

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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Be An Advocate-Be Informed-Be Engaged

One of the main objectives of the Legislative Program is to improve the lives of our veterans, service members and their families through advocacy. Your efforts, combined with nearly 1.5 million other VFW and Auxiliary members, can influence lawmakers whose decisions affect veterans and their families every day. **Remember to say Thank-you.** Host a note-writing campaign where handwritten thank-you notes to veterans are paired with QR codes or links that direct recipients to the VFW Action Corps weekly sign-up page or the VFW Priority Goals. This can add a layer of engagement, turning gratitude into action.

Study the issues laid out clearly in the VFW Priority Goals. The VFW focuses on these to strengthen and ensure an adequate VA system for millions of current and future veterans. The priority goals reflect the resolutions passed and supported by the men and women of the VFW and its Auxiliary. Every January The Priority Goals for the current year are released by the VFW on the National website:

(<https://www.VFW.org/advocacy/national-legislavite-services>).

This year they are:

1. **Budget:** To fully fund programs for Veterans, service members and their families.
2. **Health Care:** To ensure service members and Veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares.
3. **Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs:** To ensure Veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits.
4. **Education, Employment and Transition Assistance:** To ensure Veterans succeed after leaving military service
5. **Military Readiness:** To maintain a strong and ready all-volunteer force capable of protecting American interests.
6. **National Security, Foreign Affairs, and POW/MIA:** To fully support the all-volunteer force, protect our Nation's citizens and defend American interests around the world.

Here are a few simple ways you can help support our Veterans through the Legislative Program:

1. Become familiar with the VFW Priority goals-then share this information with other VFW and Auxiliary members during meetings or in newsletters.
2. Know where elected officials stand on Veteran issues, then be prepared to draft letters for upcoming Legislation. To identify your congressional representatives, **visit the VFW website at: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/address>**
- 3 Sign up for the VFW Action Corps Weekly-then invite others to sign up. The Action Corps Weekly is free and you can find it by visiting **www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts**. This is where the Call To Actions can be found.
4. Respond to VFW Action Alerts-then spread the word for others to act. Write a letter and have your non e-mail members sign it and mail it for them.

5. Get involved with town hall meetings-then encourage others to attend.
6. Offer rides to members/community members who don't drive.
7. Be sure to vote in all elections-then assist others with the voting process.
8. Use the MALTA Member Resources>Legislative-then teach others what is available on MALTA Members Resources.
9. DO NOT endorse any candidate on behalf of the VFW Auxiliary-we must remain neutral.
10. DO NOT wear any VFW Auxiliary attire when campaigning for a candidate.

The Legislative Program information can be found at vfwauxny.org>Programs> Legislative,
Or scan the QR code at the bottom of the page.

**Have your reports to me by the first of each month!!!
 National Awards for Auxiliaries:**

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event to create thank-you notes and cards to Veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or the VFW Priority Goals. Citations and \$25.00 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that host the most outstanding activities and/or event to create thank-you notes and cards to veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or the VFW Priority goals.
Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources.
 VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2026, for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Department Awards for Auxiliaries

1. \$50.00 Award for the most Outstanding Auxiliary excelling in Legislative Education: How many different Auxiliary members were educated on Legislation that affected our Veterans? What types of materials were used?
2. \$50.00 Award for the Most Outstanding auxiliary excelling in Legislative Participation: How many times during the year did your auxiliary organize, speak with, or contact Congressmen and Senators regarding Veterans concerns: What were the issues advocated?

**From Sea to Shining Sea, Honoring Our Veterans Who Keep us Free
 while
 Always Stay True to Our Red, White and Blue.**

