

We the Auxiliary; Can Be An Advocate, Be Informed, Be Engaged

We the Auxiliary, have firsthand knowledge for what our veteran's need. We have the power of our voices to let our representatives know where we stand in solidarity, whether to pass, block, or amend legislation.

Did you know...Only 1,789 people responded to the stop Claim Sharks? The VFW asked if we could get more involved. Congress isn't going to know how we feel unless we ACT. Our **National Madam President Brenda Bryant** says, "All we need to do is **PUSH THE BUTTON** when an Action Alert comes out!"

Our Recent Legislative Victories Include:

- Passage of the *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022*, known as the PACT Act. This historic, comprehensive legislation expands health care for generations of veterans who previously had to prove their conditions or illnesses were the result of service-connected exposure to toxic substances or environments. It includes VA provisions for 23 presumptive conditions for rare respiratory diseases and cancers, and creates a framework for the establishment of future presumptions of service connection related to toxic exposure.
- Passage of the *Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act* expands eligibility for VA mammography screenings to veterans who served in certain areas during specific time periods, and the *Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options (MAMMO) for Veterans Act* addresses provisions of mammograms and breast cancer treatment within VA.
- *Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act* and Uniform Code of Military Justice reform on sexual assault and harassment included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022.
- Implementation of VA's maternity care coordination program to equip community care providers with training and support for the unique pregnancy and postpartum needs of women veterans.
- Passage of the *PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act* which will establish a pilot program on dog training therapy for veterans diagnosed with PTSD and require VA to provide service dogs for those veterans, including veterinary insurance.
- Inclusion of bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and parkinsonism to the list of Department of Veterans Affairs presumptive conditions for herbicide exposure.
- Passage of the *Deborah Sampson Act*, which will remove the barriers to health care impacting women veterans.
- Elimination of the 12-year limit on using Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) benefits.

Remember to appoint a legislative chairman within your Auxiliary and at each meeting, give them 1-2 minutes to keep a tally of how many members have joined Action Corps, or have written or talked to representatives & report it. They can also talk about a bill that needs attention. Can you imagine if every Auxiliary member let our representatives know how we feel? Remember, you don't have to be a VFW member to join Action Corps, anyone can.

Approved by:
Dept. President
Virginia Brehmer



Melissa McKeon
Legislative Chairman
Melissamckeon6767@gmail.com

