

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Maryland
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
Chairman Linda Eberhart
February 2026



★ ★ Be An Advocate - Be Informed - Be Engaged ★ ★

Happy New Year!! It is time to focus on Being a Force for our Veterans!

The **Main Objectives of the Legislative Program** is to improve the lives of our veterans, service members, and their families. This can be done through Advocacy. Our efforts can influence lawmakers whose decisions will affect our veterans and their families every day.

There are 6 areas of concern:

- Budget
- Health Care
- Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
- Education, Employment and Transition Assistance
- Military Readiness
- **National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA**

The focus **National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA** is to fully support the all-volunteer force, protect our nation's citizens and defend American interest around the world, Congress and DOD must.

- Ensure DPAA is fully funded to perform it's personnel recovery mission.
- Deter threats of our national security by supporting our allies in Ukraine, Israel, Korea and Taiwan.
- Ensure all service members who served in harm's way, to include foreign nationals, translators, and allies receive the recognition, care and benefits they may have earned.

Play a Role in the Process - Engage and help ensure that these priority goals are enacted.

Our National Legislative Ambassador Amy Jo Lett

Shared the following

VFW Voices of Service – *Stories in Action* is now live.

This is a new, permanent way for veterans, service members, caregivers, survivors, and families to share their real-life experiences directly with VFW National so those stories can be used (with permission) to educate Congress and strengthen our legislative advocacy.

Please review the attached NLC Member Toolkit.

That document contains *everything you need*, your role, approved language, FAQs, and ready-to-use outreach materials. To keep this email short and clear, all guidance and copy live in the attachment.

You'll also see this initiative highlighted in today's Action Corps Weekly, so members across the organization will start hearing about it right away.

Why this matters:

When we walk into congressional offices, data opens the door, but stories are what make lawmakers listen. This story bank ensures those experiences are captured accurately, securely, and used in a coordinated, professional way.

Your role as an NLC member is intentionally simple:

- Share the Story Bank link or QR code
- Encourage veterans and families to submit their stories directly
- Point people to the official form—no collecting or storing stories yourself

Think of it as opening the door. DC handles the rest.

⌚ Story Bank submission link:

<https://forms.gle/3R4toepnSpDFLpvU6>

Have you seen:

HQ Roundtables on Facebook Lois Callahan did a lot of talking about the Legislative Program on a recent program. She said that the Legislative Program is one of the best ways to advocate for our veterans. She asked members to remember how important it is for our legislators to recognize us as Auxiliary members and their voters. You can watch the Program live or go back and watch it later.

DID YOU KNOW:

H.R. 467: Foreign Medical Program Modernization Act of 2025

2025-2026 Regular Session (119th)

Foreign Medical Program Modernization Act of 2025

This bill expands eligibility for care under the Foreign Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) by removing certain eligibility requirements. The program authorizes the VA to furnish care and services to

veterans abroad (i.e., outside any state) for the treatment of service-connected disabilities or as part of a Veteran Readiness and Employment rehabilitation program. The bill expands eligibility for care by removing the requirement that a veteran have a service-connected disability or be participating in a rehabilitation program.

The bill also requires the VA to update its payment system to allow for reimbursements through electronic fund transfer.

Under the bill, the VA must assess the feasibility and implications of contracting with an appropriate non-VA entity to build a network of non-VA entities to provide hospital care and medical services abroad under the Foreign Medical Program.

Category: Key Bills in Congress

We support this bill

To amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the requirement of a service-connected disability to furnish veterans with medical care outside of a state.

Reach out to Legislators.

Our Service People and Veterans need your voice.

There are currently over 70 bills benefiting our veterans in Congress.

Information is all found in Action Corp Weekly

<https://votervoice.net/VFW/Directory>

Find your legislator.

Focus on a few, reach out to your Congress Person and let them know what we need for our Veterans.

Sometimes our voice is all the veteran has.

Don't' forget to include your Post # in the email Subject Line and your return address on mailed reports for an extra point.

Continue being a Force for our Veterans.

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