



LEGISLATIVE "FREEDOM ADVOCATES" – NOVEMBER 2020 BULLETIN

While reaching out to candidates, remember that The American Legion Family is nonpartisan. We endorse issues not candidates. Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution of The American Legion, "The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the disseminating of partisan principles nor the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment." A reminder any clothing where the American Legion Auxiliary emblem is visible must be removed so as not to imply any endorsement of the American Legion Auxiliary. Our elections are coming to an end and hopefully we all were able to vote.

From the November, Western Division Legislative Bulletin, "Why We Matter." We are three quarters of a million members supporting veterans, military and their families. We volunteer millions of hours annually, with a value averaging \$2 billion each year. From helping to draft the GI Bill in 1944 to advocating for veterans on Capitol Hill. The American Legion Family has been instrumental in advancing legislation that improves the quality of life for our nation's veterans.

Military suicides have risen by 20% since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The American Legion is requesting we support "Buddy Check Week." I spoke on the Call to Action for Buddy Check Week in my October Bulletin. I am asking once again if you have not completed the Call to Action please support this very important legislation. This legislation would expand an American Legion program to the Department of Veterans of Affairs and increase the number of veterans we can positively affect. The American Legion knows from 100 years of experience that it's veteran-to-veteran contacts that can make the difference for someone in a crisis situation, says James W. Bill Oxford national commander. If you don't wish to use the Legions Call to Action page on the Legion's National website, contact your assigned representative today and encourage them to support and **COSPONSOR** this legislation. Senate Bill S.4675 // House Bill H.2898

Another friendly reminder our mid-year reports are due December 1st Unit to District chairman and December 15 District to Department chairman. Please take time and create a narrative on what legislative activities you were a part of; town hall meetings, legislative receptions or telephone townhalls? How did you connect with your local and state officers, how did you develop relationships with your elected officials what were your successes? I would love to be able to share your legislative story with our National chairman.

November 11, 2020 – Veteran's Day, how will it look for us in California with COVID-19 this year. Think outside the box with no big parade's or dinners in our Post halls. This doesn't mean we can't be of service to our veterans. Contact your Post's Commander or Service Officer ask for support finding a veteran or the entire veteran's family that could use a little help. You can support the veteran with a visit socially distancing with masks and always hand sanitizer. Do they need help with yard work, cleaning their house, laundry, transportation to appointments or shopping, or support with their Thanksgiving meal? If able your family can support a veterans' family, or you can buddy up with another auxiliary member or your unit. Continue this service of love to the veteran and family through the end of our year. What a great way to show your gratitude for their service to our nation. Remember our homeless veterans they need our support too.



*Joan Cannon,
Department Legislative Chairman*