

July 6, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On June 24, 2011, U.S. Congressmen Jason Altmire (PA-04) and Thomas Rooney (FL-16) introduced the American Legion Charter Modernization Act. This legislation will allow American Legion members to pay their dues and renew their membership online through the use of a credit or debit card. Currently, Legion members must pay their dues or renew their membership in the American Legion by cash or check. This commonsense change will give American Legion members a new, more convenient option to meet their financial obligations directly to their local post.

"This modest change will make it easier for American Legion members to pay their dues or renew their membership," Congressman Altmire said. **"By modernizing the American Legion Charter, we can streamline the membership process to ensure that local posts can operate independently and receive the funds they need in a timely manner so they can keep their doors open."**

"This change will help bring the American Legion's charter into the 21st century, making it easier for Legion members like myself to pay our dues and renew our memberships quickly and directly," Congressman Rooney said.

"This amendment to our organization's congressional charter would further clarify the autonomous, independent nature of our posts and departments across America," said Jimmie L. Foster, national commander of The American Legion.

"This statute enacts what the courts have already said. To wit, no independent entity of The American Legion is responsible for the actions of another. We are grateful to representatives Altmire and Rooney for sponsoring this amendment to our national charter."

In 2010, the National Convention adopted an amendment to the American Legion National Charter authorizing this change. Under current law, all changes to the Legion's charter must be approved by Congress and signed into law by the President of the United States.