



AUSN Capitol Hill News - 14OCT2011

Agent Orange - Joint Com Debt - Clark Veterans Cemetery

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Capitol Hill News

Join AUSN in the Fight to Reconstitute Navy and Defend Your Earned Benefits

Agent Orange – issue and Legislation:

HR 812/S. 1629 - Agent Orange Equity Act of 2011, HR 2634 Victims of Agent Orange Relief Act of 2011

The current ship list can be found at <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/>. Most Blue Water Navy ships are not yet – included in the list, unless they made certain port calls or actions inland, however, there are several studies and legislation that indicates exposure to off shore ships in the Vietnam War. AUSN is keeping a very close watch on the updated list & this issue; we support S 1629 and HR 2634. You can see how to add to the list the above web page. Log books, records are needed to add to the VA List. – ike.puzon@ausn.org

Joint Committee on Debt Reduction

There is still time for you to personally make your opinion know to this committee. The Joint Committee on Debt must finish their work by 23 NOV. I encourage you and your Friends of the Navy and Shipmates to act on this issue. Nothing is more important at this stage for Active or Reserve, retirees, Veterans and families than to consider letting your Congressional delegation and those in charge at the Pentagon and the White House what you think about the dangerous changes being considered. Some of the proposals being considered can be seen at

http://dbb.defense.gov/pdf/DBB_Military_Retirement_Final_Presentationpdf.pdf. Your opinion does count! Tell

Congress and other leaders – to stop the push to save a dollar on the backs of those that have sacrificed their lives, their families, and paid the price for their earned benefits. <http://deficitreduction.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact>
AUSN firmly opposes short-sighted budget-driven decisions; reduction in retirement system; cutting carrier battle groups and air-wings, or increasing enrollment fees for beneficiaries. Tell us your opinion. – ike.puzon@ausn.org

Meetings on Your Behalf:

Senator Inouye – I had the opportunity to meet with the Senator and his staff on several issues. His perspective is well respected on both sides of Congress. As a Medal of Honor recipient, statesman, and as Chair of the powerful Appropriations Committee – he knows what you the veteran, the active duty, the Reservist, survivor, retiree are.

Senator Pryor – staff: In a meeting with staff of Senator Pryor – we have recommended some possible amendments to the FY 2012 – NDAA; if Congress does get the bill to the floor – we hope to get some of our legislative goals passed.

Veterans Affairs: Veterans Day. A celebratory concert is planned for 10 November, as well as the following; 11 Nov; Arlington Cemetery Ceremony, Laying of Wreath at the Tomb of Unknown, and a reception on behalf of all Veterans on 11 NOV. See next month's magazine for legislation to support.

TMC Award Ceremony: Executive Director & National President – attended TMC Awards Ceremony – where Congressman Tim Walz (D-MN) and his MLA – Brian Kessler – where awarded TMC's highest legislative awards.

TMC General Meeting – as one of 34 associations in this coalition representing over 5.5 million people, AUSN provides major inputs on your legislative priorities, and we are cosigners to several letters to Congress and Testimony for

Committees in Congress – that can be seen at www.ausn.org – and, we are currently writing legislative goals for CY-2012 for many committees of the TMC. Our priorities can be seen at www.ausn.org

TMC Guard and Reserve Committee Meeting; As Co-Chair of this committee – AUSN chairs the meeting, and provides guidance to 15 association on strategy and approach to Congress with our legislative goals. This month, we are focusing on Joint Committee on Deficit Reductions, TFL, HR 1025 & S 491, NDAA passage, & the Clark Veterans Cemetery.

NMVA Meetings: This coalition is 35 associations working for the advancement of Veterans and their families. We focus on Veterans issues. Recently members of the NMVA wrote to the Joint Committee on Deficit Reduction and asked for extreme caution when considering any more cuts to the Defense budget, and you can find us at www.nmva.us.

AUSN Director of Government Affairs – attended the AUSA Conference and Symposium 11-12 OCT, where over 300+ businesses and associations were present. SECDEF Panetta, Sec of the Army, and military leadership all provided their perspective on current deficit reductions – stating that these cuts would hurt our National Security. Military Health Care was a major point of discussion.

Clark Veterans Cemetery – Clark, RP -- Please write Congress in support of making Clark Veterans Cemetery – a USG controlled cemetery again. www.cvcra.org. We are supporters and an Ally of an effort to bring formerly Clark AFB cemetery back under the control of the USG. Clark was closed due partly to Mt. Pinatubo eruption in 1992. There are over 8,500 veterans, most wartime, buried at this cemetery – the cemetery was abandoned. See full details www.cvcra.org. You can use our Contact Congress function to send an email letter.

JOIN AUSN -- www.ausn.org ike.puzon@ausn.org