

# VMFP Operation 0001 – Letter of Introduction to Senators

## VMFP *Five in One* Action Item

VMFP is a grass roots organization and it is your “boots on the ground” involvement that will make the biggest difference as we work together to fulfill our mission. Periodically you will receive emails called **VMFP Five in One Action Items**, which will define *five* things you can do *in one* hour that will make a difference. Once the National Operations & Projects Committee has defined an area for VMFP member involvement, an action plan will be created and sent to you. When every member invests *one hour*, the investment per person is reasonable, but collectively our nation-wide team effort will become greater than our individual actions.

Today's **VMFP Five in One Action Item** :

### **Objective**

Members make contact with their Senators to follow-up on VMFP Letter of Introduction sent by President Matt Cary on July 10, 2006. Ask members to contact their Jr. and Sr. Senators to introduce themselves as involved members of VMFP. Report contact information to [operations@vmfp.org](mailto:operations@vmfp.org)

### **Action Request Coordinators**

Operations Coordinator – Julie Tackett, National Secretary  
Requesting Committee or person – President Matt Cary

### **Start Date**

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

### **End Date**

Friday, July 14, 2006

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- 1. Preparation** – Review the letter below, which was sent to your senators by Matt Cary on July 10, 2006. Visit [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) to find your senators' contact information.
- 2. Call #1**  
**Using the sample script below, make a connection with your Junior Senator's office by phone:**  
Record the name and contact information of the legislative assistant you speak with.
- 3. Call #2**  
**Using the sample script below, make a connection with your Senior Senator's office by phone:**  
Record the name and contact information of the legislative assistant you speak with.
- 4. Follow-up activities**  
Sign up for your senators' email updates as offered on their web-pages or using the sample email below send follow-up emails.
- 5. Completion** - Email the contact information you have gathered to [operations@vmfp.org](mailto:operations@vmfp.org).

*Thank you for being part of VMFP's team in your state.*



(202) 841-1687 - P.O. Box 66353 Washington, DC 20035 - [www.vmfp.org](http://www.vmfp.org)

July 10, 2006

The Honorable (Your Senator's Name)  
(and address) Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator (Your Senator's Name):

I am enthusiastically informing you and your office of the newly-formed Veterans and Military Families for Progress organization. Our mission is to ensure that the rights and needs of veterans, active-duty service members, Guard and Reserve personnel and their families are understood by the American public, endorsed by our elected officials, and protected by regulation and public policy initiatives. VMFP held a Press Conference on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the National Press Club to announce our organization to the public.

Veterans and Military Families for Progress was formally constituted in September of 2005 as a national organization established to serve the entire military community to promote programs and policies affecting the rights, benefits, services and quality of life for active duty personnel, veterans and their families. At that meeting it was voted that the organization be created as a 501(c) (4) tax-exempt, nonprofit and nonpartisan organization addressing the needs of veterans and their families.

Veterans and Military Families for Progress will advocate on issues of policy affecting veterans, military personnel and their families, and we will endorse and work on behalf of candidates who embrace our position on these issues. Our organization by design is quite unique in that family members participate at all levels of our organization with full voting rights.

Our new veterans' organization recognized the void among existing VSOs that presently exclude Reservists and Active Military and their families from membership and/or leadership. VMFP members, from their own service-connected experience, are cognizant of the critical need to address such issues at the national level via a formally incorporated organization. Now and in the future Veterans and Military Families for Progress will be dedicated to veterans, active military personnel, reservists and their families, and we are confident that with your assistance we will be able to help America keep faith with those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We look forward to working with you.

Respectfully,

Matthew J. Cary, President  
Veterans and Military Families for Progress

## **Sample Call Script**

Contact information for your Senators may be found at [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov). Please call the DC office as that office usually handles legislative matters for your state.

### **Speaking with Receptionist**

“Hi, My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a constituent calling from \_\_\_\_\_. May I speak to the Legislative Assistant for Veterans and Military Affairs?”

### **Speaking with the Veterans Affairs LA**

“Hi, My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a constituent calling from \_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to take a few minutes of your time to tell you about an organization I am a member of, Veterans and Military Families for Progress. A formal letter of introduction has been mailed to your DC office from VMFP president Matt Cary.

Our newly formed organization consists of veterans, active-duty service members, Guard and Reserve personnel and their families. We are working to ensure that the rights and needs of our members are understood by the American public, endorsed by our elected officials, and protected by regulation and public policy initiatives.

*Talk about why you joined VMFP or discuss anything in the letter you wish.*

Could you tell me what your office is currently doing on behalf of veterans, service members and their families?

*Familiarize yourself with your Senator's positions on these issues*

May I tell you three issues related to Veterans, service members and their families that are very important to me?

*Share your position on issues that are important to you.*

I would like to stay informed about efforts of your office on behalf of veterans/service members/military families.

*Get signed up for their email / newsletter.*

***Thank you for being part of VMFP's team in your state.***

## Sample Email

“Hi, My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a constituent from \_\_\_\_\_ .

I would like to tell you about an organization I am a member of, Veterans and Military Families for Progress. A formal letter of introduction has been mailed to your DC office from VMFP president Matt Cary.

Our newly formed organization consists of veterans, active-duty service members, Guard and Reserve personnel and their families. We are working to ensure that the rights and needs of our members are understood by the American public, endorsed by our elected officials, and protected by regulation and public policy initiatives.

I would like to stay informed about efforts of your office on behalf of veterans/service members/military families and have signed up for your email update.

I look forward to working with your office in the future.

Regards,  
Julie Tackett  
Seattle, WA