



Introduction

AMVETS (American Veterans), a leader since 1944 in preserving the freedoms secured by America's Armed Forces, has been proudly providing support for veterans, active duty & reserve component service members, their families and survivors, for more than a half a century. Originally founded by World War II Veterans, AMVETS, the most inclusive Veteran Service Organization in the country, includes among its members individuals who have honorably served in the U.S. Armed Forces from:

- every era;
- every branch of service; and
- every rank

Guided by our core imperatives - Veterans, Family, Patriots and Volunteers, AMVETS seeks to enhance and defend the earned benefits of all American men and women who are serving or have served honorably and selflessly in our Armed Forces through leadership, advocacy and service.

The helping hand that AMVETS extends to veterans and their families takes many forms. One of the most visible is the AMVETS network of trained national service officers (NSOs) accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs. These dedicated men and women can be found in close to 60 locations nationwide, providing cost-free, expert advice and prompt action on compensation claims.

As a leading advocate for Veterans rights and benefits, as well as one of the four authors of the Independent Budget, AMVETS serves as one of the preeminent voices of American Veterans on Capitol Hill.

AMVETS' signature programs include, but are not limited to:

- **Warrior Transition Workshops** – which successfully assist with the healthy reintegration of combat Veterans;
- **CODE Career Centers** – which provide cost-free career training & employment assistance for Veterans, Active/Reserve Duty service members and their spouses;
- **National Service Officers** – which provide VA claims assistance;
- **Educational Scholarships** – which are open to all Veterans, their children and grandchildren; and
- **Healing Heroes** – which distributes cash grants to help critically wounded Veterans and their families with transportation, lodging, food and child care costs.

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2014 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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Federal Government Reform

- VA (including extending advanced appropriations to the remaining discretionary & mandatory programs)
- DoD
- National Debt & Spending

Veteran Unemployment

- Veteran Anti-Discrimination (HR 2654/S 1281)

VA/DoD Health Care & Mental Health

- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) & Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) – Recognition & Treatment
- Toxic Wounds – Recognition & Treatment

Veterans Benefits

- Protect Earned Retirement and Health Care Benefits
- VA Claims & Appeals Backlog

Women Veterans & Service Members

- Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Prevention and Treatment
- Women in Combat Implementation

National Guard & Reserve Service Members

- On-going Transition Between State and Federal Service
- Veteran Status

Homeless & Rural Veterans

- Full Continuum of Care for Homeless Veterans (employment training, housing, legal aid)
- Access to Physical and Mental Health Care and other benefits

POW/MIA Recovery/Identification & Cemetery Affairs

- Continuing Over Site of DPMO & Mortuary Affairs Operations
- Increase Veterans Burial Benefits

Veterans Treatment Courts

- Increase Number of and Access to Veterans Treatment Courts Nationally
- Enhance Resources to Address Mental Health and Substance Abuse Issues

Honor and Remembrance

- Establish the National Desert Storm War Memorial in Washington, D.C.