

Major Achievements of the USAWOA

Often, many uninformed potential USAWOA Members ask the question posed by our National President, in his article on page 3: "What's in it for me to join the USAWOA?" This is a fair question – be prepared to answer it honestly! Aside from all the tremendous work Chapters do in their communities, here are just a **few** of the numerous accomplishments of the USAWOA and our partners in The Military Coalition (TMC), at the national level:

- In the National Defense Authorization Act of 2018 (NDAA 2018), blocked a cut to the lawful military pay raise of 2.4%. Scored huge victories with substantial Veterans legislation, both strengthening the Post-9/11 GI Bill and implementing needed VA accountability measures. Also in NDAA 2018, successfully blocked huge increases in the cost of Tricare services for currently serving and retired service members, major cuts to the basic allowance for housing (BAH), and ensured full funding of the commissary system (all for a third straight year).
- In October 2016, USAWOA contacted senior officials in then presidential candidate Donald J. Trump's organization, to set up a meeting between them and TMC leaders, prior to the November 2016 elections. This was in partnership with TMC partner the National Military Family Association, who similarly coordinated with the Hillary for America organization. This ensured that a productive dialog was established between TMC and both leading presidential candidates – in separate meetings on the same day – prior to the election.
- In the National Defense Authorization Act of 2016 (NDAA 2016), achieved complete repeal of crippling retiree COLA cuts passed in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, which would have cost the average Warrant Officer more than \$100,000 in retirement pay over a lifetime. Also in NDAA 2016, successfully blocked major increases in the cost of Tricare pharmaceuticals, major cuts to the basic allowance for housing (BAH), and ensured full funding of the commissary system.
- Successfully blocked crippling cuts to TRICARE services, commissaries, BAH, and other military service and retiree benefits, in NDAA 2015.
- Passage of the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, providing critical resources to address the crisis facing Veterans in early 2014.
- Inclusion of advance appropriations for all of VA's mandatory benefit payments to Veterans in the Omnibus funding bill for 2015, thereby ensuring that Veterans, family members and survivors will no longer have to worry whether a government shutdown will cut off their disability compensation, pension, DIC, GI Bill or other mandatory benefits.
- Led in the fight to repeal implementation of the retiree COLA cuts passed in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. We achieved a partial victory in delaying this until 2016, within two months of the bill's passage. As noted in the first bullet, this corrosive, ongoing cut in retiree pay was completely repealed in the 2016 NDAA.
- Fought to stop increases in dependent/retiree costs associated with TRICARE, of as much as 100% in NDAA 2014 and of 400% (over five years) in NDAA 2013 (success was achieved in both bills).
- Fought to save Senior Warrant Officer leadership positions in the ARNG, when the ARNG Leadership considered abolishing CCWO positions in 2012 (this was achieved in partnership with Senior Warrant Officer leaders in all three components of the Army, and notable individual support of other TMC partners).
- Increased combined, targeted pay raises by an average of 12% for Warrant Officers in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2007 (see the article on page 14 of this issue).
- Passed the Warrant Officer Management Act, which among other important advancements **established the W-5 paygrade**.
- Achieved Warrant Officer Aviation Incentive Pay, equivalent to that given to traditional officer aviators.
- The commissioning of Chief Warrant Officers. 🇺🇸



Washington, DC – 5 December 1991 – Passage of the Warrant Officer Management Act (WOMA) authorized the W5 paygrade. The USAWOA persuaded Congressman Charles Bennett (D-FL, pictured left with USAWOA Founder CW4 [Ret] Don Hess) to introduce a separate bill in the House of Representatives to help eliminate an Office of Management and Budget roadblock to the bill, and the Senate version was subsequently introduced by Senator John McCain (R-AZ).

Washington, DC – 18 December 2013 – Following an 18 December 2013 Capitol Hill press conference, Executive Director CW4 (Ret) Jack Du Teil thanked Senators Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Lindsey Graham (R-SC, pictured left) and Roger Wicker (R-MS) for their ultimately successful efforts to repeal targeted military retirement COLA-reductions inflicted in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. Senator Graham remarked that he always thought Warrant Officer was the "coolest rank" in the military.

