



2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

www.AMVETS.org/legislative

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Federal Government Reform

- Extend Advanced Appropriations to all Remaining Discretionary & Mandatory Programs
- Strengthen Accountability & Ease VA Hiring Protocols
- Implement Whistleblower Protections
- Ensure Adequate Investment in VA Capital Infrastructure
- Improve & Modernize VA/DoD Information Technology Systems

Toxic Wounds – Recognition & Treatment

- Toxic Exposure of Fort McClellan Veterans
- Recognition of Gulf War Illnesses & the Need for Continued Research
- Compensation for Gulf War Veterans

Veteran Unemployment

- Veteran Anti-Discrimination
- Civilian Credentials for Military Training & Experience
- Veterans Priority of Service in Employment & Training Programs

VA/DoD Health Care & Mental Health

- Eliminate Over-Medication & Improve Access to Alternative Treatments
- Combine & Leverage Purchased Care Programs
- Traumatic Brain Injury & Post Traumatic Stress Research & Treatments
- Continued Cutting Edge Sensory Aids/Prosthetics Research & Development

Veterans/Family Benefits

- Tinnitus & Hearing Loss Presumptive Service Connection
- Expand VA Caregiver Benefits & Program
- Repeal Survivor Benefits Plan/Dependency & Indemnity Offset

Women Veterans & Service Members

- Eliminate Military Sexual Trauma (MST) & Sexual Harassment
- Ensure Availability of Safe Housing for Homeless Veterans with Dependent Children
- Improve Access to Gender-Specific Health Services & Prosthetics

POW/MIA Recovery/Identification & Cemetery Affairs

- Continuing Over Site of DPAA (Recovery/Identification) & National Cemetery Operations
- Increase Veterans Burial Benefits
- Creation of POW/MIA Forever Stamp

Honor/Support/Recognition

- Support of the States of Israel & Taiwan
- Recognize Contribution of LAO/HMONG Special Forces
- Support Federal Court Ruling for the National Old Soldiers Home at WLA
- Support for a Congressional Gold Medal for 'Dust Off' Crews
- Creation of an AMVETS 75th Anniversary Stamp



Introduction

AMVETS (American Veterans), a leader since 1944 in preserving the freedoms secured by America's Armed Forces, has been proudly providing support for veterans, active duty & reserve component service members, their families and survivors, for more than a half a century. Originally founded by World War II Veterans, AMVETS, the most inclusive Veteran Service Organization in the country, includes among its members individuals who have honorably served in the U.S. Armed Forces from:

- every era;
- every branch of service; and
- every rank

Guided by our core imperatives - Veterans, Family, Patriots and Volunteers, AMVETS seeks to enhance and defend the earned benefits of all American men and women who are serving or have served honorably and selflessly in our Armed Forces through leadership, advocacy and service.

The helping hand that AMVETS extends to veterans and their families takes many forms. One of the most visible is the AMVETS network of trained national service officers (NSOs) accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs. These dedicated men and women can be found in close to 60 locations nationwide, providing cost-free, expert advice and prompt action on compensation claims.

As a leading advocate for Veterans rights and benefits, as well as one of the four authors of the Independent Budget, AMVETS serves as one of the preeminent voices of American Veterans on Capitol Hill.

AMVETS' signature programs include, but are not limited to:

- **Warrior Transition Workshops** – which successfully assist with the healthy reintegration of combat Veterans;
- **CODE Career Centers** – which provide cost-free career training & employment assistance for Veterans, Active/Reserve Duty service members and their spouses;
- **National Service Officers** – which provide VA claims assistance;
- **Educational Scholarships** – which are open to all Veterans, their children and grandchildren; and
- **Healing Heroes** – which distributes cash grants to help critically wounded Veterans and their families with transportation, lodging, food and child care costs.

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