DAV Applauds Senate “Veterans First Act”

Statement of Garry J. Augustine, Washington Executive Director, DAV (Disabled American Veterans) on the “Veterans First Act”

“We applaud Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman Johnny Isakson (GA) and Ranking Member Richard Blumenthal (CT) for reaching bipartisan agreement on a Senate omnibus veterans bill, the “Veterans First Act”, that contains many DAV priorities to strengthen and expand federal programs benefits supporting the men and women who served.”

“This omnibus legislation would extend comprehensive caregiver support to veterans of all eras, increase veterans’ options for long term care through medical foster homes, enhance VA’s efforts to recruit, retain the best and brightest medical professionals, reform claims and appeals processing by creating a fully developed appeals program and make dozens of other positive changes to improve the lives of those who wore the uniform.”

“While we were disappointed that the Senate omnibus bill did not include critical legislation to enhance benefits and services for women veterans that has been pending in the Senate for more than a year, we will work to have it added to the bill before final Congressional approval.”

“With the House having already passed a number of vital measures to strengthen veterans programs, and more on the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee’s agenda, we look forward to working together with leaders in both chambers of Congress, the VA and other key stakeholders to enact comprehensive legislation to help keep the promise to America’s veterans,”
particularly those who were injured or made ill from their service.”