

Veterans Group

For more information, go to nalc.org/veterans.



Veterans' legislative update

Nearly a quarter of letter carriers have served in our nation's military. NALC is proud to represent these service members and closely monitors policies related to veterans. Congress has oversight of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and can introduce and pass legislation that affects veterans and their benefits.

House passes comprehensive veterans care services bill

On Nov. 18, in a 389-9 vote, the House passed the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act (Dole Act/H.R. 8371). The Dole Act is a sweeping omnibus bill that includes more than 10 bills introduced by lawmakers in the 118th Congress.

The package aims to improve the care veterans receive with extensive changes to the VA, including:

- Requiring the VA to develop a plan to expand same-day scheduling for appointments
- Requiring VA physicians, podiatrists, optometrists and den-

tists to receive an annual pay evaluation

- Requiring the VA to submit annual reports to Congress and the Government Accountability Office on its staffing targets
- Requiring VA to develop a strategic plan to implement "value-based care" focused on quality provider performance and patient experience
- Increasing funding for VA programs that help veterans experiencing homelessness
- Expanding access to home and community-based services at every VA medical center
- Providing community mental health grants to help alleviate certain veterans' caregivers

While the bipartisan bill overwhelmingly passed in the House during the lame-duck session, it is unclear if the Senate plans to consider the legislation in the time remaining in the 118th Congress.

Looking ahead to the 119th Congress

At press time, there were just days

left in the lame-duck session of the 118th Congress. While much is expected to change when the 119th Congress convenes, there will still be a strong voice for veterans in Washington.

The next Congress will include 98 veterans—79 representatives and 19 senators. This includes nine female veterans, the most to serve together in any Congress.

In a Republican-controlled Senate, current Ranking Member Jerry Moran (R-KS) is expected to chair the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Current Chairman Jon Tester (D-MT) lost his reelection bid, and it is unclear who will serve as the Democratic ranking member.

In the House, the leadership of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs is expected to be the same, with Chairman Mike Bost (R-IL) and Ranking Member Mark Takano (D-CA) continuing to serve in the top positions.

Stay tuned to the "Government Affairs" section of nalc.org for any future updates on NALC veteran issues.

Join the NALC Veterans Group

The NALC Veterans Group is designed to provide NALC members—both active and retired letter carriers—who are also military veterans the ability to connect with fellow NALC veterans and stay informed on issues of importance to letter carrier veterans. It is free to join.

Members receive a pin as a symbol of gratitude for your military service and membership in NALC.

If you are interested in joining the group, complete the sign-up card at right and mail it to the address included. A fillable version is also available at nalc.org/veterans.



You continue to serve your country—
THANK YOU!

NALC Veterans Group

Complete this form and mail it to:
NALC Veterans Group, c/o NALC,
100 Indiana Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20001-2144

NAME: _____

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I BELONG TO THE FOLLOWING VETERAN GROUP(S):

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Free
to join