



National Legislative Service

Tammy Barlet
Deputy Director
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The Importance of Legislative Advocacy



Impacts every veteran and family member

- Veterans Preference
- GI Bill
- Toxic Exposures

Veterans benefits don't just happen

- Stronger and better advocates together

Protect what we have secured

- Elimination of IU after reaching retirement age
- Round down of cost-of-living adjustment

Recent Victories



- ✓ Passage of the *PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act*, which will establish a pilot program on dog training therapy for veterans diagnosed with PTSD and require VA to provide service dogs for those veterans, including veterinary insurance
- ✓ Inclusion of **Agent Orange presumptive** conditions of bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and parkinsonism to the list of Department of Veterans Affairs presumptive conditions for herbicide exposure
- ✓ Passage of the *Deborah Sampson Act*, which will remove the barriers to health care impacting women veterans
- ✓ **Elimination of the 12-year limit** on using Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) benefits

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Current Priority Goals



- Concurrent Receipt**
 - NDAA
- Health Care**
 - Suicide prevention
 - Medical cannabis
 - Women veterans
 - Preventive prescriptions



- VR&E**
 - Transition
- Toxic Exposure**
 - Burn Pit Registry
 - Benefits
 - Presumptive conditions

Many more...

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Join Action Corps



- Weekly e-newsletter and Action Alerts
 - Be informed and involved
 - Take action and make a difference
- Your engagement with your members of Congress is crucial in helping us get vital pieces of veterans legislation passed into law
- **Three ways to sign up**
 - 1) Visit www.vfw.org/JoinActionCorps
 - 2) Text "VFW" to 50457
 - 3) Scan the QR Code



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Take Action



IMPORTANCE OF ACTION CORPS

RECENT ACTION ALERTS

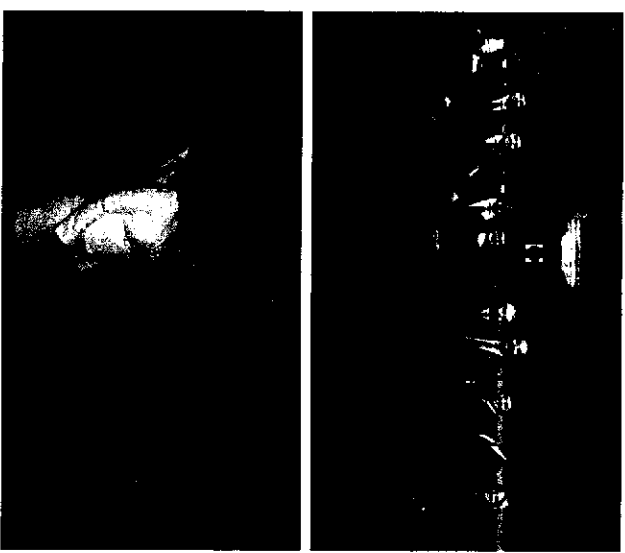
Congress is Leaving Veterans Behind
336,733 received / 3,965 took action

Cost of War Act and Honoring our PACT Act
337,310 received / 6,870 took action

Student Fellowship



- Selection Criteria
 - VFW member or eligible for VFW membership
 - Currently enrolled in an accredited institution of higher learning
 - Submission of an essay proposal addressing a key veterans' policy issue
- We need your help to recruit
- Application period is open
- www.vfw.org/studentfellowship



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Make Legislative Advocacy a Priority



All politics is local!

- Members of Congress will turn to you
- Share your experience, but know the VFW's stance

Campaign Season

- Get Out the Vote

Work with our Legislative Committee Members

- Requirement for All-American
- Legislative Award



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Political Activities



DO's

- Attend candidate town hall meetings and other events to ask candidates where they stand on our issues
- Set up voter registration drives / Get Out the Vote campaigns on the local level
- Provide carpool service on Election Day to help the elderly and disabled get to the voting booths
- Support and work for your favorite candidates as an individual voting constituent
- Wear your VFW cap at public events such as town halls, rallies, forums, or debates

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Political Activities



DON'Ts

- Don't endorse candidates on behalf of the VFW National Organization, Department, District or Post
- Don't wear your VFW cap when actively campaigning for a candidate, such as soliciting donations or knocking on doors asking people to pledge their vote for a candidate

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We're Here to Help



www.vfw.org/advocacy

- Talking points & priority goals
- Congressional testimony
- Action Corps
 - Read the weekly
 - Take Action
 - Sign up advocates
- Do's and Don'ts



QUESTIONS?

Contact the VFW National Legislative Service

- Email: pmurray@vfw.org
- Call: (202)608-8365