



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

2020

PRIORITY GOALS

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

*Delivering the promise to our
veterans, service members,
and their families.*

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Support today's veterans and 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 116th 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 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 vfw.org/joinactioncorps.





2020 PRIORITY GOALS

BUDGET

To fully fund programs for veterans, service members, and their families, Congress must:

- ✓ Reform the dysfunctional federal budget process.
- ✓ Authorize VA to receive reimbursements from TRICARE and Medicare.
- ✓ Properly fund the POW/MIA full accounting mission.
- ✓ Never reduce one veteran's benefits to pay for another.

HEALTH CARE

To ensure service members and veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares, Congress, VA and DOD must:

- ✓ Reduce the number of service members and veterans who die by suicide.
- ✓ Preserve the integrity of TRICARE.
- ✓ Properly implement VA and DOD health IT systems.
- ✓ Strengthen care and research for mental health and traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- ✓ Improve programs and services for women veterans.
- ✓ Research and effectively treat health conditions associated with toxic exposures.
- ✓ Eliminate copayment requirements for preventive medicines.
- ✓ Research the efficacy of medical cannabis.
- ✓ Expand telehealth services.
- ✓ Expand nursing home eligibility.

DISABILITY ASSISTANCE & MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

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

- ✓ Properly implement the modernized appeals process.
- ✓ Consider treatment of presumptive conditions as a claim for disability compensation.

- ✓ Extend Persian Gulf War disability compensation eligibility beyond 2021 and to Afghanistan-theater veterans, and reform the relevant Disability Benefits Questionnaire.
- ✓ Establish presumptive disability compensation benefits for hearing loss, tinnitus, TBI, blast survivors, and for health conditions associated with toxic exposures.
- ✓ Require VA to accept private medical evidence in lieu of VA examinations.
- ✓ Increase burial allowances to account for inflation and include spouses' information on all headstones.
- ✓ Authorize more than one adaptive automotive grant for disabled veterans.
- ✓ Make the VA National Service Life Insurance competitive with private health insurance policies.
- ✓ Update regulations and laws governing claims to account for digital claims processing.
- ✓ Improve accuracy of disability compensation claims related to military sexual trauma.
- ✓ Expand VA wartime benefits to early Vietnam veterans.
- ✓ Transfer control of the Mare Island Naval Cemetery to the National Cemetery Administration.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & TRANSITION ASSISTANCE

To ensure veterans succeed after leaving military service, they must have access to:

- ✓ Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment services throughout their lifetime.
- ✓ Timely and improved transition assistance, including access to programs after they leave military service.
- ✓ High-quality and sustainable education benefits.
- ✓ Strong employment and training programs.
- ✓ Small business development opportunities.
- ✓ Civilian credentials or academic credit for military training.
- ✓ Hiring preferences in the civil service and with large government contractors.

- ✓ National veterans treatment court advocates.
- ✓ Education and training in new and expanding career fields.
- ✓ Affordable housing and wraparound services to avoid homelessness.
- ✓ Improved character of discharge review and appeals procedures.

MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE

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

- ✓ Increase military base pay comparability with private sector wages.
- ✓ Protect and improve on-base quality of life programs.
- ✓ Ensure that military housing is safe and free of toxic substances.
- ✓ End the military retirement pay and VA disability compensation offset.
- ✓ Increase the government's Thrift Savings Plan contribution.
- ✓ Eliminate sexual assaults in the military.
- ✓ Establish the Armed Forces University.
- ✓ Ensure equity of benefits for Reserve component service members.
- ✓ Improve stability and support for military families.

NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN AFFAIRS & POW/MIA

To fully support service members and their mission to fight the war on terrorism, and protect our nation's citizens and interests around the world, 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.
- ✓ Preserve the all-volunteer force.
- ✓ Maintain a substantial military presence in the Republic of Korea.