

## October Legislative Program Newsletter

Madeline “Maddie” Cunningham-Colston, Chairman

Hello, VFW Auxiliary!

While I wasn't good at math in school, I think I have a way to present one of the key elements of the Legislative Program – *communicating with our legislators* -- in terms I remember from Geometry class -- and use it to illustrate *why* the Legislative Program is so fundamental to our cause of advocating for veterans' issues, concerns and benefits:

- WHEREAS our legislators are elected by a majority of the voting public, and
- WHEREAS our legislators are, through our votes, representing us [*read: they are our employees*]
- WHEREAS our legislative employees control the creation and amendment of laws -- and the spending of our tax dollars -- that can benefit (or impair) the lives of veterans and their families, often for decades
- THEREFORE we, as citizens and employers, are responsible for respectfully telling our elected employees what we want them to do and how we want them to spend our money.

My favorite law professor always said we should strive to pass only good legislation, because bad laws are so hard to remove or correct. We need to effectively advocate for veterans' issues and concerns. How do we do that? Kathy Voss, our National Legislative Program Ambassador, has provided “**A Guide to Contacting Your Legislators**” (a copy is attached, and you can also download a soft-copy from the Auxiliary > Program & Publicity Resources > Legislative webpage: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/resources/>). This short **Guide** is full of straight-forward advice and tips on how to focus your message. It will help you to briefly and confidently convey your point or position in the most beneficial manner – one that will create the best impression and have a positive influence. Please share this **Guide** widely among our members, and encourage them to share with family and friends.

When you reflect on the impact that *good* legislation can have on veterans and beyond (for example, look at the far-reaching benefits of the GI Bill and the generations it has helped), it's really incumbent on us – we have a duty -- to let our elected officials know our concerns, issues and recommendations for how they should promote the health and welfare of the veterans who served to protect our democratic way of life.

Cordially,

*Maddie*

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**Legislative  
Program Goals:**

➤ VFW Priority Goals

➤ VFW Action Corps Weekly

➤ Local Legislative Involvement

➤ Student Education and Engagement