In preparation for our 2019 Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C., DAV has prepared a preview of the critical policy goals we will be providing for your use in meetings with your elected officials. The preview information may be helpful to you in scheduling appointments with your Representatives or Senators, wherein they may ask for topics to be discussed during the meeting. Detailed Critical Policy Goals for each of these topics will be posted [here](#) on Tuesday, January 22, 2019

### Critical Policy Goals 2019

**Sufficient Budget for FY 2020**—Ensure VA is provided sufficient resources to meet health care needs of all enrolled veterans, while also fully, faithfully and timely implementing the VA MISSION Act—to include: Increasing VA health care capacity; modernization of capital infrastructure; IT development; improvements to hiring and retention efforts to fill VA’s 45,000 employee vacancies; and implementation of a new VA-DOD joint electronic health record.

**Implementation of the VA MISSION Act**—Promote full and faithful implementation of the VA MISSION Act, including: provisions strengthening VA health care system; establishment of Veterans Community Care Program; and Caregiver Program improvements and expansion.

**Women Veterans Health Program Improvements**—Advocate for introduction and approval of legislation based on key recommendations from DAV’s 2018 Report—*Women Veterans: The Journey Ahead*.

**Burn Pits**—Advocate for introduction and approval of legislation to strengthen research, improve documentation, and provide a “concession of exposure” to airborne toxins for veterans from all eras who served in locations that had active burn pits.

**Improve Spouses and Survivor Benefits**—Advocate for introduction and approval of legislation to improve benefits and services for spouses and survivors of service-connected disabled veterans to include elimination of Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset; lowering DIC remarriage age; and reducing 10-year rule for DIC.

**Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans**—Advocate for passage of legislation to grant herbicide exposure to Vietnam veterans who served in the waters offshore of Vietnam.