



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

# WASHINGTON WEEKLY



▶ November 9, 2012

## Veterans Day Weekend in Washington

VFW National Commander John Hamilton is in Washington to commemorate the 237th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps on [Saturday](#). On Sunday, Hamilton will attend a White House breakfast with the President, then join him for national Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. Hamilton will lay a VFW wreath, first at the Tomb of the Unknowns, then again following afternoon ceremonies at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. At midnight [tonight](#), the VFW begins a 96-hour LED display of some 15,000 rotating photos of service members killed in action from WWII through Iraq and Afghanistan. The big screen will be at the intersection of 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue, just across the street from The Wall. This will be the third time the VFW has sponsored the display to ensure those who made the ultimate sacrifice are always remembered.

## Congress Returns Next Week

With the election now over, Members of Congress return next week to a “lame duck” session with many critical items on their agenda. Among them, the impact mandatory sequestration could have on defense and VA programs. The VFW released a [talking paper](#) on the issue. Other important veterans’ bills that await passage include: a comprehensive Veterans Jobs Bill, COLA, enhanced mental healthcare for veterans, GI Bill protections and improved care for women veterans. It is very important that all members and supporters make contact with their legislators in the weeks ahead and voice their concerns regarding sequestration and other issues important to veterans and our active duty serve members. Time is short, and the 112th Congress is quickly coming to a close, which is why we’re asking for Congress to “Finish Strong For Veterans.” We urge

you to contact your members and remind them of their commitment to veterans, our active duty, guard and reserve, and their families. For more information on our specific legislative agenda for the end of the 112th Congress, check out our [“Finish Strong For Veterans” brochure](#). For more information on our talking points, priority goals or any of the bills, [click here](#).

**As always, we want to share your advocacy stories on the VFW Capitol Hill blog. To share your stories, either fill out our [online form](#), or simply email photos and stories directly to [vfwac@vfw.org](mailto:vfwac@vfw.org).**

### **VFW Supports Working Wounded Games**

More than 20 wounded warriors will converge on CrossFit Rubicon in Vienna, Va., this [Saturday, November 10](#) at 8 a.m., for the first-ever Working Wounded Games. Hosted in conjunction with CrossFit Walter Reed and volunteers from other metro area CrossFit affiliates, the Working Wounded Games will allow veterans with combat-related disabilities to compete in an open-style competition that will benefit two new wounded warrior charities. The VFW is proud to serve as an inaugural sponsor of the event, which coincides with the 237th birthday of the Marine Corps and Veterans Day. If you will be in the Washington Metro Area this weekend, stop by the Working Wounded Games to show your support for this one-of-a-kind event. To learn more about the Working Wounded Games and CrossFit in general, [click here](#). To see a video that explains more about CrossFit Walter Reed’s unique mission, [click here](#).

### **VFW Becomes First Commemorative Partner**

The VFW was recognized [this morning](#) as the first veterans’ organization to become a Commemorative Partner of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration. The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans’ organizations and other nongovernmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families. Commemorative Partners are encouraged to participate in the Commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events and activities that will recognize the Vietnam veterans and their families’ service, valor and sacrifice. Individual VFW Departments, Districts and Posts can also become Commemorative Partners. [Log on](#) to their site for more information.

### **Support Overseas Access for Disabled Veterans**

Help us to support access for disabled veterans overseas by contacting your Senators [today](#) and asking them to support the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD). Before the Congressional recess, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed CRPD out of committee. The Senate is set to take the bill up in the "lame duck" session, so now is the time to contact your Senators and ask for their support. Tell them that the veterans’ community supports passage because the bill would help to provide equality, independence and rights for those with disabilities living overseas. To take action now, [click](#)

[here.](#)

## **Veterans Day Freebies and Discounts**

America is saying “Thank You!” to military service members and veterans this weekend with free admissions, meals and discounts. All that’s needed is a valid VA or military ID card, or a DD-214 as proof of eligibility. This includes free admission to such places as the Newseum, the Pro Football Hall of Fame and every National Park, plus discounted admissions at numerous other locations. Check local newspapers for offers in your area, or [click here](#) for a list of offers from nationwide chains.

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