

# **BOOK OF REPORTS**

## **LEGISLATIVE 2024 – 2025**

The American Legion, through grassroots advocacy has an agenda for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress. The most effective way to support the American Legion's Agenda is through grass roots efforts and individuals having their voice heard.

Units were encouraged to contact U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, State Officials, Local Officials, and the White House through the grass roots effort. This included online letters, phone calls and direct contact.

At the end of the year 2025, the Department of Arizona had 33 out of 85 reports for year-end were submitted which is an increase over last year. 8 Units actively worked on the Legislative Program. There were 25 Units that had nothing to report but submitted a report. Out of the 33 reports, five included a narrative that was eligible for a Department award. Those five were then judged by three people not affiliated with any of the participating Units. One report received after the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

Information was communicated to Unit members on a regular basis by posting information on the Department website, including call to action alerts. Links to the Dispatch and various other vital information is posted there as well and members are encouraged to reach out to their Senators and Representatives. Legislative chair spoke with several District Presidents to encouraged units to vote and get their reports in. Members were also encouraged to sign up online for the Dispatch about upcoming legislation and other vital information the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary supports. 17 members subscribe to the Dispatch.

Information on how to find all of Arizona local Senators and Representatives was shared in a monthly bulletin posted on the Department website.

There were 912 letters sent to U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, State Officials, Local Officials, and the White House through the online grass roots effort. There were 624 letters mailed via US Postal Service. There were 282 other contacts with U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, State Officials, Local Officials, and the White House. There were 296 replies received from U.S. Senators, U. S. Representatives, State Officials, Local Officials. Six replies were from the White House. Replies were received by email, letters, and phone calls.

Members connected and met personally with State and Local officials at rallies, and other events. One Unit met with local Secretary of State officials to discuss upcoming events in the state and discuss Veterans' concerns. ALR riders and Unit members attended the annual "motorcycle day

at the dome" event this year, supporting the passage of the motorcycle safety fund extension, which provides funds for motorcycle safety and training.

Ten Units promoted voting, by telling members how important voting is and to get out and vote. Several Unit members also worked at polling places and helped members that needed assistance filling out mail in ballots.

In February members from the American Legion Department of Arizona and the Auxiliary Department Legislative Chairman attended the National Conference in Washington D.C. The Arizona delegation along with other delegations from the nation, stormed Capitol Hill to urge Congress to pass legislation that the American Legion supports.

Through the grassroot efforts, the Department of Arizona has been a vital part of this year's success in Legislation that has passed and will continue to make calls and write letters as needed to advocate for veterans, active-duty military, and their family's rights.

For God and Country,

Kathy Amery, Legislative Chairman 2024-2025