize more first responders this coming year. The Department goal is to see a nominee for each award from all 14 Districts.

The Post is encouraged to meet with their local police and fire departments to find nominees. This is open to city, community, county, state, and federal agencies as long as the nominees are Colorado certified (please see the packet for all requirements). This is an opportunity for you to meet the local Chiefs and introduce your Post to them and let them know about the American Legion. Many of these agencies will have veterans that may be interested in joining our great organization.

The nomination instructions, eligibility requirements, and nomination packets are located on the Department website in the Programs – National Defense tab. You may also contact me directly for the packet and any questions you may have. My cell is 719 332-2793 or email at Chipshome42@yahoo.com.

Please act fast! The due dates are:
01 December for Posts to Districts
15 December for Districts to Department

Regardless of the Department winner, each Post and District should recognize their winner at the local level in a public ceremony. Invite local communities and news outlets to report on the achievement. Help the Department to honor our first responders for their hard work and dedication to our communities.

First Responders Photos from Department Convention 2019

National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year 2019 Lt. Jane E. Anderson is the recipient of this award but was not able to attend. Jr. Vice Commander Chip Kossow, Chairman National Security Committee, far left, National Commander Brett P. Reistad, left and Department Commander Robb Smith, far right present Lt. Anderson’s award to Colorado Springs Police Commander Pat Rigdon, right.

The Western Region Firefighter of the Year for 2019 went to Firefighter Andrew Lowe. National commander Brett Reistad, center left present Firefighter Lowe his award. Jr. Vice Commander and Chairman National Security Committee Chip Kossow watch from the far left corner and Department Commander Robb Smith in the little white cap sticking up from between 2 giant shoulder. Other officers in this photograph were from Firefighter Lowe’s unit and their names are not available,
It is up to us

By: Pat Smith, Department Adjutant

July 19, 2019, we buried one of the last remaining spouses of a WWII Legionnaire. Betty Janata was the spouse of Tony Janata. Tony was a very active Legionnaire prior to his death. During his active years he was known as,” Mr. Baseball” for his dedication to that important Legion program. Tony was also ready and willing to offer his advice to younger members on how this organization should be run. I know that for a fact because I was one of those younger members who crossed his path. I will admit that I was “scolded” by Tony a few times. But each of those times I learned the importance of what we do as Legionnaires. I learned that history is important. I learned that we are a grassroots, community based organization. I learned that the best way to continue the legacy is to work the many Legion programs. I learned that I am entitled to my opinion but the organization will only continue to exist if I am part of the team. The lessons taught by Tony, and all the other WWII veterans that took over the reins form our WWI founders, needs to be ingrained in all future generations of this organization.

To survive we need to be constantly attracting new members. With over 400,000 veterans in Colorado this would seem like an easy task. But to sign up new members we must be able to communicate to them the reasons they need to belong. To communicate those reasons we must first know them ourselves. During the course of the Legion year we have many opportunities to do that. Become an active Legionnaire like Tony. Get involved in one of the programs that impact our youth, our veterans and our communities. Attend your post meetings, district meetings, department conferences and conventions. Every one of those venues is an opportunity to learn and become part of the team. Tony’s message to me many years ago was to “Work the Programs”. Without the hundreds of volunteers working our many programs there is no forward movement.

America faces many challenges. There are those individuals that would like to see us something other than the Republic our forefathers gave us as our form of government. The American flag is under attack. The values of God, Country, community and family are being eroded. Free speech is treacherous in certain venues. Law and order is being challenged every day. Our young men and women in our armed forces are facing new and serious threats every day. The promises of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness will disappear if we are not vigilant.

Right now it is on us. Those of us from the Korean, Vietnam, Panama, Persian Gulf and GWOT veterans now have the reins of this great organization. We can make an impact. We can protect our flag. We can make sure our military stays strong to answer any threat to our democracy. We can strengthen our communities by our advocacy for our education system, teaching our youth about the values we hold so dear. We can let our brothers and sisters know we are a team and we have their back.

So it is up to us. Are you in?

To meet the needs of disabled vets, Congress needs to expand the Specially Adapted Housing Program

By: Ryan Kules, Wounded Warrior Project, Today @ Task & Purpose.com, July 16, 2019

Editor’s note: A combat wounded veteran, Ryan served in the U.S. Army as an armor officer assigned to 1st Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment. While deployed to Iraq in 2005, his vehicle was hit with an improvised explosive device buried in the road. He works as the Wounded Warrior Project’s national Combat Stress Recovery Program director.

On Nov. 29, 2005, my life changed forever. I was a 24-year-old U.S. Army armor captain deployed to Taji, Iraq, when my vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. On that day, I lost two of my soldiers, Sgts. Jerry Mills and Donald Hasse, and I lost my right arm and left leg.

After 18 months of recovery at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, I medically retired from the Army at the age of 26.

(Continued on Page 27 See Life)
VIETNAM BLUE WATER NAVY VETERANS

Disability benefits available to those serving offshore

Agent Orange Exposure in the Republic of Vietnam Waters (Blue Water Navy)

Blue Water Navy Veterans are now entitled to a presumption of service connection for conditions related to Agent Orange exposure. This extension of the presumption is a result of Public Law 116-23, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, signed into law on June 25, 2019. The law takes effect January 1, 2020.

The law states that Veterans aboard a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia as defined in Public Law 116-23, between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange and may be entitled to service connection for conditions related to that exposure.

To be entitled to disability compensation benefits, these Veterans must have one or more of the conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure that are listed in 38 Code of Federal Regulations section 3.309(e).

What conditions are related to Agent Orange exposure?

Agent Orange presumptive conditions are:

- AL amyloidosis
- Chloracne, or other acneform disease consistent with chloracne
- Chronic B-cell leukemias
- Diabetes mellitus, Type 2
- Ischemic heart disease
- Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Hodgkin’s disease
- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma
- Multiple myeloma
- Parkinson’s disease
- Peripheral neuropathy, early-onset
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Prostate cancer
- Respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea)
- Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi’s sarcoma, or mesothelioma).

How do I file a claim for disability compensation?

- Apply online using www.va.gov, OR
- Work with an accredited representative or agent, OR
- Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you. You can find your regional office on our Facility Locator page.
- State on your application that you are filing for one of the presumed Agent Orange conditions.
- Include any evidence you have of service in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the required timeframe. Include the name(s) of the ship(s) and the date(s) you crossed within 12 nautical miles of the Republic of Vietnam, if you have that information.
- Provide medical evidence showing a diagnosis of a current Agent Orange presumptive condition or tell us where you are being treated.

For more information on how to apply and for tips on making sure your claim is ready to be processed by VA, visit our Disability Compensation web page. www.va.gov
Department Department Jr. Vice Commander Force

The next American Legion adventure!

By: Gary Force, Department Jr. Vice Commander

Let me introduce myself, I am Gary Force, the new, old guy, taking the position of Department of Colorado Junior Vice Commander for the Northeast area of Colorado. Many of you will remember me as District Commander for District 4 a number of years ago. Today I am again embarking on the next American Legion adventure.

As vice-chairman of the Department Legislative Committee and attendee to the United Veterans Coalition of Colorado meetings I plan to use this space to keep the membership informed of the legislative activity. The most pressing Congressional issue is the passage of The Legion Act which proposes is A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize The American Legion to determine the requirements for membership in The American Legion, and for other purposes. This would open membership eligibility currently blocked in 12 instances.

The Congressional Senate bill (S. 504) has passed the Senate floor and has been sent to the House Judiciary committee, Immigration & citizenship sub-committee. The House companion bill (H.R. 1641) is in the same sub-committee. Both are waiting for a hearing date. Please contact your Congressional Senators and district Representative and ask them to co-sponsor these bills to show support of these bills.

There are several veteran specific bills before Congress and as they have action taken, I will add them to the report.

Department Chaplain Hamamoto's Corner

God’s Promise

By: Stanley Hamamoto, Department Chaplain

Has god been good to you?????

As summer approaches it is getting HOT!!! I pray that all of you will be able to keep cool but be careful about drinking liquor, for it can be more harmful than you think. Keep cool and keep GOD in your mind all the time, for HE never leaves you. HE is always there for you, if you like it or not, HE is there. Most of the districts will be planning their fall meeting and again, I say to all of you, this is your district, attend their meetings for it is only two times a year. Get to know others in who are in your district, make friends with them.

2 Corinthians 1: 20 says: “ For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “YES” in Christ. And so through HIM the “AMEN” is spoken by us to the glory of God.” A promise is a declaration about the future. It’s a commitment to do something, a statement of a fact that has not yet come to pass. The Bible is full of God’s promises, HIS statements of all that HE will do for us. Even beauties of the natural world---like rainbows---remind us that God has promised to be faithful to HIS people, to give us life rather than death, to shower us with blessings, and to love us for eternity.

We all need to remember God’s Blessings. For many times we just take too much for granted. Jesus preformed two bread-multiplying miracles: in one he fed 5,00 people, in the other 4,000. Still his disciples, who witnessed both feasts, worried about empty pantries. A frustrated Jesus rebuked them: “Are your hearts too hard to take it in?---don’t you remember anything at all?” That is from Mark 8: 17-18. Short memories harden the heart. Make careful note of God’s Blessings. Declare with David: “It will daily add praise to praise. I’ll write the book on your righteousness, talk up your salvation the livelong day, and never run out of good things to write or say.” That is from Psalm 7: 14-15. Catalog God’s goodness. Meditate on his work. He has fed you, led you, and earned your trust. Remember what God has done for you.

God has always been there for our needs. HE never leaves our side, HE is always there no matter what. I think that many times we just ignore what HE is saying because it does not fit in with what we want. I know I have guilty of many times myself. We just want to hear what we want to hear, not what God is telling us.

I pray that you all will have a great summer and be careful, be safe. Always keep the faith and things will go right for you. Never think that you are alone and that no one loves you, God always loves you no matter what you have done. You are a child of God and are made according to HIS will, so be grateful and thankful of being a child of God. I say to all of you, keep the faith and God is always beside you.

My last three words to all of you are: GO TO CHURCH!!!!!!!
Good day Sons of The American Legion!

Thank you so much for all your efforts. You are so important to our organization. I trust that everyone had great celebrations for Independence Day. Keep up the good work.

Summer is here! What a great time for everyone to get out and about in your communities. Let them know if you have a color guard available to march in a parade. How about presenting colors at a baseball game? American Legion Baseball is here! How about getting youth involved in Jr. Shooting sports, Boy Scouts? Take time to research what is going on around you. I know there are many summer activities in your local areas. Remember “you can make a difference”.

Volunteering in the summer is great fun! How rewarding to volunteer at a VA facility. Just a few hours a week can really help a Veteran and make they feel good. August is a great month to promote The Ten Ideals Program. This program covers these important areas: Patriotism, Health, Training, Knowledge, Honor, Faith, Helpfulness, Courtesy, Reverence and Comradeship. A National award of recognition may be presented to those who have completed the Ten Ideals Program. Contact me for additional information on this program.

Don’t forget about membership. Keep working your renewals. And when you are out and about, talk to everyone about joining The Sons of The American Legion. I am so blessed to be your Commander this year, thank you for supporting me. Let me know what I can do for you and your Squadrons. I would love to personally visit a meeting or one of your events, just contact me.

I look forward to having a great year, let’s set some records and have fun along the way! I challenge you to do your best at everything you do. Start each day knowing that “you can make a difference”.

God Bless!

Jr. Shooting Sports Program

By: Ken Taylor, Co-Chairman JSSP

This was the first JSSP Rifle Instructor class held by the Department of Colorado. It is designed to equip graduates to start and teach a Junior Shooting Sports Program at their post.

Six individuals graduated from Post 1, Post 1985, Post 78, Post 38, and Post 209. Many thanks to Mr. Ron Noakes for designing and helping to implement this class.

The range built with funds provided by NRA grants.

Ron Noakes with back to us, wearing the blue shirt, provides the instruction to the Legionnaires wishing to be instructors.
Jr. Shooting Program

Photos of the Star Spangled Fun Shoot, instructor training from June 1st, and presentation of the American Legion National Shooting Sports Championship. POST 2 placed 1st in Sporter Team and Kaytlin placed 1st in overall Sporter Class Individual.
The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Colorado’s theme for 2019-2020 is ‘Celebrating a Century of Sisterhood.’ As our organization celebrates 100 years of Service, Not Self, Colorado Auxiliary members will come together in the spirit of sisterhood to pay homage to the women who came before us, honor our current members, and prepare future leaders to guide this organization into the next century.

During our year-long birthday celebration, I am urging my Auxiliary sisters to give the gifts of patience, compassion, cooperation, understanding, and forgiveness. Reach out to the new member, the elderly, those who may be ill, and the caregivers in your unit. A quick phone may only take a few minutes of your time, but it may be valued gift to a member that feels isolated, alone, or overwhelmed.

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, give the GIFT OF YOU! Your time, talents, and treasures allow this Department to continue our mission. Volunteers are desperately needed at all veteran healthcare facilities, Girls State, Stand-Down, for the oratorical competition, or the many other activities our organization supports. If volunteering time is not possible, ‘birthday’ checks, in any amount, would be most welcome for VA Gift Shop, Girls State, oratorical, AEF, and various educational scholarships. To donate your time or give financially, please contact our Department Headquarters @ 303-367-5388 or email dept-sec@alacolorado.com.

Blessings,

Tracy Trujillo
Department Auxiliary President

Eric V. Dickson, Woodland Park, CO Post 1980
(The Biggest Little Post in Colorado)

At the Woodland Park, Old Fashioned 4th of July the Legion Family set up a booth to serve the public.

The Legion served Brats, Hotdogs and Pulled Pork Sandwiches and the Auxiliary provided sweet treats by the Auxiliary.

4th of July crew includes Members of Post 1980, Auxiliary Unit 1980 and VFW Post 6051.

Paul James, Post Treasurer and Recruiter.
Ladies, did you know??

Did You Know?

- That the American Legion Auxiliary Colorado Girls State Program received a grant from the ALA Foundation?
- That it was worth more than $700?
- The items purchased included:
  - Podium banner
  - Vertical Retractable banner
  - Pop-up tent
  - Gold snap eagle for flag
  - Flag set storage cover

All of these items are helpful in branding our CGS program. We need to be sure that the delegates understand who is sponsoring this week long government training session. The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Colorado!

The pop-up tent was used during the Krav Maga self-defense class for shade and a place to rest if needed. It was also set up several times and places during the session. But, not only can it be used at the yearly CGS session, but units can use it to advertise ALA CGS as they recruit delegates from their areas. The vertical banner is a great way to indicate what organization is sponsoring CGS. This was easy to move and set up in various places. And it too, can also be used at other activities and functions of the ALA throughout the year. The new eagle and storage bag for our flags is important so we have the proper flag etiquette. And of course the Girls State Podium banner clearly states who we are!

Thank you American Legion Auxiliary Foundation for supporting our project!
We Get Letters Too!

KEEP THE U. S. OF A FREE

July 6, 2019

Dear Sir;

This may be my last year as I am 94.

Joined the Army in 1943, was in England in 1944 and walked ashore in France 1944. December 1944 was in the Ardennes Forest where the German break-out occurred in December 1944 through January 1945, was reported Missing-in-Action 16 December 1944.

Captured in December during the Battle of the Bulge, escaped with two other Americans in Aril 1945 and was back in France 28 April 1945 and returned to the USA 18 June 1945.

Was in Korea 1950 and 1951 with the First Cav, 5th Regime, B Company, “Bad Days”!

Returned to Germany July 1961 and then to Italy. Was 38 years in the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and was commander for 15 of those years. The Chapter was closed-down January 2019, as there was only three of us left to serve.

I am a veteran of the USA, you young veterans must keep this nation free the Great Generation is all but gone, now.

Thank you!

Ed Beck
15 Year Member as of 2019

Legion testifies on challenges facing veteran-owned small businesses

By: Mackenzie Wolf

Davy Leghorn, assistant director of The American Legion’s National Veterans Employment and Education Division, testified before the Small Business Committee on July 10. Leghorn’s testimony focused on the expansion of eligibility for Small Business Administration (SBA) programs which permit loan assistance to businesses when deployments are not part of a military conflict.

The proposed “National Guard Reserve Entrepreneurship Support Act” would expand SBA programs and allow loan recipient to defer repayment on disaster loans if the servicemember receives active duty orders for longer than 30 consecutive days.

The SBA disaster loan program currently provides direct loans to people and small businesses, including those that have suffered substantial economic injury because employees were ordered to active duty during a military conflict as part of National Guard or reservist duties.

“These programs are underutilized because their eligibility restrictions do not fully reflect current deployment practices,” testified Leghorn.

Photo courtesy of The American Legion

(Continued on Page 22 See Both the Guard)
More We Get Letters Too!

June 17, 2019

Dear American Legion,

I recently was awarded the American Legion School Award during my 8th-grade graduation ceremony. It is a great privilege to be given this award and I wanted to thank you for choosing me to receive it. I realize that there are many other students in my school that show hard work and dedication and who could have rightfully been awarded this title. Therefore, I am humbled to receive this recognition. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to come to my school and present this award. It means a lot to me that you would sit through my graduation just to present it. Thank you again for all that you do for students and for me.

I hope you have an amazing upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Samantha Sterritt
3rd Annual
American Legion Post 206
18 Hole Scramble Golf Tournament Fundraiser

A Colorado 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization
Proceeds will be used for American Legion Veterans and Children’s programs.

Date: Saturday, August 24, 2019

Time: Check-in 11:45 a.m. Range balls are FREE — Come Early. Shotgun start 11:00 p.m.

Type of Tournament: 4 Person Scramble (No Handicaps)

Location: Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Course, 23150 E. Heritage Pkwy, Aurora, CO 80016
Phone: 303-693-7788

Cost: $85.00 per player — Includes greens fees, cart, range balls, goodie bag and prizes. ***All net profits are for the Helen K. Osmundson American Legion Post 206 Veterans and Children’s Programs.

Food & Beverages: Available for sale at the clubhouse and beverage cart.

Prizes: Longest Drive Men & Women, and 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Mulligans: $20 for 1 ($20 for 4, 2 are FREE) – max 4 per player

☐ I cannot attend, but wish to make a contribution in the amount of ___

Name of sponsor for recognition ___________________________

Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Course
American Legion Post 206 Golf Fundraiser Registration Form

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Please return registration form with payment to guarantee reservation. Fee is $85 per player and should be made payable to American Legion Post 206. Form and fees should be forwarded to Angie Johnson, Post Member, 1689 S. Ensenada St., Aurora, CO 80017. DEADLINE IS AUG. 10, 2019.
STAND DOWN DAY
AN EVENT SUPPORTING LOCAL VETERANS EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019
8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Heritage Christian Center • 14401 E. Exposition Ave.

We are seeking help to provide the following resources:

- Registration
- Mental health
- Haircuts
- Veteran’s assistance
- Clothing distribution
- Toiletry distribution
- Bike repair
- Mobile health care unit
- Mobile showers
- Employment
- Food court
- Blood pressure checks
- Veterinarian services
- Chaplain services
Second Chance Bicycle Shop

Unwanted Bicycles Needed!

We are looking for any of your unwanted bicycles for donations to Veterans, Homeless and Kids.

We can pick up bikes in Metro Denver Area or can be dropped off at our shop in Aurora. Please call Ernie Clark for pick up details etc. @ 720-270-5731.
Address: 4122 S Parker Road Aurora 80014
Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 8-3 pm
Thanks for everyone’s support of SCBS!
Happy 4th of July to all and especially to Military Veterans. Because of you and your family’s service, our country is the Land of the Free and Home of the Brave.

On June 6th, the VA MISSION ACT (Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks) 2018 became the law-of-the-land. Are you a veteran? Welcome Home & Thank You for Your Service. About 10% of the San Luis Valley’s population is veterans. 99.9% of the Valley’s population is related to veterans. Veterans of the Valley will be greatly affected by this new law. Find out how.

Recently the VA held a Town Hall at the Alamosa National Guard facility. Health Care providers from the Valley met with senior VA and TriWest personnel to learn what this would mean for them as providers of Health Care to many Valley veterans. Following the closed meeting with San Luis Valley Health, Valley Wide Health Systems, Rio Grande Hospital, San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group, and other Valley providers, the VA & TriWest conducted an open panel discussion with veterans to answer questions about the MISSION ACT.

A number of the veterans present have had firsthand experience with the VA Choice Program, which has been around about 5 years. VA’s Choice Program has given veterans the opportunity to use the Valley’s non-VA Health Care providers for some issues, instead of having to travel long distances for their health care. As everyone knows, a trip to the Front Range in summer is not easy, but a trip to Aurora in winter, to the new RMRVAMC facility (Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center), can be next to impossible. The VA Choice Program has had problems for both veterans and Health Care Providers, however, it was an improvement from the old days. Much work has gone into understanding how the system worked and making recommendations to the VA on how to improve Choice for Valley veterans and veterans in rural areas everywhere.

The MISSION ACT, at Congress’ direction, has gone a long way to better understanding what veterans need and want, but it’s still not there. A major new improvement to the Choice Program has been to establish an urgent care benefit that “...eligible Veterans can access through the VA’s network of urgent care providers in the community”. The problem we discovered is the Valley’s ‘Urgent Care’ providers aren’t yet in the network. That should be corrected soon we hope. Eligible veterans will then be able to go to an Urgent Care provider 3 times a year, at no charge, for minor issues. After the 3rd visit in a calendar year, the veteran will be charged a $30 copay per visit. At least that could be cheaper than going to the ER (Emergency Room).

For more information on the MISSION ACT contact your SLV Health Care Provider, your County Veteran Service Officer, the Veterans Coalition of the San Luis Valley (VCSLV), or look it up online (https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/61286/va-launches-new-health-care-options-mission-act/). The VCSLV are volunteers just like you, some veterans, some not. If you would like to learn more about how you can help a veteran or are a veteran in need of help, give us a call (719/992-4108). We’ll do what we can.

After receiving a number of requests for information, VCSLV will attempt to submit an article to the paper on some what a regular basis. We will try to focus on one topic of interest to veterans and their families or friends. If you have a specific issue, feel free to contact us, but your County VSO is the best place to start. If you find this information helpful, we’d like to hear from you and tell the paper so.
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Your Honorable discharge means that you are eligible for USAA membership — and that your children and grandchildren can become eligible as well, no matter what age! Begin your USAA legacy with an auto or property insurance policy, and take advantage of USAA’s commitment to serving you and your eligible family members for years to come.

Share your USAA legacy. Get a quote.

☎ 1-877-699-2654 | usaa.com/legion

Insurance • Banking • Investments • Retirement • Advice

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its insurance, banking, investment and other companies. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them.

Use of the term “member” or “membership” does not convey any eligibility rights for auto and property insurance products or legal or ownership rights in USAA. Ownership rights are limited to eligible policyholders of United Services Automobile Association. “Honorsly served” means a discharge type of “honorable.” Membership and product eligibility and underwriting restrictions apply and are subject to change. Eligible former dependents of USAA members may purchase auto or property insurance if the member obtained USAA auto or property insurance. Purchase of a product other than USAA auto or property insurance, or purchase of an insurance policy offered through the USAA Insurance Agency, does not establish eligibility for or membership in USAA property and casualty insurance companies. Property and casualty insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, and its affiliated property and casualty insurance companies, is available only to persons eligible for P&I group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own product. The American Legion receives financial support from USAA for its sponsorship. © 2015 USAA. 214064-0115
ID RESOLVE

A New Program to Help Legionnaires Fight Back Against Identity Theft

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America and has affected more than 16.7 million victims, with veterans being especially vulnerable targets. Data breaches are becoming more frequent and, when an identity thief strikes, most victims are left to clean up the mess themselves, unsure of where to turn to first. We’ve heard Legionnaire’s concerns around the growing threats of identity theft and are proud to provide a new service to address this concern.

ID Resolve focuses solely on the aftermath of identity theft and resolving the issue. With call centers located in the US, Legionnaires can activate an important set of services to fix the situation and restore their name. ID Resolve’s Identity Resolution Specialists are certified in identifying and repairing any type of identity theft such as medical fraud, Social Security identity theft, and financial theft.

ID Resolve is available to Legionnaires at a special member-only rate and provides resolution services for a full year. Plus, Legionnaires can take up to 30 days to review ID Resolve and decide if it’s right for them; if not, a full refund is available as long as the services have not been used.

There are two annual memberships available:

Member: $79/year
Couple: $99/year

To learn more or enroll in ID Resolve, visit www.thelit.com/IDResolve

ID Theft
by the numbers

Claims a new victim every 2 seconds
16+ mill. victims targeted in the U.S.
$16 billion in losses
Veterans are 50% more likely to be the victim of identity theft
There were 1,579 data breaches last year
40+ hours spent resolving an identity theft case

Services provided by Generali Global Assistance. Generali Global Assistance has been a leading provider of identity and digital protection solutions, travel insurance, and other assistance services for more than 35 years. Generali Global Assistance is part of the multinational Generali Group, which for over 185 years has created a presence in 60 countries with over 74,000 employees. Generali’s success has been built on the foundation of trust that clients have placed in their ability to provide assistance in the most difficult of circumstances.
“Both the Guard and reserve have transitioned from a strategic-reserve into an operational-force to meet the needs of an all-volunteer force, in an era of persistent conflict in which active duty and reserve-component alike are expected to deploy regularly.”

American Legion Resolution No. 117: Position on the Operational Reserve, urges Congress to reform the laws and policies governing the reserve components to provide them programmatic sustainability as an operational force.

Leghorn also testified on H.R. 1615, “Verification Alignment and Service-Disabled Business Adjustment Act,” or the VA-SBA Act. The VA-SBA Act aims to transfer the responsibility of verifying small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans or service-disabled veterans to the SBA.

“Last year, the federal government aligned the regulations governing service-disabled veteran-owned small business (SDVOSB) definitions,” Leghorn said. “However, even with the de-conflicted regulations, the maintenance of two federal certification programs for veteran small businesses still continues to be a source of confusion.

History of The American Legion - Centennial Celebration

By: PDC R. Tim Grahin

The 100th anniversary of The American Legion wishes to call to the attention of the American people the record of achievements that have been accomplished by The American Legion since its founding, to emphasize the impact the organization has had upon the American society, and the extent of its contributions to the national security and the welfare of military veterans, their families and their communities…

The American Legion was founded March 15-17, 1919, by members of the American Expeditionary Forces still stationed in Europe awaiting passage home from World War I. Their experiences in what was called the “war to end all wars” would shape an enduring agenda for what became the nation’s largest organization of veterans. The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness.

The troops envisioned different kin of veterans association. It would be like none before it, nor any that would follow. The American Legion would be built on strengthening the nation – not serving themselves – through four primary pillars of volunteer work on behalf of: Veterans, Defense, Youth, and Americanism.

As of today there are nearly 2 million members of The American Legion, making it the nation’s largest wartime veterans service organization. There is a million more in The American Legion Family that includes Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary. It has more than 13,000 posts in communities throughout the United States and the District of Columbia, France, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. National Headquarters is in Indianapolis’ Indiana.

American Legion efforts have kept VA hospitals from closing since the 1930s. The American Legion led the fight to bring VA into existence; it has held the government accountable to responsibly fulfill its duty.

The American Legion wrote the first draft of what later became the “GI Bill of Rights – considered The American Legion’s single greatest legislative achievement. Higher education becomes democratized after millions of veterans go to school on the GI Bill, get better jobs, buy houses and raise families.

The American Legion produced studies that led to official diagnosis of PTSD in 1980 and proved that service-connected exposure to Agent Orange and atomic radiation cause diseases that demanded government accountability.
Urged American Legion support for Boys Scouts of America as the organization’s first youth program supported by resolution, in November of 1919.

The first “Flag Code” is drafted in Washington in 1923. Congress adopts the code in 1942. Today, The American Legion is at the forefront of efforts to pass a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. flag from physical desecration. The American Legion donated $1 million to the Vietnam Memorial Fund for construction of the Wall in Washington DC. Today, more than 2,000 high school students annually participate in The American Legion’s Junior Shooting Sports National Air Rifle Championships at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. Provide professional assistance for any veteran – in filing and pursuing benefits claims before the Department of Veterans Affairs. Legion Baseball was formed in 1925. Today the program registers more than 5400 teams in all 50 states, Canada, and Puerto Rico. Approximately 20,000 young men annually participate in Boys State/Nation a Legion program dedicated to promoting leadership. Alumni include President Bill Clinton, news commentator Tom Brokaw, Michael Jordan and Neil Armstrong. The American Legion has sponsored thousands of junior ROTC programs across the country. Today Legion Riders have helped raise more than ten million for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. The American Legion with too numerous programs to mention has striven for peace through diplomacy because – as has so often been said – no one hates war more than a combat veteran.

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE & BENEFIT FORUM
August 2019

The Veterans Coalition will facilitate the 2nd meeting for SLV Women Veterans. All women veterans and women Health Care Providers are welcome. YES, women ONLY. Any questions, concerns, or issues are on the table, and comradeship COULD be available. VA representatives may be present. Following the Forum, the S.A.V.E video will be presented.

Wednesday, August 28th
9:00am - 12:00pm
SLVH Education & Conference Center
(Formerly Grizzly Inn Restaurant)
1921 Main St, Alamosa, CO
To receive the nomination packet, send an e-mail to Observer@coloradolegion.org and request the packet be sent by e-mail to you. Follow all instructions to ensure a complete nomination has been filed on time.

THE NATIONAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION AWARDS

The first American Legion Veterans Employment and Education Commission Award was established in 1947, and recognized individuals across the country who had established outstanding records in the employment and retention of workers with disabilities. Since that time, categories were added to the current nine award programs.

The Veterans Employment and Education Commission is striving to award all possible pending awards that are available to The American Legion. We implore all departments to continue to submit award nominations for the awards with the hope that we receive all 400+ possible nominations. We are striving to reach 100% participation in this program.

1. EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARD - (SMALL)
2. EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARD - (MEDIUM)
3. EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARD - (LARGE)
4. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AWARD - (DVOP)
5. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AWARD - (LVER)
6. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AWARD - (LOCAL OFFICE)
7. EMPLOYER OF OLDER WORKERS AWARD
8. ENHANCE THE LIVES OF DISABLED PERSON AWARD
9. MICHAEL GUTY HOMELESS VETERANS OUTREACH AWARD

To be considered for the National Award, the deadline for submittals to the Veterans Employment and Education Commission in Washington, DC is January 15, of the following year. Example: To be nominated for the 2018 awards the nomination must be in by January 15, 2019. Nomination packets must be into Department on or before December 15, 2019.

It is important that the department winners are submitted by this time to ensure that they are considered for the national award to be delivered at the annual National Convention. Each of the national winners receives a stipend to help defray the cost of their representative’s travel to the convention city to accept the award.

We ask that you submit written correspondence, or fax, or send an electronic scanned copy in the form of an e-mail to our national headquarters office. Please title your letter ‘[Title] Awards- [Department name]’.

All entries must be accompanied by an official nomination form (see the following pages) and must not be longer than two pages of narrative. Supporting documents, which may also be submitted with the nomination, must not exceed ten pages.

NATIONAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION
1608 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

OR FAX TO 202.361.0404
OR E-MAIL A SCANNED COPY VE&E@LEGION.ORG

DEPARTMENTS MAY REPRODUCE ALL FORMS FOR WIDER DISTRIBUTION
2019 Media Awards Criteria

By: Darrell Myers, Public Relations Committee

The Media Awards will be presented during the Mid-Year Conference.

**Print Media Awards:** Nominations can be made for Small, Medium and Large newspapers. The definitions of small, medium and large newspapers are as follows:

- **Major Market Print Media Awards:** Large city newspapers with populations of 100,000 or more
- **Medium Market Print Media Awards:** Medium city newspapers with populations of 25,000 to 99,999
- **Small Market Print Media Awards:** Small city newspapers with a population of 1,000 to 24,999

**Television and Radio Station Awards:** There is only one award presented to a Television Station and one award presented for a Radio Station - there are no categories.

**Media Award Nominations** must come from a post through the use of a nomination letter. The nomination letter must contain the below listed headings and the correct information supplied by your post so that the committee members don’t have to spend their time finding that information and can spend their time judging.

*To make your nomination for the media awards follow the instructions as listed:*

**Nomination Letter:** Name of Media being nominated, Name of Article/Newscast, Name of Author, Name of Editor, Award Category, Name of Contact Person, Address and Phone Number of Contact Person, Reason for Nomination, Post Number, Name of Nominator, Nominator’s Address and Phone Number.

**For the Market Print Media Award (newspapers)** a post must gather the original article or articles in sufficient quantity to provide a packet for each of the three members of the Public Relations Committee. Copies of the articles are not permitted.

**For TV nominations**, a link (s) to the story (s) must be included in the nominating letter so that the members of the Public Relations committee can go and review the story (s) and the letter must be mailed to each of the three members of the Public Relations Committee.

**For Radio Station Nominations**, there must be a written narrative of what the radio station programming was and what they did to help the veterans of your community, and if possible, a link should be included that would allow the committee to hear the programs in the nomination letter and then sent to each of the three members of the Public Relations Committee..

**Deadline for nominations is November 30, 2019!**

Department Public Relations Committee Members are:

**Robb Smith** – 605 E 41st St, Loveland, CO 80538
E-mail robbsmith@gmail.com

**Darrell Myers** – 7465 East 1st Ave, Suite D, Denver, CO 80230
E-mail observer@coloradolegion.org

**Desiree Guerra** – 7465 E 1 Ave, Suite D, Denver, CO 80230
dguerra@coloradolegion.org
How will you pay for expenses that Medicare doesn’t cover?

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Other features include:
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- Outstanding Customer Service available from courteous representatives ready to answer your questions
- Hassle-free claims processing in about 7 days
- Excellent service from a company with an A+ (Superior, 2nd out of 16 ratings) A.M. Best rating for financial stability as of 10/20/2014

Make sure you can pay for the expenses that Medicare doesn’t cover and help protect your family’s retirement savings. Apply today for the greater peace of mind you want at competitive Legionnaire Insurance Trust member rates.

COMPLETE AND RETURN THE REPLY CARD. OR, CALL 1-800-247-1771
(Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST)

Underwritten by Transamerica Life Insurance Company (Cedar Rapids, IA), and Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company (Harrison, NY)

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For your FREE information kit on the Medicare Supplement Insurance Plans complete and return this coupon.

Name: ___________________________ DOB: ___________________________

Spouse Name: ___________________________ Spouse’s DOB: ___________________________

Address: ___________________________ ___________________________

City: ___________________________ State: ___________________________ ZIP: ___________________________

Telephone: ___________________________

Send to: Medicare Supplement Processing Dept.
P.O. Box 1541
Valley Forge, PA 19482-9906

1441677
With a lot of life ahead of me, I had to re-learn how to navigate my environment. I also had to make my environment more navigable by adapting my home. I knew I would have to widen doorways, make sure ramps were in place, rework the kitchen and bathrooms, among a list of other adaptations.

I sought assistance through The Department of Veterans Affairs’ Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Grant program to help me do these things. SAH grants provide veterans, like me, funds (up to three requests per person, with a current overall limit of $85,645) to assist with the purchase or construction of an adaptive home to help accommodate our disabilities.

Eligible SAH grantees include those who have lost the use of both arms or both legs, or one leg and one arm; those who are blind in both eyes; and those who have certain severe respiratory injuries, or certain severe burns.

While this is a great benefit, the program currently has two shortfalls.

First, it didn’t come close to covering all the costs of adapting my home.

After I retired from the Army, my wife and I found a house and used the SAH grant. At that time, the SAH benefit was just over $64,000, but the modifications we needed far exceeded that amount. We ended up spending a significant chunk of our savings to complete those modifications, which totaled more than $100,000.

Second, the SAH grant meets the needs of veterans like me at only one moment in time.

Now at age 38, my wife and I have seen our family grow. With three kids, we wanted to be in a larger house that better met our family’s needs. Because I used the SAH grant to cover adaptations in our previous home, I was ineligible for SAH and we paid more than $90,000 out of pocket to modify our new home.

As younger veterans age, get married, and have families, our needs in an adaptive home usually change drastically.

This is also true for disabled veterans whose disabilities get worse over time.

One of the unfortunate realities I must face is, although I’m active and get around well now, I know that won’t always be the case. There will come a time where I’ll need to use a wheelchair more and potentially transition to a motorized wheelchair.

It is important that the SAH benefit evolves to meet the changing needs of disabled veterans and help them at various stages of their lives. I’m sure that our current home won’t be our last, and when career or family concerns create a situation where we have to re-locate, my family and I should not have to bear the costs of modifying our future home because of the injuries I sustained in combat operations while deployed.

This is why the Specially Adapted Housing Improvement Act of 2019 is so important; it breaks down barriers and helps veterans access the SAH benefits they’ve earned on the battlefield.


Wounded Warrior Project strongly supports this bill as it will fully reinstate SAH benefits to eligible veterans every 10 years to accommodate moving and normal life changes. This bill will also:

Increase the number of times the benefit can be accessed from three to six.

Increase the number of people who can apply annually from 30 to 120.

Increase the aggregate amount of the benefit for acquisition of a house with special features from $85,645 to $98,492.

Increase the amount of assistance for adaptations to veterans’ residences from $12,756 to $19,733.

As one of the nearly 2,000 veterans who have used the SAH program, expanding SAH eligibility qualifications will go a long way in helping many disabled veterans adapt their current or future homes to meet normal life changes.

My hope is that with this bill in place, veterans like me will have the peace of mind of knowing that wherever we choose to live – just like anybody else – we will have that opportunity without bearing large financial burdens. I ask that, on the behalf of all severely wounded veterans, you contact your elected officials and ask them to support H.R. 3504 and its companion bill, S. 2022.
Mike Shaw Subaru
Proudly Supports all
COLORADO VETERANS

1650 W 104th Avenue • Thornton, CO 80234 • (303) 438-7500

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