



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
Legislative
2011-2012**

Bulletin #2

September 2011

Greetings to our Territorial Legislators!

In the August Bulletin, you were given the Department Plan of Work based on the National Plan Of Action, together with the ‘How To’ Guides to accomplish our goal and objective in support of the American Legion priorities/agenda by the American Legion Auxiliary Members. Legislative is one of the major programs of the ALA, so we need to work together to get our job done effectively. Have you ordered your Dispatch for your Unit/District? All Unit and District Legislative Chairmen should subscribe to The Dispatch. It provides current information on legislative priorities and issues that affect our Legion Family. If the price has not changed, it only costs \$15.00 for the whole year, published biweekly. Order forms are available in our website.

The National ALA had introduced a new system of grouping programs by creating “pods” according to each mission outreach. Legislative, together with National Security, Poppy and VA&R programs, is included in the Veteran/Military Support and Advocacy Pod. Pods are groups of similar programs created to simplify how we “do” our programs.

To implement our Legislative Program objectives, there are several useful websites with a wealth of information for Veterans Advocacy. Peter Conaty, member of Post 108, Dist. 11, is the Department of California Legislative Advocate to the California Legislature. If you need him for assistance to contact any representative, his email is: pconaty@sbcglobal.net.

You may obtain various legislative information from the websites for Veterans Advocacy by logging on to Legislative Advocate on Department of California website and click on the given issues that affect the American Legion family:

- **California and Senate Bills**
- **California and Military Veteran’s Code**
- **How to read a California Legislative Bill**
- **How to write a letter in support of a bill**
- **Legislative Action Center**
- **Access for Issues and Legislation**
- **Sign up to get legislative alerts sent to you**
- **Other issues pertinent to our Legion Family**

California State Legislation has a website for searching bills: www.leginfo.ca.gov

Other websites are given in Bulletin #1.

Legislative Division Update on Veteran-Related Legislative Actions:

1. House passes Veterans' Bills:
 - House passed H.R. 1484 – Veterans Appeals Improvement Act of 2011
 - House passed H.R. 802 – to establish a VetStar award Program
2. House of Representatives passed H.R. 2017 – a spending measure to fund the Department of Homeland Security for FY '12.
3. Legislative Focus: Putting America's Veterans back to work

These measures head to the Senate for consideration.

August 2011 featured alert: World War II Memorial Prayer Act of 2011.

The National World War II Memorial located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. honors the 16 million who served in the armed forces of the U.S., the more than 400,000 who died and all who supported the war effort from home.

Legislative Alerts and Updates:

Because of the work of the American Legion members who contacted their Senators, the Agent Orange Amendment was shot down.

Rally once again around the Flag:

Representative Jo Ann Emerson of Montana, re-introduced legislation proposing a constitutional amendment which would restore to Congress the power to protect the physical desecration of the flag. House Joint Resolution (H.J. Res) 13, simply reads: "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the Flag of the U. S. A."

With all information resources available in our website under the Legislative Program and other websites on legislation including those listed above, unit members can start working hard in support of legislative matters affecting our veterans and families. If everyone of us will take action on any given legislative priorities for our Legion Family, we will have the power and strength needed to persuade our representatives. Again, contact your legislators by any means to take actions on issues of priority. However, before taking any action/s always remember that there is a legislative policy formed that in all matters of legislation, the ALA follows the action never endorsing any measure until the American Legion has first endorsed it and never following a policy which does not coincide exactly with the American Legion stand.

This Chairman will try to establish a working relationship with the American Legion Legislative Council Eric Measles, Post 283-24, to achieve a productive Legislative Program for the Department of California ALA.

Pilar S. Reyes
Legislative Chairman
1161 Rosewood Way
Alameda, CA 94501
(510) 522-1801
pilrey@yahoo.com