

December Legislative Program Promotion

Madeline “Maddie” Cunningham-Colston, Chairman

Note: Desiree DeVille recently resigned as Chairman of this Program to respond to a family emergency. We are grateful for her informative and insightful leadership of the Legislative Program and ask all to keep her in your prayers ~~ Maddie

This is more than ‘the season to be jolly’ – it’s time to take action! Our nation has a problem with unaccredited consultants / private companies operating illegally: charging outrageous fees to “assist” veterans and survivors with filing their VA benefits claims. We need to tell our elected Senators and Representatives that we:

- Support the passage of H.R. 1139 / S.740 GUARD VA Benefits Act, to reinstate penalties for unaccredited consultants who charge veterans and survivors for claims assistance.
- Oppose legislation like the PLUS for Veterans Act because it would legalize practices to allow unaccredited companies to charge exorbitant sums to provide ‘assistance’ to veterans for filing claims and allow for assigning future benefits. Bottom line: No veteran should have to pay for earned benefits.

You can help by taking thirty seconds, **today**, to go to this **VFW Action Alert** website: <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts/vfw-action-corps-weekly> and select the blue “TAKE ACTION” text at the end of the paragraph.



Take Action to Stop Claim Sharks: A Claim Shark is an individual or company that charges hefty fees to “assist” or “consult” veterans and survivors with filing their VA benefits claims. This practice is illegal! In fact, none of these private companies is better than the others. They are all operating illegally. Claim Sharks are not VA-accredited, meaning they are not required to adhere to professional and ethical standards, so their advice can be misleading or even fraudulent. Please take a moment to send an important message to Congress and help the VFW stop Claim Sharks. [TAKE ACTION.](#)

Action Corps Weekly subscribers received this **Action Alert** a few days ago, with a link to the message form. Selecting “[TAKE ACTION](#)” brings up the short email message form voicing your opposition to Claim Sharks. You can enter your name and address and hit ‘SEND MESSAGE.’ The message will automatically be sent to your Senators and your District’s Congressional Representative (based on your ZIP code). That’s all there is to making your voice heard. Always remember that your elected legislative officials are there to represent YOU, but you have to tell them what you want them to do, and how you want them to spend your tax dollars.

If you don’t already get the **Action Corps Weekly**, you can sign up for it here: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>. All future **Action Alert** notices will be sent to you. The email message is pre-populated with a brief statement of what you support and oppose. However, you can edit the message before you send it – here’s the form:

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Review Your Message

- US Senators
- US Representative

Subject

Stop Claim Sharks Now

Message Body

As your constituent, I ask you to support the passage of H.R. 1139 / S. 740, GUARD VA Benefits Act, to reinstate penalties for unaccredited consultants who charge veterans and their survivors exorbitant fees for VA claims assistance, which is an illegal

Enter Your Info**Your Information**

Prefix *

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

☒ Send me text alerts

By providing your mobile number, you agree to receive text messages from Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Message and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies.

Mobile Number *

Home Information

United States

Street Address *

ZIP Code

☒ Send me email alerts

☒ Remember me

Send Message

Once you've done this, send in a report to say you responded to this **Action Alert**, and/or you've signed up for the **Action Corps Weekly**. Then, enjoy your Holidays, knowing you've helped the VFW to make a real difference to pass the GUARD VA Benefits Act. Call me if you have any questions or comments.

Cordially,

Maddie

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