



Introduction

AMVETS has been proudly serving American Veterans since 1944. Founded by World War II Veterans, the organization has grown to where today, its membership enrolls Veterans from all eras – anyone who has honorably served in the United States Armed Forces after September 15, 1940, to include those on active duty as well as those in the Reserve Components.

The purpose and goals of AMVETS, as spelled out in the organization's 1947 Congressional Charter, still ring true today. Among these aims are:

- to preserve for ourselves and our posterity the great and basic truths and enduring principles upon which this nation was founded;
- to maintain a continuing interest in the welfare and rehabilitation of disabled Veterans and to establish facilities for the assistance of all Veterans, to represent them in their claims before VA and other organizations;
- to dedicate ourselves to the service and best interests of the community, state and nation to the end that our country shall be and remain forever a strong and free nation;
- to encourage universal exercise of the voting franchise to the end that there shall be elected and maintained in public office men and women who hold such office as a public trust administered in the best interests of all people; and
- to advocate the development and means by which all Americans may become enlightened and informed citizens and this participate fully in the functions of democracy.



2012 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

www.AMVETS.org/legislative

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Veteran Unemployment

- Reserve Component
- Active Component
- Affirmative Action Designation

VA/DoD Health Care & Mental Health

- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS)
- Prosthetic and Sensory Aides
- Suicide Prevention
- Extension of the VA Caregivers Compensation Program

Veteran Benefits

- Maintain Military Retirement and Health Care Benefits
- Concurrent Receipt (Active and Reserve Component)
- VA Claims and Appeals Backlog

Women Veterans & Service Members

- Military Sexual Trauma (MST)
- Creation of a Sexual Assault Oversight and Response Office
- Gender Specific Health Care

National Guard & Reserve Service Members

- Improved USERRA Protections
- On-going Transition Between State and Federal Service
- Veteran Status

Homeless & Rural Veterans

- Provide a Full Continuum of Care for Homeless Vets (housing, employment training, legal aid, etc.)
- Access to Health and Mental Health Care
- Increase Travel Reimbursement Rates

POW/MIA Recovery/Identification & Cemetery Affairs

- Improved Oversight of Mortuary Affairs Operations
- Clark Cemetery and Return the Crew of the Intrepid
- Increase Veterans Burial Benefits