

Local American Legion post provides assistance to veterans amid VA issues

American Legion National Commander Michael D. Helm expressed frustration over testimony Thursday on Capitol Hill that the Veterans Health Administration is facing a \$2.5 billion budget shortfall this fiscal year. At the same time, Helm reiterated the position of the nation's largest veterans service organization, that outsourcing is not a long-term solution.

"Veterans need the Department of Veterans Affairs, and The American Legion expects VA to provide quality health care in a timely manner to those who served our nation in uniform and earned that benefit," Helm said. "This budget shortfall, which can be attributed to higher-than-expected patient demand and increased resources to attempt to meet it, cannot prevent veterans from getting the care they need when they need it, regardless where we are in the budget cycle. VA is going through its biggest adjustment since the troops came home from World War II. As VA, the administration and The American Legion did then, we must all work together to find long-term solutions."

In Your city, American Legion Post 123 Commander John Smith said a post service officer is available to assist local veterans who are struggling to get their benefits from VA.

"We provide free consultations and resources for any veterans - not just American Legion members - so that they can receive the benefits they have earned through service for their nation," Smith said. Interested veterans may call the post at 123-456-7890 or stop by 123 Main St. to learn more.

For more information, please visit www.legion.org and www.yourpostwebsite.org.

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