

Legislative Program – January Newsletter

The 2024 VFW Priority Goals Are Here:

<https://vfwauxca.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=120357>

Hello, Auxiliary Members! It's a brand new year and the brand new **2024 VFW Priority Goals** have been released. You can download your own copy at the link above. This compact little pamphlet contains the six elemental areas of interest for the VFW's Legislative Program. It is our job to let our elected officials know that we endorse these goals and that we expect our legislators to create, and/or support, legislation that will achieve these goals and make them a reality for our veterans, active service members and their families.

The six main topics are:

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

There are 41 specific initiatives listed, grouped by subject, in these six arenas.

Our endorsement of these essentials of the **2024 VFW Priority Goals** is reflected in the values of the Auxiliary, and can be seen in the work we do every day: for example, just look at the Programs which are integral parts of the Auxiliary:

- Our Hospital Program aligns with the topics listed under "Health Care"
- Our Veterans & Family Support Program and our Youth Activities Program have segments that correlate to the topics of "Education, Employment and Transition Assistance," "Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs" and "Military Quality of Life"
- The work we do to support the Scholarships Program reflects our commitment to "Education and Employment"
- Our Americanism/POW/MIA Program actively promotes the "National Security, Foreign Affairs, and POW/MIA" goals listed.

Please read the **2024 VFW Priority Goals** pamphlet and make copies to put up on your Post and/or Auxiliary bulletin board – each District Legislative Chairman should copy this and distribute to all Auxiliaries. *This* is the information you want your elected officials to receive, so send them a copy. Then, send me a report on it!

Legislative Program – January Newsletter

Page Two

Of course, there is much to be done, especially since one out of every ten Americans is a veteran, and so much of the support they need is tied to funding that must be allocated through legislation passed by our Congressional and Senatorial representatives. The preamble of the Constitution declares that “*We the People...*” [establish this Constitution in order] “*...to provide for the common defence...*” We need nothing less than your continued contacts with your legislators, advocating for veterans’ benefits, to ensure that we do provide for our *defenders*.

If you have not reported on your Legislative Program activities yet, please do so right away. If you are a District Chairman, please reach out to any Auxiliary that has not yet reported their activities and help that Auxiliary complete a report. I am asking every District Legislative Chairman to ensure our Legislative Program materials have been given to each Auxiliary. If you need help, call me on 310 / 387-7906 and I’ll help. Our VFW Legislative advocates have to be able to tell both new and returning legislators that we expect them to honor America’s promises to all veterans!

Cordially,

Maddie

Madeline Cunningham-Colston
Legislative Program Chairman and
Program Coordinator, 2023-2024
California VFW Auxiliary
maddiec2@att.net
310-387-7906