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I hope everyone had a terrific holiday. Thank you for your hard work and dedication; I am excited for what we can accomplish in the new year.

Now, let's get down to business! The business of our Veterans and all that they deserve.

First step: Open your Action Corps Weekly and "PUSH THE BUTTON". We are the voice for our heroes. Anyone can sign up; they do not have to be VFW or Auxiliary members.

Second step: Take action, tell congress Veterans deserve safer treatment. Ask your members of congress to support:

- H.R. 4837, WRITTEN INFORMED CONSENT ACT WOULD REQUIRE WRITTEN RISKS BEFORE VA PRESCRIBES CERTAIN PSYCHIATRIC MEDS.
- H.R. 2623, INNOVATIVE THERAPIES CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE ACT OF 2025 WOULD CREATE FIVE VA CENTERS FOR INNOVATIVE PTSD TREATMENTS. (WWW.gov/elected officials)
- H.R. 1845, TAP PROMOTION ACT, GUARANTEEING ALL TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS ACCESS TO VA ACCREDITED BENEFIT COUNSELORS.
- H.R. 3986, VETERANS CLAIMS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT, IMPROVES TRAINING IN THE VA CLAIMS AND APPEALS SYSTEM.
- H.R. 2055/S,611, CARING FOR SURVIVORS ACT, INCREASES DIC FROM 43% TO 55% OF 100% DISABLED VETERAN'S BENEFIT.
- H.R. 1815, VA HOME LOAN PROGRAM REFORM ACT, RE-ESTABLISHES FORECLOSURE PREVENTION TOOLS THROUGH A PARTIAL CLAIM PROGRAM.

Third step: Go to the National Auxiliary website and utilize the tools that our National Ambassador has provided. Print off fliers and place in areas where Veterans or their family can see and also get involved. Not to mention place them at your Post, you'd be surprised how many Post and Auxiliary members aren't signed up for Action Corp Weekly.

The location of our Washington, D.C., office allows us to monitor all legislation affecting veterans, alert VFW membership to key legislation under consideration and to actively lobby Congress and the administration on veterans' issues. **National Legislative Service** establishes the VFW's legislative priorities and advocates on veterans' behalf. By testifying at congressional committee hearings and interacting with congressional members, the VFW has played an instrumental role in nearly every piece of veterans' legislation passed since the beginning of the 20th century. Everything we do on Capitol Hill is with the VFW's Priority Goals and veterans' well-being in mind. With the strength of the more than 1.4 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary, our voice on Capitol Hill cannot be ignored!

You can always check and see what Campaigns are active with National Legislative Service by visiting: https://votervoice.net/VFW/Campaigns.

Continue with the reporting, you all are awesome! The Awards are for the 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. Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources. This required entry form must be to the Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.

Let us "Light the way between Veterans' families and legislators with a wave of gratitude" so we can "Be the reason a Veteran smiles today".

