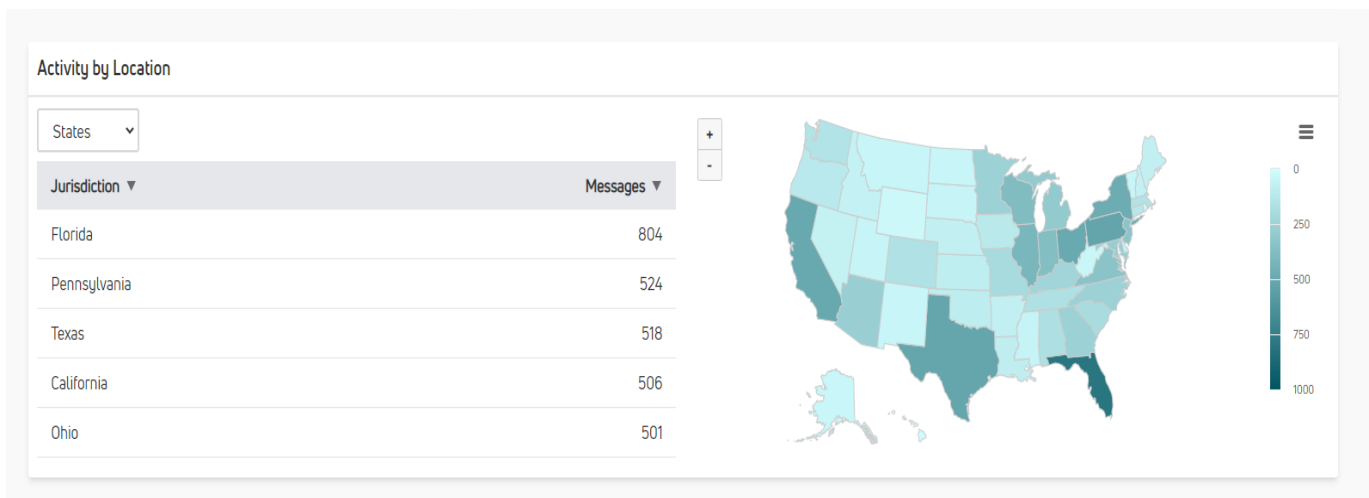


# National Legislative Division Weekly

## GRASSROOTS ALERT: TAKE ACTION TO SUPPORT VETERANS EXPOSED TO TOXIC HAZARDS

This week, The American Legion National Headquarters sent out an alert to NLC members and Legislative Action Center subscribers to [call on their Senators](#) to pass H.R. 3967, the Honoring our PACT Act. In two weeks, **9,942** messages were sent to Senators. Florida, Pennsylvania, and Texas had the largest share of total messages sent to their respective Senators. This can be seen in the graphic below:



This campaign will be the top legislative priority of The American Legion until the Senate acts on this critical piece of legislation. National Commander Paul Dillard has visited Minnesota, Georgia, and Alaska on a [multi-state tour](#) to rally Legion advocacy on the PACT Act, and will be traveling to South Dakota and will be continuing his work in South Dakota next week.

Status updates will be shared weekly, and Legionnaires are encouraged to disseminate this campaign far and wide.

**[TAKE ACTION NOW](#)**

**CONGRESS**

Congress is out of session this week. They will return to Washington DC on Monday, April 25.

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### BIDEN PLEDGES \$800 MILLION IN NEW AID TO UKRAINE

President Biden announced Thursday he will send \$800 million more in military aid to help Ukraine, adding that as his authority to draw from U.S. military stockpiles surpasses \$3 billion, he will need to ask Congress for more funding. You can read more about his press conference [here](#).

### UPCOMING HEARINGS

- On Tuesday, April 26, the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Subcommittee on Investigations will hold a hearing titled, “Hearing to examine mistreatment of military families in privatized housing.”
- On Tuesday, April 26, the House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Technology Modernization will hold a hearing titled, “Next Steps: Examining Plans for the Continuation of the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization Program.”
- On Wednesday, April 27, the House Foreign Affairs Committee will hold a hearing titled, “The State Department’s Foreign Policy Priorities and the FY23 Budget Request.”
- On Wednesday, April 27, the House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Disability and Memorial Affairs (DAMA) will hold a hearing titled, “At What Cost? – Ensuring Quality Representation in the Veteran Benefit Claims Process.” TAL will be testifying and you can view it [here](#).

### LEGIONNAIRE OF THE WEEK

In an effort to recognize the weekly accomplishments of our Legionnaires, we have decided to spotlight an individual every week. These individuals demonstrate exceptional grassroots activism by meeting with/contacting their Congressional Representative/Senator to advocate for veterans. Efforts like these truly make a difference and give veterans a voice in Congress.

#### Gary White, Montana

This week, we are excited to recognize Mr. Gary White for meeting with Denny Lenoir and Gilda Clancy of Senator Daines' staff at his Helena, MT office to discuss HR 3967 - the Honoring Our PACT Act.

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According to Mr. White, Senator Daines was not in attendance due to him being in Ukraine, but Denny Lenoir stated he would forward info on HR 3967 for his support.

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Thank you, Mr. White!

If you have made a grassroots effort and would like to be considered for next week's "Legionnaire of the Week," please fill out the Congressional Contact Report Form [here](#). You can also email me at [kisaacson@legion.org](mailto:kisaacson@legion.org).

### MEETINGS

- On Tuesday, April 19, NLD Staff met with Sen. Tuberville's (R-AL) Veterans Policy Advisor to discuss the Honoring Our PACT Act.
- On Tuesday, April 19, NLD Staff participated in the Cerner Service Organization Virtual Round Table to discuss electronic health record (EHR) deployments.
- On Wednesday, April 20, NLD Staff met with an Indiana Legionnaire to discuss an Air Force veteran diagnosed with cancer. The veteran was exposed to burn pits for six months while he was deployed to Iraq, and VA recently denied service-connection for his cancer related to burn pits exposure. Under the Honoring Our PACT Act, this type of cancer would be a presumptive condition.
- On Thursday, April 21, NLD Staff participated in a Burn Pits Advisory Group meeting to discuss legislative strategies in the Senate to pass the Honoring Our PACT Act.
- On Thursday, April 21, NLD Staff participated in a VSO meeting led by the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) to discuss legislative strategies in the Senate to pass the Honoring Our PACT Act.
- On Friday, April 22, NLD Staff met with Sen. Murkowski's (R-AK) Veterans Policy Advisor to discuss the Honoring Our PACT Act.
- On Friday, April 22, NLD Staff met with Rep. Wilson's (R-SC) Foreign Policy Advisor to discuss H. R. 6753, the "Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act of 2022". The bill would accelerate the delivery of defense equipment to Ukraine and other Eastern European countries. Its Senate companion bill, S. 3522 [passed](#) by unanimous consent earlier this month.
- On Friday, April 22, NLD Staff met with Rep. Larsen (D-WA) to discuss the Defense Health Agency (DHA).
- On Friday, April 22, NLD Staff participated in a call with VA staff to discuss the Accessing Telehealth through Local Areas Stations (ATLAS) Ribbon Cutting event at the Emporia, KS American Legion Post.

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