

**VFW DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS AUXILIARY
MID-WINTER CONFERENCE
JANUARY 10, 2026
JUNCTION CITY, KS
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

NATIONAL AMBASSADOR AMY JO LETT

BE AN ADVOCATE, BE INFORMED, BE ENGAGED

Auxiliary members, we have accomplished in getting legislation passed in 2025, but so much more needs to get passed in 2026. Legislative victories for 2025 was S.141, Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, became law on January 2, 2025. The H.R. 1815, VA Home Loan Program Reform Act, became law on July 30, 2025, and S. 201, ACES Act of 2025, became law on August 14, 2025.

In 2026, the VFW urges Congress to pass H.R. 740/S. 275, Veterans' ACCESS Act of 2025 to ensure veterans receive clear information and timely health care by improving the efficiency, oversight, and coordination of VA's community care program. The VFW also urges Congress to pass H.R. 467, Foreign Medical Program Modernization Act of 2025, to expand access to health care for veterans living abroad by modernizing reimbursement systems and strengthening global care options. Other legislation is H.R. 4837, Written Informed Consent Act; H.R. 2623, Innovative Therapies Centers of Excellence Act of 2025; and H.R. 1845 TAP Promotion Act (Transition Assistance Program), which the VFW is urging Congress to pass all of these. Your voice in contacting your legislators on any of these, is beneficial in getting these passed.

Our biggest push for 2026 is urging Congress to pass the S.1032/H.R. 2102, Major Richard Star Act, to ensure that those medically retired for combat injuries receive both DOD retirement pay and VA disability compensation in full. "Honor the Contract" information to contact your legislators for passage of this legislation is listed under the Legislative Program Resources on the Kansas Web-site: www.vfwauxks.org

As outlined in the December 22, 2025 VFW Action Corps Weekly, our newest endeavor to strengthen our legislative advocacy, is to tell your story. This is called VFW Voices of Service, Stories in Action. You are asked to share your Veterans' stories on a wide range of issues, including VA Health Care access; toxic exposures; concurrent receipt and the Major Richard Star Act; VA benefits and disability claims; education, employment and transition; mental health and suicide prevention; food insecurity; caregiver and survivor benefits; and other challenges facing the Veteran and military community. Submission will help to identify patterns, gaps and real-world impacts that shape legislative priorities, congressional engagement, testimony, education and grassroots advocacy throughout the year. Every experience adds to the overall picture. This newest information can also be found under the Legislative Program Resources on the Kansas Web-site, and the form to report your story can be accessed by using the QR code found there.

Again thank you for everything you do to get the benefits our Veterans, Military and families deserve. Also a reminder that the legislative program is one of the four programs that is to be reported on to receive the Circle of Achievement for your Auxiliary. Last note, the 2026 VFW Priority Goals is listed under the Legislative Program Resources, so please copy and give to your members.

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