2022 NACo

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 12-16 | WASHINGTON HILTON | WASHINGTON, D.C.
Veterans and Military Services Committee Meeting

February 13, 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM | International Ballroom East
Agenda

1:00 PM | Call to Order and Welcome
1:05 PM | Federal Priorities for Serving Veterans in 2022
1:45 PM | Arts and Creative Arts Therapies for Greater Health and Well-being for Veterans
2:00 PM | Getting to Functional Zero in the Wake of Covid-19
2:50 PM | The Veterans Services Landscape: Update from the Ground
3:05 PM | Legislative Update for Counties
3:15 PM | Final Remarks
3:30 PM | Meeting Concludes
Welcome & Introductions
Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chair</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hon. Thomas Snider</td>
<td>Supervisor, Winnebago County, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vice Chairs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hon. Bill Holen</td>
<td>Commissioner, Arapahoe County, CO</td>
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<td>Hon. Chris Lukasevich</td>
<td>Commissioner, Carbon County, PA</td>
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<td>Hon. Christopher Paasch</td>
<td>Commissioner, Curry County, OR</td>
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<td>Hon. Steve Bradshaw</td>
<td>Commissioner, DeKalb County, GA</td>
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<td>Hon. Trista Matascastillo</td>
<td>Commissioner, Ramsey County, MN</td>
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<td>Hon. Demarcus Marshall</td>
<td>Commissioner, Lowndes County, GA</td>
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<td>Hon. Heather Post</td>
<td>Councilwoman, Volusia County, FL</td>
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<td>Mr. Jason Skinner</td>
<td>Director of VSA, Livingston County, NY</td>
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<td>Mr. Herman Breuer</td>
<td>Immediate Past President, National Association of County Veterans Service Officers</td>
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<td>Ms. Claudia Tuck</td>
<td>Director, Community Support Services, Alachua County, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Cathrene Nichols</td>
<td>Director, Spokane County Regional Veterans Services, Spokane County, WA</td>
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Housekeeping

- Please stay masked unless actively eating or drinking
- Use standing microphones for questions/comments
- Virtual attendees can “raise hand” or type questions or comments into the chat
Honoring Tom Snider and Announcing New Veterans Committee Chair

Hon. Larry Johnson
President, NACo
Commissioner, DeKalb County, Ga.
Federal Priorities for Serving Veterans in 2022

Hon. Donald M. Remy
Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Arts and Creative Arts Therapies for Greater Health and Well-being for Veterans

Mr. Nolen Bivens
Chief Executive Officer, Americans for the Arts
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Getting to Functional Zero in the Wake of Covid-19

Ms. Kathryn Monet
Chief Executive Officer
National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV)

Ms. Claudia Tuck
Director of Community Support Services, Alachua County, Florida
Vice Chair, NACo Veterans and Military Services Committee

Ms. Tess Wrzesinski
Professional Staff Member (Majority)
U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs

Dr. Nicholas Armstrong, Ph.D.
Managing Director for Research and Data
Syracuse Institute for Veterans and Military Families

@NACoTweets #NACoLeg
The Veterans Services Landscape: Update from the Ground

Mr. Herm Breuer
Immediate Past President, NACVSO
Vice Chair, NACo Veterans and Military Services Committee
Legislative Update for Counties

Ms. Rachel Mackey
Associate Legislative Director
NACo
Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act

- H.R. 4601/S. 2405
- Key NACo priority
- $250 million over 5 years
  - Competitive grants to states
  - Funds must expand CVSOs or similar local entities
  - VA must prioritize areas with high rates of veteran suicide, CVSO shortages, or high rates of Veterans Crisis Line referrals
Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act

- **Latest activity:**
  - House and Senate hearings
  - Potential changes based on VA feedback

- **Action needed:**
  - Additional bipartisan cosponsors in House and Senate
  - Use NACo’s template letter to express support or thank them for cosponsoring
## CVSO Act: Current House Cosponsors

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Democratic Representatives</th>
<th>Republican Representatives</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA-49)</td>
<td>Rep. Matt Rosendale (R-MT-At Large)</td>
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<td>Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL-10)</td>
<td>Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC-08)</td>
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<td>Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH-13)</td>
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CVSO Act: Current Senate Cosponsors

Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)  
Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)  
Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ)  
Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)  
Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)  

Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK)  
Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
Toxic Exposure

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass legislation ensuring veterans who served near burn pits receive VA health coverage and disability benefits for associated medical conditions by eliminating or easing the direct service connection requirement and investing in additional research.

Adopted July, 2021
Toxic Exposure

- **Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2021 (H.R. 3967)**
  - Passed HVAC 14-11
  - 80 Cosponsors (77 Democrats, 3 Republicans)

- **Comprehensive and Overdue Support for Troops (COST) of War Act of 2021 (S. 3003)**

- Grant **VA health care enrollment eligibility** to any veteran who suffered toxic exposures while in service
- Create a **list of presumptive disabilities (23 conditions)** for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances
- **Concede exposure** to burn pits and other airborne hazards for veterans who served in certain areas
- **Ensure VA adopts a framework** to establish new presumptive disabilities for ALL exposures in a timely manner based on scientific data
- **Develop a training module** for VA providers and benefits personnel
- **Require a toxic exposure questionnaire** at the beginning of every VA primary care appointment
Toxic Exposure

- **Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act (S. 3541)**
  - $1 billion over 10 years
  - Less Comprehensive
  - Passed Senate unanimously

- **Create a one-year enrollment period** for VA medical care for post-9/11 combat veterans who served after 1998 and never enrolled

- **Extend the enrollment period** for all formerly deployed post-9/11 combat vets from five years to 10.

- **Direct the Department of Veterans Affairs** to incorporate toxic exposure clinical screening for veterans

- **Mandate education and training** for department personnel on identifying, treating, and assessing the impact of toxic exposure
Toxic Exposure

- Administration Pilot Program
  - VA reviewing research into several rare cancers to fast track to health care and disability compensation for veterans
  - Expanding training for VA and non-VA health providers.

Salute to Veterans

Benefits for military burn pit victims could expand dramatically under White House plan

By Leo Shane III

Nov 11, 2021
Transitioning Service Members

- Proposed Interim Resolution encouraging increased coordination between DOD, VA, SDVAs and CVSOs/TVSOs
  - Proactive dissemination of DD-214 records
  - Passed the Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee unanimously
  - Final board vote on Monday, Feb. 14
Upcoming Conference Events

MONDAY, FEB 14

- Federal Agency Meet and Greet | 8:00 am – 12:00 pm | Concourse Foyer
- General Session | 9:00 am – 10:30 am | International Ballroom
- Strengthening Anti-Hunger Priorities in the 2023 Farm Bill | 10:45 am – 11:45 am | Columbia 11 & 12
- Someone to Call: Reimagining the County Crisis Response System through 988 Implementation | 1:45 pm – 3:00 pm | Columbia 9 & 10

TUESDAY, FEB 15

- Navigating Federal Resources to Improve Rural COVID-19 Response Efforts | 8:00-9:15 am | Columbia 9 & 10
- General Session | 9:30 am – 11:45 am | International Ballroom
- Presidential Address to County Officials | 1:00 – 2:00 pm | International Ballroom
NACo Staff Contact:
Rachel Mackey, Associate Legislative Director, Human Services and Education
rmackey@naco.org
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