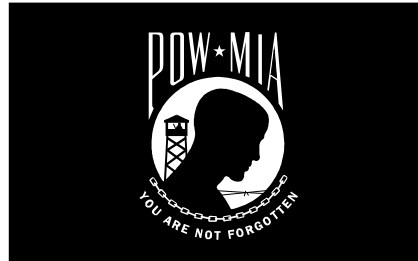


ADJUTANT'S  
NEWSLETTER  
OFFICE PHONE 856-8951  
EMAIL:  
ADJUTANTNH@LEGIONNH.ORG



## THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE THE AMERICAN LEGION

**TO MY LEGION FAMILY:**



### 2016 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The convention is approaching quickly this year. Room reservation money should have been in by now for those wanting rooms. The Days Inn (which was the Beacon) is completely booked. There are still rooms available at the Indian Head and the Woodward Resort; however final payments were due to Department on January 30, 2016. If Department did not receive your payments by February 19, 2016, then you run the risk of your room being cancelled. There will be no refunds for initial payments or cancellations.

There are only 200 tickets for the banquet this year due to the limited amount of room there is. Tickets are \$30.00 a person and can be purchased from Vern Leighton, Post 43, [chochocharlie@comcast.net](mailto:chochocharlie@comcast.net). We need to have these tickets sold as soon as possible in order to get a meal count to the hotel in a timely manner. Tickets will be enforced at the door. (No ticket no entry) In years past we have had people come to the door and say they forgot their tickets someplace or the check was in the mail or paid but never got a ticket. None of these will be accepted as excuses this year.

The Department does have convention shirts available (blue gold shirt or blue crew neck) Shirts are \$20.00 a piece.

I am asking Posts to start thinking about getting names into Department for those members who have passed away since June 1, 2015. The Memorial Service is still scheduled for the morning of Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, before opening ceremonies. The cut off for submitting deceased to Department this year will be May 1<sup>st</sup>.

There is a golf tournament being planned, but I currently do not have any information at this time and will forward any information as I get it.

The Department is accepting Ads from Posts for the convention Ad book. Kevin Murnane from Post 51, is handling the Convention Ad Book this year and requests should be submitted through him.

We hope this year's convention will be something new, and we hope to change some things up this year.

## **2016 NATIONAL CONVENTION**

This year's National Convention will be held August 26 – September 1, 2016 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Department will be staying at the Hilton Cincinnati Airport Hotel, 7373 Turfway Road, Florence Kentucky. This hotel is actually across the river from the City of Cincinnati and about 15 to 20 minutes from the convention center. This will make some travel difficult but National will have buses running as they normally do.

The cost per room is 137.00 this year which includes an 11.3% tax. I have 27 rooms available right now, 3 King, 2 ADA, and 22 Queens. I recommend you get your reservation into me sooner than later. I will need one night deposit of \$137.00, along with the national convention form you need to fill out giving me the nights and accommodation requests. This form is attached to this newsletter this month, and will be available on the website as well under the tab National Convention. Additional occupants in a room will be an additional \$10.00 per person for (3-4) people. A rollaway will also be an additional \$10.00 a night. So if you have more than 2 people in your room make sure you include in your deposit that additional rate.

Parking at the hotel is also free this year which will be a plus for those planning to drive out like me.

There is a restaurant located in the hotel along with a bar/lounge. The breakfast buffet is \$16.00 or there is a full menu for lunch and dinner as well. There are also a few other chain restaurants in or around the hotel within walking distance.

I hope to be able to conduct a site visit before convention; however there does not seem to be the issue with this hotel as there was with some of the hotels at the last convention. Although this hotel is farther away than we are use to, the Department of Kentucky uses it yearly for their department convention and have said it is a very nice place to stay. It is within a couple miles of the airport and transportation other then buses are available as well.

National Commander's Banquet tickets are still available at \$46.00 per ticket. Banquet is Tuesday evening, August 30 at the Duke Energy Convention Center. Seating is Rounds of 10. Commander Barnett has selected Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers as the entertainment. Menu is Fresh Spring Mixed Salad, Roasted Beef Short Rib and Stuffed Chicken Breast, Parmesan Garlic Mashed Potato Cake, Asparagus and Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting. The deadline for getting tickets for this is March 15<sup>th</sup>. National needs the count and if we wait much longer we run the chance of being split up to other tables around the banquet. The Department does not have the money this year to pay for tickets up front. I am limiting it to 30 right now so get it in to me ASAP.

As we get closer I will send out more information and it will be posted on the website to access as well.



**WRJ VT VA Medical Center &  
WRJ VT Veteran's Center  
invite you to a  
Vietnam Veteran 50<sup>th</sup>  
Commemoration Ceremony  
March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

***All Veterans who served between November 1, 1955  
and May 15, 1975 will be recognized***

***\*\*Veterans do not need to be enrolled in VA Healthcare\*\****

**WRJ Vet Center**

**WRJ VA Medical Center**

**6:15  
Reveille  
(WRJ Veteran's Park)**

**1:00  
Formal presentation &  
recognition ceremony**

**6:30  
Sunrise Service  
(WRJ Veteran's Park)**

**2:00  
Reception\***

**7:00-10:00  
Free Breakfast  
(Vet's Center)**

**\*Please join us in the  
lobby for refreshments**

Call for details at 866-687-8387 Ext. 5397 or visit our web site at <http://www.whiteriver.va.gov/> or visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/VAWhiteRiverJunction>.

[www.vietnamwar50th.com](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com)



**VA** Defining  
**HEALTH CARE** **EXCELLENCE**  
in the 21st Century



**Red River**  
CHARITABLE  
FOUNDATION



Testimonial Dinner in Honor of

**John Graham & Jessie Bernard**

Saturday, May 14, 2016  
At Hidden Hills Banquet Facilities  
Rindge, NH

5:00 pm Cocktails  
6:00 pm Dinner

Country Western Buffet

Hind Quarter of Beef with Western Sauce  
Barbecued Chicken, Hickory Ham, Chili  
Country Style Garden Salad  
French Fried Potatoes  
Sour Dough Rolls, Condiments  
Coffee and Punch

Dress: Western Motif

**\$25.00 per Person**

**RSVP by April 23, 2016**

\*\*\*\*\*Name:

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_

Mail checks to: Karyl Horn, 20 Bunker Lane, Madbury, NH 03823

Make checks payable to: Gerard Bernard (in the memo line put "Testimonial")

**Tickets will be held at the door.**

# VA REFORM PASSING OF VETERAN BILLS

## LOOMING

In the wake of the Washington Conference the Senate and Congress have been working on numerous bills drafted to support and improve on veteran benefits for veterans around the country. The Department of New Hampshire sent representatives to D.C. this last month in hopes of persuading our states congressional delegation to support some of these bills and get behind the fight to improve veteran benefits and the time it takes for veterans to get them. The following is a article that outlines some of these bills and I thought that you as a veteran might want to know what is going on in DC in regards to improving on veteran benefits.

Lawmakers could be headed toward a veterans omnibus bill covering a host of health, education and employment issues after House members passed a package of nine veterans-themed measures Tuesday evening.

The flurry of legislation came after a day of debate and discussion about veterans issues on the House floor. All of the measures were passed by voice vote without objection, but will need Senate action and the president's signature before they can become law.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said the moves were a needed push to help "our retired servicemen and women who have been neglected by a broken Department of Veterans Affairs." He promised more focus on the issues in months to come.

"It has been several years since the corruption and dysfunction at the VA was exposed, and quite frankly, it is appalling that we must continue to pass bills to fix the countless problems that have been ignored," he said. "We continue to hear that change at the VA is on the way, but as the bureaucracy remains unchanged, our veterans continue to wait for care and benefits."

House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller, R-Fla., said the bills together help "rein in the incompetence that permeates VA's construction efforts, end the egregious taxpayer abuse some unscrupulous and greedy schools are committing on a daily basis, and most importantly, honor our veterans while improving and expanding the benefits they have earned."

The most controversial item on the legislative slate was a measure that would halve the housing stipend for children of troops attending college with transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

Veterans advocacy groups opposed that portion of the so-called Veterans Employment, Education, and Healthcare Improvement Act, which also included provisions to restrict GI Bill payouts for flight schools and increased eligibility for children of some veterans.

Supporters of the measure did not address the issue on the House floor, but several Democrats said they hope the housing stipend cut is reconsidered in the Senate.

Among the other bills approved Tuesday:

The Construction Reform Act, which would require VA to hire an assistant inspector general for construction projects. Lawmakers have criticized lax oversight of those projects, several of which have faced multimillion-dollar cost overruns.

The American Heroes COLA Act, which would permanently tie veterans' annual cost-of-living adjustments to Social Security and make their annual adjustments automatic.

The Career-Ready Student Veterans Act, which would require educational programs eligible for GI Bill payouts to meet state licensure and certification standards.

The Female Veteran Suicide Prevention Act, which would boost focus and oversight on suicide prevention programs targeted at women veterans.

The Failing VA Medical Center Recovery Act, which would require VA to assign special management teams to underperforming VA medical facilities to provide faster solutions for patients using those services.

Lawmakers in the House and Senate have discussed the possibility of crafting a larger veterans omnibus bill later this year, to include both the measures passed Tuesday and a host of other separate bills under consideration by both chambers. But no further details have been finalized on when that plan might be introduced.

*(Leo Shane III, 2016, Congress, Veterans Affairs and the White House for Military Times, [lshane@militarytimes.com](mailto:lshane@militarytimes.com))*

The fight continues for veteran benefits and we can only hope that as we go into this election year our representatives and political candidates do not forget about the veterans of this country who fought for the very freedom they are running for in the first place.

**PLEASE POST**