

# **AVVA GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT**

September 2016

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## **What the committee has been doing:**

Continued working with Congressional representatives, AVVA and /VVA grassroots advocate pushing a floor vote for S.2921, the Veterans First Act. The bill language includes S.901, the Toxic Exposure Research and extends caregivers benefits to Vietnam Veterans of which AVVA supports in their 2016 legislative priorities.

We were hopeful to get S.2921 on the floor of the Senate, prior to the July/August recess, momentum was very high and it seem that the bill would make it to the Senate floor. Senator Ayotte-NH, Iraq, and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) block the floor vote opposing language in the bill regarding housing allowances.

Congress recessed in early July and returned on September 6, however, there was a very short window to get the bill passed. Congress spent time on ensuring no Government shutdown and recessed without considering S.2921. Speaking with Senate Veterans Affairs staffers, prior to September recess, Chairman Isakson is committed to moving the bill in this 2<sup>nd</sup> session of Congress.

AVVA should continue our grassroots efforts ensuring passage of S.2921, until the 114 2<sup>nd</sup> sessions of Congress ends in December.

Represented AVVA at the Educational and Information table during the Democratic National Convention in July.