



LEGISLATIVE CORNER

Department of South Carolina VFW

VFW STATE/NATIONAL VETERANS LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

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Comrades,

There are many issues facing veterans these days and we need to voice our opinions strongly.

One example of this, that has affected us directly, is the fact that we have to pay for our own Service Officer and secretary at the VA Regional Office in Columbia. The State of South Carolina used to take care of most of the expenses, including salary a few years ago. It is time that we start campaigning to have that re-instated. Our votes in South Carolina count.

In the August, 2011 issue of *Greater Columbia Business Monthly*, it states, "South Carolina ranks No. 18 in the number of veterans in the state. ...Of South Carolina's population, 13 percent are veterans." In other words, we have a lot of clout here in South Carolina. The magazine further states, "Veterans are not scarce in this state-South Carolina is home to a sizable veteran population-408,747 according to data from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs."

There are 17 pages here that lists every representative throughout our state. Please take the time and stand up for the rights of veterans.

Loyally,

Lyn Dimery

How to reach your legislators

Writing an e-mail or letter to your legislator is the most effective way to communicate your support, concern or interest in an issue before the General Assembly. As you begin this process, consider the following tips:

- 1) Take a little extra time to **educate yourself** on the topic you wish to address.
- 2) When you write, **identify yourself** and your status as a constituent.
- 3) **Be specific.** Use bill numbers and state your position plainly.
- 4) **Use examples** that illustrate how the issue affects your local area.
- 5) **Be respectful.** Use appropriate greetings as in, "Dear Senator Smith" or "Dear Representative Jones."
- 6) Provide a way for your legislator to respond by including **your mailing address or e-mail address.**
- 7) Even if you disagree with a lawmaker's position, end your correspondence by **thanking them** for their service.