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 www.vfw.org/actioncorps.

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/actioncorps.

2018 PRIORITY GOALS

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Delivering the Promise to our Veterans, Service Members, and their Families
Budget

To fully fund VA and DOD programs and services, Congress must:

- End budget sequestration and adjust outdated budget caps.
- Authorize VA to receive reimbursements from TRICARE and Medicare.
- Never reduce one veteran’s benefits to pay for another.
- Ensure the POW/MIA Accounting mission is fully funded.

Compensation and Benefits

To ensure veterans and their dependents have timely access to earned benefits, Congress and VA must:

- Require treatment of presumptive conditions as a claim for disability compensation.
- Establish presumptive service connection for hearing loss, tinnitus, TBI, and exposure to certain toxic substances.
- Increase burial allowances to account for inflation and include spouses’ information on all headstones.
- Reform the Gulf War Illness Disability Benefits Questionnaire.
- Address veterans’ homelessness by increasing the availability of affordable housing.
- Adjust Grant and Per Diem Program rates for inflation.
- Prohibit VA compensation and non-service-connected pension from being considered countable income for homeless programs.

Health Care

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

- Consolidate VA’s community care programs into a single, integrated system.
- Modernize VA’s health IT systems.
- Expand current caregiver benefits to veterans of all eras.
- Strengthen VA and DOD health care and research for mental health and traumatic brain injuries (TBI).
- Further expand gender-specific programs and competencies.
- Provide care and benefits to veterans and family members impacted by toxic exposures.

Prevent the increase of pharmaceutical copayments.

Conduct medical research on the benefits of medical cannabis.

Extend telehealth services.

Make nursing home eligibility part of the VA health care benefits package.

Government hiring and contracting opportunities.

A national veterans treatment court advocate within VA.

Education and training in new and expanding career fields.

Proper knowledge and training in transition programs.

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.

Military Quality of Life

To maintain a quality and comprehensive benefits and retirement package that is the backbone for an all-volunteer force, Congress and DOD 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/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset for surviving military retiree spouses.

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 military service.

Education and training in new and expanding career fields.

POW/MIA

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

- Expand partnerships with host nations and private/public organizations to achieve the fullest possible accounting of U.S. military personnel missing from all wars.