

LOBBYING REPORT

Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (Section 5) - **All Filers Are Required To Complete This Page**

1. Registrant Name:

AMERICAN LEGION

2. Address:

700 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

3. Principal place of business (if different from line 2):

City: 1608 K Street, NW State/Zip(or Country): DC 20006

4. Contact Name: JOHN F. SOMMER

Telephone: 2028612700

E-mail (optional): jsommer@legion.org

Senate ID #: 2775-12

House ID #:

7. Client Name: ☒ Self

TYPE OF REPORT

8. Year 2007 Midyear (January 1 - June 30): ☒ **OR** Year End (July 1 - December 31): ☐

9. Check if this filing amends a previously filed version of this report: ☐

10. Check if this is a Termination Report: ☐ => Termination Date: 11. No Lobbying Activity: ☐

INCOME OR EXPENSES

Complete Either Line 12 **OR** Line 13

12. Lobbying Firms

INCOME relating to lobbying activities for this reporting period was:

Less than \$10,000: ☐

\$10,000 or more: ☐ => Income (nearest \$20,000): _____

Provide a good faith estimate, rounded to the nearest \$20,000, of all lobbying related income from the client (including all payments to the registrant by any other entity for lobbying activities on behalf of the client).

13. Organizations

EXPENSES relating to lobbying activities for this reporting period were:

Less than \$10,000: ☐

\$10,000 or more: ☒ => Expenses (nearest \$20,000): 100,000.00

14. Reporting Method.

Check box to indicate expense accounting method. See instructions for description of options.

- ☒ **Method A.** Reporting amounts using LDA definitions only
☐ **Method B.** Reporting amounts under section 6033(b)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code
☐ **Method C.** Reporting amounts under section 162(e) of the Internal Revenue Code

Registrant Name: AMERICAN LEGION Client Name: Self

LOBBYING ACTIVITY.

Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code: CON (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues:

HR 725; S 415--Veterans' Memorials, Boy Scouts, Public Seals and Other Expressions of Religion Protection Act of 2007--To amend the Revised Statutes of the United States to eliminate the chilling effect on the constitutionally protected expression of religion by State and Local officials that results from the threat that potential litigants may seek damages and attorney's fees. HJ Res 12--A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the US authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.--Protection of the American flag from physical desecration.

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SENATE

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area:

Name: ROBERTSON, STEVE

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: SEAVEY, MARK

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: SOMMER, JOHN F. JR

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: SPANOGLE, ROBERT W.

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: WHEELER, DANIEL

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above. **None**

LOBBYING ACTIVITY

Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code: DEF (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues:

HR 303--Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2007--To amend title 10, USC, to permit certain additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay be reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation and to eliminate the phase-in period under current law with respect to such concurrent receipt. HR 333--Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act--To amend title 10, USC, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to eliminate the phase-in period for concurrent receipt, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt and combat-related special compensation to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service. S 439--Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2007--A bill to amend title 10, USC, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay be reason of their years of military service of Combat-Related Special Compensation. HR 2206; PL 110-28--U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007--Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 emergency supplemental spending bill to fund Department of Defense (DOD) programs to fight the global war on terrorism. HR 2638; S 1644--Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008--Making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for (FY) 2008. Includes federal grants to first responders. HR 1585; S 1547--National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008--Sets spending amounts and policy issues DoD for fiscal Year (FY) 2008, including: National missile defense system, Quality of life features in the armed forces, Support military commissaries, Support readiness of U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, Support the war on terrorism, Support modernization of U.S. Army, Support transformation of the armed forces. HR 1585--National Defense Authorization Act--Defense funding including quality of life personnel issues. FY 2008 Defense Appropriations Bill--National security funding including quality of life and personnel issues.

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted:

Defense, Dept of (DOD)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Homeland Security, Dept of (DHS)

SENATE

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area:

Name: ROBERTSON, STEVE

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: SCHLEE, G. MICHAEL

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: SEAVEY, MARK

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: SOMMER, JOHN F. JR

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above: **None**

LOBBYING ACTIVITY

Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code: EDU (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues:

HR 112--G.I. Advanced Education in Science and Technology Act--Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay a monthly stipend to each individual who is entitled to veterans' basic educational assistance and is pursuing full-time a doctoral degree in the sciences of engineering, mathematics, other technology disciplines. Allows such payment in addition to any other authorized Montgomery GI Bill educational assistance. Make such payment \$1,200 a month (adjusted for inflation for fiscal years after 2005) for up to 60 months. HR 1102--Total Force Educational Assistance Enhancement and Integration Act of 2007--To amend title 38, USC, to recodify as part of that title certain educational assistance programs for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, to improve such programs. HR 1824--To amend title 38, USC, to expand the scope of programs of education for which accelerated payments of educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill may be used--Permits accelerated payments of educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill to an individual enrolled in an approved program of education that leads to employment as an operator of a commercial motor vehicle. Excludes benefits payable under the Montgomery GI Bill from consideration as income for purposes of determining eligibility for education grants or loans under any other provision of Federal law. S 526--Veterans Employment and Training Act of 2007--A bill to amend title 38, USC, to expand the scope of programs of education for which accelerated payments of educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill may be used. S 644--Total Force Educational Assistance Enhancement and Integration Act of 2007--To amend title 38, USC, to recodify as part of that title certain educational assistance programs. S 723--Montgomery GI Bill Enhancement Act of 2007--A bill to provide certain enhancement to the Montgomery GI Bill Program for certain individuals who serve as members of the Armed Forces after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. S 1261--Montgomery GI Bill for Life Act of 2007--Provides that, if an individual eligible for educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill is enrolled in an educational institution and the period of such individual's entitlement (ten years after discharge or release from active duty) would expire during a quarter or semester of enrollment, that period shall be extended to the end of that quarter or semester. Allows such an extension until the earlier of the end of the course or 12 weeks, in the case of an educational institution not regularly operated on a quarter or semester basis. Repeals the: (1) 14-year (after first becoming entitled) limit on the use of educational assistance by members of the Selected Reserve; and (2) ten year limit on the use educational assistance by members of the Ready Reserve who are separated due to disability after supporting contingency and certain other operations. The Montgomery GI Bill for life aims to repeal all time limits to use the MGIB. S 1409--21st Century GI Bill of Rights Act of 2007--A bill to provide and enhance education, housing, and entrepreneur assistance for veterans who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001. S 1719--A bill to amend title 38, USC, to provide additional educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill to veterans pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, or math--A bill to amend title 38, USC, to provide additional educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill to veterans pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, or math. HR 1102; S 644--Total Force GI Bill--Creation of a Total Force GI Bill. Allow veterans eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill to use the benefits for longer periods of time, enhance the benefits for reserve and national guard members. To amend title 38, USC, to expand the scope of programs of education for which accelerated payments of educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill may be used. Encourage sponsorship of Total Force GI Bill. State Approving Agencies Funding--FY 08 Funding for State Approving Agencies--Maintains the current level of funding for State Approving Agencies to approve courses for eligibility for MGIB payments. S 1215--Numerous Bills--To amend title 38, USC, to extend and improve certain authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Accelerated Payments, modification to create an unemployment study on Global War on Terrorism era veterans. S 22--Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2007--Creation of education benefit for service members who serve at least 2 aggregate years on Active Duty. Veterans' Education and Vocational Benefits--Draft Legislation "Veterans' Education and Vocational Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007--Expansion of eligible MGIB programs for accelerated payments program and expansion of vocational benefits to dependents. HR 1750; HR 1824; HR 1598; HR 1315; HR 513; HR 2259; HR 1632; HR 112; HR 2579--Credit, Education and Transition--Protective credit measures, accelerated education payments, transition assistance program, reemployment reports, stipends for education courses leading to doctoral degrees, and State Approving Agency funding.

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted:
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SENATE

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area:

Name: GAYTAN, PETER
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A
Name: ROBERTSON, STEVE
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A
Name: SEAVEY, MARK
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A
Name: SHARPE, JOSEPH
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Registrant Name: AMERICAN LEGION Client Name: Self

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above. **None**

Registrant Name: AMERICAN LEGION Client Name: Self

LOBBYING ACTIVITY.

Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code: FOR (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues:

HR 2764--Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008--Funding for foreign aid programs, FY 2008. H. RES 506--Vietnam Human Right--Condemning the Government of Vietnam for Human Rights Violation. H. RES 243--Vietnam Human Right--Condemning the Government of Vietnam for Human Rights Violation.

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted:
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State, Dept of (DOS)

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area:

Name: FELSECKER, RAY
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A
Name: ROBERTSON, STEVE
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A
Name: SCHLEE, G. MICHAEL
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A
Name: SEAVEY, MARK
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A
Name: SOMMER, JOHN F. JR
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above. **None**

LOBBYING ACTIVITY

Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code: HOU (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues:

HR 675--Disabled Veterans Adaptive Housing Improvement Act--Increases from: (1) \$50,000 to \$60,000 the maximum amount authorized to be provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to certain disabled veterans for the construction of specially adapted housing; and (2) \$10,000 to \$12,000 the maximum amount authorized for specially adapted features in a home. Requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to annually increase such amounts to reflect increases in the cost of residential home construction. HR 1315--To amend title 38, USC, to provide specially adaptive housing assistance to certain disabled members of the Armed Forces residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member--Authorizes the VA Secretary to provide specially adaptive housing assistance for disabled members of the Armed Forces residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member if such military member suffers from a disability which is permanent and total in nature and is the result of an injury incurred or disease contracted or aggravated in the line of duty in active military service. HR 1750--To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to extend from 90 days to one year the period after release of a member of the Armed Forces from active duty during which the member is protected from mortgage foreclosure under that Act--Amends the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act of 1940 to extend from 90 days to one year the period following release from active duty during which a member of the Armed Forces shall be protected from mortgage foreclosure. HR 2378--Services to Prevent Veterans Homelessness Act--To amend title 38, USC, to establish a financial assistance program to facilitate the provision of supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing. Establish a financial assistance program to facilitate supportive service for very low-income veterans families to assist them in ending their chronic homeless state and to prevent chronic homelessness. HR 2699--Homeless Veterans Service Centers, Homeless Veterans Program--Per diem payments to homeless veterans service centers; homeless veterans programs. HR 1750; HR 1824; HR 1598; HR 1315; HR 513; HR 2259; HR 1632; HR 112; HR 2579--Credit, Education and Transition--Protective credit measures, accelerated education payments, transition assistance program, reemployment reports, stipends for education courses leading to doctoral degrees, and State Approving Agency funding. S 1326--Comprehensive Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2007--Full eligibility for VA Home loan guaranty program for Selected Reserve forces; no increase in and return of funding fees for home loan funding to the levels agreed before the 108th Congress HR 551--Home Ownership for America's Veterans Act of 2007 (LETTER)--Help hundreds of thousands of veterans to become eligible to purchase homes. S 1096--Veterans' Housing Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007--Authorizes the VA Secretary, in the case of a member of the Armed Forces determined to have a total disability permanent in nature which was incurred or aggravated in the line of active duty, to furnish home improvements and structural alterations for the member for the disability while the member is hospitalized or receiving outpatient care, medical services, or treatment, if the Secretary determines that the member is likely to be discharged or released from the Armed Forces for such disability.. Authorizes the provision of specially adapted housing assistance for: (1) disabled veterans whose disability is due to a severe burn injury; and (2) disabled members residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member. Makes veterans and members with a severe burn disability eligible for automobile and automotive adaptive equipment assistance.

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SENATE

Veterans Affairs, Dept of (VA)

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area:

Name: GAYTAN, PETER

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: ROBERTSON, STEVE

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: SHARPE, JOSEPH

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: SOMMER, JOHN F. JR

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above. **None**

Registrant Name: AMERICAN LEGION Client Name: Self

LOBBYING ACTIVITY.

Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code: IMM (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues:

Border Protection, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Federal grants to first responders. S 1639--Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act of 2007--A bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes. HR 2638; S 1644--Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008--Making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for FY 2008. Includes: U.S. Coast Guard, Transportation Security Administration, Bureau of Customs and

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SENATE

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area:

Name: ROBERTSON, STEVE

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: SCHLEE, G. MICHAEL

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: SEAVEY, MARK

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above. **None**

Registrant Name: AMERICAN LEGION Client Name: Self

LOBBYING ACTIVITY.

Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code: LAW (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues:

HR ____; S 1745--Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008--Funding for Department of Justice programs including: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATF), U.S. Marshals, and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. HR 2638; S 1644--Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act 2008--Appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for FY 2007. Includes: federal grants to first responders.

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SENATE

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area:

Name: ROBERTSON, STEVE

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: SCHLEE, G. MICHAEL

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: SEAVEY, MARK

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above. **None**

LOBBYING ACTIVITY.

Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code: LBR (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues:

HR 1632--Improving Veterans' Reemployment Act of 2007--Requires the Secretary of Labor to include, in a currently-required annual report to Congress concerning the enforcement of veterans' reemployment rights: (1) the number of cases reviewed by the Secretary of Defense under the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve of the Department of Defense, and (2) the number of cases which are disability-related. Directs the Secretary to: (1) ensure that the information required to be submitted is categorized in a uniform way, and (2) also submit all reported information to the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs, the Attorney General, and the Office of Special Counsel. HR 2259--To ensure that members of the National Guard and Reserves are able to fully participate in the benefits delivery at discharge program administered jointly by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide information and assistance on available benefits and other transition assistance to members of the Armed Forces who are separating from the Armed Forces.--To ensure that members of the National Guard and Reserves are able to fully participate in the benefits delivery at discharge program administered jointly by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide information and assistance on available benefits and other transition assistance to members of the Armed Forces who are separating from the Armed Forces. HR 3043; S 1710--Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008--FY 2007 funding for the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training (ASVET). S 1215--To amend title 38, USC, to extend and improve certain authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes--Sets \$19 million as the maximum amount (currently a progressively increasing amount) per fiscal year for reimbursement to states and local agencies administering veterans' education benefits.; Extends through FY 2007 a pilot program of on-job-training for veterans' claims adjudicators.; Authorizes the VA Secretary to waive, for public interest purposes on a case-by-case basis, the residency requirement for a Director for Veterans' Employment and Training.; Includes veterans of the Global War on Terror within an ongoing veterans' unemployment study.; Amends the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 to extend through 2009 an increase in benefits for veterans pursuing apprenticeships or on-job-training. DOL-VETS Appropriations--FY 2008 DOL-VETS Appropriations--The American Legion recommends \$352,000,000 to DOL-VETS for FY 2008. H. CON. RES 5--Hire A Veteran Week (LETTER)--Recognize the importance of assisting in the transition process of the men and women who have served or who currently serve in the Armed Forces of the United States. HR 1750; HR 1824; HR 1598; HR 1315; HR 513; HR 2259; HR 1632; HR 112; HR2579--Credit, education and transition--Protective credit measures, accelerated education payments, transition assistance program, reemployment reports, stipends for education courses leading to doctoral degrees, and State Approving Agency funding.

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted:
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SENATE

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area:

Name: GAYTAN, PETER
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A
Name: ROBERTSON, STEVE
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A
Name: SHARPE, JOSEPH
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above. **None**

Registrant Name: AMERICAN LEGION Client Name: Self

LOBBYING ACTIVITY.

Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code: SMB (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues:

The Veterans Corporation--Veterans Corporation Reauthorization Act of 2007--Amend the Small Business Act, to reform and reauthorize the National Veterans Business Development Corporation. SMALL BUSINESS--The Veterans Small Business Opportunity Act of 2007--Provide additional relief for small business owners ordered to active duty as members of reserve components of the Armed Forces. S 904--The Veterans Small Business Opportunity Act of 2007 (LETTER)--Expanding the Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan maximum.

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted:

SENATE

Small Business Administration (SBA)

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area:

Name: GAYTAN, PETER

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: ROBERTSON, STEVE

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

Name: SHARPE, JOSEPH

Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above. **None**

LOBBYING ACTIVITY

Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Attach additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code: VET (one per page)

16. Specific lobbying issues:

S 1163-Blinded Veterans Paired Organ Act of 2007--A bill to amend title 38, USC, to improve compensation and specially adapted housing for veterans in certain cases of impairment of vision involving both eyes, and to provide for the use of the National Directory of New Hires for income verification purposes. S 1205--To require a pilot program on assisting veterans service organizations and other veterans groups in developing and promoting peer support programs that facilitate community reintegration of veterans returning from active duty, and for other purposes--Directs the VA Secretary to carry out a three-year pilot program on the feasibility and advisability of delivering community reintegration support and service to veterans by assisting veterans organizations in developing and promoting veterans peer support. Designates the pilot program as the "Heroes Helping Heroes Program". Requires the Secretary to select up to 20 program participants, and to award grants to such participants in amounts from \$100,000 to \$300,000 per fiscal year. Requires grant recipients to contribute at least 10% of the grant funds awarded. S 1233-Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation Act of 2007--A bill to provide and enhance intervention, rehabilitative treatment, and services to veterans with traumatic brain injury. S 1265--To amend title 38, USC, to expand eligibility for veterans' mortgage life insurance to include members of the Armed Forces receiving specially adapted housing assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs--Makes eligible for veterans' mortgage life insurance members of the Armed Forces receiving specially adapted housing assistance through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). S 1266--Veterans Dignified Burial Assistance Act of 2007--Increases from \$300 to \$400 the burial plot allowance paid for veterans interred in cemeteries other than national cemeteries. Waives the requirement that, for a state to receive such allowance for the reimbursement of burial costs, it must file for such within two years after the burial or cremation of the veterans.; Authorizes the use of up to \$5 million per year under the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) state cemetery grant program for operating and maintaining state cemeteries. S1289-Veterans Justice Assurance Act of 2007--A bill to amend title 38, USC, to modify the salary and terms of judges of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, to modify authorities for the recall of retired judges of such court and for other purposes. HR 728-Veterans Reassignment Protection (LETTER)--This legislation will help to enforce the application of veteran's preference protections to postal and federal employees in the course of downsizing and other reorganization efforts. HR 760-Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007--To amend title 38, USC, to deem certain service in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippines Scouts to have been active service for purposes of benefits under program administered by the VA Secretary. HR 92-Veterans Timely Access to Health Care Act--To amend title 38, USC, to establish standards of access to care for veterans seeking health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs. HR 156--To amend title 38, USC, to provide for the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation to the survivors of former prisoners of war who died on or before September 30, 1999, under the same eligibility conditions as apply to payment of dependency and indemnity compensation to the survivors of former prisoners of war who died after that date--Amends veterans' benefit provisions to provide for the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation to the survivors of veterans rated totally disabled at the time of death who were former prisoners of war (currently, to the survivors of such veterans who died after September 30, 1999). HR 315--Help Establish Access to Local Timely Health Care for your Vets (HEALTHY Vets) Act of 2007--To amend title 38, USC, to require the VA Secretary to enter into contracts with community health care for veterans in highly rural areas. HR 339-Veterans Outpatient Care Act of 2007--To amend title 38, USC, to improve access to medical services for veterans seeking treatment at Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinics with exceptionally long waiting periods. HR 463-Honor our Commitment to Veterans Act--To amend title 38, USC, to terminate the administrative freeze on the enrollment into the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs of veterans in the lowest priority category for enrollment (referred to as "Priority 8"). HR 513-National Heroes Credit Protection Act--Amends the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, to require any consumer credit information entity that receives from creditor a negative report of nonpayment or late payment with respect to the account of a person in military service to enter a notation that the account is delinquent or paid slowly due to military service. Requires any future potential creditor that receives a credit report that includes such a notation to disregard any negative information so noted. HR 542--To require the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide mental health services in languages other than English, as needed, for veterans with limited English proficiency, and for other purposes--To require the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide mental health services in language other than English, as needed, for veterans with limited English proficiency, and for other purposes. HR 585--To amend title 38, USC, to expand the number of individuals qualifying for retroactive benefits from traumatic injury protection coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance--Amends the Veterans' Housing Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act of 2006 to remove the requirement that, in order to qualify for retroactive benefits from traumatic injury protection coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program during the period beginning on October 7, 2001, and ending on November 30, 2005, the Secretary of the military department concerned must determine that the loss was a direct result of a traumatic injury incurred in the theater of operations for Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom (thus including traumatic injury incurred while performing other types of military service during such period under such coverage) HR 704--To amend title 38, USC, to reduce from age 57 to age 55 the age after which the remarriage of the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran shall not result in termination of dependency and indemnity compensation otherwise payable to that surviving spouse--Reduces from age 57 to age 55 the age after which the remarriage of the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran shall not result in termination of dependency and indemnity compensation otherwise payable to that surviving spouse. Prohibits payment of retroactive benefits. Permits eligibility for such benefits by an individual who but for having remarried would be eligible for such benefits by reason such age reduction and whose remarriage was before the date of the enactment of this Act and after the individual had attained age 57 only if the individual submits an application for such benefits within one year of enactment. HR 1240--To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a scholarship program for students seeking a degree or certificate in the areas of visual

impairment and orientation and mobility--Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and carry out a scholarship program of financial assistance for individuals who: (1) are accepted for, or currently enrolled in, a program of study leading to a degree or certificate in visual impairment or orientation and mobility, or both; and (2) enter into an agreement to serve, after program completion, as a full-time Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employee for three years within the first six years after program completion. Set maximum assistance amounts of \$15,000 per academic year and \$45,000 total. Requires pro rate repayment for failure to satisfy education or service requirements, while allowing the Secretary to waive or suspend such repayment whenever noncompliance is due to circumstances beyond the control of the participant, or when waiver or suspension is in the best interests of the United States. HR 1370--Disabled Veterans Sports and Special Events Promotion Act of 2007--Establishes in the Department of Veterans Affairs and Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events, headed by a Director, to establish, carry out, and promote programs for the participation of disabled veterans in approved sporting and other events. Authorizes the Director to provide a monthly assistance allowance to service-connected disabled veterans participating in an event Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the USOC to provide support and reimbursement for USOC expenditures for the military paralympic program. HR 1426--Richard Helm Veterans' Access to Local Health Care Options and Resources Act--To amend title 38, USC, to provide veterans enrolled in the health system of the Department of Veterans Affairs the option of receiving covered health services through facilities other than those of the Department. HR 1470--Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act--To amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers. HR 1471--Better Access to Chiropractors to Keep Our Veterans Health Act--To amend title 38, USC, to permit eligible veterans to receive direct access to chiropractic care. HR 1527--Rural Veterans Access to Care Act--To amend title 38, USC, to allow highly rural veterans enrolled in the health system of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive covered health services through providers other than those of the Department. HR 1853--Jose Medina Veterans Affairs Police Training Act of 2007--To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that Department of Veterans Affairs police officers receive training to interact with visitors and patients at Department medical facilities who are suffering from mental illness. HR 1598--Servicemembers Credit Protection Act--To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to protect the credit of servicemembers deployed to an overseas combat zone and to facilitate awareness of a servicemember's rights under such Act, and for other purposes. HR 1944--Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Act of 2007--To amend title 38, USC, to direct the VA Secretary to screen certain veterans for symptoms of traumatic brain injury. HR 2005--Rural Veterans Health Care Improvement Act of 2007--Authorizes the VA Secretary to pay travel expenses for veterans receiving treatment at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities at the rate provided to federal employees in connection with the performances of official duties.; Directs the Secretary to: (1) establish and operate at least one and up to five centers of excellence for rural health research, education, and clinical activities; (2) establish a grant program to provide innovative transportation options to veterans in remote rural areas; (3) carry out demonstration projects to examine alternatives for expanding care for veterans in rural areas; and (4) report annually to Congress on matters related to VA care for veterans residing in rural areas. HR 22172--Amputee Veteran Assistance Act--To amend title 38, USC, to require that all Department of Veterans Affairs Orthotics-prosthetic laboratories, clinics, and prosthetists are certified by either the American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics or the Board of Orthotics and Prosthetic Certification. HR 2173--To amend title 38, USC, to authorize additional funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase the capacity for provision of mental health services through contracts with community mental health centers--Authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to contract with a qualified community mental health center for the provision of veterans' mental health services. HR 2192--To amend title 38, USC, to establish an Ombudsman within the Department of Veterans Affairs--To amend title 38, USC, to establish an Ombudsman with the Department of Veterans Affairs. HR 2579--To amend title 38, USC, to authorize the use of funds in the Department of Veterans Affairs readjustment benefits accounts and funds appropriated for such purpose to provide funding for State approving agencies--To amend title 38, USC, to authorize the use of funds in the Department of Veterans Affairs readjustment benefits accounts and funds appropriated for such purpose to provide funding for State approving agencies HR 2623--To amend title 38, USC, to prohibit the collection of copayments for all hospice care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs--To amend title 38, USC, to prohibit the collection of copayments for all hospice care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs. HR 1284; S 423--Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2007--Increase the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. HR 652; S 617--Veterans Eagle Parks Pass Act--To make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available at a discount to certain veterans. HR 1448; S 692--VA Hospital Quality Report Card Act of 2007--Directs the VA Secretary to establish and implement a Hospital Quality Report Card Initiative to report on health care quality in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals. Requires the Secretary, at least semiannually, to publish reports on VA hospital quality, including assessments of effectiveness, safety, timeliness, and efficiency. HR 2642; S 1645--Military Construction, Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2008--Making appropriations for the military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for FY 2008. S 117--Lane Evans Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act--A bill to amend titles 10 and 38, USC, to improve benefits and services for members of the Armed Forces, veterans of the Global War on Terrorism, and other veterans, to require reports on the effects of the Global War on Terrorism. S 225--To amend title 38, USC, to expand the number of individuals qualifying for retroactive benefits from traumatic injury protection coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance--Amends the Veterans' Housing Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act of 2006 to remove the requirement that, in order to qualify for retroactive benefits from traumatic injury protection coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program during the period beginning on October 7, 2001, and ending on November 30, 2005, the Secretary of the military department concerned must determine that the loss was a direct result of a traumatic injury incurred in the theater of operations for Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom (thus including traumatic injury incurred while performing other types of military service during such period under such coverage). S 383--A bill to amend title 38, USC, to extend the period of eligibility for health care for combat service in the Persian Gulf War or future hostilities from two years to five years after discharge of release--Extends from two years to five years following discharge or release the eligibility period for certain veteran who served in combat after the Persian Gulf War to received hospital care, medical services, or nursing home care provided by the VA Secretary, notwithstanding a lack of evidence to conclude that their condition is attributable to such service. S 479--Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act--Directs the Secretary to develop and implement a

Registrant Name: AMERICAN LEGION Client Name: Self

comprehensive program for reducing the incidence of suicide among veterans.; Requires the program to include: (1) a national mental health campaign to increase mental health awareness in the veteran community; (2) mandatory training on suicide and suicide prevention for appropriate Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employees and contractor personnel; (3) family education and peer support counseling; (4) veterans' health assessments, counseling, and treatment programs; (5) suicide prevention counselors; (6) research on suicide prevention; (7) treatment programs for veterans suffering from substance abuse; (8) 24-hour veterans' mental health care availability; and (9) a toll-free hotline. S 643--Disabled Veterans Insurance Act of 2007--Increases from \$20,000 to \$40,000 the maximum amount of supplemental service disabled veterans' insurance for totally disabled veterans. S 815--Veterans Health Care Empowerment Act of 2007--Allows any veteran with a service-connected disability to receive hospital care or medical services for any condition at any hospital or medical facility of from any medical provider eligible to receive payments under either Medicare or the TRICARE program [a Department of Defense [DoD] managed health care program]. Requires the cost of such care and services to be borne by the United States. S 847--To extend the period of time during which a veteran's multiple sclerosis is to be considered to have been incurred in, or aggravated by, military service during a period of war--Eliminates the period following separation from service within which a veteran's multiple sclerosis must have developed to a degree of disability of 10% or more to be considered to have been incurred in or aggravated by such service during a period of war. S 848--Prisoner of War Benefits Act of 2007--Amends Federal veterans' benefits provisions with respect to former prisoners of war (POW) to repeal the currently required 30-day minimum period of internment prior to the presumption of service connection for certain listed diseases, for purposes of the payment of veterans' disability compensation. Adds the following diseases to the above listed diseases: diabetes (type 2) and osteoporosis. Requires: (1) such presumption also with respect to any disease that the VA Secretary determines warrants such presumption by reason of having a positive association with the experience of being a prisoner of war; and (2) the Secretary to make such a determination within 60 days after a recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War that such presumption be established for a non-listed disease. S 882--To require a pilot program on the facilitation of the transition of members of the Armed Forces to receipt of veterans health care benefits upon completion of military service--Directs the VA Secretary to carry out a five-year pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of awarding grants to eligible entities to assist members of the Armed Forces, particularly those with serious wounds, injuries, or mental disorders, women members, and members of the National Guard and reserves, in applying for and receiving health care benefits and services from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and otherwise after completion of military service, in order to ensure that such members receive a continuity of care and assistance in and after the transition from military service to civilian life; Requires at least one location of the pilot program to be in the vicinity of: (1) a military medical facility that treats members who are seriously wounded or injured in Afghanistan or Iraq; (2) a VA medical center located in a rural area; and (3) a VA medical center located in an urban area. S 961--Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of WWII Act of 2007--Direct the VA Secretary to pay a monthly benefit of \$1,000 to certain honorably-discharge veterans of the U.S. Merchant Marine who served between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946 (or to their survivors). Includes service in the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service. Exempts from taxation benefits paid under this Act. S 994--Disabled Veterans Fairness Act--Eliminates a \$3 per round trip deductible charged by the VA Secretary in connection with the veterans beneficiary travel program [a program authorizing a travel allowance of reimbursement for beneficiaries providing transportation for veterans to obtain medical care].; Directs the Secretary, in determining the amount of such allowance or reimbursement, to use the mileage reimbursement rates for the use of privately owned vehicles by government employees traveling on official business. S 1147--Honor Our Commitment to Veterans Act--Directs the VA Secretary to administer the health care enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs so as to enroll any eligible veteran who applies. [This directive in effect terminates and administrative freeze on the enrollment of veterans in the lowest priority enrollment category].

17. House(s) of Congress and Federal agencies contacted:
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SENATE

18. Name of each individual who acted as a lobbyist in this issue area:

Name: GAYTAN, PETER
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A
Name: MIDDLETON, SHANNON
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A
Name: PETKOFF, ALEC
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A
Name: ROBERTSON, STEVE
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A
Name: SHARPE, JOSEPH
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A
Name: SMITHSON, STEVE
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A
Name: SOMMER, JOHN F. JR
Covered Official Position (if applicable): N/A

19. Interest of each foreign entity in the specific issues listed on line 16 above. **None**

Signature: ON FILE Date: Aug 14, 2007

Registrant Name: AMERICAN LEGION Client Name: Self

Printed Name and Title: JOHN F. SOMMER, JR. -

Information Update Page:

Complete ONLY where registration information has changed.

LOBBYIST UPDATE

23. Name of each previously reported individual who is NO LONGER expected to act as a lobbyist for the client

ISSUE UPDATE

24. General lobbying issues previously reported that NO LONGER pertain

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

25. Add the following organization(s)

26. Name of each previously reported organization that is NO LONGER affiliated with the registrant or client

FOREIGN ENTITIES

27. Add the following foreign entities

28. Name of each previously reported foreign entity the NO LONGER owns, OR controls, OR is affiliated with the registrant, client or affiliated organization

Signature: ON FILE Date: Aug 14, 2007

Printed Name and Title: -