

Legislative Liaison Report

For

NOVEMBER 2020

- Sonya Smith has been named the new Department of Veterans Services Secretary.
 - Secretary Smith served as a medical technician in Desert Shield and Desert Storm. She most recently worked at the NM Department of Health as a special projects coordinator, specifically helping guide the agency's COVID-19 testing program.
 - Secretary Smith will have to be confirmed by the NM Senate in the 2021 session.
- Have made contact with the Colorado Council of Chapters Legislative Liaison, Shelly Kalkowski and will be asking for her help in formulating our 2021 legislative initiatives.
 - For her leadership and initiative in advocating for the military community at both the state and national level, she is MOAA's 2020 Recipient of the Colonel Steve Strobridge Legislative Liaison Award.
- Will review the new slate of state legislators and establish contact with the new members.
 - I intend to introduce myself as the NM Council of Chapters Legislative Liaison and present our initiatives for the 2021 session.
 - Unfortunately, Legislative Committee assignments are made in the first days of session.