Purpose of our Mid-Winter Conference

Commander Hope will testify at 2:00 on February 24, 2015, in Room G-50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building

- National Commander presents DAV legislative agenda
- Advances our legislative agenda
- Attendees shows Congress a unified front
- Showcases DAV specific issues and solutions
2015 Mid-Winter Conference
Preparing for Success

Background
Mid-Winter Conference typically draws hundreds of participants

• Testimony highlights challenges facing wounded, injured and ill veterans, their caregivers, their dependents and survivors
• Highlights DAV accomplishments
• Message succinct, unified, and in one voice
• Prepares DAV members for grassroots activities back home to shape and influence legislation
2015 Mid-Winter Conference Preparing for Success

Knowing the Political Landscape
Members of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee

Jeff Miller (FL) Chairman
Doug Lamborn (CO)
Gus Bilirakis (FL)
Phil Roe (TN)
Dan Benishek (MI)
Tim Huelskamp (KS) Mike Bost (IL)

Mike Coffman (CO) Brad Wenstrup (OH)
Jackie Walorski (IN) Ralph Abraham (LA)
Lee Zeldin (NY) Ryan Costello (PA)

Amata Radewagen (AS) Corrine Brown (FL) Ranking Minority Member
Mark Takano (CA) Julia Brownley (CA) Dina Titus (NV) Raul Ruiz (CA)

Ann McLane Kuster (NH) Beto O’Rourke (TX)

DAV FULFILLING OUR PROMISES TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED
2015 Mid-Winter Conference
Preparing for Success

Knowing the Political Landscape
Members of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee

- Chairman
  Senator Johnny Isakson (R - GA)

- Senator Jerry Moran (R - KS)
- Senator John Boozman (R - AR)
- Senator Dean Heller (R - NV)
- Senator Bill Cassidy (R - LA)
- Senator Mike Rounds (R - SD)

- Senator Thom Tillis (R - NC)
- Senator Dan Sullivan (R - AK)
- Ranking Member Senator Richard Blumenthal (D - CT)
- Senator Patty Murray (D - WA)
- Senator Bernie Sanders (I - VT)
- Senator Sherrod Brown (D - OH)

- Senator Jon Tester (D - MT)
- Senator Mazie Hirono (D - HI)
- Senator Joe Manchin (D - WV)
Knowing the Political Landscape

If you are meeting with a member who serves the Appropriations, Budget or Veterans’ Affairs Committee remember:

• These members have direct influence on legislation affecting wounded, injured, and ill veterans, their dependents and survivors

• If your member of Congress is unavailable; meet with the Legislative Assistant responsible for veterans’ issues

• Leave behind DAV’s talking points
2015 Mid-Winter Conference
Preparing for Success

Tips for Meetings

Remember, most visits are brief (15-20 minutes) and often with staff members.

Be prepared to review the key talking points.

Be on time. Don’t be surprised if they are late. Congressional schedules are hectic. You need to be flexible and patient. Leave buffer time for a successful or delayed meeting. Walking from the House to the Senate side could take up to 20 minutes. If you are running late, call the office as a courtesy.

Meeting space is limited. Standing in the hall for a meeting is not uncommon.

Be nonpartisan to respect DAV’s Constitution and Bylaws and its Congressional charter.

DAV will supply key talking points developed for this year’s Mid-Winter Conference. Try to connect DAV’s national priorities to local situations.

Ask your elected official (or staff) where they stand on DAV’s issues.

Try to answer any questions asked. If you can’t, tell them DAV will supply the information they require. Bring those unanswered questions to the national legislative staff so we can follow up.

Send a thank-you letter to the person you met with. Try to do this within two weeks of the meeting, if possible. In your letter, reiterate the subjects you discussed during the meeting and offer to be a resource for veterans’ issues in the future.

Please use the feedback form that DAV will supply during the Mid-Winter Conference. Use this form to report your discussion and any follow-up items the legislative staff needs to address.
DAV’s Key Issues

DAV’s key issues for 2015:

• Women veterans
• Caregiver support
• Budgetary support for VA
• Fully developed appeals

DAV will provide talking points for you to bring with you and leave behind with the elected official and his or her staff.

Although these are the major points for discussion, please feel free to discuss any of DAV’s national resolutions with your elected officials after you have discussed the talking points.

Please do not use this time to discuss your pending claim or appeal.