

February Legislative Program Promotion

How Will You Honor Your Veteran On Election Day?

Madeline “Maddie” Cunningham-Colston, Chairman

Hello, Sisters and Brothers of California!

How will you honor *your* veteran on March 5? That is Election Day across the state (although early vote-by-mail begins February 5). As I read through my ballot, I think of my veterans: in my mind’s eye, I see flashes of pictures of my husband, father, big brother and son-in-law all in their respective Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine uniforms. I am humbled and tears come to my eyes.

I -- we all -- have a duty to honor their respective sacrifices by exercising our freedom to vote. This foundational right in our democratic republic remains secure through their terms of service and the service of millions of their comrades, past and present.

I plan to wear one of these stickers when I go to cast my ballot:



You can find the “I Vote in Honor of a Veteran” sticker templates on the Auxiliary’s national website under Member Resources > Legislative > Auxiliary Legislative Tools & Resources: <https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org/MemberResources>.

The Legislative Program is an excellent means for us to peacefully advocate for veteran issues as we seek to make improvements that are codified into law, so that the improvements have some stability and permanence. I see this participation as “Defending Our Defenders.” Beyond that, exercising our right to vote helps in keeping

Legislative Program Goals:
Program Resources:

● Be An Advocate ● Be Informed ● Be Engaged
➤ VFW Action Corps Weekly ➤ 2024 VFW Priority Goals

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Page Two

our democracy healthy and robust. After you cast your ballot, **send in a report** on what you are doing through the Legislative Program to defend our defenders.

You should also feel good about being a part of this Program. Just by belonging to the Auxiliary, you empower our VFW leaders to speak with greater credence and weight when they go before Congress during the Legislative Conference next month.

If you haven't signed up to get the VFW Action Corps Weekly newsletter in your email, you still have time to do so: go to <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>. It's quick and easy, and a terrific way to stay informed and get brief notes on the legislative issues that the VFW supports or opposes. Then, **send me a report** that you signed up.

Finally, don't forget that your Auxiliaries are eligible to receive a Certificate of Recognition from National if you host an event that educates your community on veterans' issues. The form is on the national website and looks like this:



Legislative Award for Auxiliaries No. 1
Entry Form • 2023-2024 Program Year

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community on veteran Legislative issues.

- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community on veteran Legislative issues. Citations will be mailed directly to the participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.
- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) Conferences with the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community on Legislative issues. Winners will be announced at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Auxiliaries are to send this completed form to their Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2024.

Auxiliary Name: _____ No.: _____
Department of: _____

Describe the Auxiliary hosted activity and/or event that educated their community on veteran Legislative issues. Please attach any additional information. (E.g., flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc.)

Department Legislative Chairman: _____ Date: _____
(signature)

April 30, 2024 - The Department Legislative Chairman must sign and send the completed Department-winning Auxiliary entry form to National Legislative Ambassador Sherry Howland for judging.

AND

April 30, 2024 - The Department Legislative Chairman must email VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters at info@vfwauxiliary.org a total combined list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form.

Forms sent directly to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will not be processed.

Cordially,

Maddie

Madeline Cunningham-Colston
Legislative Program Chairman
and Program Coordinator, 2023-2024

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