

August Legislative Program Newsletter

Madeline "Maddie" Cunningham-Colston, Chairman

Did you see the headlines? "*North Korea Returns American Soldiers' Remains on 65th Anniversary of Korean War Armistice*" and similar news flashes last week announced the return of as many as 55 U.S. soldiers' remains from the Korean War time period of 1950-1953. The White House has indicated these are the first of possibly as many as 200 fallen heroes' remains expected to be repatriated and, once properly identified, may be given proper burials with appropriate honors. I read the news with mixed emotions: sadness at the losses, but glad that our government continues to make POW/MIA recovery a priority, in the hopes that it will bring some closure to the families waiting for definitive news.

This is one of the eight focus areas of the **VFW Priority Goals**. Every time you advocate for veterans' affairs with your elected officials, you reinforce this core VFW initiative to ensure no veteran is forgotten or left behind. When you read the **VFW Action Corps Weekly**, look for the last paragraph: as remains are repatriated and identified, they are always listed.

- Project idea: talk with your Auxiliary Chaplain about how to share these news items in your Auxiliary meetings -- then jot it down in a short report to tell what you jointly decided to do and how your members received it.

Please don't ever feel that writing, calling or emailing your legislators is futile: our continued advocacy keeps these issues in front of our elected representatives and ensures they spend our tax dollars in support of these initiatives. Despite the sadness, you can feel good about this one.

All take note: Our Legislative Program National Ambassador, Kathy Voss, stated in her recent promotion announcement that she wants/expects to be 100% in reporting for every Auxiliary in the Nation by December 31! In this election year, there are plenty of opportunities to communicate with candidates and elected officials, and to work the polls, help voter turnout, and to exercise the right to vote. These are all things that should be reported for the Legislative Program. Remember to call me (310/216-9322) if you have any questions.

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Legislative Program
Goals:

VFW Priority Goals
Local Legislative Involvement

VFW Action Corps Weekly
Student Education and Engagement