



Coalition and Valued Associates Advocacy and Actions...

ALA President, Pat Nixon shared the great news with all of you in his President's Message that the Defense Subcommittee, Senate Appropriations Committee added \$200 million to the Administration's request for commissary operations for the fiscal year that begins October 1, 2014. As he stated, "Protection of the commissary funding levels and this benefit in an intensively competitive budget environment is no accident." It was the result of years of hard work and proactive steps taken by Your ALA.

In addition to educating lawmakers and patrons of the potential for reductions to funding levels and the need to proactively defend these levels, Your ALA also built a coalition of support for military resale. We actively engaged military and veterans service organizations, who joined our efforts as valued associate members of *The Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits*.

These advocacy organizations are some of the largest, oldest, and most trusted military and veterans' service organizations in the country, as well as those representing our newest veterans and family members. Our valued associate "partners" represent over 2 million service members, veterans, and military families, who know first hand the value of the military resale system and the critical savings they provide the military community. Together and individually these organizations worked tirelessly, alongside Your ALA, to preserve and protect military resale benefits in the wake of the defense budget crisis. We greatly thank them for their efforts!

Our Coalition valued associate members:

- Met with Members of Congress and DoD to discuss the importance of protecting military resale; these critical earned benefits; and the valuable savings they provide our service members, veterans, and their families.
- Incorporated our economic research within their Congressional testimony and outlined how the Pentagon's drastic budget cuts would affect military families' purchasing power.
- Actively supported Congressional legislation protecting military resale.
- Wrote press releases, articles, blogs, tweets, and were consistently quoted in media reports and news articles.
- Galvanized their members to *Storm the Hill*, participate in virtual town hall meetings, contact their Representatives, and to let their voice be heard!

Because the defense budget crisis is expected to continue going forward, Your ALA will continue to work with and engage these dedicated advocacy organizations and Coalition valued associates in protecting military resale and safeguarding these critical earned benefits.