



LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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BE AN ADVOCATE~ ~BE INFORMED~~BE ENGAGED

Welcome to an exciting Legislative year **“Serving America’s Heroes”** while giving **“Simply the Best for Our Veterans!”** We have so much work to accomplish and goals to meet for our Veterans, our service members, their families, and communities by advocating for them. Are you on board with this mission?

According to the Webster Dictionary, legislative is both an adjective and noun. Legislatives belonging to the branch of government that are charged with such powers as making laws, levying, and collecting taxes, and making financial appropriations and the body or department exercising the power and function of legislating : legislature.

As Department Legislative Chairman, I will be looking for those who go beyond giving “Simply the Best for Our Veterans” as my *MVP at Auxiliary and District level.*

- **Auxiliary Chairman will send this information to your District Chairman monthly.**
- **District Chairman will then mail/email the information from the Auxiliaries to me monthly.**

I look forward to receiving so much promotional information and results that we raise the bar at the National level! We are the voices and advocates of our Veterans and their families.

Primarily, promotion of the **VFW Priority Goals** is always to everyone, especially our legislators!

Number one, ***let us work on the Major Richard Star Act and get this done now.***

Our Veterans should have had this years ago. Concurrent receipt without losing any financial money. **Honor this contract as our Veterans have honored their commitment and sacrifice.**

VFW Priority Goals

- Budget
- Health Care
- Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
- Education, Employment, and Transition Assistance
- Military Readiness
- National Security, Foreign Affairs, POW/MIA

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LEGISLATIVE

AUXILIARY LEGISLATIVE DAYS IN PENNSYLVANIA

Districts in each area of Pennsylvania (Western - September, Central- January, and Eastern- April), plan an Auxiliary Legislative Day where we invite local legislators in each area to discuss how VFW priorities impact not only our veterans, but also their families. Instead of having one at the Capitol, let us branch out for everyone to be involved in this Auxiliary Legislative Days momentum.

All District and Auxiliary Legislative Chairmen along with our VFW counterparts will be asked to be on the team. This is so crucial for our lawmakers to hear the stories in these areas about our veteran's families while helping them grasp the importance of our priorities. We stand alongside our own VFW Veterans on our own day, speaking to our legislators as we can influence the needs of our Veterans, stressing they deserve improved care and benefits after they signed a blank contract to serve our country.

VFW ACTION CORPS WEEKLY

Another Goal is to recruit new members into the ***VFW Action Corps Weekly*** from the community and new members when they join our ranks!

Have each new member complete a form and be sure to send it to me so I can reward the efforts.

The form, to use for current and new members, can be found on the PA VFW Auxiliary website at <https://vfwauxpa.org> under Legislative Program. The best way to send the completed form is to scan and email it to your District Chairman and copy my email at the same time.

Communicating needs to be effective with our legislators and representatives. **Know the VFW priorities and not just the name of the bill.** Be invested in your veteran's needs and share the importance of each bill. Remember, support can be very empowering when expressing one's needs and concerns. If you know someone willing to share their story, get their information for the Auxiliary Legislative Day in your area.

When speaking verbally and in writing, remember to:

- Be clear.
- Be precise.
- Be courteous.
- Know the talking points.
- Tell your story.
- Make the "ask" – formally request the legislator's support.
- Take notes on their responses.
- Thank them verbally and in writing. Just like an interview!



#vfwauxlegislative

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VETERAN ADVOCACY RESOURCES

To be an excellent advocate, it is vital to provide Auxiliaries, Chairmen and families with resources to aid them in being the best and phenomenally successful while speaking on Veterans issues.

District meetings can have a school of instruction on being an advocate for our Veterans and provide the opportunity to speak with legislators. This engages everyone present at the meeting.

Remember to use the following resources:

- VFW Priority Goals
- Member Resources in MALTA
- House.gov
- Congress.gov
- Local and state government websites
- VFW Action Corps Weekly (Sign up and use your voice!)
- QR Codes at Events
- The Legislative Goals are released in January of each year by the VFW at the National VFW website: <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service>
- VFW Action Corps Weekly for current and archived editions: <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts/vfw-action-corps-weekly>
- Subscribe to VFW Action Corps Weekly: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>
- To identify your congressional representatives, visit the VFW website at: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/Address>
- To follow a Bill through the process, visit <https://www.congress.gov/>
- VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship rules and eligibility, visit <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veteranssupport/student-fellowship>

VFW LEGISLATIVE OFFICE IN D.C.

Contact Information for the D.C. office:

Phone: 202.543.2239

Mail: 200 Maryland Ave., N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20002

This is the VFW and VFW Auxiliary advocate for veterans that testify at hearings, interact with Congress, and fight for Justice! This group of individuals and the VFW Family have played a key role in all the Veteran's legislation that has passed in the 20th Century and developed bills in the 21st Century for our Veterans!

The VFW Washington, D. C. Office has a critical responsibility to actively lobby Congress and the Administration on our Veterans' behalf. They monitor all legislation affecting our Veterans and they alert the VFW and VFW Auxiliary about key legislation that is being considered.

This Office operates under the National Legislative Service. Additional information can be found about their advocacy and their legislative efforts at the VFW website under the Advocacy section at [vfw.org/advocacy](https://www.vfw.org/advocacy).

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NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM AWARDS

AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES:

1. Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions with the largest increase in new VFW Action Corps Weekly sign-ups from the Community and new VFW Auxiliary members.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2027, for judging.

The Department Legislative Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Legislative Ambassador by April 30, 2027, for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

DEPARTMENT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM AWARDS

1. Citation to one Auxiliary in each membership division that had the best promotion of the VFW Priority Goals with or without their VFW Post.
2. Citation to Auxiliaries in each membership division with the highest number of VFW Auxiliary members who contacted their legislators on Veteran's issues by any means (Examples: emails, letters, post cards, phone calls, thank you notes, etc.).
3. Citation to Auxiliaries in each membership division with the highest number of VFW Auxiliary members who attended events where they could interact with legislators (Examples: Legislative Conferences, Town Halls, Meet-and-Greets, etc.).
4. Citation to the top three (3) Districts with the largest increase in new VFW Action Corps Weekly sign-ups from the Community and new VFW Auxiliary members. Entry forms required

Must submit supporting documentation with year-end reports.

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