

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY LEGISLATIVE BULETIN

www.vfwauxmi.org

National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us

MARCH 2024

OMG! OMG! OMG! IT'S MARCH!

There are less than 8 weeks left for doing, acting, and reporting. So let us go through this again. Legislative work is about making friends and influencing others.

1. Did you or your members write to Senators Peters and Stabenow?
2. Did you or your members write to your representatives in DC?
3. Did you or your members write to your state representatives in Lansing?
4. Did you report the total number of members who receive Action Corps weekly reports?
5. Did you invite state representatives to a program at your post? Did you report in detail who, what, when?
6. Did you attend an event where politicians were present and talk with them about veterans issues? Did you report in detail who, what, when?
7. Did you print from the national Malta website priority goals and distribute materials to friends, members, the community? Did you report in detail who, what, when?
8. Did you participate in the department initiative to have petitions signed for a veteran cemetery in the Upper Peninsula?

We are influencing Lansing to be serious about this initiative. Governor Whittmer appointed State Representative Jenn Hill to investigate a location in the upper peninsula. Now we need to push even harder. Keep sending me the completed petition pages.

The area that the Commander's Group has their eye on is KI Sawyer Air Base that was closed in 1995. The airfield at one time was a small airport that was under Marquette county jurisdiction. With World War II, the federal government negotiated a deal to lease the airport and develop the small airfield into a larger field to handle military aircraft. Since the closing, the federal government should allow control to revert back to Marquette and Marquette should allow the development of a veteran cemetery.

I am asking all concerned individuals to write to Representative Jenn Hill and ask why we cannot petition the federal government to re-designate KI Sawyer Air Base for the purpose of a veterans' cemetery in the upper peninsula. While you are writing to Representative Hill, also include Representative Greg Markkanen; Representative Dave Prestin and State Senator Edward McBroom. This is not just a VFW concern, but one for all veterans in Michigan. Ask your family, friends, neighbors, American Legion, DAV, VietNam Veterans, AmVets, etc., to write/contact these individuals for a repurpose of the land at KI Sawyer to become a veterans' cemetery.

State Representative Jenn Hill [109] (JennHill@house.mi.gov)
Representative Greg Markkanen[110] (gregMarkkanen@house.mi.gov)
Representative Dave Prestin {108} (davePrestin@house.mi.gov)
State Senator Edward McBroom [38] (SenEMcBroom@senate.michigan.gov)
Congressman Jack Bergman (<https://bergman.house.gov>)
US Senator Debbie Stabenow (<https://stabenow.senate.gov>)
US Senator Gary Peters (<https://peters.senate.gov>)

Loyally

Aileen Adragna, Department VFW Auxiliary Legislative Chair

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APRIL 2024

Making a list, Checking it twice, I'm going to find out who is naughty and who is nice. Three weeks to go for doing, acting, and reporting. Did you and or your members complete any of the following list? Did you report with details who, what, where, when?

At the Fall Conference I challenged the delegates present to get 10% of their members signed up for Action Corp. At Mid-Winter, I reported that we have about 2%. Where are the rest of you?

At the Fall Conference, I also shared a petition for members to circulate for signatures to push the State legislature to designate land in the Upper Peninsula as a veterans cemetery. Because of this, State Representative Jenn Hill has been tasked with searching for a location. We need to keep up the letters and petitions even after this program year ends. This initiative will take some time until fruition. Do not stop working on this. Keep sending letters to the individuals I listed in the March bulletin.

I want to thank Madame President for asking me to be this year's chair. Convention is at the end of May in Kalamazoo. Make your reservations. Let's keep up the work.

Achievements	Completed	Reported
Report the number of Auxiliary members who subscribe to the VFW's Action Corps Weekly E-Newsletter.		
Report each contact auxiliary members made with their legislators on veteran's issues by any means (email, telephone, letter, etc.).		
Report invitations made to legislators to a meet/greet at the post home to meet veterans. Include the name of the legislator who attended.		
Report invitations made to representatives to attend honors/awards programs (i.e. scout of the year, VOD, holiday program). Include the name of the legislator who attended.		
Report on events where auxiliary members were able to interact with legislators (report each event) i.e Town hall meeting, coffee club.		
Report (describe) how the auxiliary utilized any of the legislative material/resources available on the National VFW Auxiliary Malta website under member resources.		
Details on how the auxiliary promoted, participated or co-hosted with their VFW Post all activities regarding the VFW Priority Goals.		

Loyally,
Aileen Adragna, Legislative Chair 2023-2024
Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary