



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Legislative Bulletin – October/November, 2024

www.vfwauxmi.org

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

Where has this summer gone? The kids are back in school, football season is here and Halloween & Thanksgiving are just around the corner. This also means that our present sitting Congress will recess at the end of this year. Keep current and promote our pending legislation. The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, which would expand the caregiver program to those who serve our nation's veterans, is at the top of the list. We also still have H.R. 1282 / S. 344, the Major Richard Star Act, either as a standalone bill or as an amendment in the National Defense Authorization Act for 2024. Over 50,000 medically retired combat veterans with less than twenty years of service are required to forfeit every dollar of their Department of Defense retirement pay for every dollar they receive in Department of Veterans Affairs service-connected disability compensation. This extremely unjust offset must be eliminated. Please continue to contact your Legislators to get these important pieces of legislation passed before Congress recesses.



Get Out The Vote: This November is an extremely important election for our country and our democracy, not only the presidential election but also the congressional and state races that are going on. Please make sure you research the candidates to determine who will best represent our military and veterans issues. So how do we do this? Simply put, we **EDUCATE** - educate ourselves, educate others, especially our candidates, and then get involved in the voting process!

Remember who sacrificed to give you the right to vote - it is your responsibility to exercise that right!

Please report any interaction you may have with your candidates. Remember - as an Auxiliary member, we are non-partisan. As an individual, you may campaign or support any candidate you choose but not as a representative of the VFW or Auxiliary. Don't forget to proudly wear your "I Vote in Honor of a US Veteran" sticker when you go in to vote! Remember, voting or working the polls are not reportable Legislative activities!



VFW Priority Goals: Don't forget our Priority Goals. Educate our candidates on our six areas of importance. Share our brochure with them and make sure you have them visible at your Post and any displays you may have. And don't forget to report any and all of your activities!



VFW Action Corps Weekly: Continue to promote and assist members, and anyone interested in veteran's affairs, in signing up for this newsletter. It's how we stay up to date on the goings on in Washington, D.C. Visit www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots to read and sign up. Please let me know if you need any assistance in the sign-up process. And don't forget to report the number of members who are actually signed up for the Action Corps Weekly.

Reporting: It has been a pleasure reading your reports and a big thank you for all of your hard work. Again, this is a great time to contact your congressional leaders through social media, town halls, phone calls and letters. Please, when you report, make sure you tell me the name of your official and what you discussed. When addressing a bill, please include the bill number and title.

If you don't know who your legislators are, reach them at the websites below:
State of Michigan legislators - www.michiganlegislator.org
U.S.Senators - www.senate.gov
U.S. Representative - www.house.gov

In closing, I would like to quote our National Ambassador, DeeDee Guyette:
"Remember that our legislative efforts are the roots of Brenda's tree, with a strong foothold this election year. Together our voices will be heard loud and clear this November."

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.

Have a Happy Halloween and a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!

Respectfully Submitted,

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