

Folks, I am asking that everyone get on board and copy and paste the material below into an email to Assemblywoman Tucker, chair of the Assembly Military and Veterans Affairs committee. Her email address is aswtucker@njleg.org. If you prefer to send a letter her address is 400 Lyons Ave., Newark, NJ 07112. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Please distribute this to all your fellow veterans. Place your name and veteran group affiliation at the bottom of your email.

Chairwoman Tucker,

I am requesting that A208, legislation that grants certain leaves of absence for Vietnam Veterans of America conventions be scheduled for a hearing in the Assembly Military and Veterans Affairs committee at your earliest convenience.

This bill adds the Vietnam Veterans of America to the list of organizations whose duly authorized representatives are entitled to receive a leave of absence with pay to attend State and national conventions under R.S.38:23-2, which applies to persons in the service of the State, a county, or a municipality.

This legislation was initially introduced and referred to the Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee December 8, 2008. It has been reintroduced every session since that time. There is absolutely no reason why Vietnam veterans cannot be provided with the same leave of absence with pay benefits that are provided to members of Grand Army of the Republic, United Spanish-American War Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, Disabled American Veterans' Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Ladies Auxiliaries of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Ladies Auxiliary, Veterans of World War I of the U.S.A., American Gold Star Mothers, Indian War Veterans, American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Ladies Auxiliary, Department of New Jersey, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., Catholic War Veterans of the United States, Ladies Auxiliary of New Jersey State Department, Catholic War Veterans, The 369th Veterans Association, Incorporated, Women's Overseas Service League, American Veterans of World War Two, Korea and Vietnam, and AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, Reserve Officers Association of the United States, Marine Corps League of the United States, Army and Navy Legion of Valor, the Twenty-ninth Division Association, Council of State Employees, War Veteran Public Employees Association, New Jersey Civil Service Association, Blind Veterans Association of New Jersey, Army and Air National Guard Association of New Jersey, The National Guard Association of the United States, The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Navy League, Veterans of World War I of the United States of America, Polish Legion of American Veterans, Polish Legion of American Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary, the Italian American War Veterans of the United States, Incorporated, the Ladies Auxiliary, Italian American War Veterans of the United States, Incorporated, the New Jersey Firemen's Association, the New Jersey State Exempt Firemen's Association and the Tuskegee Airmen, Incorporated.

Members of the Vietnam Veterans of America have patiently waited for over 11 years for this legislation to be passed by our elected officials in New Jersey.