

LEGISLATIVE AMBASSADOR

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Lighting the way between veterans' families and legislators with a wave of gratitude.

*Thank You for Your Service –
Turning our Gratitude into Action*

Every time we say, "Thank you for your service," we are acknowledging the sacrifices made by veterans and their families. But we can go beyond words and translate gratitude into action. Our Legislative Program empowers us to advocate for policies that improve the lives of veterans, service members and their families by turning our appreciation into meaningful legislative advocacy.

Consider lighting the way between veterans' families and local legislators by facilitating roundtable discussions, veterans' families could share their experiences and legislators could learn firsthand about the impact of legislation on veterans and their families' lives. These discussions are not only about advocacy but also about ensuring our legislators understand that behind every policy is a story of service and sacrifice.

Follow up with Gratitude

After in-person meetings with local legislators, follow up with an email or thank-you card. The thank you could include a QR code linking to a video of veterans from your community affected by those policies. This will reinforce the impact of the discussion and keep the advocacy message alive.

Legislative "Gratitude Days"

Establish specific days of action where Auxiliaries commit to contacting legislators with a message of thanks, while also urging them to support legislation that benefits veterans.

- Think about key dates, such as Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Vietnam War Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day, or the birthdays of the U.S. Military Branches.
- Include social media campaigns and community engagement.
- Include the youth in your activities.

Thank-You Notes with a Purpose

Host a note-writing campaign where handwritten thank-you notes to veterans are paired with QR codes or links that direct recipients to the VFW Action Corps Weekly sign-up page or the VFW Priority Goals. This can add a layer of engagement, turning gratitude into action. Veterans in the community will feel appreciated, and they will be empowered and engaged with ongoing legislative efforts. Connecting this activity to a community veterans recognition event is one of many ways to reach our veterans.

Veteran Advocacy Training

Prepare Auxiliary members to become powerful voices in legislative advocacy. Organize training workshops for members, teaching them advocacy skills and strategies for engaging lawmakers.

- Use MALTA Member Resources, Legislative.
- Utilize online tools and resources from your local and state government.

- Educate members about how we are non-partisans; we support legislation that improves the lives of veterans and service members.
- When joining the VFW on Capitol Hill during the Legislative Conference in D.C., always allow the VFW to take the lead when speaking to our legislators.
- Open the Action Corps Weekly, lack of activity will result in removal from the mailing list.
- Push the button on Action Alerts from the VFW.
- Use the VFW Auxiliary Legislative hashtag #AuxLegislative.





Be An Advocate • Be Informed • Be Engaged

One of the main objectives of the Legislative Program is to improve the lives of our veterans, service members and their families through advocacy. Your efforts, combined with nearly 1.5 million other VFW and Auxiliary members, can influence lawmakers whose decisions affect veterans and their families every day.

Study the issues laid out clearly in the VFW Priority Goals. The VFW focuses on these to strengthen and ensure an adequate VA system for millions of current and future veterans.

The goals are grouped under six areas of concern:

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

These goals are released in January of each year by the VFW on the VFW National website:
<https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service>

VFW Action Corps Weekly

These goals are released in January of each year by the VFW on the VFW National website at:
<https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>

To identify your congressional representatives, visit the VFW website at:
<https://votervoice.net/VFW/Address>

Step by Step—A Bill

To follow the progress of a specific bill through the stages of the legislative process by its number or by a key word or phrase go to:
<https://www.congress.gov/>

VFW In D.C.

By testifying at committee hearings and interacting

with congressional members, the VFW played an instrumental role in nearly every piece of veterans' legislation passed in the 20th Century, as well as bills developed in the 21st Century.

One of the most crucial responsibilities of the VFW Washington, D.C. office is to actively lobby Congress and the administration on behalf of veterans. The office monitors all legislation affecting veterans and alerts VFW and Auxiliary members about key legislation under consideration.

The VFW and VFW Auxiliary advocates for veterans by testifying at hearings, interacting with Congress and fighting for justice. The VFW has played a key role in many major pieces of veterans' legislation.

To contact the D.C. office:
 Website: [vfw.org/advocacy](https://www.vfw.org/advocacy)
 Phone: 202-543-2239
 Mail: 200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
 Washington, D.C. 20002

VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship

To continue empowering tomorrow's leaders, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Student Veterans of America (SVA) hosts the VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship, providing exemplary student veterans the opportunity to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill and in their community. This program has been held annually since 2014.

During the VFW event, they will engage with Congress members, educating them on the challenges faced by today's veterans. Fellows can also join VFW advocates from their respective states and form teams to directly meet with the leadership from the committees responsible for veterans' issues, including the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees.

For rules and eligibility, visit the VFW website at:
<https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support/student-fellowship>

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event to create thank-you notes and cards to veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or the VFW Priority Goals.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event to create thank-you notes and cards to veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or the VFW Priority Goals.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.

The Department Legislative Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Legislative Ambassador by April 30, 2026 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Awards for Departments and Department Chairmen:

1. \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one Department Legislative Chairman in each of the 10 Program Divisions with the largest increase in the use of the VFW Action Alerts and new VFW Action Corps Weekly sign-ups from July 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026.

Winners will be announced and awards will be presented at the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

2. The Outstanding Performance Award and Second-Place Outstanding Performance Award will be awarded in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on the criteria listed on page 5 and for the promotion of the Program goals listed at the top of page 41.

Winners will be announced and awards will be presented at the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

VFW Auxiliary National Year-End Report Worksheet Legislative 2025-2026

This form is for statistical purposes only.

The Department Chairman must submit this report form to their Department President by May 1.
This report is to be processed in MALTA by the Department President by May 10.

Department: _____ Number of participating VFW Auxiliaries: _____

1. The number of VFW Auxiliaries that promoted, participated in and/or hosted or co-hosted activities regarding the VFW Priority Goals with or without their VFW Post. _____
2. The number of VFW Auxiliary members who contacted their legislators on veterans' issues by any means (example: emails, letters, postcards, phone calls, etc.) _____
3. The number of VFW Auxiliary members who attended events where they could interact with legislators (example: legislative conferences, town halls, meet-and-greets, etc.) _____

Department Chairman signature: _____

Date: _____ Conference: _____