

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – National

Our 24th Annual **Congressional Appreciation Luncheon** honoring Virginia’s 13 member congressional delegation, 28 April, was another success. We had an excellent turn out from our congressional delegation and a total of **130 people** were present. Although Senator Webb could not attend, he was awarded the VCOC Outstanding Legislator Award (received by his aide). Senator Warner did attend and gave a well received talk.



Senator Mark Warner, D-VA
Photo by Steve Barrett, MOAA, at Congressional Luncheon

The luncheon purpose is to not only **thank our congressional legislators** for what Congress has accomplished, but also to **seek their support for our objectives**. The clearest sign of that support is their co-sponsorship of the key bills that support our objectives. We have made some gains in this area, but we still have work to do.

Congressional representatives
are using phrases from our
legislative objectives.

THEY ARE LISTENING!

The best indication of Congress’s support of one of our key objectives is in the area of the long standing effort to **reduce/eliminate the SBP-DIC offset**. For the two bills that support that objective, S535 and HR775, we have **all 13 members of the Virginia Delegation** signed on as co-sponsors. This is a significant accomplishment and, hopefully, is a sign that we may make some real headway on this objective.

On another issue that is extremely important to us, **preventing the erosion of TRICARE benefits**, we have a mixed bag. The Health Care Protection Act, HR816, has six of eleven congressmen signed on as co-sponsors. They are congressmen Forbes, Wittman, Goodlatte, Wolfe, Boucher, and Connolly. “Missing in action” are congressmen Cantor, Scott, Nye, Perriello, and Moran. We need to keep encouraging them to sign on as co-sponsors to this important legislation.

On the **Concurrent Receipt issue**, HR303 or HR333, we have eight Virginia congressmen signed on as co-sponsor. We have three that are “AWOL” on this issue. They are Congressmen Cantor, Scott, and Perriello. Again, we need to encourage them to sign up as co-sponsors for this long standing objective.



I encourage **all chapter legislative reps** to schedule meetings with their congressmen in a couple of months. A good time to do that is **during the August recess** when they will be back in their home districts. In the meantime, keep the e-mails flowing.

/Sam Wilder, COL, USA, Ret, VCOC 1st VP, and Legislative Chair

Sam is pictured at left. Photo by MOAA photographer, Steve Barrett

For more about Congressional Luncheon and National Legislative Priorities, see **National Legislative section of VCOC website: VirginiaMOAA.com**
CHECK OUT SAM’S BLOG ON MOAA WEBSITE