



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



**Hatch Act Warning:** *Please do not view this information in a federal facility, using a federal government-owned computer, or on work time. Also, do not distribute, display, or post this information in a federal facility.*

## Congress and the White House Fail to Reach a Deal on COVID-19 Relief Bill

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, NATCA has been seeking protections for essential aviation workers. Leading up to the August recess, congressional leadership and the White House had been negotiating a new COVID-19 relief bill. However, negotiations stalled, and a consensus was not reached due to a disagreement over items such as unemployment benefits and state and local government aid. Lawmakers are back in their home states and districts for the month of August, and it is unclear if negotiators will return to the table this month.

Meanwhile, just as air traffic starts to ramp up, a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases has occurred within our workforce: from June 1 through July, the total number of positive cases among air traffic controllers has increased at an alarming rate of almost 295%. The health and safety of NATCA's members is critical in order to ensure a safe and efficient National Airspace System (NAS). NATCA's senior leadership and the FAA continue to collaborate on ways to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on the NAS and the air traffic controller workforce.

Throughout negotiations on a COVID-19 relief bill, NATCA's Government Affairs staff has been advocating for legislation to ensure the safest possible working conditions for air traffic controllers and other essential aviation safety professionals. In May, the House introduced and passed a bill (H.R. 6800, "the HEROES Act," also known as "CARES 2.0"). The proposal contains many provisions that would help protect NATCA's members during the pandemic. However, this legislation has not advanced beyond the House and, as mentioned above, a lack of bipartisan agreement between Congress and White House has delayed enactment of any additional COVID-19 relief legislation.

That's why NATCA launched an email campaign to all U.S. senators in July urging them to protect air traffic controllers and other aviation safety professionals in any relief legislation passed in the chamber. The email campaign was far-reaching in the Senate: more than 5,000 participants sent over 11,000 emails to all senate offices. In these emails, NATCA members, friends, and family strongly urged senators to support important provisions, including those already included in the House-passed HEROES Act, in any COVID relief bill. Those provisions include:

- A fix for the **Airport and Airway Trust Fund**
- Additional **funding for the FAA** to respond to COVID-19;
- **Hazard Pay Differential** for FAA employees and other essential federal employees;
- Protection for controllers' **retirement**;
- A mandate for DOT to develop a **National Aviation Preparedness Plan**;
- **Personal Protective Equipment**; and
- An **OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard**

With each day, there is increasing doubt whether agreement on a broad COVID-19 relief bill is possible at this point in negotiations. Lack of agreement would negatively impact the ability to achieve provisions such as those outlined above. However, the situation remains fluid and NATCA continues to fight on behalf of our members to advocate for these critical priorities.

## Paid Parental Leave for FAA Employees Advances

NATCA continues to aggressively seek a technical correction to fix the loophole that inadvertently excluded FAA employees and five other federal employee workforces from the 12-week paid parental leave proposal enacted last December as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020 (FY 20 NDAA; P.L. 116-92). In July, NATCA successfully secured the technical correction in the House version of the FY 2021 NDAA bill after months of extensive advocacy from Government Affairs staff. Since then, the House and Senate have both passed their versions of the NDAA bill and now the legislation is headed to "conference," where differences between the two bills will be sorted out. A final version of the legislation must be agreed upon in the House and Senate before being signed into law by the President.

Now that the technical correction is included in the House-passed version of the bill, NATCA's Government Affairs staff is shifting its advocacy to the Conference Committee, which will be made up of House and Senate lawmakers who will finalize this legislation. It is unclear when this year's NDAA legislation will be finalized and enacted into law, so Government Affairs is looking at all legislation as other possible avenues to secure this fix.

As a reminder, [NATCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the FAA in May](#) to provide 12 weeks of paid parental leave for qualifying events occurring on or after Oct. 1, 2020. This benefit covers all members employed by the FAA. In the meantime, the work being done by Government Affairs staff is to ensure that this benefit is codified in law for both current and future FAA workforces.

## New T-shirt Celebrates Centennial of Women's Right to Vote

August 2020 is the 100-year anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gave American women the right to vote. The 19th Amendment had to be ratified by 3/4ths of the-then-48 states to be added to the Constitution. By a vote of 50-47, Tennessee became the last state needed to ratify, on Aug. 18, 1920. The amendment went into effect on August 26, 1920. Today, a century

later, more than 68 million women vote in elections, because of the courageous suffragists who never gave up the fight for equality.

NATCA and the NATCA Charitable Foundation are proud to join in celebrating these activists and the result of their achievement. Our Union has created a special edition T-shirt to mark this historic occasion.



Both women's specific (in black only) and unisex (in navy blue only) versions of the shirt are available for purchase below. The cost of both the women's specific and unisex shirts is \$25.



The design of the graphic printed on both the front pocket area and the full back features the NATCA logo and yellow roses that were worn by activists in 1920 who supported the 19th Amendment.

The cost of each shirt is \$25 (+\$2.50 for 2XL and +\$3.50 for 3XL, respectively). \$2 to \$5 from each shirt (depending on the size) will benefit the [League of Women Voters](#) (LWV). LWV was founded in 1920 to support the new women's suffrage rights and help women take a larger role in public affairs after they won the right to vote. LWV was a merger of groups founded by suffragists Emma Smith DeVoe and Carrie Chapman Catt. LWV is officially nonpartisan and neither supports, nor opposes candidates or parties. Today, LWV operates at the local, state, and national level, with over 1,000 local and 50 state leagues.

Order shirts [here](#). *The initial run of shirts will be sold until midnight on Monday, Aug. 24. Shirts are expected to ship from the supplier 12 business days after that initial run closes (Sept. 9). Please expect shipping delays, because of the pandemic.*

## Member Voter Center Is New, One-Stop-Shop for All Information to Register & Vote

We can't support those who support us in the NATCA Majority and make decisions that affect us if NATCA members don't participate in the electoral process. Participation starts by ensuring that you, your family, and your friends are all registered to vote. Just as important, especially during the

pandemic, is understanding your state's process for remote voting and early voting. This will allow you to participate in this year's election and ensure your safety.

NATCA has launched a new Member Voter Center at [www.natca.org/vote](http://www.natca.org/vote). It's our one-stop-shop for all the information you'll need to register and vote in your state. We encourage you to check it out.



## House Passes Transportation Spending Bill, CR Expected

A government funding bill must be passed by the end of September in order to avoid a government shutdown on Oct. 1.

The House passed a spending package at the end of July that included six of the 12 annual appropriations bills. The legislation (H.R. 7617) included the Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (THUD) spending bill. If enacted, this legislation would provide \$11 billion for FAA Operations and \$500 million to replace ATC facilities.

However, the Senate does not plan to consider any of the 12 appropriations bills this year. As a result, Congress will likely resort to a stopgap spending bill (CR) at the end of September to avoid a government shutdown. A CR until after the November elections is considered the most likely outcome. However, the path forward remains unclear at this time. While a government shutdown is unlikely to occur so close to the November elections, NATCA's Government Affairs staff continues to advocate for the importance of a government funding bill in order to avoid a shutdown.

## Virtual Grassroots NATCA Activism

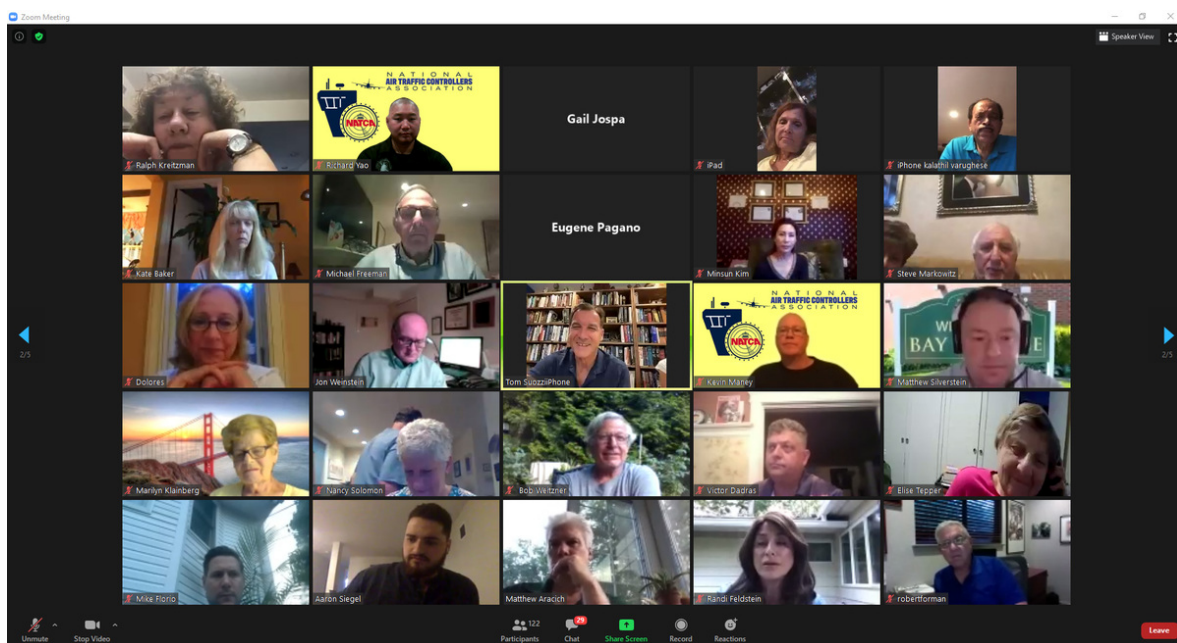
**EASTERN REGION: New Jersey**





Atlantic City ATCT (ACY) FacRep **TJ Woodyard** (top left in photo) had a virtual meeting with New Jersey Congressman Donald Payne, Jr. "I thanked him for his long-standing support for our cause, and gave him an update on our situation in Atlantic City," Woodyard said. "He responded with his sincere gratitude for our participation and support. It was a pretty somber event in light of the loss of Congressman Lewis, and Congressman Payne took a fair amount of time to address that loss and his feelings on the legacy that Congressman Lewis leaves behind."

## EASTERN REGION: New York



New York TRACON (N90) FacRep **Kevin Maney** (pictured center right) and New York Center (ZNY) member **Rich Yao** (pictured top center left) attended a Zoom

meeting with New York Congressman Tom Suozzi. "The yellow background really stood out during the meeting and Congressman Suozzi mentioned Kevin and Rich by name," said National Legislative Committee Alternate Eastern Region Rep **Dave Romano**.

---

## GREAT LAKES REGION: Minnesota



St. Paul ATCT (STP) FacRep **Jason Dresow** (top right) participated in a virtual meeting with Minnesota Congresswoman Betty McCollum last week. The main topic was appropriations for fiscal year 2021 and whether the end of the current fiscal year will bring a new appropriations bill or a continuing resolution.

Minnesota State Legislative Coordinator **Mitch Becker** (Minneapolis Center, ZMP) had a private Zoom meeting on Aug. 9 with Minnesota Congresswoman Ilhan Omar (right). Becker thanked her for her support of H.R. 1108 and the HEROES Act. "We talked a little about the protections for PPE in the facilities and the need to use them when we are not able to socially distance at work," Becker said.



## SOUTHERN REGION: Florida



Jacksonville Center (ZJX) Member **Paul Behan** attended a virtual meeting with Florida Congressman Al Lawson on July 24. "I thanked Congressman Lawson for being one of the first co-sponsors of H.R. 1108, and for always being so willing to meet with NATCA to discuss issues which affect the safety of the National Airspace System (NAS)," Behan said. "I described some of the challenges we have been facing over the past few months, specifically with regard to staffing the ATC facilities with the appropriate amount of controllers to maintain the highest levels of aircraft safety, but also while reducing the possibility of transmitting the coronavirus amongst our workforce to the maximum extent possible. I mentioned that the FAA has been very collaborative, working closely with NATCA to implement work schedules and facility cleaning protocols in order to keep the NAS running with minimal disruptions."

---





On July 23, Central Florida TRACON (F11) FacRep **Ken Scheele** (above) and North Florida Legislative Coordinator **Jason Messer** (Daytona Beach, DAB) met with Florida Congressman Darren Soto and Congresswoman Val Demings on Zoom. They thanked them both for co-sponsoring H.R. 1108, and for being such great supporters of NATCA. They also discussed aviation funding and the collaborative process between NATCA and the FAA throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

---

## SOUTHERN REGION: Mississippi



NATCA members **Dennis Hilton** (Gulfport ATCT, GPT), **Jacob Porter** (Jackson ATCT, JAN) and Mississippi State Legislative Coordinator **Mike Long** (Pensacola TRACON, P31) attended Congressman Steven Palazzo's (left) Zoom meeting recently. "There were discussions on the effects of COVID on businesses and schools," Long said. "We discussed our traffic in and around the Gulf Coast and how it has not diminished since COVID-19. We all wore our campaign 2020 shirts, which the congressman noticed and acknowledged!"

---





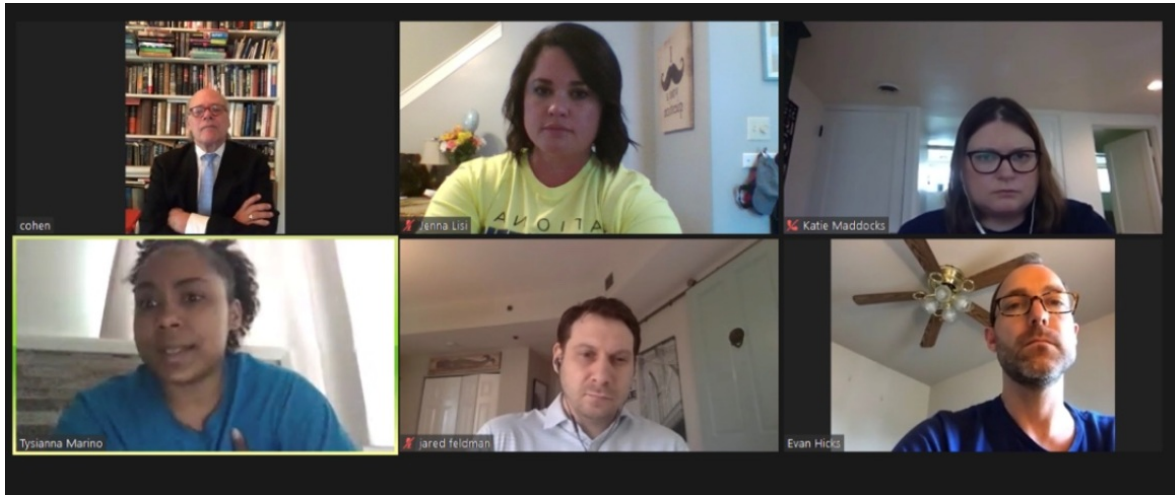
Mississippi State Coordinator **Mike Long** (Pensacola TRACON, P31) and Gulfport ATCT (GPT) FacRep **Dennis Hilton** had a Zoom meeting with Mississippi Congressman Michael Guest. "Congressman Guest was very thankful for our efforts and continued work to keep the public flying safe as we work through COVID-19," Long said. "We discussed H.R. 1108, staffing, training, and the upcoming hurdles that we will be dealing with as we transition through this time."

## SOUTHERN REGION: North Carolina

Charlotte ATCT (CLT) FacRep **Anthony Schifano**, GSO Legislative Rep **Katie Cooper** (Greensboro, GSO), and Raleigh-Durham (RDU) FacRep **Nick Stott** attended an online meeting with North Carolina Congressman Ted Budd (lower right). "Being a pilot himself, he was interested in how the COVID-19 virus has impacted our workforce and how it has impacted CLT and GSO tower projects," Schifano said. "We thanked him for his support on H.R. 1108 and gave an update on the collaboration between the FAA/NATCA in addressing the issues surrounding COVID-19."

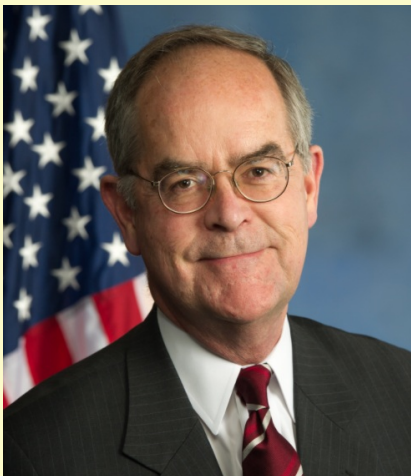


## SOUTHERN REGION: Tennessee



Memphis Center (ZME) Legislative Rep **Jenna Lisi** (pictured top center) recently participated in a virtual meeting with Tennessee Congressman Steve Cohen (top left). "I was able to thank him for being one of the first co-sponsors on H.R. 1108 and updated him that we had surpassed our goal of 290 co-sponsors in the House," Lisi said. "Joined by two other unions, we discussed recent changes at our facility during COVID-19. Being in the Memphis area, it has been important for us to streamline cleaning procedures to minimally impact FedEx cargo operations that carry lifesaving medical supplies. The Congressman has always been a great supporter of NATCA and was pleased to hear the updates."

---



Nashville ATCT (BNA) member and Tennessee State Legislative Coordinator **Zac Hedrick** attended a virtual Zoom meeting with Tennessee Congressman Jim Cooper. "I discussed the Paid Parental Leave Act that passed last year that left off the FAA and air traffic controllers. I discussed how we are confident about what we are hearing from the Committee Chairman that this fix for the six workforces that were scored and left off is going to be included in the House version of the NDAA," Hedrick said. "Congressman Cooper said he is always glad to support NATCA in any way that he can."

---

## SOUTHWEST REGION: Texas

Houston Center (ZHU) member **Eric Avila** participated in a Zoom meeting with Texas Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher (right) and House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio. "After the briefing, I was able to thank the Congresswoman for her support on the Chairman's bill, H.R. 1108, support of air traffic controllers, and federal workers," Avila said.



## WESTERN PACIFIC REGION: California



Southern California TRACON (SCT) member **Christina Munro** (top center) joined California Congressman Harley Rouda for a labor Zoom roundtable meeting. "We each discussed issues important to our organizations," Munro said. "I thanked the Congressman for his support of H.R. 1108 and I told him that NATCA supports CARES Act 2.0 to keep the funding going for our brothers and sisters in the airline industry."





National Legislative Committee Vice Chair **Trisha Pesiri-Dybvik** (Santa Barbara ATCT, SBA) met recently with California Congressman Salud Carbajal. "I thanked him for his support of NATCA during his tenure and he expressed his appreciation to NATCA," Pesiri-Dybvik said.

## Hatch Act Tip of the Month

The penalties for violating the Hatch Act include removal from federal service, reduction in grade, debarment from federal employment for a period not to exceed 5 years, suspension, reprimand, or a civil fine not to exceed \$1,000.

## NATCA Academy Virtual Learning: Upcoming Legislative Classes

We have upcoming legislative classes scheduled as part of our NATCA Academy Virtual Learning program:



### NEW!

#### What You Need to Know About Funding the FAA

*Sept. 9, noon EDT*

*Sept. 23, noon EDT*

**Course Description:** Having experienced the longest shutdown of the federal government in history, many members were curious how we got there and what can be done to prevent it in the future. NATCA has been advocating for a stable, predictable funding stream for years but many don't understand why. This is your opportunity to learn about the U.S. budgeting and appropriations processes so that you understand the issue and can educate your fellow NATCA members.

**NOTE:** *This course is Hatch Act friendly.*

### NEW!

#### Money in Politics: A Necessary Evil?

*Aug. 28, 1 p.m. EDT*

*Sept. 11, 1 p.m. EDT*

*Sept. 25, 1 p.m. EDT*

**Course Description:** Do you think there is too much money in politics? Have you wondered why the Supreme Court allowed super PACs? These questions and others will be explored in this class. We will dispel myths surrounding this topic and participants will be able to explain why the system is the way it is.

**NOTE:** *This Class is not Hatch Act friendly. Please do not attend this class while*

*on duty or in a federal workplace.*

## You Hate Politics Too? Let's Talk

*Aug. 19, 11 a.m. EDT*

*Sept. 16, noon EDT*

**Course Description:** Do you hate politics? We understand why you might feel that way but since it affects our careers, let's discuss it. In this class, we will explore commonly held myths about politicians, the legislative process, and the importance of elections. Participants will understand why NATCA must be engaged politically and that no one can advocate for our profession like us.

**NOTE:** *This course is Hatch Act friendly.*

## Hatch Act: Not Knowing it Could Cost You Your Career!

*Sept. 3, noon EDT*

**Course Description:** When you were hired by the federal government, you agreed that you will not engage in certain political activity. Violating the Hatch Act puts you at risk for termination from the Agency. But everyone seems to have their own definition of "political activity" so how do you know what you can and cannot do? This class will teach you that. During this fun and educational hour, we will look at real situations encountered by NATCA members and give attendees a clear understanding of the laws that govern our participation in the political process.

**NOTE:** *This course is Hatch Act friendly.*

**To register for these classes:** Please go to [portal.natca.org](https://portal.natca.org). Once you have logged in, select "List of Events" from the Events menu tab. Then, select "NATCA Academy Virtual Learning."

For a full list of all upcoming Academy Virtual Learning classes, [please click here](#).

## Boots On The Ground





The COVID-19 pandemic is creating numerous unusual challenges for NATCA's Boots On The Ground (BOTG) program. BOTG members are working closely with the AFL-CIO at state and national levels to educate union members about where candidates stand on the issues important to labor.



Florida BOTG member **Jill Carr** attended one of the many online digital training courses provided by the AFL-CIO in preparation for Labor 2020 activities. These digital training courses provide a remote opportunity to prepare for the challenges ahead. Also joining Carr in attendance at this session were BOTG members **Allen Fritz, Moe Scoville, Yvonne Pino, and Robert Zabel.**

Carr and her husband, NATCA President Emeritus and fellow BOTG member **John Carr**, also participated in the Central Florida AFL-CIO Workers First Caravan last month (below). It was held to send the message to Florida Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott to put workers first and pass the HEROES Act.







## ARIZONA

NATCA was well represented at the Pima County, Ariz., Area Labor Federation (PALF) meeting July 8. There were 37 union representatives from the Tucson area discussing activism and other current events. AFL-CIO Arizona State Executive Director Fred Yamashita introduced NATCA's Boots On The Ground members in attendance, **Chuck Munoz** and **Todd Laveen**, to Chairperson Trish Muir and other PALF members, and informed the membership on how they would be educating union members and the public about labor friendly candidates in this election cycle.



## INDIANA

Retired NATCA member **Chris Trudeau**, who serves as Indiana AFL-CIO NATCA Delegate and 2020 Indiana RNAV Boots On The Ground Representative, recently began supplying and displaying new U.S. flags in his small community of Monrovia, Ind.

Both Trudeau and his wife, Indianapolis Center (ZID) member **Michelle Trudeau**, are U.S. Air Force veterans, as well as Union Veterans Council members, and public servants in the Department of Defense and in the FAA for over 20 years.

"We are both proud veterans," Chris said. "It is a pleasure to make sure our community has properly displayed flags on all flag holidays and other special state and community events throughout the year."

The Trudeaus started their endeavor by personally purchasing temporary flags, while they initiated a flag donation drive for the community. They also purchased solar lights for each flag and installed them on street poles for overnight lighting. With proceeds from the flag donation drive, they installed five new U.S.-made nylon flags and spinner poles to endure high winds and avoid tangling. "We installed a total of 13 flags in advance of the Fourth of July weekend," Chris said. "We are ordering 10 more complete sets with donations to be displayed in town."



## NEVADA

Nevada Boots On The Ground Representative **Rosa Serai** took these digital classes via the AFL-CIO activist calendar: Common Sense Economic Conversations; Global Crisis, Global Solutions; The Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Women; What is a Recession; and Workplace Safety. "Many of these classes were interactive sessions with

AFL-CIO members across the country," she said. "They are invaluable in educating myself so I can talk to other union members about issues. The facilitators and several attendees at these classes have mentioned how NATCA Boots On The Ground team members have been seen on most of their classes. NATCA is very visible and well known to them."



## Remembering Rep. Lewis With Gratitude: 'He Always Saw the Good in People'



Congressman John Lewis was many things, from civil rights icon to recipient of



the Presidential Medal of Freedom. But NATCAvists who had the honor of meeting him say they will remember him as a gentle soul who had the ability to express appreciation for greatness in others whenever they were in his presence.

NATCA joined the nation and the people of Georgia's 5th congressional district in mourning the passing of

Congressman Lewis last month. The Union is overwhelmed with gratitude and appreciation for Congressman Lewis showing us all the greatest example of courage, humility, grace, determination, and conviction.



To visit his office (pictured above, during NATCA in Washington 2014) was an opportunity to receive an incredible history lesson in civil rights and the fight for racial justice. What he witnessed, what he stood for, what he marched for, what he endured, and what he lived to see before his passing are markers in our nation's civil rights history that leave us in awe and empower us to move forward in his memory.

"The main thing that sticks in my mind from meeting him was his genuine love and hope for people," said Atlanta Center (ZTL) member and former Georgia State Legislative Coordinator Amber Miller. "He always saw the good in people. It's so easy to get jaded and focus on the negative. He wasn't like that at all even after everything he experienced. He was loving and joyful. He definitely led by example."

Retired ZTL member Dub Pearman said he had the privilege of meeting Congressman Lewis several times. "He was a humble servant of his fellow man, and a fierce opponent of injustice," Pearman said. "Congressman Lewis had a subdued yet enormous presence. He was always welcoming and respectful even if he disagreed with you."

Pearman recalls one year at NATCA in Washington, during the annual congressional reception, when Congressman Lewis and a few of his aides arrived. "Congressman Lewis was shaking many hands, as to be expected, while his aides and myself followed him around," Pearman said. "I mentioned to the aides, 'You know, you get to work for an honest-to-God hero.' To which they both smiled ear-to-ear with a resounding, 'Yes, we know.'"

## NATCA in Washington

NATCA in Washington (NiW) 2020 is canceled. It had been scheduled for Dec. 9-11, 2020.

[NiW 2021](#) is scheduled for **Feb. 23-25, 2021**. However, we ask that you please stand by for further details about the format in which we plan to conduct this event. Our

NiW Planning Committee is working with the National Executive Board and discussing options.



## Legislative Resources

**National Legislative Committee:** Roster, contacts, information - [click here](#).

**State Legislative Coordinators contact list** [Click here](#).

**U.S. Senate:** Numbers of facilities, members, and bargaining unit members in each state - [click here](#).

**U.S. House of Representatives:** Facilities and numbers of members in each congressional district - [click here](#).

**NATCA in Washington 2021:** [Click here](#).

**Legislative Updates on natca.org:** [Click here](#).

**Archive of past monthly legislative updates:** [Click here](#).

