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Ensure that these Priority Goals are enacted. Sign up today for VFW's legislative e-mail newsletter at www.vfw.org.

Support today's veterans & military

Help us ensure that an adequate VA system will be there for the millions of current and future veterans.

When you visit your congressional representatives please stress that these are the issues we will be fighting for in the 111th Congress. These goals reflect the resolutions passed by the VFW and are supported by our 2.2 million members and our Auxiliaries. To find out who your congressional representatives are, go to www.vfw.org, click on "VFW Capitol Hill" then "VFW Capitol Hill Contacts."



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VA HEALTH CARE

VA BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION



priority goals 2010

Key VFW National Veterans, Legislative, Employment and Security Goals

MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE

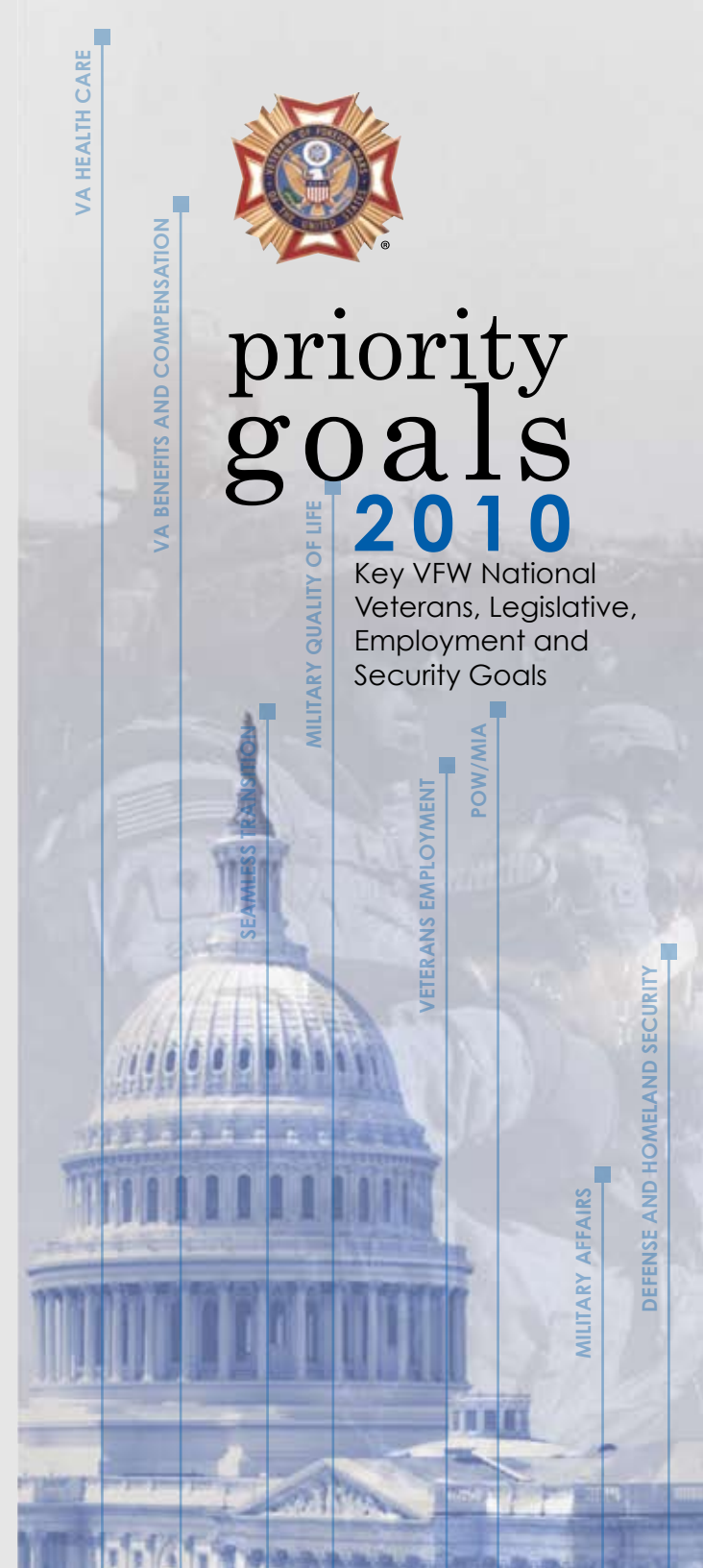
SEAMLESS TRANSITION

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

POW/MIA

MILITARY AFFAIRS

DEFENSE AND HOMELAND SECURITY



Listed are VFW's official positions on veterans and national security issues for 2009-2010.

They are based on national convention resolutions and rated as priorities by their respective committees.

■ VA HEALTH CARE

- Ensure a sufficient VA budget that properly meets the health care demands of all veterans.
- Establish sufficient, predictable and timely VA funding.
- Ensure unique health care and benefits challenges of Iraq and Afghanistan war vets are met, including increased funding for traumatic brain injuries and improved access to care.
- Hire specialized health care providers for women veterans who provide training for gender-specific care, mental health care and military sexual trauma.
- Improve VA outreach so that all veterans—especially female, minority and rural veterans—are aware of the range of health care services and benefits available to them.

■ VA BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION

- Ensure Congress provides adequate resources to enable VBA to reduce current backlog of disability claims.
- Call on congress to use its vital oversight to ensure true leadership and accountability within VBA.
- Call on VA to determine which disabilities, and level of disability, adversely affect a veteran's quality of life.
- Adjust VA's Schedule for Rating Disability to ensure that veterans are adequately compensated.

■ SEAMLESS TRANSITION

- Encourage seamless transition for vets transferring from DoD to VA, including electronic medical records that travel from duty stations to wherever veterans receive VA health care.
- Improve veterans transition services and benefits, including viable training, employment and education programs to provide meaningful careers.

■ MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE

- Ensure that active-duty, National Guard and Reserve troops receive increased pay, affordable health care and adequate housing and work facilities for themselves and families.

■ VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

- Urge Congress to immediately address the highest unemployment rates among veterans in recent history by requiring all federal programs to adhere to already existing veterans' employment and small business laws.
- Solidify Uniformed Service Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act (USERRA) and reverse legal decisions that tend to favor employers.
- Urge the Department of Labor to be more thorough and timely in its USERRA investigations.
- Urge Congress to mandate that all federal agencies fulfill the 3% government-wide procurement goal for service disabled veteran-owned small businesses and require agencies to report their procurement levels and be held accountable if they fail to meet the 3% goal.

■ DEFENSE AND HOMELAND SECURITY

- Support U.S. troops and their mission to prosecute the war on terrorism around the world.
- Increase defense spending to fund personnel initiatives, troop end-strength requirements and needed weapons programs.
- Halt development and proliferation of nuclear weapons and material.
- Urge the continued development and deployment of a ballistic missile defense system.
- Secure U.S. borders, shorelines and all ports of entry.

■ MILITARY AFFAIRS

- Seek to improve the quality of life for all active-duty troops, reservists and their families.
- Provide a military base-pay raise to restore full comparability with private sector wages.
- Support efforts to lower the Guard and Reserve retirement pay age from 60 to 55.
- Oppose any TRICARE fee increases.

■ POW/MIA

- Achieve the fullest possible accounting of all U.S. military personnel missing from all wars.
- Ensure the U.S. government keeps the POW/MIA issue elevated as a national priority.
- Urge the President and Congress to fully fund the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command through a dedicated single-line item appropriation in the Defense budget.

