



Issue #1
Program Book

THE WHOOTIE WHO NEWS

Department Of Missouri Legislative 22-23 Program Material

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Objective of the Legislative Program

Improving the lives of our Veterans, service members and their families thru the advocacy of you and 1.5 million other VFW and Auxiliary members. Together with the VFW we can become strong enough to influence our lawmakers.

Legislative Guidelines

Legislative activity is not the same as political activity. We support bills, not people or political parties. No Auxiliary space, which includes websites and social media accounts, should show favoritism towards a candidate, party or issues not endorsed by the VFW.

- **BE AN ADVOCATE**
- **BE INFORMED**
- **BE ENGAGED**

Dept. of Missouri has a new website.

<https://vfwauxmo.org>

Action Corps Weekly

Sign up today for the

VFW Action Corps Weekly and VFW Action Alerts:



- Text "VFW" to 50457
 - Scan the QR Code
- or
- Visit

<https://votervoice.net/VFW/Register>

The Roll of the VFW In Washington D.C.

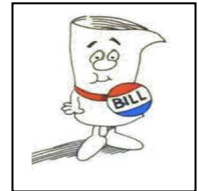
One of the most important responsibilities of the VFW Washington, D.C. office is to actively lobby Congress and the administration on behalf of veterans. The office watches all legislation impacting veterans and alerts VFW and Auxiliary members about key legislation under consideration. By testifying at committee hearings and interacting with congressional members, the VFW played an influential role in nearly every piece of veterans' legislation passed in the 100 years, as well as bills created in the 21st Century

To contact the D.C. office:

Website: vfw.org/advocacy

Phone: 202-543-2239

Mail: 200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002



Who Do I write to about Legislation?

Legislators

Find out Who Your Legislator Is!



Scan the QR Code or Visit

<https://votervoice.net/VFW/Address>

VFW Priority Goals	Young Adults and Awards	Year-End Report
Priority Goals as of January 2022 Page #2	Focusing on young adults and links to great resources Page #3	This year's year-end Form. Page #4

The VFW 2022 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.
- Never reduce one veteran's benefits to pay for another.

Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs

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

- Pass comprehensive toxic exposure reform, including improvements to the claims process, to provide health care and benefits to all toxic exposed veterans.
- Consider treatment of presumptive conditions as a claim for disability compensation.
- Properly implement the modernized appeals process.
- Reinstate a pre-decisional review period for claims representatives prior to final ratings decisions.
- Require VA to accept private medical evidence in lieu of VA examinations.
- Update regulations and laws governing claims to account for digital claims processing.
- Improve the accuracy of disability compensation claims related to military sexual trauma.
- Increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits for survivors.
- Increase burial allowances to account for inflation and include spouses' information on all headstones

Education, Employment, and Transition

Assistance To ensure veterans succeed after leaving military service, Congress, VA, DOD, and DOL must:

- Conduct oversight of transition assistance program pathway attendance and ensure access to community transition resources.

- Improve education benefits through increased online student housing allowances, childcare stipends, parity for Guard and Reserve members, and elimination of delimiting dates.
- Enhance outreach and counseling for Veteran Readiness and Employment eligible veterans.
- Expand small business and entrepreneurship resources for veterans and military spouses.
- Expand preferences and tax incentives for hiring veterans and military spouses.
- Fund and track outcomes for career-focused training programs.
- Increase funding for HUD-VASH vouchers, grant and per diem payments, and pilot programs to combat veteran homelessness.

- Authorize more than one adaptive automotive grant for disabled veterans.

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 to zero.

- Strengthen care and research for mental health and traumatic brain injuries.
- Require an assessment of Vet Centers to ensure adequate staffing, resources, and funding.
- Improve programs and services for women and minority veterans.
- Research and effectively treat health conditions associated with toxic exposures.
- Eliminate copayment requirements for preventive health care, including medications.
- Research the efficacy of medical cannabis.
- Preserve the integrity of TRICARE.
- Properly implement VA and DOD health IT systems.
- Expand telehealth services.
- Expand nursing home eligibility, and long-term care options.

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.
- Ensure military family members are gainfully employed.
- Eliminate food insecurity 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, and POW/MIA

To fully support service members, 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.
- Ensure DPAA is fully funded to perform its personnel recovery mission.

www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service

What do we Need to Focus on to Succeed?

Be Informed and Inform Others

A Consistent Partnership and Communication with a Young Civic and or Political Groups.

Such as: Young Republicans National Federation and Young Democrats of America, the ROTC and sororities and fraternities of nearby colleges.

We have lots of Colleges in Missouri, reach out. Know and share the VFW Priority Goals and Action Alerts with all of the Political Groups, VFW Priority Goals a nonpartisan cause.

Be Engaged and Engage Others

Open your Post's, Have nonpartisan events. Help with Voter Registration Events.

Sign people up for The Action Corps Weekly

Be An Advocate and Teach others to

Advocate What is an Advocate?

A person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy. That cause is Veterans and their Priority Goals! We also need to show our creativity when corresponding with Politicians. Stand out in the Crowd! Make them remember you cause!

Step By Step- Bill

You can see a Bill through all of the stages by going to <https://www.congress.gov> .

This site will show you the Top 10 Bills and so much more information.

More on this in the July/August Edition.

The Blue Book

The Official Manual of The State of Missouri "The Blue Book" In this manual you will find detailed information on local, state and federal governments, as well as stories, essays and pictures that help preserve the state's heritage.

A great resource any Legislative Chairman and can be downloaded or viewed for free at <https://www.sos.mo.gov/bluebook/2021-2022>

Let's have Fun with Legislative!

Department Awards

Award No. 1 -The most Outstanding program/project.

1st Place * - \$40 and a citation to one Auxiliary with the most outstanding program/project.

2nd Place - A citation to one Auxiliary with the 2nd most outstanding program/project

Award No. 2 – Outstanding Chairman

1st Place* - \$25 and a citation to one Chairman in each membership group.

2nd Place – a citation to the 2nd place Outstanding Chairman in each Membership group.

*Award Amounts Pending Approval of the Budget at the June 2022 Council meeting.

National Awards for Auxiliaries

Most outstanding consistent partnership and/or communication with young adult civic and/or political groups.

- Citation to every Auxiliary that maintains a consistent partnership and/or communication with young adult civic and/or political groups. Criteria and entry form (required) available at <https://vfwauxiliary.org/resources> Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2023. The Department Legislative Chairman must send a copy of all submitted entry forms to National Headquarters by April 30, 2023. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding consistent partnership and/or communication with young adult civic and/or political groups. Winners will be announced, and awards presented at the 2023 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. The Department Legislative Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Legislative Ambassador Bobbie Goldman by April 30, 2023.

