

# National Legislative Division Weekly

## CONGRESS



*Jennifer McClellan, recently elected to replace the late Donald McEachin, will represent the 4th District of Virginia in the US House of Representatives.*

Neither the House nor the Senate were in session this week.

On Tuesday, Jenn McClellan won a special election in Virginia for a seat in Congress. The Democrat beat her Republican opponent to become the first Black woman representing the Commonwealth in the House of Representatives. The seat, in a heavily blue district stretching from Richmond to the North Carolina border, had been held by Don McEachin until his death last year.

Next Tuesday, the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees will hold a joint hearing with the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). Each year, the committees hold a series of hearings with veterans service

organizations (VSOs) to discuss priorities for the legislative cycle. **The American Legion and other VSOs will present to the committees on Wednesday**, and a third hearing will occur on March 8 with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and other VSOs.

The House Veterans Affairs Committee, on Tuesday, has also scheduled a hearing on holding the Department of Veterans Affairs accountable. That same day, the House Appropriations Committee's Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee (Milcon) will hold a hearing on military quality of life, most likely focused on housing and child care facilities.

## 2023 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

The American Legion's Washington Conference will be back in person in 2023. This event allows our organization's leadership to meet with elected officials to discuss legislative initiatives and priorities important to Legion members and their families. It also provides a forum that allows Legionnaires to hear from senators, representatives, and officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as they address our members at the conference. Commander Troiola will be testifying on Wednesday, March 1 at 10:00 AM.

- The Legislative Agenda is [here](#).
- Hill Visit Toolkit is [here](#).
- Know Before You Go is [here](#).

To learn more information, please click [here](#).

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### LEGIONNAIRE OF THE WEEK

In an effort to recognize the weekly accomplishments of our Legionnaires, we will 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.

#### Cynthia Boehnlein, Ohio

This week, we are excited to recognize Cynthia Boehnlein from the Department of Ohio for meeting with the offices of Rep. Miller (R-OH), Sen. Brown (D-OH), and Sen. Vance (R-OH) to discuss The American Legion's Legislative Agenda for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. She specifically discussed the Camp Lejeune Justice Act, part of the SFC Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act.



*Ms. Boehnlein pictured in front of Sen. Vance's (R-OH) with his Legislative Correspondent.*

Thank you, Ms. Boehnlein!

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).

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### UPCOMING HEARINGS

- On Tuesday, February 28, the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) will hold a hearing to examine the conflict in Ukraine.
- On Tuesday, February 28, the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees will hold a joint hearing titled "Legislative Presentation of Disabled American Veterans before the House and Senate VSO Joint Hearing."
- On Tuesday, February 28, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies will hold an oversight hearing on quality of life in the military.
- On Tuesday, February 28, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a hearing to consider the authorization and oversight plan for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- On Tuesday, February 28, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a hearing titled "Building an Accountable VA: Applying Lessons Learned to Drive Future Success."
- On Tuesday, February 28, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense will hold a hearing titled "Ukraine Oversight."
- On Tuesday, February 28, the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees will hold a joint hearing titled "Legislative Presentation of The American Legion and Multi VSOs before the House and Senate VSO Joint Hearing." National Commander Troiola will be testifying.