

# January Legislative Program Newsletter

Madeline "Maddie" Cunningham-Colston, Chairman

Hello, Sisters and Brothers of California!

Happy New Year! Hope this finds all of you well and/or rapidly recovering from whatever woes befell you. One of the foundational 'pillars' of the Legislative Program is the "**VFW Priority Goals**" because they focus on the central legislative initiatives of concern to us all. In 2018, there were eight topics with 41 specific initiatives. For 2019, the topics have been reorganized to just six areas, with 50 specific initiatives detailed:

Budget	Education, Employment & Transition Assistance
Health Care	Disability Assistance & Memorial Affairs
Military Quality of Life	National Security, Foreign Affairs & POW / MIA

Our National Ambassador, Kathy Voss, has provided a copy of the brochure as a .pdf file, which I am passing on to all of you, asking that you distribute it to every one of our elected officials. This is actually an invaluable tool to help both educate our members about the essential goals of the Legislative Program as well as advocate for veterans' issues with our elected officials.

I compared the 2018 and 2019 versions: there are some new initiatives of interest, such as:

- Expand VA wartime benefits to early Vietnam veterans
- Transfer control of the Mare Island Naval Cemetery to the NCA, and
- Properly implement the VA Mission Act of 2018.

So, take a few minutes to check out the "**2019 VFW Priority Goals**" brochure. Finally, send me a report noting that you shared it with your elected officials so I can give you credit on the Blackout Sheet!

Cordially,

*Maddie*

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*Legislative  
Program Goals:*

- VFW Priority Goals
- Local Legislative Involvement
- VFW Action Corps Weekly
- Student Education and Engagement