Support Today’s Veterans & Military

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

When you visit your congressional representatives, please stress these are the issues we will be fighting for in the 115th Congress. These goals reflect the resolutions passed and supported by the men and women of the VFW and its Auxiliary. To find out who your congressional representatives are, visit the VFW website at www.vfw.org and click on the Advocacy Grassroots Efforts.

Play a Role in the Process

Ensure that these Priority Goals are enacted. Sign up today for the VFW’s Action Corps Weekly e-newsletter at www.vfw.org/weekly.

— 2017 —

Priority Goals

Washington Office
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Tel. (202) 543-2239
Fax (202) 543-0961

National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Tel. (816) 756-3390
Fax (816) 968-1199

— 2017 —

Priority Goals

VFW
Veterans of Foreign Wars
No one does more for veterans.
www.vfw.org
Congress must fully fund VA and DOD programs and services. To achieve this, Congress must:

- End budget sequestration and adjust outdated budget caps.
- Authorize VA to receive reimbursements from TRICARE and Medicare.
- Authorize public/private partnerships for VA’s infrastructure needs.

### Work Force Development and Accountability

To attract and maintain a quality workforce Congress and VA must:

- Improve hiring authorities to recruit and retain a high quality workforce.
- Provide quality training programs for employees and managers.
- Quickly investigate, discipline and remove employees who underperform or endanger veterans’ lives.

### Health Care

Congress and VA must ensure that veterans receive timely access to high quality, comprehensive, and veteran-centric care at no added cost to veterans by:

- Conducting demand/capacity analyses in each community.
- Consolidating VA’s community care programs into a single, integrated system.
- Modernizing VA’s scheduling system.
- Expanding current caregiver benefits to veterans of all eras.
- Strengthening VA and DOD mental health programs.
- Expanding gender-specific programs and competencies.

### Compensation and Benefits

Timely and accurate disability ratings are the gateway to compensation and other benefits. To ensure veterans and their dependents have access to these earned benefits Congress and VA must:

- Reform the appeals process.
- Accept private medical evidence when processing disability compensation claims.
- Require treatment of presumptive conditions as a claim for disability compensation.
- Extend presumptive conditions for hearing loss, tinnitus, TBI and toxic exposures.
- Expand nursing home eligibility for all veterans.
- Increase burial allowances, expand marker medalion eligibility, and include spouses’ information on all headstones.

### Education, Employment and Transition Assistance

To ensure veterans have an opportunity to obtain meaningful employment after leaving military service, they must have access to:

- High quality and sustainable education benefits.
- Strong employment and training programs.
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment services throughout their lifetime.
- Small business development opportunities.
- Civilian credentials or academic credit for the professional training they receive during service.
- Government hiring and contracting opportunities.
- A national veterans treatment court advocate within VA.
- Homeless reintegration programs.

### Defense/Homeland Security

Congress, DOD and Department of Homeland Security must fully support U.S. troops and their mission to fight the war on terrorism and protect our nation’s citizens and interests around the world by:

- Halting the development and/or proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- Fully fund and deploy a U.S. missile defense system.
- Securing America’s borders.

### Military Quality of Life

Congress and DOD must maintain a quality and comprehensive benefits and retirement package that is the backbone for an all-volunteer force. To achieve this they must:

- Preserve the integrity of TRICARE.
- Protect and improve on-base quality of life programs.
- Pass full concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and VA disability compensation.
- Eliminate the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependancy and Indemnity Compensation offset for surviving military retiree spouses.

### POW/MIA

Congress and DOD must make POW/MIA recovery a national priority by:

- Ensuring the POW/MIA Accounting mission is fully funded.
- Expanding partnerships with host nations and private/public organizations to achieve the fullest possible accounting of U.S. military personnel missing from all wars.