



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Legislative Bulletin – February/March 2025

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Facebook Page: Legislative-Michigan

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*
Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

Program Goals

Be an Advocate - Be Informed - Be Engaged

Happy Valentine's Day & St. Patrick's Day! And any other holidays you wish to celebrate!

I was so excited to meet some of you at Mid-Winter Conference last weekend and hope you had fun and learned a few "fun facts" about our programs as you participated in our Q & A game.

Effective Advocacy: The elections are over but our job is not done. We did our part to get people out to vote but now we need to step up the advocacy game. Now that legislators have either been re-elected or elected for the first time, we need to hold them responsible to uphold their campaign promises. We are starting this New Year with a new U.S. Senator, Elissa Slotkin, filling the vacancy left by retiring Debbie Stabenow. Elissa, who was with the CIA, did two tours in Iraq alongside our military so I'm hoping she will be a staunch supporter of our VFW backed issues, our mission & the VFW Priority Goals.

Landmark Legislation Passed:

After months of negotiation, ***The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act*** passed the Senate and House and is now headed to the President's desk to be signed into law.

This bill is a bicameral, bipartisan veterans' legislative package for the 118th Congress and includes provisions to modernize the delivery of healthcare, benefits, and services at the Department of Veterans Affairs, expand access to job training and employment opportunities, address veteran homelessness and strengthen mental health services for our nation's ill and injured veterans. The legislative package will also expand care options for aging veterans, improve access to mental healthcare for veteran caregivers, strengthen home and community care options and streamline the disability claims process.

This legislation is a significant step in helping to keep the promises made to those who have served. **Thank you** to the nearly 90,000 email messages, letters, phone calls, etc., to our lawmakers urging them to get the job done and pass this crucial legislation before the close of the 118th Congress. Because of your dedication and advocacy efforts, we can celebrate this important victory for veterans!

But our work is never done! We still need support for *The Major Richard Star Act* as well as *S.2888/H.R.3933, TAP Promotion Act*. So, get those letters and emails out to your U. S. Senators and Congressmen ASAP!!

Click on this link: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/bills> to see more VFW supported bills and where they currently sit.

Reporting:

Again, when you contact a lawmaker, you need to report who it is, the name of the bill & the House & Senate number, if available, and how many members participated. We only have a few more months for doing, acting and reporting this program year! I also need the number of members who are signed up for The Action Corps Weekly newsletter. What have you done to promote the VFW Priority Goals? Have you contacted any State or Local Representatives? Are you working with your Post to connect with lawmakers?

In closing, and I know this was in the last bulletin but it is so important, please review and keep in mind your Achievement Goals when reporting. Keep in mind the National and Department Awards for collaborating with the VFW Post connecting members with local lawmakers. The entry form is in Malta/Member Resources and due to me by March 31, which is not very far away! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of our Veterans and their families.



Respectfully Submitted,

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