

NOVEMBER 2022



## NGAWV Announces New Scholarship Program for Members, Families

By Holli Nelson

The National Guard Association of West Virginia, the professional organization of the West Virginia National Guard and its members, has voted to establish educational scholarships for eligible members and their families, beginning in 2023.

One \$1,000 and two \$500 scholarships will be available for any active, retired lifetime or lifetime member or the spouse, child or grandchild of an active, retired lifetime or lifetime member of the NGAWV.

“One of the benefits of membership in the National Guard Association of West Virginia is our ability to support our members and their families,” stated Holli Nelson, president of the NGAWV. “We are very excited to be able to give back in a small way to our National Guard. We know that developing these scholarships will have a lasting effect for many generations of NGAWV members and their families and assist with enhancing educational opportunities for West Virginians, which is one of our core missions.”

Applicants for these scholarships will need to meet basic criteria to include attending or planning to attend an accredited institution of higher learning or technical, vocation or trade school, attending full time in either high school or college/trade school, and have a minimum of 2.75 GPA.

The graphic is a promotional poster for the NGAWV Scholarship Program. It features a blue header with the NGAWV logo and the text 'SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM'. Below this is a photograph of a soldier in camouflage uniform saluting. The bottom section is white with blue and yellow accents, containing the text 'ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS THROUGH 30 MAY 2023' and 'FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT & APPLICATION: NGAWV.ORG/SCHOLARSHIP'. On the left side, it lists 'TWO \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS ONE \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP' and provides eligibility criteria: 'Available for any active, retired lifetime or lifetime member or the spouse, child or grandchild of an active, retired lifetime or lifetime member of the NGAWV'.

All requirements for the application process are available online at [www.ngawv.org/scholarship](http://www.ngawv.org/scholarship).

The deadline to apply is May 30, 2023.

## Newsletter Highlights

NGAWV Scholarship Program Announced

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## NGAWV Executive Committee

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# Capitol Summit Recap: Mitch Gaylor

2nd Lt. Mitch Gaylor of the 167th Airlift Wing recently attended the NGAUS Capitol Summit in Washington, D.C., Oct. 2-4, 2022.

During the event he heard from various senior leaders of the Guard and NGUAS. On the first day, (Ret) Major General Don Dunbar spoke about the formation of the National Guard, major historical benchmarks, and changes for the Guard throughout American history. Additionally, he read the “The Second Coming” by William Butler Yeats, and urged the attending CGOs to go back to their units and start CGO committees if they do not already exist, these committees can collaborate on issues we see, later these posed resolutions can ascend to the state and national level.

MG April Vogel from NGB Office of Legislative Liaison (LL) explained her organization, how the LL staff communicates and works with Congressional staff and their members to achieve NGB goals. Furthermore, she discussed “Legislative Proposals” and “Congressional Objectives”, the two mechanisms NGB LL uses to persuade congress to implement their objectives into law. Legislative proposals and congressional objectives are issues/resolutions gathered from each state’s resolutions committee.

Lt. Gen. Michael Loh, Director of the Air National Guard spoke about the major objectives of the ANG. As expected, a major topic was China and Russia. General Loh stated our goal is to be ready to defeat Chinese and Russian aggression; deter strategic attacks against the US, allies, and US Partners; defend the homeland; build a resilient joint force; operationalize the NDS.

On the topic of reinvigorating the Air Force with Agile Combat Employment (ACE), Air Force Generation (AFFORGEN), and other constructs, Lt. Gen. Loh reiterated some of the comments he and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force made during the 144th NGAUS General Conference. General Loh and the CSAF stated “proceed until apprehended”. Lt. Gen. Loh stated “throw the training guide in the trash”. I interpreted their points to be that we need to challenge the status quo and the old way we have done things. He also detailed we should focus on what we can do and be ready for in 30 days and that we need to tell the American people why China matters as an adversary.

LTG Jon Jensen, the Director of the Army National Guard, spoke about how he does not believe in the statement “do more with less”, then summarized the origins of the statement. General Jensen discussed future warfare being “tailored mobilizations”, China, and a great deal about what the U.S. is doing to support Ukraine. In discussing the Russian attacks on Ukraine, he restated a comment from one of his recent meetings, “This is a long way from being over, and long way from being less dangerous. Lastly, LTG Jensen deliberated on being a leader, a quote I wrote down was “there are some people who study leadership, and there are some people that practice leadership”.

Later, NGAUS staff provided the CGO members in attendance talking points and tips to speak with congressional staff members. The two main talking points were HR3512 “Zero-Cost Tricare” for Guardsmen, and concurrent and proportional fielding of equipment for ANG/NG. I was asked to lead the discussions with the WV senator’s congressional staff as I was the WV constituent. We went to the senate offices and spoke with Senator Manchin’s staff for roughly 30 minutes on the two talking points and the benefits they would have for West Virginia and other states. Highlighting that the zero-cost Tricare would improve recruiting, retention, and readiness.

Overall, the NGAUS Capitol Summit was an excellent experience. I would highly recommend any CGO to take advantage of attending this event. I learned the many complexities and processes of getting fiscal law enacted to fund our services, as well as networked with many great CGOs, NGAUS members, and congressional staffers.



# NGAWV Legislative Update

More than two months after the House finished working on its version of the fiscal 2023 National Defense Authorization Act, the Senate has begun crafting its edition of the annual defense policy bill.

In mid-October, the Senate briefly addressed the measure advanced by the Senate Armed Services Committee in July before recessing until November.

Considered must-pass legislation, the Senate isn't scheduled to hold its first votes on NDAA amendments until after the midterm elections.

For now, congressional and committee staff will negotiate which of more than 900 proposed amendments will reach considerations for the final bill.

The Senate NDAA currently authorizes \$817 billion for the Defense Department — \$45 billion more than requested by the Biden administration — and \$29 billion for the Energy Department's military programs. The measure also includes a 4.6% pay raise for service members.

## West Virginia Congressional Delegation visits multiple WVNG facilities



Members of the West Virginia Congressional Delegation visited the Mountaineer Challenge Academy - South and 130th Airlift Wing over the last week during separate visits to West Virginia National Guard facilities.

Congresswoman Carol Miller toured the Mountaineer Challenge Academy – South Friday, Oct. 21, 2022, alongside Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Bill Crane. Miller witnessed a transition period for the cadets of Class 2022-2, who were taking part in their platoon Olympic, where they gain leadership and teamwork skills through drills, sports, and physical aptitude competitions. The congresswoman also provided remarks during their award ceremony and presented each cadet with a Congressional certificate.

“The Mountaineer Challenge Academy is a fantastic opportunity for West Virginia teenagers to invest in their futures,” said Congresswoman Miller. “I applaud these young men and women for committing to work hard, study, and serve alongside their fellow cadets. It was great to watch the Platoon Olympics and celebrate this class’s achievements. I salute each cadet for their courage, bravery, and dedication to their futures and to West Virginia.”

On Monday, Oct. 24, Senator Shelley Moore Capito toured the 130th Airlift Wing alongside Crane, and Yeager International Airport director, Dominique Ranieri. During her visit the Senator was briefed on the wing’s conversion progress from C-130H model aircraft to C-130J-30 aircraft, which has been ongoing for more than a year.

“On missions both domestic and abroad, we rely greatly on our brave national guard members here in West Virginia. I enjoyed the chance to visit McLaughlin Air National Guard Base again and see their new C-130J Aircraft up close. I have been a steadfast supporter of the Guard during their C-130J Recapitalization and Basing Program, and will continue to advocate for the resources they need to continuing flying missions,” Senator Capito said.

In addition, Sen. Capito toured the Engine Rebuild Repair Facility, where specialized mechanics rebuild C-130H engines for the Department of Defense, which saves approximately \$500,000 per engine. Lastly, she toured the new C-130J and received briefings on its operational capability, the aeromedical evacuation mission of the 167th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, and saw the differences of the new aircraft first hand in the cockpit as aviators explained the upgraded systems and displays.

Prior to departing, the Senator took time to speak with Airmen of the wing to thank them for their service to West Virginia and the nation.



# Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

11

VETERANS DAY

DECEMBER

5-6

LEGISLATIVE INTERMS  
CHARLESTON, WV

18-20

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