

**From:** [Raughter, John B.](#)  
**To:** [All Legion Leadership](#); [Department Adjutants](#); [Department Commanders](#); [Department Headquarters](#); [Division Directors](#); [Executive Directors](#)  
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## Legion to Carney: Death Benefits Not a 'Gimmick'

INDIANAPOLIS (October 10, 2013) – 'A national disgrace,' is how the head of the nation's largest organization of wartime veterans characterized the White House's opposition to legislation passed by the House and the Senate which would restore the death benefits to the families of fallen military servicemembers.

"Even in the atmosphere of extreme gridlock that currently exists in Congress, both the House and the Senate, in a rare spirit of bipartisanship, have agreed that these benefits must be restored at once," said Daniel M. Dellinger, national commander of the 2.4-million member American Legion. "Today, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney called the legislation a 'gimmick.' We strongly disagree. It is a sacred obligation."

Dellinger praised the Fisher Foundation for temporarily paying the benefits, but stressed that it is the responsibility of the federal government to fund such obligations. "The generosity shown by the Fisher Foundation is truly amazing," he said. "But President Lincoln promised to 'care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan.' Today the president has made a mockery of that promise."

Dellinger plans to hold a press conference at the Indiana War Memorial Tuesday afternoon to address the issue and other areas impacted by the government shutdown. This follows an earlier appearance by Dellinger and other Legionnaires at the national World War II Memorial last week.

The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and patriotic youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through nearly 14,000 posts across the nation.

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Washington Examiner

[Beltway Confidential](#)

# Jay Carney says 'we don't need legislation' to pay military death benefits

By [JOEL GEHRKE](#) | OCTOBER 10, 2013 AT 2:10 PM

Topics: [Beltway Confidential](#) [Congress](#) [Barack Obama](#) [Obamacare](#) [Senate](#) [House of Representatives](#) [OMB](#) [Government shutdown](#) [Jay Carney](#)

President Obama opposed passage of funding for veterans' death benefits because the Fisher House...

[President Obama](#) opposed passage of funding for veterans' death benefits because the Fisher House Foundation has agreed to cover the costs, according to his spokesman.

"The legislation is not necessary," White House press secretary [Jay Carney](#) told reporters Thursday when asked about legislation approved by the House and Senate that would pay for those benefits. "Our view has been, this piecemeal funding is, again, a gimmick."

Carney faulted [Congress](#) on Wednesday for not covering the death benefits in the Pay Our Military Act, though the Congressional Research Service rendered a legal opinion that the legislation did fund the program.

"[Obama] was not pleased to learn of this problem," Carney said during the Wednesday briefing. "And he has directed the [OMB](#) and his lawyers to find a solution. And he expects to have one today."

But the president opposes the legislative fix. "We don't need legislation," Carney said Thursday. "The president directed that this be resolved and it has been. What is preposterous is this notion that we should, piecemeal, fix all the consequences caused by shutdown."

The Defense Department, under the current agreement, will reimburse the Fisher House after the government shutdown ends.

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