Legislative Committee Affairs Report

ALBUMOAA Board Meeting

08/02/2019

Interim Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting - 07/22/19 at Ruidoso.

Rudy Checkley – Military/Veterans Leadership Council (MVLC) Legislative Team Leader addressed the three major legislative issues for the MVLC

1. Request an update to the 2009 study mandated by Senate Memorial 27 (2008 Session) determine the economic benefit of a personal income tax exemption to retired military personnel. Addressed the 1.6% decline of Military retires in NM and how surrounding states have increased by 12%, Which equated to 123 million dollars in lost revenue for the state. We asked for a bi-partisan bill pre filed and introduced to both the house and the Senate, in the 2020 Legislature to fund an updated economic study by NMSU School of Economics. This study would be used to counter the negative financial Impact Report of the 2018 Legislature. This study would be used to support a Personnel Income Tax Exemption bill in the 2021 Legislature. The following have expressed interest in supporting the bill for the study: Senator Padilla (D), Senator Martinez (D) and Senator Burt (R). Representatives Garcia (D), Black (R) and Garratt (D) also expressed an interest.

2. Join and assist the Department of Veterans Services Task Force on Veterans Transportation in the rural areas. Addressed our willingness to work with the recently formed Veteran’s Transportation Study group at UNM to help develop solutions to veteran’s transportation issues in our rural communities. Senator Martinez is passing our contact information to the Veteran’s Transportation Task Force to see what we might be able to help. The next meeting is scheduled for August 28th.

3. Expanding the Expedited Licensing Program for military members, spouses and dependents moving to NM. Addressed the reciprocity and waiver of fees for state licensing for Active Duty, Spouse and Dependents. Senator Burt advised that the current statute appears to be working for the most part except for Construction Industries Division.

Marvin Schott will be soliciting Chapter support to the NM Legislature in the near future from a list of interested members provide by Karen Brown.

Next MVLC meeting is scheduled for 08/20/19.

Department of Veterans Affairs Commanders Call is scheduled for 08/26 at the NM Veteran’s Memorial. Lt Governor Morales has promised to explain the failure of Senate Bill 330 – Military Retiree Income Tax Deduction