Operation Comfort Warrior donated $2500 in gift cards to the Women’s Clinic at the Southern NV VA Hospital. Commander Forman and PDC Weigold made the presentation.

Another $2500 in gift cards was donated to the Veteran’s Home in Boulder City by NEC Michalski.
Just wanted to let you know that I’m looking forward to attending the American Legion College in Indianapolis, IN. and look forward to bringing back new ideas and information to share with our Department, Districts and Post in the State of Nevada. Thank you again for allowing me to attend this training.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BRETT P. REISTAD 2019 MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PIN

TO QUALIFY YOU NEED TO RECRUIT (3) NEW MEMBERS INTO THE AMERICAN LEGION. (A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE PERSON JOINING FOR THE 2019 MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DURING THE 2018 MEMBERSHIP YEAR).
November is a very special month for all veterans of our wonderful country. It is a time when we should reflect on our service and our accomplishments. While we are recognized this month with the observance of Veterans Day, we should also take the time to recognize others who have served our wonderful nation. Shake the hand of every veteran you meet and thank them for their service. If someone thanks you for your service, respond by thanking them for caring. We should also be supporting our communities in any way we are able. Sometimes that means spending some of your time at a retirement home, a hospital or local charity and share a smile or a kind word. The holiday season is an opportunity to share your time or your money with those who have far less.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Jim Stewart
IT’S CALLED HELPING HANDS

Periodically I run into a cause that tells me I must write about it. This article is about a Church Group in Indian Wells, CA that needs telling. In reality, it is about helping people in dire need of help; and how a group of citizens, to include Veterans, use their hands to help individuals that are homeless. It’s about building homes, which, in retrospect, become mansions for those that receive them.

The story as I understand it started 12-13 years ago. Somehow, a pastor at the Southwestern Church communicated with several pastors in the villages around Ensenada, Mexico. There were folks attending the churches who had no homes or were living in hovels made of whatever material available. This was the beginning of a ministry called, “Helping Hands of Mercy”. This ministry started building homes which are called “Loft Houses”. These homes are 12x12ft square with one room and a loft above it. To date over two hundred of these homes have been fabricated, trucked to Mexico, assembled and painted after arrival. Once assembled, they are then given to a parishioner selected by the local pastor. The process, in itself, is amazing, and makes you wonder if there isn’t a divine being orchestrating the complete effort. And so, the story begins:

Twice a year there is an exchange with pastors and a number of homes are defined. Once this is done the work begins. For this build, four homes were required. So, material was purchased to cover the build. Once the material was delivered to the church a crew of 12 to 16 gathered at the church on Friday and cut up all the lumber to sizes needed to build the houses. On Saturday, 150 or so parishioners came to the church with their hammers and assembled all the pieces such as floors, walls and roofs. Age was not a factor as there were children as young as 6 to senior citizens in their 80s there hammering. At the completion of the various pieces, they were loaded on trailers for the journey to Mexico. Two weeks later a crew of 60-75 headed in Ensenada for the house fabrication effort. Once there the crew was divided into four build crews and then on the day after arriving they journeyed to the build site. Each house was assembled in approximately 4 hours. The site that I worked on took longer as the new owner used a walker, so a ramp was needed. The incredible fact about these builds is that hundreds of hands were involved, and in the end a home was fabricated. How awesome is that?

This build was supported by four Post 60 members. Nancy Roberts had the honor of handing the keys to the new owner. Larry Higgins, the Post’s Finance Officer and Service Officer has made this trip to Mexico more than 20 times. His wife, Teresa, the Post Adjutant has accompanied Larry on numerous occasions. Larry is the Post’s build expert; and he will manage the work effort when Post 60 builds some of these homes for Veteran Shelters.

Was it a fun Trip? Yes. Was it an emotional Journey? Yes. Will we all do it again? Most definitely. We hope you might want to join us the next time we head south to lend a helping hand.
Hello fellow Legionnaires. October has been a very interesting and an educational period for me. About a month ago, I received a phone call from a Father of one of our Boys State Program delegates from this past June. He and one of his best friend had both graduated from our Boys State program this year, and then both were chosen to represent The Department of Nevada at Boys Nation. Marcos Velasquez was one of the two young men. The other was Woodrow Orris.

I was asked if I would be the keynote speaker at a Boy Scout ceremony which was to be held for Marcos as he was being awarded his new rank of Eagle Scout. As most of you know, this is the highest rank in Scouting and is an honor not easily attained by most. I said I would be happy to do the speech. I was asked to speak for about 10-15 minutes and ironically, speak about our American Legion history, and our Youth Programs. I jumped at the chance. It is strange how sometimes opportunities just seem to fall into place. As your Department Boys State Chairman, Boys State and Boys Nation were going to be talked about in length. I was also able to fit in the Oratorical Contest, as I am the Committee Chairman for the District 2 Oratorical Contest.

We have been talking about more participation by our members in our youth programs and this was falling into place just at the right time. I have also arranged for these two Eagle Scouts and Boys State/Nation graduates to speak at a General Membership meeting at Spirit of Freedom, Post 76 next month. They are going to pass along their experiences and what they were able to learn at our programs. We as Legionnaires really need to keep our eyes open for opportunities such as this. We were able to gain gratitude from the 100 plus people in attendance but more importantly, I was able to give some history of The American Legion and its programs for our youth.

As I spoke, I was able to watch the faces of the audience and it was clear that not all that many were familiar with The American Legion, how and why we came into existence, and how we are still involved with our Veterans and their families. I spoke with many individuals after the ceremony, which was very enlightening, and was able to further our message about our 4 pillars.

This is Woodrow on my right and Marcos on my left. Marcos and Woodrow were both Senators at Boys Nation.

I want to stress how important it is for our members to get involved in our programs. We seem to be losing the battle for our existence because of our own lack of dedication to the very principals we stand for. I know everyone is busy and we all have other obligations beside our American Legion. If we all just set aside a few hours a week to assist in one or more of our programs, it will make a world of difference and will give yourself a good feeling as well. Help is what is being asked for from all areas of our Legion. We can do it, and I’m sure our children and grandchildren will reap the benefits of our dedication. Thanks and I hope you have a great month.
Commander’s Corner

By Joel Forman, Department Commander

Since the last Department Newsletter I have had the privilege to represent the Department at a veterans roundtable discussion hosted by NDVS and director Kat Miller at the Nevada Capital Building in Carson City with Governor Brian Sandoval as the keynote speaker. Many veteran groups from all over our state were present. This informal format is the best way to let other groups know what we are doing, find out what they are doing, ask questions, maybe get an answer, and to network for all of us to benefit.

I would like to thank 4th District Commander Valerie for representing the Department at Senator Heller’s roundtable on 14 September. I have represented the Department at two fall standdown meetings here in Las Vegas, along with Posts 76 and 14 and their auxiliary. Hopefully we will be able to make some of our brothers’ and sisters’ days a little brighter. On a sad note, I represented the Department at the funeral services for Past Post 76 Commander John F. (Ted) Pugh Jr. and Past Department Commander Paul G. Diefenbach II. I was also at the V.A. Town Hall Advisory meeting in Pahrump. Some 70 veterans from that area were in attendance to discuss the V.A. Clinic there. I attended the V.A. Budget signing by President Trump at the V.A. Hospital. This was a totally non political event.

The Commanders meeting at the V.A. hospital was next on my agenda and hospital director Peggy Kearns told us of the preparations for the President’s visit. She was particularly proud of the fact that not one veteran appointment had to be cancelled, with all the different government groups running around making preparations for nearly a week in advance. I attended the Honor Flight Breakfast fundraiser at Applebee’s in Henderson and then and Eagle Scout project by a troop of boy scouts at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery. On Monday 1 October I was honored to present $2500.00 in gift cards to the Women’s Clinic at the V.A. Hospital on behalf of the Department through a Grant from Operation Comfort Warriors.

I wish to thank all the other Department Officers and Legionnaires who attended many of these events. It is my hope that if you know of an event where we should be in attendance, let Department or your District Commanders know. There is strength in numbers. I know.

Happy Birthday to our Navy brothers and sisters on 13 October.
The below information was taken from the Legislative media source.

The American Legion joined with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and Paralyzed Veterans of America in sending a letter to the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, urging the Senate to pass H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018, before the 115th Congress convenes. The letter states that, “With our aging Blue Water Navy veterans continuing to suffer and die from illnesses that have already been legally and scientifically linked to Agent Orange exposure, Congress must finally provide them long-delayed justice by voting to pass H.R. 299 this year.”

The complete letter follows.

Dear Chairman Isakson and Ranking Member Tester:

On behalf of the millions of veterans we represent, we urge you to take every action necessary to ensure that a vote is held by the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and then the full Senate, on H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018, as soon as possible before the 115th Congress concludes. This bipartisan legislation was passed by the House earlier this year by a 382 to 0 vote. It is now time for the Senate to follow suit by swiftly passing H.R. 299.

This legislation would reverse an erroneous decision by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in 2002 that made thousands of Vietnam veterans – commonly called “Blue Water Navy veterans” – ineligible for health care and benefits connected to illnesses caused by exposure to Agent Orange. VA’s decision to issue new administrative rules requiring that a veteran, “…must have actually served on land within the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) to qualify for the presumption of exposure to herbicides” (M21-1, Adjudication Procedures Manual, Part III, Paragraph 4.24(e)(1)) was not based on any new scientific evidence or changes in law, and should therefore be reversed.

Despite statements and inferences made in a recent VA letter to the Committee, the National Academy of Medicine – formerly called the Institute of Medicine (IOM) – has not concluded that there is any scientific basis to treat Blue Water Navy veterans differently in regards to Agent Orange exposure compared to their peers who served on the land or inland waters in Vietnam. In fact, the most recent IOM report on Agent Orange published in 2016 found that, “…it is generally acknowledged that estuarine waters became contaminated with Herbicides and dioxin as a result of shoreline spraying and runoff from spraying on land, particularly in heavily sprayed areas that experienced frequent flooding.” Further, the 2016 IOM report found that, “…the observed distributions of these most reliable measures of exposure [to TCCD] make it clear that they cannot be used as a standard for partitioning veterans into discrete exposure groups, such as service on Vietnamese soil, service in the Blue Water Navy, and service elsewhere in Southeast Asia.” In other words, looking at the most current observations and findings of exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam veterans, the IOM found that there is not a scientific basis to exclude Blue Water Navy veterans based solely on the fact that their service was in the offshore waters.

In addition, a review of the legal history of the definition of “service in Vietnam” supports restoration of eligibility for Blue Water Navy veterans. In 1990, prior to enactment of the “Agent Orange Act of 1991,” a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) study found that Vietnam veterans who served in the waters offshore were 50 percent more likely to develop Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma than other veterans. Subsequently, VA promulgated 38 CFR 3.313, which specifically defined “service in Vietnam” to include, “service in the waters offshore,” which remained in effect following enactment of the Agent Orange Act of 1991. Later that year, in November 1991. VA issued M21-1, part III, paragraph 4.08(k)(1)- (2), which noted, “In the absence of contradictory evidence, ‘service in Vietnam’ will be conceded if the records shows [sic] that the veteran received the Vietnam Service Medal,” which was awarded to veterans who served in Vietnam, including those on ships in the waters offshore.

(continued on back page).
Membership

By Jack Ford Department Membership Chairman

“100-4-100”

Well, the construction signs are down, the orange cones and hardhats are in storage, and the roads are open for us to speed to our destination. A well deserved thanks to our Junior PDC Weigold and Membership Chairman PDC Mitch Roach for a great job well done.

As your new Membership Chairman, my theme for this year’s Membership Drive is “100-4-100”. And, my appreciation and thanks to District 2 for starting the ball rolling. They have voted at their district meeting to provide a $100 dollar check to every District 2 Post reaching the 100% membership goal! Now I am challenging each of the other Districts to do the same.

Membership is what has made our organization such a powerful voice for veterans over the years. Our politicians have listened to the voice of “The American Legion” in Washington D.C. and in the State Houses across this great Nation since our forefathers climbed out of the mud-filled trenches after WWI. We need to strive to keep that legacy alive, and that will only happen if we keep our organization strong, healthy and vital.

Membership must be the responsibility of all Legionnaires. While the post, district, and department officers will be judged by their performance in meeting their membership responsibilities, so will each of us as individual members. Thousands of British troops left to die on the beaches of Dunkirk were saved by the individual efforts of fellow countrymen with hundreds of small boats. We as individuals must be the small boats that ensure that the care, benefits, and well-being of those veterans who follow in our footsteps are not left to die on our watch. This can only be done by keeping the voice of The American Legion strong through our membership.

Let us make this a memorable year for the Department of Nevada, and strive to reach 100% membership in every one of our Posts. This can be accomplished if you will “Just Ask” every one you meet, male and female, if they are a veteran and if they are a member of our organization. If they are not Legion members, explain the benefits of belonging and the programs we support for God and Country and Community.

Jack Ford, PDC
THOMAS W. MILLER
The son of a Delaware governor, Miller served in Congress in 1914 before losing a re-election bid in 1916. He enlisted as an infantry private and served in France with the 79th Division, where he was cited for "especially meritorious and conspicuous service" in the Meuse-Argonne campaign and received the Purple Heart. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel and served until his honorable discharge in September 1919. Miller was a founder and vice chairman of the Paris Caucus and helped write the language that would give The American Legion its federal charter on Sept. 15, 1919. He was elected past national commander at the 1968 American Legion National Convention.

Vehicle Donation Program to Help Veterans

Owners of general vehicles can donate them for cash based while benefiting American Legion programs. The American Legion Vehicle Donation Program accepts trucks, vans, SUVs, boats, motorcycles, RVs and more. Proceeds from auction sales support American Legion charities and programs.

Keep your Legion membership current has never been easier. Online access and automatic renewal options let you point, click, and get back to serving America.

www.legion.org/renew

2019 American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Program

Silver Dollar

2019 American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Program

The United States Mint is pleased to present the designs for the 2019 American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Program. The designs are authorized to be paid to The American Legion to support the Legion's programs for veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and other purposes specified by the authorizing legislation.
The mission of Nevada’s Legionnaires is to provide services to fellow veterans, their families and their communities.

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

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Jr. Past Commander Yvette Weigold  (702) 576-6629  weigoldy63@gmail.com

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2nd District Joe Tasby  (702) 869.8637  jtasby2003@yahoo.com
3rd District Brenda Horton  (720) 394-5696  bannhorton3@aol.com
4th District Valerie Scheuering  (775) 722-6516  nvnative1959@sbcglobal.net
5th District Dennis Lowe  (775) 455-5590  dennisglowe@hotmail.com
Legion Shortcuts

To visit the Department website
Go to www.Legion.org/Nevada

To view the Nevada Legion Facebook page
Go to www.facebook.com/TALDONV

To visit the National website
Go to www.Legion.org

To take the Legion Basic Training course
Go to www.Legion.org/ALEI
Greetings Comrades,

I was approached last month with a question on making shirts for a poker run. There’s plenty of guidance available on legion.org explaining do’s & don’ts for emblem usage. One such document can be found at http://legion.org/documents/pdf/riders_dept_guidance.pdf If you decide you’d like to produce something specific that you can’t find at https://emblem.legion.org/default.asp then request permission by filling out the form at https://www.legion.org/emblem/request Turnaround time is pretty quick. I hope this helps.

Upcoming events: Oct 20th Post 60 is holding their Spooktacular Poker Run open to all wheels. Nov 10th Post 8 is co-sponsoring a Military Pride Run with a portion of proceeds goes to Child Welfare Fund. May 30 – Jun 2 Post 60 hosts the ALR Western Region ROMP.

If you have an activity you’d like to share, please let us know.

Ride Safe,

Trevor McCall
ALR Program Liaison, Department of Nevada
(402) 740-2794
blackjackmac68@yahoo.com
Post 51 and The Department of Nevada invite you to join us for the Department Executive Committee meeting on 3 NOVEMBER 2018. The meeting will be held at the VA Hospital auditorium located at 6900 N. Pecos Rd, North Las Vegas, NV 89086

Friday, 2 November at 6:00PM there will be an informal dinner (at your own expense) at TGI Friday's inside Aliante Hotel/Casino.

This will be Jr Past Department Commander Weigold's homecoming dinner, so everyone is invited to attend. Spouses, SO's, etc. are all invited. Please RSVP to JPDC Weigold for headcount only. You will pay for your meal at the restaurant.

Saturday, 3 November the DEC will begin at 0830. DEC will be in the auditorium and SAL will be in classroom at 0800. Water, coffee and snacks will be available.

The closest hotel to the hospital is Aliante Hotel/Casino. The Cannery is also nearby, as are the Fiesta and Texas Station. If you make reservations through Hotels.com you will get a better rate. The Department is not reserving these rooms. You need to do this on your own and reimbursement is per Department guidelines.

Contact Department Adjutant Lionel Metz with questions regarding the DEC.

(702) 382-2353
	taleden737@aol.com

OR

JPDC Weigold for dinner reservations and directions to any of the events.
(702) 576-8429
weigoldy63@gmail.com
# Department of Nevada
## 2019 Membership Challenges

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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>195</strong></td>
<td><strong>102</strong></td>
<td><strong>52%</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District #4</td>
<td>Post #</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Goal</td>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>% of Goal</td>
<td>New Members</td>
<td>Last Transmittal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Carson City</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td></td>
<td>9/5/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Yerington</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Fallon</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/27/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Hawthorne</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td></td>
<td>9/15/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Fernley</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9/27/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>54</td>
<td>High Desert</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/7/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1775</td>
<td>Silver Springs</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>902</strong></td>
<td><strong>594</strong></td>
<td><strong>65%</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>District #5</td>
<td>Post #</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Goal</td>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>% of Goal</td>
<td>New Members</td>
<td>Last Transmittal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ely</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10/10/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Big Smoky Valley</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td></td>
<td>9/26/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Caliente</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Pioche</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Austin</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>10/11/18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>231</strong></td>
<td><strong>101</strong></td>
<td><strong>44%</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **District Totals** | **4,346** | **3,787** | **60%** |            | 3            |
| **Post #100**       | **1,043** | **539**   | **52%** |            |              |

**DEPARTMENT TOTALS:**

| **7,389** | **4,328** | **59%** |            |              |

* Posts have Temporary Charters and are not eligible for Department Membership Awards

** Post is under Redistrict and is not eligible for Department Membership Awards
The SAL units across the state of Nevada are doing wonderful with getting this year’s dues in. As your new JR. Vice Commander of Southern Nevada, I have recently returned from the National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. What a learning experience! If you ever get the chance to go I highly recommend it. My wife and I watched the Legion riders ride into Anoka, Minnesota as their final stop of the Legacy Run. They looked tired and beat, with rain along the way, the motorcycles were a little dirty, but everyone involved seemed to have a great time.

I attended 3 different meetings with the SAL. Americanism, membership and legislative and rules.

This month let’s look at Americanism and what you can do to promote it:

- Publish flag etiquette tips in your newspaper and on social media.
- Model respect for our flag at public events, such as sporting events.
- Visit schools at the beginning of the school year to give some basic facts about our flag, our national anthem, and when we stand and put our hands over our hearts at parades and ball games.
- Volunteer for a local patriotic event.
- Sign up at www.legion.org to receive notifications on when to display your flag at half-staff.
- Contact and ask state and federal representatives to support the flag amendment by explaining what it is and why it is important.
- Sign up for The American Legion’s Legislative action alerts and follow flag issues.
- Work with local schools to further education of the Constitution, either whole or in part such as the Bill of Rights or the Preamble.

Right now the most important thing is to get all of your memberships in to National before the end of the year, sooner would be better. Getting this done sooner makes the squads look good in Nevada and beat out other detachments trying to get the dues in first.

The American Legion runs a fiscal year, July till June, but dues are still due by the end of the year, so if you wait to pay your dues after the first of the year you will be late.

Our new SAL National Commander is Greg “DOC” Gibbs, he is from Squadron 527 in Hamburg, New York.

Nevada’s SAL’S detachment received the Excellence Award [largest per capita] from the Child Welfare Fund! Thanks for all your hard work!

“To serve those that served”

Kim “Gus” Gustafson

Commander S.A.L Squadron 60 Laughlin NV

Jr.Vice Commander, Detachment Southern Nevada.
Finally, the undersigned veterans organizations do not support imposing fees on service connected disabled veterans to receive VA home loan guaranties for new jumbo loans authorized by the legislation. VA’s existing home loan guaranty program currently exempts all disabled veterans from paying fees in deference to the price they have already paid with their service, and we therefore urge the Committee to strike this provision from H.R. 299 before passing the legislation.

The brave men and women who proudly wear our nation’s uniform are often asked to serve in the roughest and most dangerous environments on Earth. When they are injured or made ill as a result of their service, a grateful nation must provide them with all of the care and benefits they need and deserve. With our aging Blue Water Navy veterans continuing to suffer and die from illnesses that have already been legally and scientifically linked to Agent Orange exposure, Congress must finally provide them long-delayed justice by voting to pass H.R. 299 this year.