Let me start by wishing each one of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I hope you are staying up to date with all the activities going on in our government. Again, there is a link that you can sign up to Be the One to Be in the know. At the time of this writing, we are at a possible government shutdown. That means there is legislation that still has not been passed.

There are 3 priority bills that need our attention now, and all you must do is go out to American Legion website, click on the bill to support and it will send an email to your Congressperson or Senators. (BTW every time I have sent something, I got emails, Phone calls and one personal email my Congresswomen. Nothing from my Senators)

If the government does shut down, many will not get a paycheck. *Pay Our Troops Act* (H.R. 5641), which currently has 112 bipartisan cosponsors. The current continuing resolution expires November 17.

Additionally, we are giving our support to the *Keep Our Border Agents Paid Act* (S. 2999), which would ensure that U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement are paid in the event of a government shutdown.

Finally, Congress is running out of time to pass the *Afghan Adjustment Act* (H.R. 4627 / S. 2327). So please take the time to contact your representative and encourage them to support the *Afghan Adjustment Act*,

On November 2nd the "**Wounded Warrior Access Act**" (H.R. 1226) passed the Senate. The house passed it in March. This will mandate that the VA create a website where the claimant or his/her representative can access records related to their claims. The claimant must be notified within 10 days that the claim is in process and complete the request within 120 days.

Next month I will talk about our year end reports that will be due. Again, please take the time to sign up for these notifications. If you only have time for one, I will highly recommend the grassroots newsletter. You can find the link on our website.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out!

Kathy Amery

Department Legislative Chair 2023-2024

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