

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

June 24, 2026

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 104th Annual Convention of Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Department of Washington. For more than a century, the DAV has served as a lifeline for veterans and their families, helping ensure access to the benefits, services, and support they've earned through military service. I am honored to be a part of this important gathering.

Through times of war and peace, our veterans have dedicated themselves to protecting American lives, safeguarding our American interests, and defending rights and freedoms we hold so dear. Their service and sacrifice deserve our deepest respect and gratitude.

I often think back on my own family's military service. My father, Paul Cantwell, joined the Navy right out of high school and served aboard a tanker in the Pacific during World War II, and my uncle, Bernie Cantwell, served in the Army Air Forces and was taken prisoner in Nazi-occupied Europe. Their experience reminds me of the tremendous bravery of our veterans, both then and in modern times.

Washington State is home to more than 500,000 veterans and active-duty service members, making up nearly nine percent of our state's population. It is an honor to represent so many individuals who have dedicated themselves to protecting this country.

I remain committed to advancing policies that support veterans, military families, and the men and women in the service today. As part of that commitment, I have co-sponsored the Major Richard Starr Act, legislation that would allow all combat-injured veteran retirees to receive the full benefits they have earned, rather than limiting eligibility to those with disability ratings above 50 percent and more than 20 years of service.

I have also co-sponsored the Service Dogs Assisting Veterans (SAVES) Act, which would create a new grant program at the Department of Veterans Affairs to help organizations like Northwest Battle Buddies, K9s For Warriors, and Canine Companions provide service dogs to eligible veterans. These dogs can be life-changing for those recovering from both the visible and invisible wounds of military service. I will keep fighting for common sense policies like these while protecting the benefits that our veterans have earned through service to our country.

EVERETT
2930 WETMORE AVENUE
SUITE 9B
EVERETT, WA 98201
(425) 303-0114
FAX: (425) 303-8351

RICHLAND
825 JADWIN AVENUE
SUITE 204/204A
RICHLAND, WA 99352
(509) 946-8106
FAX: (509) 946-6937

SEATTLE
JACKSON FEDERAL BUILDING
915 2ND AVENUE, SUITE 3206
SEATTLE, WA 98174-1003
(206) 220-6400
TOLL FREE: 1-888-648-7328
FAX: (206) 220-6404

SPOKANE
U.S. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE
WEST 920 RIVERSIDE, SUITE 697
SPOKANE, WA 99201
(509) 353-2507
FAX: (509) 353-2547

TACOMA
950 PACIFIC AVENUE
SUITE 615
TACOMA, WA 98402
(253) 572-2281
FAX: (253) 572-5879

VANCOUVER
MARSHALL HOUSE
1313 OFFICERS' ROW
FIRST FLOOR
VANCOUVER, WA 98661
(360) 696-7838
FAX: (360) 696-7844

WASHINGTON, DC
511 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705
(202) 224-3441
FAX: (202) 228-0514

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I also want you to know that if you are experiencing an issue with the Department of Veterans Affairs or need assistance related to your military service, my office has a dedicated team who can help make inquiries on your behalf. If you need assistance, please visit my website or contact my Seattle Office at 206-220-6400.

Thank you again to our veterans for your service and sacrifice in defense of our freedoms and values. I wish you a successful convention.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

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