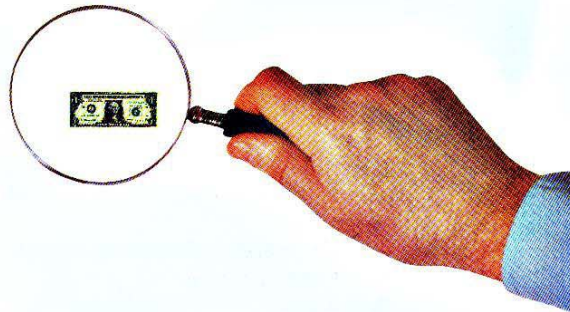


Help us ensure that an adequate VA system will be there for the millions of current and future veterans.



## Current Problems

- ✗ Underfunding of VA Budget
- ✗ Excessive Waits to See Doctors
- ✗ Denial of Care to Category 8 Vets
- ✗ Little/No Long-Term Care
- ✗ Inadequate Mental Health Care
- ✗ **Millions of Fed Up Veterans!**

If you visit your congressional representatives and only stress one thing, make sure you tell them that VFW is very concerned with the state of **Veterans Health Administration funding**. We want things fixed so veterans can continue to get the health care they earned and deserve. (To find out who your congressional representatives are, click on the "Contact Congress" link at [www.vfwdc.org](http://www.vfwdc.org).)

## Play a role in the process!

Ensure that these Priority Goals are enacted. Sign up today for VFW's legislative e-mail newsletter at [www.vfwdc.org](http://www.vfwdc.org).



VETERANS OF  
FOREIGN WARS

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# Support Today's Vets



VETERANS OF  
FOREIGN WARS



## PRIORITY GOALS 2007

Key VFW National Veterans, Legislative, Employment and Security Goals

# Now Hear This...

Listed here are VFW's official positions on national veterans issues. They are based on national convention resolutions and rated as priorities by their respective committees.

## Dear Legislator, here's what veterans need:

### VA BUDGET

- Ensure full, timely funding for VA health care to meet the growing demand for services, particularly as more vets return from overseas.
- Establish a new funding mechanism that matches dollars with demand and arrives on time, unimpeded by political conflict.

### VA BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION

- Ensure the VA disability compensation program is preserved in its current form to protect the needs of current and future veterans.
- Oppose any change to current definitions of "line of duty" or "programs for disability and survivors benefits."
- Oppose fee-for-service attorneys at the initial level of claims processing.

### EDUCATION

- Secure authority and full funding for a G1 Bill for the 21st century that covers the full costs of tuition, fees and living expenses for attendance at any educational institution for which the veteran is eligible.

### MILITARY RETIREES

- Ensure that Congress authorizes and fully funds a law that allows all disabled military retirees to immediately receive their full military retirement pay and full disability compensation without offset.

### VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

- Oppose attempts to reduce or circumvent veterans preference in government hiring.
- Support an effective and efficient Veterans Employment and Training Service.
- Urge national standardization of licensing and certification.
- Support programs that ensure National Guard and Reserve members and their families have access to education and training to provide opportunities in the occupation of their choice.
- Support reauthorization and full funding for the *Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act* program.
- Support expansion of the Defense Department's Pre-separation Counseling and the Labor Department's Transition Assistance Program.

### HOMELESS VETERANS

- Fully fund all homeless vet programs and enhance community-based efforts.
- Require that federally funded homeless vet programs offer a full continuum of services, including outreach, medical rehabilitation services, sheltered transitional housing and employment assistance.

### WAR ON TERRORISM/HOMELAND SECURITY

- Support U.S. troops fighting the Iraq War.
- Call for increased resources to fight and win the war on terrorism in Afghanistan and elsewhere.
- Support U.S. government efforts to take decisive and offensive action in the global war on terror.
- Secure U.S. borders, shorelines and all ports of entry.
- Halt the flow of illegal immigration.

### DEFENSE/FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- Increase defense spending to fund all needed weapons' programs, personnel initiatives and troop end-strength requirements.
- Urge the continued development of a ballistic missile defense system.
- Monitor the activities and halt the development and/or proliferation of nuclear weapons or materiel by North Korea.
- Secure Europe through the continued expansion of NATO.

### MILITARY AFFAIRS

- Seek to improve the quality of life for all active-duty, National Guard and Reserve members and their families.
- Increase military base pay to equal that of private-sector workers.
- Provide affordable health insurance coverage for all members of the National Guard and Reserves.
- Support efforts to lower National Guard and Reserve retirement pay age to 55.

### POWs/MIAs

- Achieve the fullest possible accounting of all U.S. POWs/MIAs from all wars.
- Ensure the U.S. government keeps the POW/MIA issue elevated as a national priority.
- Urge the President and Congress to fully fund the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command through a dedicated single-line item appropriation in the Defense Department budget.
- Support all POW/MIA public awareness initiatives.