



# THE DISPATCH

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COLORADO DEPT. OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

## Government shutdown explained

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Currently, without a full budget or continuing resolution (CR) passed by November 17<sup>th</sup>, the US government will shut down. While many expect a CR will pass, there are many indicators that one will not. This article will explain terms, how a shutdown happens, and will outline current events as understood by the DMVA.

### *Continuing Resolution (CR):*

A temporary measure Congress can use to fund the government for a limited time.

To start, we first must understand how the federal budget is created and passed. In many ways, the federal budget process mirrors our own state budget process. It is composed of 6 steps:

1: Federal agencies identify needs and create budget requests and submit them to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

2: OMB uses these requests to develop the President's budget.

3: The President submits his budget proposal to Congress early in the year.

4: Proposals are then divided amongst 12 subcommittees which hold hearings. Each subcommittee is responsible for a different area of the government, from defense spending to forestry.

5: The House and the Senate create their own budget resolutions, which, once passed through their respective chamber, are then negotiated into a single bill.

6: The House and the Senate both pass their negotiated bill, that is then signed or vetoed by the President.

### **So what's happening right now?**

Currently, the process is stuck at step 5. Congress is currently politically divided, with the House of Representatives having a Republican majority and the Senate having a Democrat majority. The result of this division is that the House budget and the Senate budget were very different from each other.

These differences have been found to be very difficult to reconcile, with neither side wanting to give much ground. This led to a CR in the waning hours of September in order to avoid a government shutdown, which bought Congress a month and a half to negotiate a budget.

Unfortunately for us, things didn't end up being that simple.

On October 3rd, Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy was removed from his position by his own party.

The Speaker of the House is a key position in Congress. The Speaker serves as the leader of the House of Representatives and the number 3 in the Presidential line of succession. He or she is elected by the members of the House, and thus is typically a member of the majority party. So, whichever party controls the House also controls the Speakership.

All of that said, there are two key roles that the Speaker plays that are necessary for Congress to operate and pass bills:

**Spokesperson:** Speakers articulate an agenda and explain legislative action to other Washington officials as well as the public. They oversee House committee assignments and collaborate with the powerful *House Rules Committee* to structure floor debate.

**Manager:** Second, the speaker manages business on the floor and navigates legislative rules, structuring House debate in a way that will advantage their legislative priorities. By overseeing daily business, the Speaker sets a voting agenda, thus Congress cannot pass a bill without a Speaker.

After McCarthy was removed from Speaker, the House spent the next 22 days debating who they would elect to be their speaker, and it wasn't until October 25<sup>th</sup>, that the House elected Mike Johnson to serve as the new Speaker.

All in all, the Speaker removal and subsequent debate ate up more than half of the time that was originally set aside for debates on the budget.

This brings us back to current government shutdown. Speaker Johnson has stated that he is not in favor of another CR and thus is pushing for a full budget. If a full budget is not passed, and a CR is not approved, then the government will shut down.

Currently, event forecasting site Kalshi gives a 1 in 3 chance of a government shutdown occurring. As of now, the House has passed a CR bill and has adjourned for the Thanksgiving break. The Senate will have until Midnight on Friday to pass the bill with no amendments.

If you are concerned about the affect of a government shutdown on your position, please contact your supervisor or human resources to learn more about how you could be affected by a government shut down.

## DMVA Fall Festival

Thank you to all that came out and joined us at the Fall Festival! We had such a great time and enjoyed seeing all of you enjoying yourself and meeting others in our organization that you've never met before. We had a great day filled with Chili and Pumpkin Carving Contest, apple and pumpkin pie, cookies, apple cider, and fellowship!

There were 10 Chili Contestants and 4 Pumpkin Carving Contestants at JFHQ! They all did an amazing job at carving and cooking, and the guests voted on the best chili and pumpkin.

We were able to do events at Centennial, Ft. Carson, and Grand Junction!

And the winners are...

### Chili Contest JFHQ:

1st Place - Teresa Steer

2nd Place - Rayna Miranda

3rd Place - Henry Hernandez

### Chili Contest Western Slope:

1st Place - Emily Currier

2nd Place - Sara Baker

3rd Place - Steve Stogsdill

### Pumpkin Carving Contest:

1st Place - Dave Schmidt

2nd Place - Catherine Carlin

3rd Place - Suzanne Buemi



## Honoring Veterans through the DMVA Challenge Coins

Recently, DMVA employees received two DMVA “Challenge Coins” each. The first, was for employees to keep as a thank you. The second, was to give out to a Veteran in the community as a thank you for their service. Recently, Jennie Zambo of the J9, presented her coin to a Veteran. Her statement is below:

“I wanted to honor my neighbor, Dale Picking, who celebrated his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. He served March 4, 1943-January 1946.

The theme of his life has been “I’ve been so lucky”. He was born in Yankton, South Dakota Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, 1924. He graduated Highschool in 1942 and enlisted that same afternoon and went to basic training. He and his classmates who signed up, never planned to return, it was just what you did back then. They split up his unit, half went to Germany and the other half went to the Philippines. He was lucky and went to the Philippines with the Army Signal Corp as a Tech 4. He went to Papua New Guinea. He served in the Headquarter Company and was often in the presence of General MacArthur. It was there that he became good friends with John Berra, Yogi Berra’s brother, who took him under his wing.

While in the Philippines, his Company walked 36 miles from Manilla to release POW’s that were held in cages from the Japanese.

He remembers playing basketball against the Navy and he was assigned to guard the top scorer for the Navy, Bob Davies, who went on to play in the NBA and win championships. He remembers their uniforms were made from parachutes and they were extremely heavy and hot.

They were preparing to go to Japan when the bombs dropped, and the war had ended.

He came home and used the GI Bill to attend the University of Nebraska for 2yrs and then back to Yankton, SD to get his business degree. I was honored to be able to give him a challenge coin.”

Thank you Ms. Zambo for being such an amazing ambassador for the DMVA and a department wide thank you to Mr. Picking for his service!

## Job Listings

**-Division of Veterans Affairs  
Director**

*Denver, CO*

**-Electrical Trades II**

*-Aurora, CO*

**-Structural Trades II at  
Buckley Air Force Base**

*-Aurora, CO*



## Past Events

### Division of Veteran Affairs:

-Quarterly Honors is occurred at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado in Grand Junction, Oct. 2.

-Veterans Community Living Center occurred Oct. 3-4. These will include Walsenburg, Florence, Homelake, Rifle and Fitzsimmons

-BG Clellan honored a veteran at the WROS who was finally awarded his Purple Heart for wounds sustained in Iraq – Nov. 11

### Civil Air Patrol:

-CAP held a Ground and Air Search and Rescue training exercise at Centennial Airport, Oct. 7-8

### CO National Guard:

-First Command, 140th Wing Top Three Council, and the First Sergeants Association hosted school children to have a close up look at various STEM-related career fields within the 140th Wing on Oct. 3 at Buckley Space Force Base, Aurora.

## Upcoming Events

### Division of Veteran Affairs:

-Division of Veterans Affairs Director David Callahan will be retiring from the DMVA at the end of December. Please help us in thanking him for his years of service to Colorado Veterans

### Civil Air Patrol:

-The Colorado Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is in the process of gearing up for their Winter encampment that will occur from Dec 28<sup>th</sup> to Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### CO National Guard:

-The 140<sup>th</sup> Wing recently hosted Secretary of the Air Force Kendall in a familiarization tour. On OCT 14<sup>th</sup>, the wing is hosting Lt Governor Chief of Staff Mark Honnen for a tour and capabilities brief.

