Legislative Liaison Report

for

OCTOBER 2020

**Military/Veterans Leadership Council (MLVC) meeting 09/24/20**

* **Status of State Budget/Special Session (June 2020):**
  + - Situation is not as bad as anticipated. Oil revenues (administration is looking at expanding oil leases) have stabilized but income taxes and GRT are down.
  + - Alan Martinez will provide information on 2021 Budget proposals once they are available (some time after 2 Oct)
* **Legislative Initiatives 2021:**
  + **a. Uniformed Services Retiree Income Tax Deduction:**
    - Funding situation will be very difficult. Possible Democract proponents are Sen George Munoz (Senate), Rep “Rudy” Martinez & Rep Harry Garcia (House).
    - Rudy Checkley will talk to Sen Burt to see what his take is on the current situation and also to set up a meeting with Tax & Rev for 2nd week in Nov.
    - Walter Paul will work with Rep Harper on getting his support (or at least no opposition)
    - Rudy Checkley will get back to Prof Lilywhite at NMSU to determine what additional/new data he needs to do an updated Economic Impact study
    - Mike Cochran will contact Sen White who worked on a bill for Social Security income tax exemption
    - A decision will be made after the 19 Nov MVLC General Meeting.
  + **Veterans Transportation:**
    - Rudy Checkley will contact Rep “Rudy” Martinez to determine the status of this legislative initiative.
    - Alan Martinez will contact the Department of Veterans Services to see what they are doing on this issue.
  + **State Veterans Board:**
    - - Walter to provide Alan with information on Colorado’s State Veterans Board.
* **Zoom Meeting Scheduled for 11/19/2020 for MVLC members**

**MOAA 2020 Council & Chapter Leaders Virtual Workshop – 25/26 September attended by Mike Cochrane and Marvin Schott**

* The Arlington National Cemetery Advisory Council is proposing changes to the eligibility for burial at Arlington. This proposal will affect those who have made end-of-life plans to make difficult decisions such as finding an alternate location for internment with no planned options. The proposed changes are posted on the Federal Register and open for public comment and will close on Nov 16. More information can be obtained at this website: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/news-listing/>
* The proposed National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2020 contains Military Health System (MHS) reforms that include 18,000 billet cuts and some health care facility closings. The House supports a halt to the MHS reforms, but the Senate is silent. If the reforms are passed, retirees and veterans will be forced to obtain their health care from other sources. This will impact the VA and community health care services. Contact your Representative and Senators.
  + There is time because the NDAA will probably not be acted upon until Congress returns after the elections. Keep in mind this will be a lame duck session until after the new Congress is sworn in in January.