

National Insights Story

From Tucson to Capitol Hill

Representative: Al Young

National Assignment: National Legislative Committee Representative

Washington Conference: March 2–4, 2026

Editor's Note: This story is based on the representative's submitted report and has been edited for clarity, organization, and factual completeness while preserving the author's voice and observations.

Why Arizona Was There

As a member of The American Legion National Legislative Committee assigned to Congressman Juan Ciscomani, Al represented Arizona veterans during meetings with Members of Congress and participated in National legislative advocacy.

From the Representative

I left Tucson not knowing quite what to expect. After leaving 89-degree weather, stepping into snow and 33-degree temperatures in Washington was only the first surprise. The real experience began when our delegation started meeting with Arizona's Congressional delegation. I listened as fellow veterans shared personal stories about women veterans' health, community care, Guard and Reserve benefit disparities, and the Major Richard Star Act. Walking the halls of the U.S. Capitol and later hearing National Commander Dan Wiley testify before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs reminded me why these trips matter. Every office we visited welcomed our input, and I truly felt Arizona veterans were heard.

Conference Snapshot

- Visited offices of Senator Kelly, Senator Gallego, Representatives Ciscomani, Hamadeh and Gosar.
- Attended the National Commander's Senate testimony.
- Participated in National legislative advocacy.
- Experienced firsthand the importance of personal relationships in advancing veterans' issues.

Looking Ahead

I came home tired, inspired, and proud to have represented Arizona. If given the opportunity, I would gladly make the trip again because these conversations truly make a difference for veterans.