

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

William Kramer, Chairman

The 2025-2026 Legion year was very busy for the Legislative Committee with many changes on the state and national levels. On the state level, the Assembly was up for election and while the party in power did not change, there were a number of changes at the legislative district level and many changes within the key committees with which we have dealings. The standup of the New Jersey Department of Veterans Affairs as a separate entity from the former Department of Military and Veterans Affairs took place and we will continue to work closely with both the new Department as well as the Department of Military Affairs. Your Legislative Committee continues to advocate to the legislature for veteran-related legislation, but the overall state budget projections for the 2026-2027 budget will make additional spending very difficult to gain approval.

On the national front, we once again had a very successful Washington Conference where many of our committee members and other legionnaires met with our Members of Congress and Senators to discuss The American Legion's legislative priorities for the second session of the 119th Congress. As this year is an election year for the House of Representative as well as the Senate seat currently held by Senator Cory Booker, we will have ample opportunity to ascertain their views on veterans' issues and hopefully work for alignment with The American Legion Department of New Jersey's goals and objectives.

Thank you to John Carey and John Chechelo for serving as Vice Chairs of the committee and I thank Commander Channel for the opportunity to serve.