

DAV Women Veterans Campaign

2015 Mid-Winter Conference

Legislative Workshop
February 22, 2015



**FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED**



Key Legislative Priority

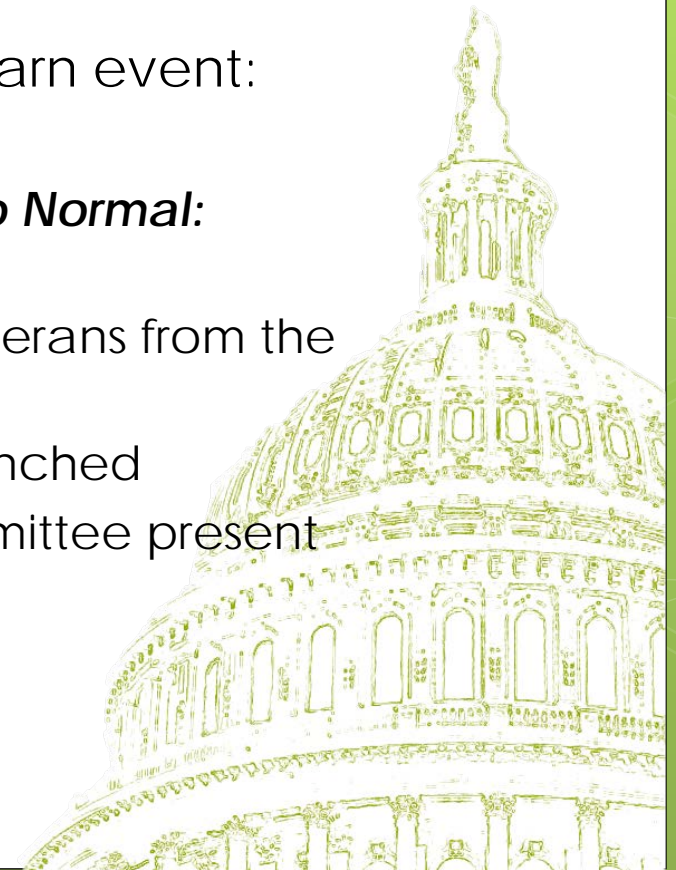
- DAV – a long history of highlighting the military experiences and unique needs of women veterans:
 - Co-sponsorship of Women's Summits in D.C.
 - 2010 Stand Up for Women Veterans campaign
 - Two special edition women veterans magazines
 - Three Capitol Hill film screenings of women veteran documentaries
- Women veterans must:
 - be properly recognized for their military service
 - receive equal benefits and health care from VA



DAV Special Report: Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home

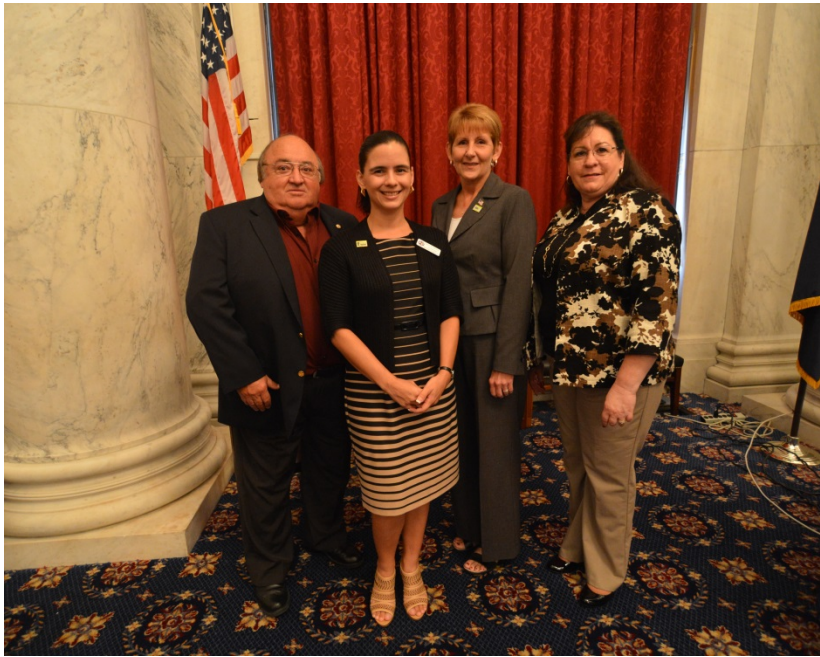
Released September 24, 2014

- DAV hosted a U.S. Senate Lunch & Learn event:
 - Released Women Veterans Report
 - Screened 20-minute clip of ***Journey to Normal: Women of War Come Home***
 - Panel discussion featuring women veterans from the film, the filmmaker, and report author
 - DAV women veterans media tour launched
 - DAV's Interim Women Veterans Committee present



Capitol Hill Event

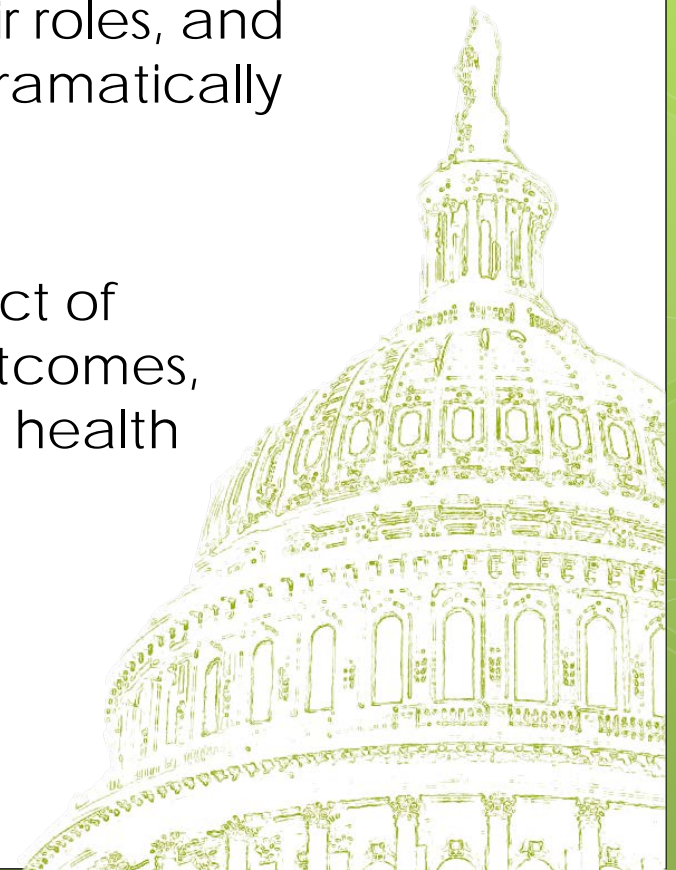
Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home



2014-2015 Interim Women Veterans' Committee

Why a Special Report on Women Veterans?

- The proportion of women serving, their roles, and their exposure to combat changed dramatically during wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
- VA researchers are studying the impact of military service on women's health outcomes, health care needs, and use of the VA health care system



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Women Veterans in Transition

- Women veterans are turning to VA care in record numbers—more than doubled over the last decade
- Report examined existing federal programs in meeting the needs of women veterans



Key Findings

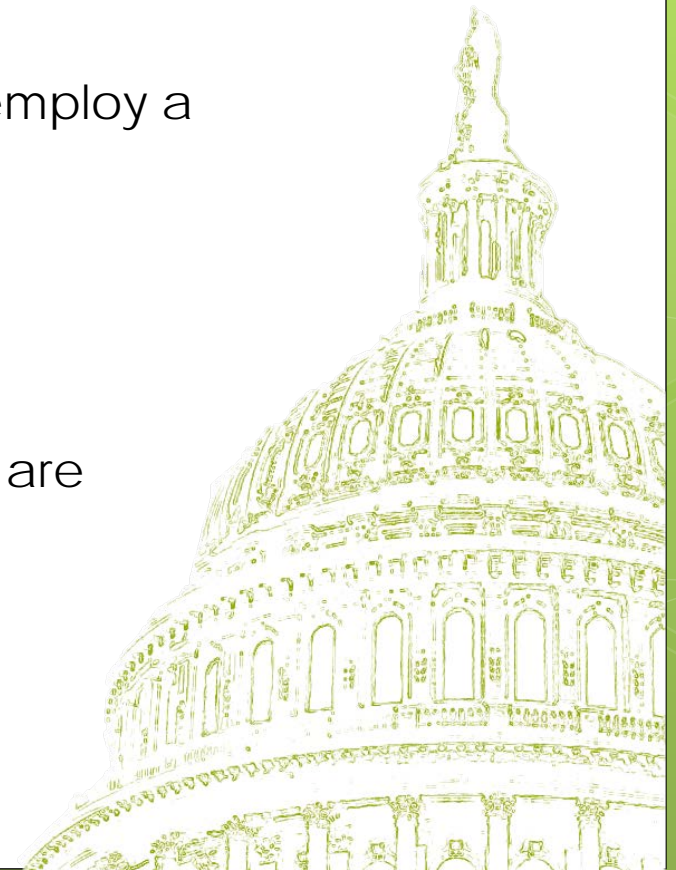
Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home highlights 27 key policy recommendations to close gaps in federal services for women veterans

- Current services available for transitioning service members do not fully meet the unique needs of women
- Military and VA cultures are not perceived by women as welcoming and do not afford equal recognition.



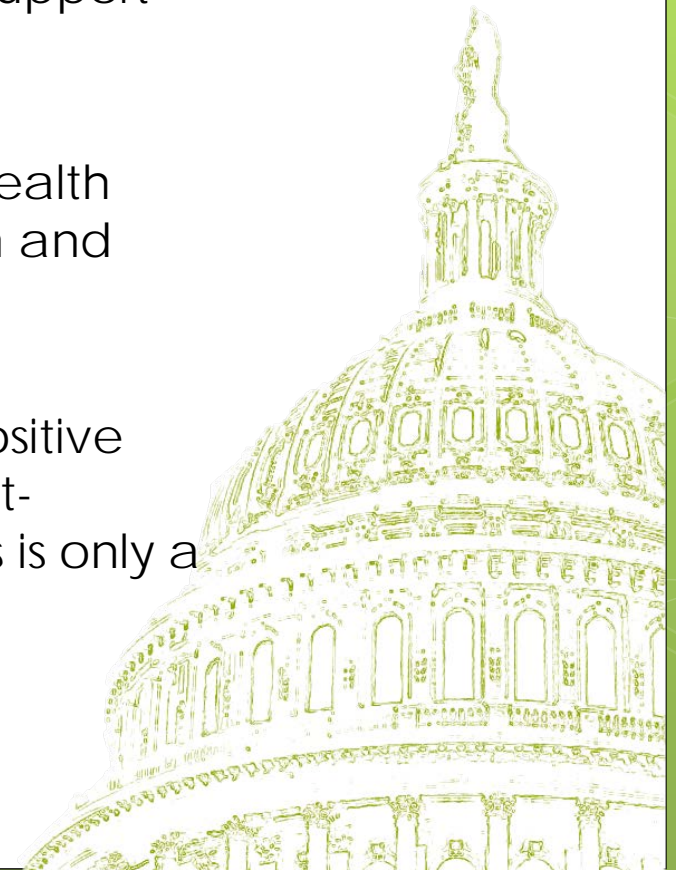
Key Findings

- VA is not structured to meet current demands of gender-specific care in staffing, care coordination, or monitoring
- One-third of VA Medical Centers do not employ a gynecologist
- Women veterans have a higher rate of homelessness than non-veterans
- Unemployment rates for women veterans are higher than for males



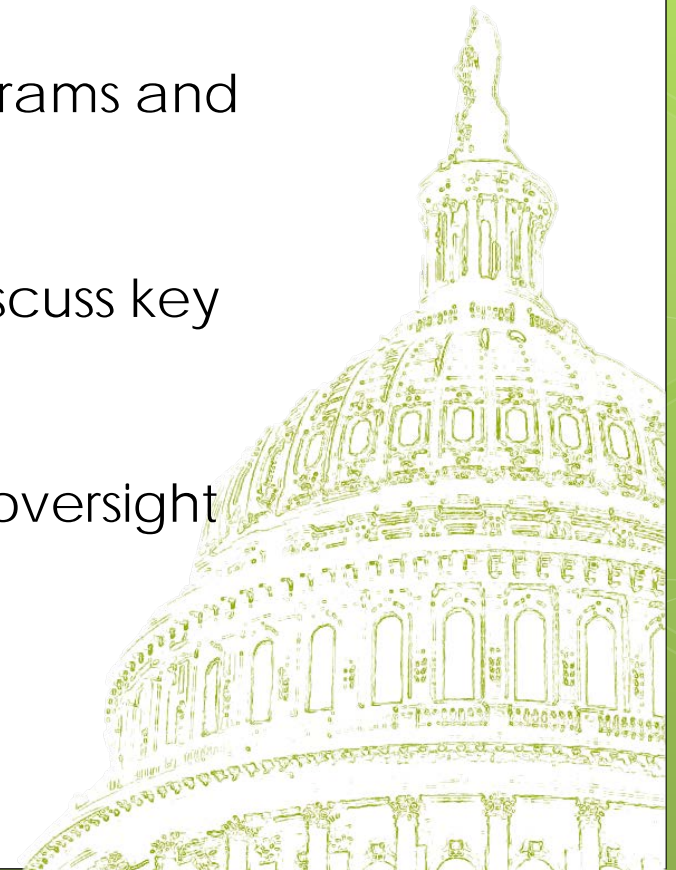
Key Findings

- Husbands of deployed women service members do not receive the same level of military support services available to female dependents
- Lack of child care services – a barrier to health care, vocational rehabilitation, education and employment support
- A women's retreat program has shown positive outcomes in meeting gender-specific post-deployment mental health needs, but this is only a small pilot effort.



DAV Objectives

- Broaden public awareness
- Highlight existing gaps in federal programs and services
- Congressional Hearings needed to discuss key recommendations of the DAV report
- Spur change through legislation and oversight



How Can You Help?

Meet with your elected officials now and at home.

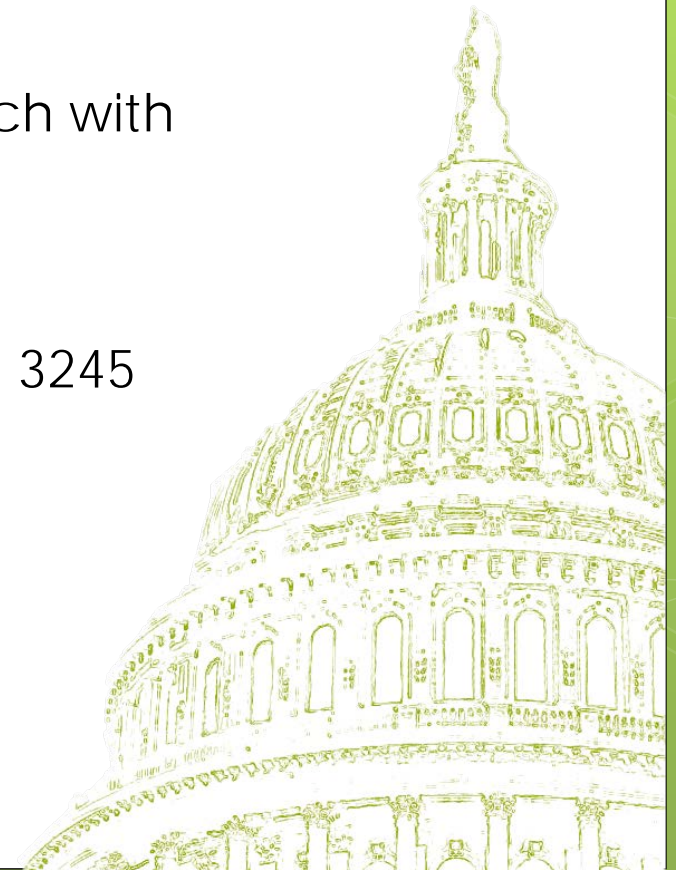
- Bring the Report with you
- Use your talking points—DAV website
- Request a hearing on gaps in care and services cited in the Report
- Support passage of S. 471, the Women Veterans Access to Quality Care Act (Heller-Murray)



How to Order Copies

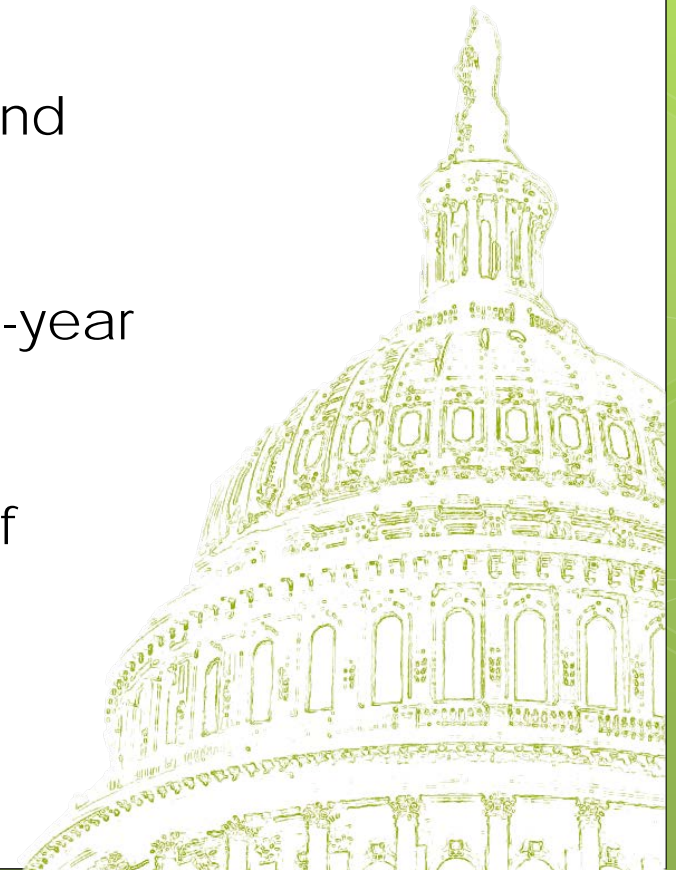
- Pick up copies of the Report for DC meetings at the DAV HQ Office in the *Alexandria Room*
- For mailed copies, contact Alice Bersch with your name, address, # of copies, reason/event, and date needed:

ABersch@dav.org or 859-441-7300 Ext. 3245



Journey To Normal: Women of War Come Home

- The film explores the psychological and social impact of wartime military service on women
- Film director was embedded in Iraq and interviewed over 100 women and;
- Followed 7 women veterans for a two-year period after deployment
- Focuses on the challenging process of reintegration



JOURNEY TO NORMAL

WOMEN OF WAR COME HOME



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