

ALA Unit 272 Legislative Committee Report May 31, 2026: Jan L. Snyder

American Legion Auxiliary: Advocates for Veterans, Servicemembers and their Families

In local Congressional Districts and in Washington, D.C., American Legion Auxiliary members work to keep veterans' issues in front of legislators, strengthening our mission to serve veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

[Grassroots Action Center](#)

Love Lives On: Support our Gold Star Spouses

<https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Campaigns/106887/Respond>

Gold Star Spouses are currently put in a heartbreaking predicament- choose love and happiness through remarriage before the age of 55 and lose critical benefits, or forgo companionship and keep their benefits. This predicament creates an untenable choice for our widows and widowers between personal happiness and financial stability. It's time to change this!

The Love Lives On Act aims to correct this egregious wrong by proposing the following actions:

- Eliminate the age limit for remarrying without loss of benefits.
- Allow remarried surviving spouses to retain education benefits.
- Preserve Commissary and Exchange benefits for remarried spouses.
- Enable remarried spouses to regain TRICARE benefits if the subsequent marriage ends.
- Abolish the "Hold Themselves Out to Be Married" clause, an outdated law causing unnecessary fear and inhibiting freedom.

However, we need YOUR help to ensure this bill becomes a reality. The American Legion believes in standing up for the rights and benefits of our Gold Star spouses. They should not be penalized for finding love again. They are still the surviving spouses of our fallen heroes, and they have earned these benefits through their service and sacrifice.

The time for action is NOW. Contact your members of Congress today and urge them to pass the *Love Lives On Act (S410 and HR1004)*. Together, we can ensure a fair and respectful future for our Gold Star Spouses. It's time to honor their sacrifice and let love live on!

GI Bill Parity Act

<https://www.votervoice.net/mobile/AmericanLegion/Campaigns/124727/Respond?shem=rimsouwouoe>,

From protecting our borders and state capitals to delivering pandemic aid, supporting local law enforcement, and serving in combat overseas, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers have been increasingly called upon to confront unique and dangerous challenges. They often leave their families and civilian employers for lengthy periods of time, sometimes taking significant pay cuts. Yet, despite all we ask of them and all they contribute, they are often denied a cornerstone benefit of service: the GI Bill.

Currently, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers only earn credit toward their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits when they mobilize and deploy for federal missions. National Guard and Reserve servicemembers activated under state orders do not accrue eligibility for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

The Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025 (HR. 1423/S. 649) is crucial to rectifying this inequity.

It proposes to count every day spent on weekend drills, annual training, attending military school, participating in an exercise, or responding to a disaster toward GI Bill eligibility. The American Legion firmly believes that every day in uniform counts. Guardsmen and Reservists who serve alongside their active-duty counterparts deserve the same GI Bill eligibility.

The American Legion urges you to contact your members of Congress today and encourage them to support the Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act!

Did You Know:

The American Legion Auxiliary supports the public policy positions of The American Legion. The American Legion regularly adopts and renews legislative intent resolutions. The resolutions reflect the will of the membership and serve as instructions to Legion family officers and staff as to which legislative issues to monitor and what positions to take. The updated legislative agenda for the 119th Congress 1st Session is as follows:

Suicide prevention: In an effort to win “The War Within,” The American Legion urges Congress to fully fund VA’s suicide-prevention outreach budget, mental health treatment services and peer-support programs.

Community care: The American Legion urges Congress to hold the Office of Community Care accountable for the continuity of veteran care, improve communication between VA and community providers, and strengthen transportation services to community care appointments for rural health veterans.

Compensation and Pension (C&P) examinations: Congress must ensure that VA holds its vendors to higher C&P examination standards. The quality review process for VA-contracted medical examiners must be made transparent, and Congress must ensure more effective incentives, stricter oversight mechanisms, mandatory quality reviews and severe penalties for non-compliance.

Quality of Life: The Legion is calling for accelerated implementation and oversight of approved funding for military pay, benefits and quality-of-life infrastructure programs.

Border security: The American Legion implores lawmakers to work together on behalf of Americans and Border Patrol agents to strengthen national security by stopping threats at our borders.

Fund State Department and foreign operations: As DoD prepares for a potential conflict with China, America needs a robust and well-funded foreign service to counter authoritarian influence.

End veteran homelessness: Policies must include comprehensive support for at-risk and homeless veterans, including counseling, assistance in accessing care and benefits, financial and career resources, and business development opportunities.

These materials are available at the Legion’s Legislative Center at www.legion.org/legislative.