

2018-2019 LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Who We Are

DAV empowers veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. It is dedicated to a single purpose: fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served. DAV does this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; providing employment resources to veterans and their families and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life. DAV, a non-profit organization with more than 1 million members, was founded in 1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932.

Stay informed through DAV CAN

Sign up for DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network), and we will keep you up to date on issues that impact veterans, their families, survivors and caregivers.

DAVCAN.ORG



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LEGISLATIVE GOALS for 2018-2019

Veterans' voices are the greatest weapons to influence change to laws and policies that affect them, their families, caregivers and survivors. Each year, at DAV's national convention, members gather to establish the organization's legislative and public policy goals.

These legislative goals are based directly on resolutions submitted by DAV departments and chapters across the country, with DAV members serving as the driving force behind the organization's advocacy mission. At last year's national convention in Reno, Nev., members adopted resolutions ranging from improvements to veterans benefits to VA health care to veteran employment issues.

The following is a partial list of key resolutions adopted at the 2018 convention. To see the full list of resolutions, visit dav.org/learn-more/legislation/resolutions.



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**TO GET HELP, VOLUNTEER
OR DONATE, VISIT:**
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Disability compensation and other benefits

- Oppose reduction, taxation or elimination of veterans benefits.
- Support legislation to increase VA disability compensation rates.
- Support legislation wherein service in the waters off Vietnam establishes a presumption of exposure to Agent Orange.
- Support legislation to provide service connection for disabling conditions resulting from toxic and environmental exposures.
- Support legislation to remove prohibition against concurrent receipt of longevity retired pay and veterans disability compensation for all longevity-retired veterans.
- Support legislation to remove the prohibition against concurrent receipt of Survivor Benefit Plan and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.
- Support oversight of VA practices in evaluating disability claims for residuals of military sexual trauma.
- Support legislation to provide realistic cost-of-living adjustments.
- Expand presumptions for service connection for former prisoners of war.

Medical and health care services

- Strengthen, reform and sustain the VA health care system for service-disabled veterans.
- Support legislation to provide comprehensive support services for caregivers of severely wounded, injured and ill veterans from all eras.
- Enhance medical services and benefits for women veterans.
- Improve service and enhance resources for VA mental health programs.
- Support enhanced treatment for survivors of military sexual trauma.
- Support VA research into the efficacy of cannabis for treatment of service-connected veterans
- Support humane, consistent pain management programs in the veterans health care system.
- Improve the care and benefits for veterans exposed to military toxic and environmental hazards.
- Enhance long-term services and supports for service-connected disabled veterans.
- Support sustained and sufficient funding to improve services for homeless veterans.



General issues

- Support sufficient, timely and predictable funding for all VA programs, benefits and services.
- Support veterans' preference for service-disabled veterans in public employment.
- Support elimination of employment licensure and certification barriers that impede the transfer of military occupations to civilian labor market.
- Eliminate the 12-year rule to request VA vocational rehabilitation benefits.
- Create an Economic Opportunity Administration within the VA.
- Protect veterans from employment discrimination when receiving health care for service-connected conditions.
- Support for Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.
- Seek the immediate release of any Americans who may still be held captive following any war and the return and identification of the remains of any Americans who died during those wars.
- Extend eligibility for mortgage protection life insurance to service-connected veterans rated permanently and totally disabled.
- Increase the face value of Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance.
- Support the continued growth of Veterans Treatment Courts for justice-involved veterans particularly those with conditions related to military service.

“Our members are willing to speak up about what matters most, and that’s what makes our advocacy mission successful.”

—National Legislative Director Joy Ilem