

**National/State Legislative Committee Report**  
**2023 Texas VFW Mid-Winter Conference**  
**Chairman Mitch Fuller**

The 2023 VFW National Legislative Priorities are available on the VFW National Website and were released as part of the January 9, 2023, Action Corps Weekly. The only major changes from the 2022 priorities are specific actions related to implementation of the *PACT Act* and presumptive conditions related to toxic exposures.

The members of the VFW National Legislative Committee from the Department of Texas are: Chairman Mitch Fuller, Reggie Williams, Benny Guerrero, and Shenna Lawless. The National Legislative Committee participated in the VFW National Legislative Conference in Wash, DC in September 2022. This was the first in-person legislative conference in three years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The focus on legislative advocacy for the September 2022 conference was on three areas: claims shark legislation related to holding predatory companies accountable, especially with the passage of the *PACT Act*; the *Major Richard Starr Act* (concurrent receipt for combat injured and wounded); and better data from the VA about Veterans suicide and its relationship to economic opportunity and benefits. Our 12-page report for September 2022 that was sent to the National Legislative Office is included in this report. The members of the committee met with the offices of all 36 members of the Texas Congressional Delegation while in Wash, DC and we maintain constant contact with our congressional offices throughout the year. It is anticipated that the focus of the March 2023 National Legislative Conference will be on the same three aforementioned areas of emphasis.

One of the five members of the Students Veterans of America (SVA) Class of 2023 selected by the National VFW Legislative Office is Comrade Jordan Quinones, who is a member of Post 8273 in Frisco and lives in the DFW metroplex. Jordan is a virtual student at Arizona State University. The National Legislative Committee will be working closely with Jordan, who will also attend the March 2023 and September 2023 National Legislative Conferences.

Of note for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress which convened a few weeks ago: there are 97 Veterans representing 36 states in this Congress. This is 18% of the members of Congress and a slight increase from 17% in the previous Congress. Texas gained two new congressional seats due to the 2020 census and now has 38 members in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The 88<sup>th</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature convened on January 10, 2023. IAW the Texas Constitution, the Legislature convenes in Regular Session every two years (odd numbered years) for 140 days. The period for filing bills began immediately following the 2022 Mid-Term elections and runs through early March 2023. As of January 13, 2023, more than 1800 bills and nearly 100 Constitutional Amendments have been filed. Committee hearings for bills will not begin until early March 2023. State legislative priorities for the 2023 Session are included in this report.

**Texas VFW Priorities for 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature in 2023**  
**Mitch Fuller, State Legislative Chairman**

**The following priorities are not the only issues and priorities that the Texas VFW will be working on but are key issues that carried over from the last Legislative Session and Interim Sessions in 2021 and Interim Charges. As always, the Texas VFW will closely monitor all Veteran-related bills under consideration by the Texas Legislature.**

Create programs and funding streams connected to services that improve mental health outcomes for Veterans suffering from Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Post Traumatic Stress (PTS), and Traumatic Brain Injury.

Facilitate relationships with major corporations and employers and connect Veterans to existing business resources and available state services and access to high quality jobs in the transition from military service to Veteran status.

Advocate for legislation that increases capabilities for the Texas State Guard, e.g., the “Bishop Evans Act.”

Defend all programs of the Hazelwood Act.

Expand maximum Bingo Payout and number of licenses allowed annually.

Advocate for two new State Veterans Cemeteries (one in Texas Panhandle/west Texas area and one in northeast Texas) and leverage federal and state funds to do so.

Create program for funeral expenses for indigent Veterans.

Expand the Texas Compassionate Use Program (TCUP), the medical marijuana program in Texas, to include chronic pain as a condition for medical marijuana prescriptions and make the prescriptions more affordable and accessible.

Defend and sustain the legality of hemp-based Delta 8 products.

Advocate for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for state agency retirees, many of whom are Veterans.

Work with the State Comptroller on an administrative fix, or legislation if necessary, on disabled Veteran exemptions listed on property tax records.

Support legislation that assists County Veterans Services Officers and the services and programs they provide.

September 2022 National Legislative Committee Report submitted to National VFW Legislative Office

**TEAM TEXAS CONSOLIDATED REPORT**

Chairman Mitch Fuller, Benny Guerrero, Shenna Lawless, and Reggie Williams

**1. Mitch Fuller Meetings and phone calls and emails:**

September 8—Phone call with Hap Nelson, outgoing District Chief of Staff for U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions (TX-17) about meeting in Wash, DC with Congressman Session on September 14 during the VFW National Legislative Conference. This call led to a conversation with Congressman Sessions directly in which he said he was a co-sponsor of HR 8736 and he shared his personal cell phone number with me. Meeting confirmed for September 14 in the Rayburn Building.

September 13—Attended initial briefing for all members of the National Legislative Committee along with my three Dept. of Texas Comrades. The discussion of the top three priorities/talking points for congressional meetings on the afternoon of September 13 and all day on September 14 was outstanding. Kudos to Pat Murray, Kristina Keenan, Brittany Dymond, and the entire National Legislative Office Team on this meeting which was critical to the forthcoming productive meetings in congressional offices. Pat Murray also reported on the recent death of MAJ Richard Starr and his burial at Arlington Cemetery on Sep 13. This tragic news did create a sense of urgency for the legislation named in his honor. I used this terrible news in my talking points in all 10 meetings I had on September 14.

Emailed with Kristina Keenan and Katie Smith from the staff of U.S. Rep. Troy Nehls (TX-22) and House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) staff about meeting on September 14. Meeting confirmed for 11:15 am on September 14 at the Dunkin Donuts in the Longworth Building. Also emailed and texted with Kristina Keenan about the meeting with U.S. Rep. Jake Ellzey (TX-6) that was scheduled for Sep 14 by Comrade Shenna Lawless. Kristina asked to join Shenna and me in the meeting and she did.

September 14—Meeting with Don Barber, Legislative Director for Congressman Ellzey, Kristina Keenan, and Shenna Lawless in the Longworth Building. I've known Congressman Ellzey since he served in the Texas House of Representatives. Don Barber referenced this relationship and was most receptive to our national priorities (signed on as an original co-sponsor of HR 8736 and co-sponsor of *MAJ Richard Starr Act* (HR 1282/S. 344). We did get to briefly greet and shake hands with Congressman Ellzey in the hallway in front of his office as he was on his way to another meeting.

**September 14 (cont.)**

**Meeting with Katie Smith (Office of Congressman Nehls), Olivia Naughton (Research Assistant for HVAC Subcommittee on Disability and Memorial Affairs) and Kristina Keenan. Both were very receptive to our priorities. I also discussed HR 4328, the bill to rename the VA facility in San Angelo, TX in honor of the late COL Charles and JoAnne Powell. HR 4328 is stalled for over a year due to JoAnne Powell not being a Veteran (I referenced this in our August National Legislative Committee report). Congressman Nehls was unavailable for the meeting due to arriving back in Wash, DC later in the day.**

**Meeting with U.S. Rep. Roger Williams (TX-25) and his Deputy Chief of Staff/Legislative Director Ben Johnson in the Longworth Building. This was a very short meeting and photo op as the Congressman had another meeting. Congressman Williams and Ben were receptive to our priorities.**

**Meeting with U.S. Rep. John Carter (TX-31) and his Military and Veteran Liaison Shareia Oliver in the Rayburn Building. I have been a constituent of Congressman Carter for 20 years and served on his Congressional Veterans Commendation Board from 2019-2022. I regularly speak with Shareia in my role as a member of the TX-31 Veterans Advisory Council. Congressman Carter and his staff were very receptive to our priorities and indicated he would support HR 8736 and HR 1282/S. 344.**

**Meeting with Chris Del Baccaro, Chief of Staff; and Cody Cazares, National Security Advisor, for U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul (TX-10) in the Rayburn Building. Chris and Cody were receptive to our priorities and confirmed Congressman McCaul is a co-sponsor of HR 8736 and HR 1282/S. 344. Also discussed Congressman McCaul's work on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Congressman McCaul unavailable for meeting due to votes on the House floor.**

**Meeting with Tucker Anderson, Chief of Staff; and Cody Patterson, Legislative Assistant, for U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions (TX-17) in the Rayburn Building. Due to redistricting and new congressional maps, Congressman Sessions will be my Congressman beginning in 2023. Previous to this meeting I spoke with Congressman Sessions personally on the phone on September 8 and as a result of that I have his personal cell phone number. Tucker and Cody confirmed at our meeting that Congressman Sessions is a co-sponsor of HR 8736 and HR 1282/S. 344. We also discussed the Congressman's new District staff and how the Texas VFW can assist them. Congressman Sessions was scheduled to attend this meeting but could not because of votes on the House floor.**

**Meeting with Mark Rickling, Senior Legislative Assistant for U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett (TX-35) in the Rayburn Building. Mark indicated Congressman Doggett supports HR 8736 and**

**HR 1282/S. 344.** I also thanked Mark for Congressman Doggett's support of the PACT Act and the Congressman's attendance at the Women Veterans Forum in Austin, TX on August 10 that was facilitated and attend by U.S. Rep. Julia Brownley (CA-26).

(Meeting with Mark Rickling, cont.) We also discussed Congressman Doggett's likely successor in TX-35, former Austin City Councilmember Greg Casar. Congressman Doggett is running in the newly created TX-37 and is the presumed winner in this race.

Meeting with Ishmael Abuabara, Legislative Assistant for U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro (TX-20) in the Rayburn Building. I thanked Ishmael for Congressman Castro's steadfast support of the PACT Act, including speaking at a press conference at VFW Post 76 in San Antonio on Sunday, July 31 urging the US Senate to pass the PACT Act. This press conference also included several speakers in the Veterans community, including me. Congressman Castro is a supporter of HR 8736 and HR 1282/S. 344. He was unavailable for the meeting due to votes on the House floor.

Meeting with Kevin Koo, Legislative Assistant for U.S. Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (TX-7) in the Cannon Building. Congresswoman Fletcher is receptive to our priorities and Kevin indicated she would support HR 8736 and HR 1282/S. 344. She was unable to attend the meeting due to votes on the House floor.

Attended PACT Act congressional reception celebration in Senate Dirksen Building that was attended by Senators Jon Tester and Jerry Moran and Congressman Mark Takano and Mike Bost, Chair and Ranking members of the Seante and House Veterans Affairs Committees, respectively.

All of my meetings in congressional offices were productive and valuable. The message about Veterans suicide and out third priority about better data from the VA related to economic opportunity/VBA was well received. A common theme from each office is "why aren't they doing this now?" With the recent release of the VA's 2022 Suicide Report is appears the VA is moving in the right direction on our third priority.

September 20—Email and phone call with Meredith Moore, Legislative Aide, for U.S. Rep. August Pfluger (TX-11). Meredith informed Comrade Benny Guerrero and me that the House of Representatives passed S. 2771 on September 19. S. 2771 included language from HR 4328, which renames the VA clinic in San Angelo, TX the *Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell VA Clinic*. HR 4328 was filed in July 2021 and has been a top priority of the Dept. of Texas—we provided a letter of support for HR 4328 IAW the requirements for renaming a VA facility, i.e., written support from a VSO with at least 500,000 members. After months of advocacy with HVAC staff and working with Congressman Pfluger's office, the Dept of Texas is thrilled that this legislation passed and his office is very grateful for our support and fight for this.

September 29—Follow up phone call about top three priorities with Hannah Funk Arvey, Legislative Assistant for U.S. Rep. Chip Roy (TX-21). I was unable to schedule a meeting with

**Congressman Roy on September 13 or 14 but did have a short conversation with an aide in his office in the Longworth Building on September 14 and got Hannah's information and left behind hard copies of our priorities. Good discussion with Hannah about our top three priorities and implementation of the PACT Act which Congressman Roy was lukewarm at best about.**

**In my capacities as the Dept of Texas National and State Legislative Chairman, and District 28 Sr. Vice Commander I provide constant updates on federal and state legislation to VFW members and VFW auxiliary. I signed up several new members for the Action Corps Weekly during the month of September.**

## **2. Benny Guerrero Meetings and phone calls and emails and meetings:**

The overall meeting with Texas Representatives was successful and impactful. What I learned through my many conversations with representatives and staff is that the majority of the representatives will vote alongside party lines unless there is overwhelming pressure from our Organization and the American public.

TX-2 Dan Crenshaw

I was unable to meet with TX-2 or his legislative director. Both were tied up in hearings, debates and votes. I did meet with TX-2 administrative staff to discuss the National VFW Legislative Priorities. I provide them with materials and explained that if the Congressman or his legislative director have any questions, for them to contact me. I will communicate with him in October.

TX-5 Lance Gooden

I met with TX-5 Communications Director Dylan Chandler. We discuss the National VFW Legislative Priorities. I asked that the Congressman Co-Sponsor the Major Richard Star Act as he had been buried at 10AM that exact same day. I provided them with materials and explained that if the Congressman or his legislative director have any questions, for them to contact me. On September 18<sup>th</sup> I received word that the Congressman would be CoSponsoring the Major Richard Star Act. I will revisit with him in October.

TX-8 Kevin Brady

I met with TX-8 Legislative Assistant Kelsi Wilson. We discussed the National VFW Legislative Priorities. We discussed each of the priorities in detail. I explained that the VFW needed the Congressman's assistance in passing the HR 8736 and HR 1282. She asked a few questions about HR 8736 which included how many veterans have been impacted by the predatory claim companies? During discussion about the Economic Opportunity's Role in Preventing Suicide, she asked how the Congressman could help in lowering the suicide rate amongst veterans.

#### TX-11 August Pfluger

I met with TX-11 Legislative Aide Meredith Moore. I thanked the Congressman for being a Co-Sponsor of the Major Richard Star Act. Although we discussed the National VFW Legislative Priorities, Meredith had a request for the VFW. She asked that the VFW meet with Chairman Mark Tekano (CA-41) in order to encourage him to consider the renaming of a VA Clinic in San Angelo in honor of a deceased Colonel and his wife who had dedicated their lives to the country and the community. Meredith showed interest in working on the Economic Opportunity's Role in Preventing Suicide and wanted to help. On Cracking Down on Predatory Claims Companies, she inquired asked three questions; two of which I will get back with her on. 1. Who introduced the Bill. 2. Who is leading this effort on the Senate side? How many veterans have been victims of these predatory claims companies? I will revisit with her in October.

#### TX-12 Kay Granger

I met with TX-12 Defense Fellow Brian Scheller who is an Active Duty Space Force Officer. I thanked the Congresswoman for being a CoSponsor of the Major Richard Star Act. Although we discussed the National VFW Legislative Priorities, Brian explained that Congresswoman Granger is onboard for any legislation that supports our military and our veterans. He asked about the Major Richard Star Act CBO's score. I explained that the CBO score accounted for the worst-case scenario. He explained that there are several Representatives that the Congresswoman respects and trusts and if they are onboard on any bills, she will most likely support it. I plan to revisiting with him in October before his departure in late fall.

#### TX-13 Ronny Jackson

I met with TX-13 Legislative Director Brian Brody. Although we discussed the National VFW Legislative Priorities, Brian asked why the Major Richard Star Act HR 1282 was being held from a vote. He said he would look into it. I will revisit with him in October to further discuss. With regards to the Economic Opportunity's Role in Preventing Suicide, Brian asked if there is anything that Congressman Jackson could do to craft a bill to lower the suicide rate amongst the veteran population. I mentioned that there is a Gold Star Family in his District at Canyon VFW that would like to recognize. Canyon VFW will host a Gold Star Ceremony to honor the family in which Congressman Jackson will be the guest speaker. The VFW will present the family with a GOLD STAR FAMILY flag bearing the name of their fallen soldier and Congressman Jackson will present the family with a flag flown over the US Capital. I will revisit with Congressman Jackson in October in Canyon, Texas.

#### TX-16

I met with Congresswoman Veronica Escobar and Senior Legislative Assistant Ben Harrison. I thanked the Congresswoman for supporting the Pact Act. I also thanked her being a CoSponsor with the Major Richard Star Act and encouraged her to persuade others. She asked that now that the Pact Act has been signed into law, what is the "new" National VFW Legislative Priorities. I briefly explained the National VFW Legislative Priorities as she was headed to a hearing. I explained the priorities in detail to Ben, her

Legislative Assistance. Ben assured me that the Congresswoman support our VFW Legislative Priorities and was interested in helping in addressing the suicide amongst veterans. I will revisit with Ben in October.

TX-19

I met with Congressman Jodey Arrington and his Legislative Aid Chase Walker. My meeting with Congressman Arrington was brief. We spent approximately 10 minutes together discussing the National VFW Legislative Priorities; each of the HRs we discussed, he cited cost as being a barrier in getting the Republicans from supporting it. He explained that the Republicans would support the legislation the Democrats are introducing if there was a way to pay for them. During my visit with Chase, we discussed each of the priorities in detail. Again, the question of cost and CBO score was mentioned for each of the HRs. Chase indicated that the Congressman will be introducing a bill titled the Veterans Electronic Notification Enhancement Act that would modernize the claims process for education benefits. He explained, no longer would a veteran have to worry about the status of a claim because they would have real time statuses by accessing the VA website. He further explained that the Electronic Notification would not prevent the veteran from receiving the notification by mail, but they would have the opportunity to opt out and opt in. He requested VFW support for the passage of the Act. I will revisit with Congressman Arrington on 11 October in Lubbock, Texas.

TX-36 Brian Babin

I was unable to meet with TX-36 or his legislative assistant. Both were tied up in hearings, debates and votes. I communicated with TX-36 Legislative Assistant Avery Littrell via email throughout the conference and explained that I would stop by the Congressman's office to drop off materials. I met with Congressman Babin's staff and I provided materials related to the National VFW Legislative Priorities and explained each in detail. I explained that if the Congressman or his legislative assistant had any questions, for them to contact me. I will communicate with them in October.

### **3. Shenna Lawless Meetings and Phone calls and emails:**

On September 12 & 13<sup>th</sup>, Shenna Lawless traveled to Washington D.C. to advocate for some important veteran legislative priorities!

**Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 1:00PM | Rayburn House Office Building**

Shenna Lawless had an in-person meeting with Congressman Louie Gohmert, Jr.'s office (TX-01).

Met with staff, Derrick Miller – Congressional Justice for Warriors Caucus. Discussions included cracking down on those non-accredited consulting groups a/k/a "Claim Sharks" that are out there scamming our veterans. Gohmert's office was receptive to reforming retirement pay and disability compensation and directing VA to analyze benefits that have a greater impact on suicide prevention.



**Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 2:00PM | Rayburn House Office Building**

Shenna Lawless had an in-person meeting with Congressman Michael Burgess's office (TX-26).

Met with staff, Alexa Roberts – Legislative Assistant. Discussions included cracking down on those non-accredited consulting groups a/k/a “Claim Sharks” that are out there scamming our veterans. Burgess's office was receptive to reforming retirement pay and disability compensation and directing VA to analyze benefits that have a greater impact on suicide prevention.

**Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 2:30PM | Rayburn House Office Building**

Shenna Lawless had an in-person meeting with Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson's office (TX-30).

Met with staff, Nawaid Ladak – Legislative Director. Discussions included thanking them for their support in passing the PACT Act, cracking down on those non-accredited consulting groups a/k/a “Claim Sharks” that are out there scamming our veterans. Johnson's office did not express much interest in reforming retirement pay and disability compensation and directing VA to analyze benefits that have a greater impact on suicide prevention. I believe this to be due to Johnson's soon retirement.

**Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 3:00PM | Rayburn House Office Building**

Shenna Lawless had an in-person meeting with Congressman Marc Veasey's office (TX-33).

Met with staff, Luke Dube – Legislative Assistant. Discussions included thanking them for their support in passing the PACT Act, cracking down on those non-accredited consulting groups a/k/a “Claim Sharks” that are out there scamming our veterans. Veasey's office was receptive to reforming retirement pay and disability compensation and directing VA to analyze benefits that have a greater impact on suicide prevention. They would be interested in authoring a bill for suicide prevention.

**Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 10:45AM | Longworth House Office Building**

Shenna Lawless, Mitch Fuller, Benny Guerrero along with Kristina Keenan had an in-person meeting with Congressman Jake Ellzey's office (TX-6).

Lawless, Fuller, Guerrero and Keenan met with staff, Don Barber – Legislative Director. Discussions included cracking down on those non-accredited consulting groups a/k/a “Claim Sharks” that are out there scamming our veterans. Ellzey's office was excited to

lead the way in authoring or co-sponsoring a bill to reform retirement pay and disability compensation. They also expressed heavy interest in directing the VA to analyze benefits that have a greater impact on suicide prevention.

**Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 10:45AM** | Longworth House Office Building

Shenna Lawless had an in-person meeting with Congressman Pat Fallon's office (TX-04).

Met with staff – Shaun Taylor – Legislative Director. Discussions included cracking down on those non-accredited consulting groups a/k/a "Claim Sharks" that are out there scamming our veterans. Fallon's office was receptive to reforming retirement pay and disability compensation and directing VA to analyze benefits that have a greater impact on suicide prevention.

**Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 1:30PM** | Longworth House Office Building

Shenna Lawless had an in-person meeting scheduled with Congressman Van Taylor's office (TX-3). Congressman Taylor was called last minute to the floor for a vote, so Lawless was unable to speak with him personally but spoke momentarily with his staff and followed up with an email regarding our talking points.

**Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 2:00PM** | Longworth House Office Building

Shenna Lawless had an in-person meeting with Congresswomen Beth Van Duyne's office (TX-24).

Met with staff, Brian Thomas – Legislative Director. Discussions included cracking down on those non-accredited consulting groups a/k/a "Claim Sharks" that are out there scamming our veterans. Van Duyne's office was receptive to reforming retirement pay and disability compensation and directing VA to analyze benefits that have a greater impact on suicide prevention.

**Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 2:00PM** | Cannon House Office Building

Shenna Lawless had an in-person meeting with Congressman Michael Cloud's office (TX-27).

Met with staff, Tom McCullough – Legislative Assistant. Discussions included cracking down on those non-accredited consulting groups a/k/a "Claim Sharks" that are out there scamming our veterans. Cloud's office was receptive to reforming retirement pay and disability compensation and directing VA to analyze benefits that have a greater impact on suicide prevention.

\*Attended PACT Act Congressional Reception at Dirksen Senate Office Building.

**VFW Action Corps:** I actively signed up new members for the VFW Action Corps Weekly throughout the month of September.

#### **4. Reggie Williams Meetings and Phone Calls and Emails:**

I spent the entire month calling, emailing, talking with Congressional Staffers of the following Congressional members in order to secure an in-person or video conference/meeting with the Legislator or their Veterans Affairs Liaison: Congressman Al Green, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee, Congressman Henry Cuellar, Congressman Randy Weber, Congressman Vicente Gonzalez, Congressman Colin Allred, Congressman Tony Gonzales, & Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia. I'm proud to announce that I was able to arrange an appointment with each and every one of the above Legislators during our Fall VFW National Legislative Conference the week of 12 – 15 September 2022.

- 12 September 2022: Arrived in Washington, DC for Fall VFW National Legislative Conference.

- 13 September 2022: Met in person with the Mr. David Maestas (Legislative Assistant) to Congressman Tony Gonzales at 12:15 hours in the Congressman's Office (Room 1009 Longworth Office Building). Discussed the Veterans of Foreign Wars Legislative Priorities and personally "Thanked" the Congressman for his support of the recently passed PACT Act. Briefed the staffer and asked for the Congressman support for our VFW top-3 priorities for this upcoming Legislative year 118th Congress. Explained the VFW's concern on Priority #1 – Retirement and Military Personnel, Priority #2 Cracking Down on Predatory Claim Companies and Priority #3 Economic Opportunity's Role in Preventing Suicide's. Also provided/left a copy of the above VFW priorities for the Congressman and Staffer to reference when needed. Also, made them aware that VFW National Legislative Office remains ready to assist them at anytime to provide clarification or assistance in drafting any legislations on behalf of VFW Veterans. The Staffer pledged to brief the Congressman on my visit and pledged to me that the Congressman is a huge supporter of all veteran initiative and veterans in general.

- 13 September 2022: Met in person with the Mr. David Horsley (Legislative Correspondent) to Congressman Randy Weber at 13:00 hours in the Congressman's Office (Room 107 Cannon House Office Building). Discussed the Veterans of Foreign Wars Legislative Priorities and personally "Thanked" the Congressman for his support of the recently passed PACT Act. Briefed the staffer and asked for the Congressman support for our VFW top-3 priorities for this upcoming Legislative year 118th Congress. Explained the VFW's concern on Priority #1 – Retirement and Military Personnel, Priority #2 Cracking Down on Predatory Claim Companies and Priority #3 Economic Opportunity's Role in Preventing Suicide's. Also provided/left a copy of the above VFW priorities for the Congressman and Staffer to reference when needed. Also, made them aware that VFW National Legislative Office remains ready to assist them at any time to provide clarification or assistance in drafting any legislations on behalf of VFW Veterans. The Staffer pledged to brief the Congressman on my visit and pledged to me that the Congressman is a huge supporter of all veteran initiative and veterans in general.

- 13 September 2022: Met in person with the Mr. Ricco Garcia (Legislative Counsel & Senior Advisor) to Congressman Vicente Gonzalez at 13:30 hours in the Congressman's Office (Room 113 Cannon House Office Building). Discussed the Veterans of Foreign Wars Legislative Priorities and personally "Thanked" the Congressman for his support of the recently passed PACT Act. Briefed the staffer and asked for the

Congressman support for our VFW top-3 priorities for this upcoming Legislative year 118th Congress. Explained the VFW's concern on Priority #1 – Retirement and Military Personnel, Priority #2 Cracking Down on Predatory Claim Companies and Priority #3 Economic Opportunity's Role in Preventing Suicide's. Also provided/left a copy of the above VFW priorities for the Congressman and Staffer to reference when needed. Also, made them aware that VFW National Legislative Office remains ready to assist them at any time to provide clarification or assistance in drafting any legislations on behalf of VFW Veterans. The Staffer pledged to brief the Congressman on my visit and pledged to me that the Congressman is a huge supporter of all veteran initiative and veterans in general.

- 13 September 2022: Met in person with the Ms. Abbie Killian & Ms. Katie Payne (Legislative Assistant and Scheduler) to Congressman Colin Allred at 14:00 hours in the Congressman's Office (Room 114 Cannon House Office Building). Discussed the Veterans of Foreign Wars Legislative Priorities and personally "Thanked" the Congressman for his support of the recently passed PACT Act. Briefed the staffer's and asked for the Congressman support for our VFW top-3 priorities for this upcoming Legislative year 118th Congress. Explained the VFW's concern on Priority #1 – Retirement and Military Personnel, Priority #2 Cracking Down on Predatory Claim Companies and Priority #3 Economic Opportunity's Role in Preventing Suicide's. Also provided/left a copy of the above VFW priorities for the Congressman and Staffer to reference when needed. Also, made them aware that VFW National Legislative Office remains ready to assist them at any time to provide clarification or assistance in drafting any legislations on behalf of VFW Veterans.

- 14 September 2022: Met in person with the Ms. Kate Cerwin & Ms. Joanna Contreras (Legislative Assistant's and Advisors) to Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia 10:30 hours in the Congresswoman's Office (Room 1620 Longworth Office Building). Discussed the Veterans of Foreign Wars Legislative Priorities and personally "Thanked" the Congresswoman for her support of the recently passed PACT Act. Briefed the staffer's and asked for the Congresswoman support for our VFW top-3 priorities for this upcoming Legislative year 118th Congress. Explained the VFW's concern on Priority #1 – Retirement and Military Personnel, Priority #2 Cracking Down on Predatory Claim Companies and Priority #3 Economic Opportunity's Role in Preventing Suicide's. Also provided/left a copy of the above VFW priorities for the Congresswoman and Staffer to reference when needed. Also, made them aware that VFW National Legislative Office remains ready to assist them at any time to provide clarification or assistance in drafting any legislations on behalf of VFW Veterans. The Staffer pledged to brief the Congresswoman on my visit and pledged to me that the Congresswoman is a huge supporter of all veteran initiative and veterans in general.

- 14 September 2022: Met in person with the Mr. Aaron Linfesty (Legislative Veterans Affairs) to Congressman Al Green at 12:30 hours in the Congressman's Office (Room 2347 Rayburn House Office Building). Discussed the Veterans of Foreign Wars Legislative Priorities and personally "Thanked" the Congressman for his support of the recently passed PACT Act. Briefed the staffer's and asked for the Congressman support for our VFW top-3 priorities for this upcoming Legislative year 118th Congress. Explained the VFW's concern on Priority #1 – Retirement and Military Personnel, Priority #2 Cracking Down on Predatory Claim Companies and Priority #3 Economic Opportunity's Role in Preventing Suicide's. Also provided/left a copy of the above VFW priorities for the Congressman and Staffer to

reference when needed. Also, made them aware that VFW National Legislative Office remains ready to assist them at any time to provide clarification or assistance in drafting any legislations on behalf of VFW Veterans. The Staffer pledged to brief the Congressman on my visit and pledged to me that the Congressman is a huge supporter of all veteran initiative and veterans in general.

- 14 September 2022: Met via Video-Call with Ms. Callie Lucia (Legislative Assistant) to Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee at 15:00 hours in my hotel room and the staffer was in the Congresswoman's Office (Room 1620 Longworth Office Building). Discussed the Veterans of Foreign Wars Legislative Priorities and personally "Thanked" the Congresswoman for her support of the recently passed PACT Act. Briefed the staffer's and asked for the Congresswoman support for our VFW top-3 priorities for this upcoming Legislative year 118th Congress. Explained the VFW's concern on Priority #1 – Retirement and Military Personnel, Priority #2 Cracking Down on Predatory Claim Companies and Priority #3 Economic Opportunity's Role in Preventing Suicide's. Also provided/left a copy of the above VFW priorities for the Congresswoman and Staffer to reference when needed. Also, made them aware that VFW National Legislative Office remains ready to assist them at any time to provide clarification or assistance in drafting any legislations on behalf of VFW Veterans. The Staffer pledged to brief the Congresswoman on my visit and pledged to me that the Congresswoman is a huge supporter of all veteran initiative and veterans in general.

- 15 September 2022: Met via a Telephonic Call with the Mr. Randy Aguilar (Legislative Veterans Affairs) to Congressman Henry Cuellar at 10:00 hours in my hotel room and the staffer was in the Congressman's Office (Room 2372 Rayburn House Office Building). Discussed the Veterans of Foreign Wars Legislative Priorities and personally "Thanked" the Congressman for his support of the recently passed PACT Act. Briefed the staffer's and asked for the Congressman support for our VFW top-3 priorities for this upcoming Legislative year 118th Congress. Explained the VFW's concern on Priority #1 – Retirement and Military Personnel, Priority #2 Cracking Down on Predatory Claim Companies and Priority #3 Economic Opportunity's Role in Preventing Suicide's. Also provided/left a copy of the above VFW priorities for the Congressman and Staffer to reference when needed. Also, made them aware that VFW National Legislative Office remains ready to assist them at any time to provide clarification or assistance in drafting any legislations on behalf of VFW Veterans. The Staffer pledged to brief the Congressman on my visit and pledged to me that the Congressman is a huge supporter of all veteran initiative and veterans in general.

- 17 September 2022: Sent emails to all of the Congressional Staffers that I met with during our VFW National Legislative Conference requesting that I be placed on their email listing that they send out to their constituents and legislative contacts and extended a warm "Thank You" on behalf of the VFW and the veterans we serve for allowing me to meet or talk with them.

Communications: As the District 3 VFW Commander, I have encouraged all Comrades and Auxiliary members to continue to pay attention to all of the issues impacting veterans at the State and National Legislative levels by being an active advocate for veterans and their families. Encouraged everyone to sign-up for the Action Corp Weekly to know what's going on and to get the weekly alerts from VFW Nationals via email. \*\*Anything else you feel is relevant to your activities with respect to furthering our legislative priorities. - Have received numerous emails & telephone calls from the Staffers of ALL the above Congressional members thanking me for visiting with them as well via in-person or via telephone during our VFW National Legislative Conference period of 13– 14 September 2022.

**Respectfully Submitted: Chairman Mitch Fuller, VFW Department of Texas**