

2020-2021 Legislative Goals

Who We Are

DAV is dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish 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; 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

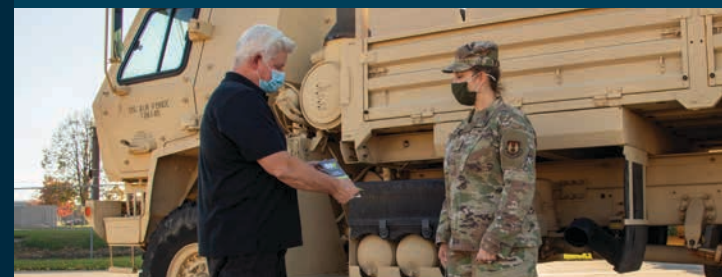
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TO GET HELP, VOLUNTEER
OR DONATE, VISIT:

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WE ARE VETERANS SERVING VETERANS



Legislative Goals for 2020-2021

Most years, DAV convention delegates identify the most important issues facing the veteran community and put forth a set of resolutions for consideration at our annual national convention is designed to improve the lives of the men and women who served and their families. Unfortunately, in an abundance of caution due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 DAV National Convention was canceled. Because of these extenuating circumstances, resolutions adopted during the national convention in 2019 will remain in effect until our next annual convention, in accordance with our National Constitution and Bylaws. Existing resolutions call for improvements to veterans benefits and VA health care and specialized services, research on the long-term health impact of service-related toxic exposures and alternative treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder.

The following is a partial list of key resolutions adopted in 2019 that we will continue to focus our advocacy efforts on until the 2021 DAV National Convention in Reno, Nevada. To see the full list of resolutions, visit dav.la/2il.





Disability Compensation and Other Benefits

- Support legislation to provide for service connection for disabling conditions resulting from toxic and environmental exposures.
- Oppose reduction, taxation or elimination of veterans benefits.
- Support legislation to increase disability compensation.
- Support legislation to provide for realistic cost-of-living allowances.
- Support legislation to protect Total Disability Individual Unemployability for it to remain available for all veterans regardless of age or receipt of any other earned federal benefits.
- Support legislation to improve and reform Dependency Indemnity Compensation.
- Support legislation to provide presumptive service connection for illnesses and diseases related to herbicide exposure in veterans who were stationed at air bases in Thailand during the Vietnam War.
- Support legislation to remove the prohibition against concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans disability compensation for all longevity-retired veterans.
- Support oversight of the VA practices in evaluating disability claims for residuals of military sexual trauma.
- Support legislation for the VA to provide child care services and assistance to veterans attending VA health care, employment services and rehabilitation programs.

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 and suicide prevention.
- 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.
- Enhance long-term services and supports for service-connected disabled veterans.
- Ensure timely access to and quality of VA health care and medical services.
- Support VA medical and prosthetic research programs.
- Support sufficient funding for VA prosthetic and sensory aids and timely delivery of prosthetic items.



Even while working from home during the pandemic, DAV kept in close touch with congressional leaders, such as House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano.

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 the civilian labor market.
- Support legislation to improve and protect education and employment for disabled veterans and their survivors.
- Protect veterans from employment discrimination when receiving health care for service-connected conditions.
- Support the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.
- Account for those still missing and the repatriation of the remains of those who died while serving our nation.
- Support legislation to strengthen and protect Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses.
- Extend eligibility for mortgage protection life insurance to service-connected veterans rated permanently and totally disabled.
- Extend space-available air travel aboard military aircraft to dependents of service-connected disabled veterans having a permanent disability rated 100%.
- Support the continued growth of Veterans Treatment Courts for justice-involved veterans, particularly those with conditions related to service.

“Even amidst a global pandemic, DAV leaders fight every day in Washington to ensure Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs hear the collective voice of DAV members.”

—National Legislative Director Joy Ilem