

Legislative 2020-2021

Bulletin 1



Leg.is.la.tive adj. 1. Having the function of making laws. 2. of or pertaining to the enactment of laws.

Happy summer to everyone! This year is going to be an exciting year regarding legislation, laws, and the continual advocacy for our veterans and their families. I will be depending on each one of you to be an advocate. Each one of us can help by using our knowledge and support of veterans by shaping the perception and helping to influence the public. The VFW and its Auxiliaries work hard to maintain an active role advocating for each Veteran and their families so let's continue to be a positive voice.

What can you do? Well, I can tell you!

1. Be an advocate and join in by subscribing to VFW Action Corps, visit vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts and click on the Action Corps image to sign up. Once subscribed you will receive the Action Corps Weekly in your inbox every Friday and this newsletter will keep you up to date on legislative initiatives affecting veterans.
2. Be informed – Know the VFW Priority goals and educate yourselves on legislative issues. Begin online at vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service or vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do-legislative.
3. Be engaged – use the VFW and VFW Auxiliary Legislative Tools and Resources. Part of our success is understanding our mission, mentoring and training, and taking on a role to help each member be an effective part of a team. More knowledge and preparation make legislative efforts more successful.



How lucky am I to be the legislative chairman during an election year! One of my goals this year is to promote, promote, promote voter registration. If you haven't realized how important voting is and would like to have a conversation, please let me know and I will be happy to accommodate you. The issues of today are paramount not only for America but for our lives and our liberties which all ties in to choosing the right candidates for the job. Through shared knowledge we can elect the right candidates and legislators who support and sustain the rights of Veterans and their families. I would love to see some Auxiliary members at voter registration booths this year! A great way to get started is to team up with your Post and set up

your own or join in with other civic-minded organizations promoting voter registration in your community. It's a great way to make friends as well as get our citizens registered to vote in such an important election. You can also team up with these groups and promote family-friendly legislative activities and events. Open up your Post home, host a town hall and/or candidate forum, invite local media and use social media like tv, radio, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

To find more resources visit vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Here you will find activities, a Veterans Vote brochure, and a "I Vote in Honor of a Veteran" template. Take advantage of these resources! **Each Auxiliary to volunteer or host a voter registration booth will go into a drawing for a prize for their Auxiliary to be given out at mid-winter.

Priority Goals

The VFW has a huge responsibility in D.C. actively lobbying Congress on behalf of Veterans. Some of the main issues are veteran homelessness and suicide, traumatic brain injuries, reducing claims backlog, veteran unemployment, and improving timely transition assistance after leaving military service. These are grouped into six areas:

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

All information about what's happening on Capitol Hill regarding veteran issues and national security is on the national website at vfwauxiliary.org by selecting "what we do" then clicking on "legislative".

This year we will strive to: **Be an Advocate * Be Informed * Be Engaged**

Warm Regards,

Liz Herrera, Chairman

Legislative

