

Report to the COA and COF Boards

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

1-31 May 2019
(condensed)

1 – Jim met with staff for Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO) to discuss the National Native American Veterans Memorial

-Jim attended the evening Capitol Hill Legislative Awards Reception sponsored by the Association of the US Navy

2- Judy and Jim participated in the regular monthly meeting of The Military Coalition. Judy presented the Healthcare Committee's report to the Coalition.

4-10 – All COA/COF staff participated in the 2019 Symposium in Minneapolis

13 – Jim represented COA at a regular meeting of the Veterans Day National Committee at VA headquarters in downtown Washington, DC

15 – Judy and Jim joined COA Board member CAPT Karen Munoz, who presented the 2018 Congressional Public Health Leadership award to Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)

-Jim sent a letter to VA Secretary Wilkie asking for his help with the Smithsonian and the National Native American Veterans memorial. The letter can be found on the COA website at <http://www.coausphs.org/media/2094/letter-to-va-secretary-wilkie-may-2019.pdf>

-Jim sent an email to Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) outlining the case for making the National Native American Veterans Memorial inclusive of both the PHS and NOAA

16 – Jim sent emails to staff of both the House Natural Resources Committee and the House Veterans Affairs Committee asking them whether they had reached out to the Smithsonian in support of an inclusive National Native American Veterans Memorial

-Jim sent emails to staff for both Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) asking them to have their boss reach out to the Smithsonian about the National Native American Veterans Memorial

-Jim drafted an OpEd about the National Native American Veterans Memorial and sent it to *The Hill* newspaper. It was published in *The Hill* on 18 May and can be found on the COA website at <http://www.coausphs.org/media/2100/currie-article-in-the-hill-may-2019.pdf>

17 – Jim sent a comprehensive records request to the Smithsonian asking for all records that pertain to the National Native American Veterans memorial. The Smithsonian is not subject to

the Freedom of Information Act, but it has records release procedures that its website says closely follow FOIA.

20 – Jim sent a letter to Smithsonian Secretary Skorton enclosing his OpEd from *The Hill*

24 - John led a hot-wash call to discuss goals, outcomes, and lessons learned from the 2019 USPHS Symposium in Minneapolis.

-John led a second hot-wash call with Jim Minor, John DiMaggio, and Tim O'Neill of Leading Edge Conferences to discuss exhibitor outcomes from the USPHS Symposium in Minneapolis and ideas for improving the experience and recruitment strategy for 2020.

30 – Jim had an OpEd published by Military.com pointing out the absurdity of the Smithsonian's position on the National Native American Veterans Memorial. His subsequent letter to the Smithsonian Secretary can be found on the COA website at

<http://www.coausphs.org/media/2108/letter-to-smithsonian-secretary-with-military-dot-com-oped-may-2019.pdf>

31 – Jim did an interview with Voice of America about the National Native American Veterans Memorial

-Teresa and Donna spent much of the month integrating the new database management system into our existing data