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LEGISLATIVE Program Book 2025/2026

We can "Be the reason a Veteran smiles today" while marching down the Yellow Brick Road with our Legislative program.

VFW Priority Goals: Budget, Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, Education, Employment and Transition Assistance, as well as Health Care, Military Readiness, National Security, Foreign Affairs and Prisoner of War/Missing in Action.

In addition to these Goals, we should also:

- ✓ "Follow up with Gratitude": Follow up the in-person meetings with local legislators with an email or thank you card.
- ✓ "Legislative Gratitude Days": Use specific dates: Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Vietnam War Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day, or the birthdays of the US Military Branches. Include social media campaigns and community engagement. Include the youth in your activities.
- ✓ "Thank You Notes with a Purpose: Host a note writing campaign where handwritten thank you notes are paired with QR codes or links that direct recipients to the VFW Action Corps Weekly sign-up page or the VFW Priority Goals. Veterans in the community will feel appreciated, and they will be empowered and engaged with ongoing legislative efforts. Conducting a note writing event to a Veterans recognition event is one of the many ways to reach our Veterans.
- ✓ "Veterans Advocacy Training": Prepare Auxiliary Members to become powerful voices in legislative advocacy. Organize training workshops for members, teaching advocacy skills and strategies for engaging law makers. Use MALTA Member Resources, Legislative. Utilize online tools and resources from your local and state government.
- ✓ Educate members about how we are non-partisans: we support legislation that improves the lives of Veterans and Service Members. Open the Action Corp Weekly, lack of activity will result in removal from the mailing list.

Present a report at each meeting. Give a brief description of current priority legislation that will affect our Veterans, Service Members, and their families. Report on the status of bills.

AWARDS:

National Award:

- ✓ FIRST PLACE: 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. A citation and \$25 will be awarded in each of the 10 Program Divisions.
- ✓ Entry form is required and is available in MALTA Member Resources.
- ✓ VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.

Department Awards:

- ✓ FIRST PLACE: 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. A citation and \$20 will be awarded in each of the 4 Program Divisions.
- ✓ SECOND PLACE: A citation goes to one Auxiliary in each of the 4 Program Divisions.

Judging will be based on reports submitted throughout the year. REPORT, REPORT, REPORT.

Program Divisions: (Based on current membership):

Group I: 10-50 Group II: 51-85 Group III: 86-150 Group IV: 151 AND UP

Veteran Advocacy Tools:

Under MALTA Resources you will find guides for contacting Legislators, the Legislative Process, VFW Auxiliary involvement in Elections and Public Activities. There are also Legislative Websites links and the 2025-2026 Legislative Award # 1 form.

Legislative Resources:

VFW Website: www.vfw.org MO VFW Auxiliary Website: www.vfwauxmo.org VFW Legislative Priorities: www.vfw.org/legisativepriorities VFW Legislative Priorities, including VFW Priority Goals: www.vfw.org/advocacy/nationallegislative-service VFW Action Corp Weekly: www.vfw.org/actioncorpsweekly All Federal Bills Currently Supported by VFW: https://ssi/capwiz.com/vfw/issues/bills Federal Bills: www.comgress.gov US Senators: www.senate.gov US Representatives: www.house.gov MO Senators: www.semate.mo.gov/Senators/Index MO Representatives: https://house.mo.gov MAVO Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064617375512

Working together and using the power of the Legislative Program we can continue our "Fight" to advocate for our Veterans, Service Members and their families.

