

Report to the COA and COF Boards

Legislative, Executive Branch, and News Media Outreach and Other Activities

1-31 January 2020

3 – Jim sent an email to RADM Susan Orsega, Director of PHS Headquarters, with the following message: “We have been told by many of our members that it would be very helpful if they knew where the PHS has agreements, MOAs, or MOUs with organizations that might afford opportunities to use/improve their clinical skills, pursuant to this memorandum [meaning the one that requires clinical training]. We ask that you consider putting out such information.” The email was acknowledged, but no substantive answer has been received.

6 – Jim sent a letter to the USO asking that it extend privileges to PHS officers. The letter can be found on the COA website at https://cdn.ymaws.com/coausphs.org/resource/resmgr/lettersandnewsmedia/cc/letter_to_uso_january_2020.pdf

-Jim sent a copy of the letter that thirty-one member organizations of The Military Coalition sent to Congressional leaders in support of legislation authorizing a PHS Reserve Corps to PHS leadership. The TMC letter can be found on the COA website at https://cdn.ymaws.com/coausphs.org/resource/resmgr/lettersandnewsmedia/cc/tmc_letter_re_phs_reserve_c.pdf. An article about the letter is in the January-February issue of *Frontline*.

7 – Jim sent a letter to the National Park Service urging it to allow PHS officers to receive the free Military Pass. The letter can be found on the COA website at https://cdn.ymaws.com/coausphs.org/resource/resmgr/lettersandnewsmedia/cc/letter_to_national_park_serv.pdf

8- Jim drafted a letter to Rockville, MD, officials endorsing a second veterans home in Maryland. The effort is being spear-headed by the Maryland Military Coalition, of which COA is a member. Jim’s letter can be found on the COA website at https://cdn.ymaws.com/coausphs.org/resource/resmgr/lettersandnewsmedia/cc/letter_to_rockville_official.pdf

9 – Judy and Jim participated in a regular meeting of The Military Coalition

10 – Jim sent an email to Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) thanking him for joining with Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) in sponsoring legislation that raised the legal tobacco age to twenty-one. The two Senators resisted efforts to carve-out an age exception for members of the military.

-Donna sent a message about a proposed veterans home in Maryland to all Maryland members of COA. She did so at the request of CAPT (Ret.) Lynn Slepski, who represents COA on the Maryland Military Coalition.

13 – John McElligott announced that the FDA has awarded a \$50K grant to support the annual Symposium. The grant is renewable for five years—through 2024.

27 – Jim sent a letter to a Maryland State Senator urging tax exemption for uniformed service retirees. The letter can be found on the COA website at https://cdn.ymaws.com/coausphs.org/resource/resmgr/lettersandnewsmedia/cc/letter_to_maryland_senator_g.pdf

-Donna sent out to all Maryland members a request that they contact members of the Maryland Assembly with regard to the retired pay taxation issue. This message was coordinated through the Maryland Military Coalition.

-Jim sent a letter to the Office of Personnel Management pointing out that USA Jobs has conflated the USPHS and NOAA with the Peace Corps and asking them to correct the mistake. The letter can be found on the COA website at https://cdn.ymaws.com/coausphs.org/resource/resmgr/lettersandnewsmedia/cc/opm_re_usa_jobs_jan_2020.pdf

29 – Teresa and Jim participated in a call with members of the COF Board of Trustees, plus CAPT Munoz and John McElligott, discussing the COF MOA with the Office of the Surgeon General