



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
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LEGISLATIVE CHAIR 2022-2023
September Newsletter 2022, Promotion #1



Greetings, Auxiliary Family:

I apologize for this late Newsletter. My intentions were to have it out to you last month, but I was unsuccessful: I have gotten 'somewhat' settled in our new home that we are rehabbing from the "floor up" (which has its challenges) and I appreciate your patience with me.

Bobby Goldman, National Legislative Chair, wants to have us all be aware of current "Action Alerts at the Action Center" (link here: <https://votervoicenet/VFW/Campaigns>). These things need our "Urgent Attention" that will benefit our Veterans and their Families. I want to congratulate all those that have sent in their Reports. I am so impressed with all our members sharing the Action Alerts on the floor of their Auxiliaries and "taking action" on them by writing and emailing their Legislators, Senators, and even the President, Joe Biden, himself. Kudos and Well Done!! Please keep up the good work and keep the reports coming in.

It is also important that District Legislative Chairs be aware of and check out our National Resources. There are many useful things there. Here is a link to the VFW Legislative Priorities for 2022: <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service> -- you can download the Brochure here: <https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Advocacy/PriorityGoalsBrochure.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20220527T132104Z>.

Your Chairman can share these on the Auxiliary floor, print them out to have available at events and fundraisers, while encouraging sign-ups for the "Action Corps Weekly" (link here: <https://votervoicenet/VFW/register>).

Secondly, I want to encourage District and Auxiliary Chairman to connect with a "young adult" political group. You can find these on many college campuses. Remember the VFW Auxiliary is "non-partisan" and please give equal time and access to "all political" parties. If you find the campus has a Young Republican club, ask to visit the Young Democrat club also. Help them sign up for our "Action Corps Weekly."

Encourage the students to sign up to volunteer at polling places this November. Ask if they would like to host a town hall with those running for Local, State and Federal offices this November.

This week's "Action Alert" for September 5, 2022

988 Veterans Crisis Hotline: Veterans now have the option to **Dial 988 then Press 1** to connect with caring, qualified responders for 24/7 crisis assistance. "During a crisis, every second counts," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "This new, shorter number makes it easier for veterans and those who care about them to reach lifesaving support without having to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care." While **Dial 988 then Press 1** is a new option for contacting the Veterans Crisis Line, the original number, **1.800.273.8255 and press 1**, remains available, and individuals can make contact via chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat or by texting 838255.

Improvements to Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry: VA is making several changes to its Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry to expand eligibility and make it easier to use. Veterans are now eligible to participate if they have deployed to one of three new locations – Syria or Uzbekistan since Sept. 11, 2001, or Egypt since August 1990. Other veterans and service members who can participate include those who deployed to the Southwest Asia theater of operations any time after August 2, 1990, or Afghanistan or Djibouti on or after September 11, 2001. In addition, the VA is making the registry more user friendly and ensuring that veterans have the option to have an in-person health exam.

Veterans Needed for Million Veteran Program: The world's largest medical research biobank, Million Veteran Program (MVP), enrolled its 900,000th veteran and is seeking more to reach one million in the next calendar year. MVP seeks to learn how genes, lifestyles, and military exposures affect health and illness. Women veterans are encouraged to participate as they are often underrepresented in biomedical research which can leave gender-specific health questions unanswered. By contributing a blood sample to the biobank, veterans can help ensure that the research is more comprehensive.

VA Resources for Prostate Cancer Awareness: One in five veterans will develop prostate cancer. It is commonly diagnosed via a prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test and digital rectal examination. VA recommends talking with your provider about prostate cancer screening if you are between 55-69 years old. VA utilizes genetic testing to ensure precision treatments. [Read more.](#)

MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced four burial updates and six new identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II and Korea. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

-- Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. David M. Lewis, 20, of Dallas, was assigned to 345th Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Lewis was piloting crashed as a result of anti-aircraft fire during Operation Tidal Wave. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. He will be buried in Saltillo, Texas, on a date yet to be determined.

-- Army Pfc. Worley D. Jacks, 21, of Rutland, Ohio, was assigned to Company L, 232nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry Division. His unit was engaged in battle with German forces near Lichtenberg, France, when he was wounded and reported missing. With no body recovered and the

Germans never reporting him as a prisoner of war, on Oct. 4, 1945, the War Department declared Jacks killed in action. He will be buried in Marion, Ohio, on a date yet to be determined.

Read more about these on the “Action Corps” website: <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts/vfw-action-corps-weekly>.

I want to thank our Department President, Mary Anne Kreutz, for the opportunity to serve as Legislative Chair this 2022-2023 year and thank you all for your participation in the Legislative process.

Sincerely, In Service,

Desiree DeVille
California Department Legislative Chair