

# Legislative 2025-2026

## Bulletin #3

Chairman: Elizabeth Herrera



Greetings to everyone! Thank you to all who attended the Mid-Winter Conference - it was nice to see you there! As you know, we are halfway through the year, and report time is just around the corner. Please visit the department website to see my Year-End Report and have it back to me by April 15. Please don't let your foot off the gas just yet, though, our support is needed 365 days a year and is always changing and evolving so we all must do our part to stay on top of it!

Right now, Washington state is in session, please identify your local representative and get to know them, reach out, invite them to an event at your post, maybe even sign them up if they are eligible. To follow all bills regarding Veterans you can find them on the Department of Veterans Affairs website or [www.dva.wa.gov](http://www.dva.wa.gov) you can view veteran's bills and also add your email to receive the most updated information regarding veteran's health, housing, resources, family and employment, and so much more, as this website is just a wealth of information.

As a reminder we should all now be signed up for Action Corps ~ don't forget to respond when the "alert" is sent out – it is very important!

A few housekeeping notes to keep us all on track regarding our Legislative obligations:

1. Show gratitude: Each time you speak with a legislator, follow up with a "Thank You" card or email showing our appreciation for their time. It's also important to acknowledge our Veterans by saying "Thank You for your service" as well. Showing gratitude and respect is always a good look for the Auxiliary.
2. Remembering key dates like Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, Armed Forces Day, Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Day, and the birthdays of all the branches of service is a great way to appreciate our Veterans but it also helps urge our Legislators to remember and acknowledge these special days as well and can help them to decide to do what is right for all Veteran-related bills.

In closing, we must also always remember the **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES** which are:

- **Budget** – Hold leaders accountable "Honor the Contract"
- **Disability Assistance & Memorial Affairs** – Crack down on claim sharks

- **Education, Employment & Transition Assistance** – Improve Education Benefits
- **National Security, Foreign Affairs & POW/MIA** – Ensure all service members who served in harms way receive the recognition, care, and benefits they have earned
- **Health Care** – Eliminate Veteran suicide and strengthen care and research for mental health and enhance programs
- **Military Readiness** – Provide benefits to transitioning service members, safer housing

**\*\*\* Please see Legislative Priorities in Malta to see the full list in each category**

Again, a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone especially all Legislative Chairman. It can sometimes be challenging reporting on such serious, but important information that affects SO many but we do it well and with grace, please continue your mission of knowledge and support.

*Best to all!*

Elizabeth Herrera

Legislative Chairman 2025~2026

Department of Washington