

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

OF THE UNITED STATES

FOUNDED 1620



Office of

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

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Congress does not have many legislative days this year and there are still several important things they need to do:

VA Access and Accountability Act Please thank them for voting yes on the VA reform bill. It will get Veterans who have been waiting too long for the health care they need from outside doctors if necessary, gives VA funding to hire more staff, and makes it easier to fire executives that are not doing their jobs.

Sequestration -The VFW has been visiting active troops recently. Morale is still suffering because of budget cuts. Troops aren't training, crews aren't flying and ships aren't sailing. This is unacceptable. We are still a nation at war. Congress needs to balance the federal budget responsibly so we can end sequestration. Congress created this mess and only Congress can fix it. Democrats and Republicans will have to work together.

NDDA — When the Senate gets back, they will need to pass FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act. We support the bill that was advanced by the Armed Services Committee because it gives the troops a raise and does not cut benefits. The House has already passed their version. Now the Senate must act.

Change to VFW Charter — Expect to see a bill that will change the VFW charter by changing the words "men" to "veteran," and "widows to "surviving spouses" everywhere they appear. Obviously, this reflects the fact that women are serving in combat and are valuable members of our organization.

Metal Theft Prevention Act - Senator Amy Klobuchar introduced this bill which will make it harder for thieves to sell bronze markers stolen from veterans' memorials to scrap yards.