

**DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS AUXILIARY
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
SEPTEMBER 2025**

NATIONAL AMBASSADOR AMY JO LETT

BE AN ADVOCATE; BE INFORMED; BE ENGAGED

September 12th is the deadline to apply for this year's VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship. This program has been held annually since 2014. To continue empowering tomorrow's leaders, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Student Veterans of America (SVA) hosts the VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship, providing exemplary student veterans the opportunity to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill and in their community. For rules and eligibility, visit the VFW website at: <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support/student-fellowship>.

How is everyone doing in responding to those "Action Alerts" that the VFW Action Corps Weekly sends out? I have responded to three of them so far, and have reported this on the web-site under the Legislative Program. I have received reports from five Auxiliaries that they responded to the alerts with several members from one Auxiliary responding. I am sure that if you are signed up for the VFW Action Corps Weekly you would have received the alerts, but also it was actually in the VFW Action Corps Weekly August 18, 2025 edition for action on keeping VFW Priorities in the NDAA. There is no better way to advocate for our Veterans benefits than to respond to these "Action Alerts". I have received information from my National Ambassador, Amy Jo Lett, of the statistics for each of the Departments on number of signed up people for the Action Corps Weekly and how many are responding to the Action Alerts. Starting July 1, 2025 Kansas has 5,841 subscribers and only 31 responded to Action Alerts since then, making the total responding of .53%. That's not even 1% of the subscribers. We are being challenged to increase this percentage this year, and are competing against the other Departments in our Division #8.

Also in the latest edition of the VFW Action Corps Weekly, there was the introduction to the first female VFW National Commander, with a very good story on her credentials and also you could listen to her acceptance speech. Another article listed was on Community Care Authorizations Extensions and an update on Fort McClellan study being done under the Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022. And of course last but not least a list of thirteen POW/MIA heroes that had been identified for closure for their families. So with all of this information, available to us weekly, it is our best tool for keeping informed of what is going on in Washington, D.C. Let's get those members or even non-members signed up and then respond to those "Action Alerts" and report, report, report!!

The VFW Priority Goals lists six items that the VFW lobbies the legislators on Capitol Hill to benefit our veterans, service members and families. One item is the National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA. Congress and DOD (Department of Defense) ensure the DPAA (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency) is fully funded to perform its personnel recovery mission. Today, August 27, 2025, Governor Laura Kelly signed the proclamation to observe Kansas POW/MIA Recognition Week for September 14-20, 2025. There are still 1,034 servicemen missing from Kansas from World War II; 98 missing from the Korean War; and 24 missing from the Vietnam War. Let's make the week of September 14-20, 2025 known in our communities as POW/MIA Recognition Week!!

One other item on the VFW Priority Goals is Health Care. Under this item Congress, VA, and DOD must eliminate service member and veteran suicide. September is National Suicide Awareness month and everyone should recognize and know the signs of suicide. Thinking about hurting or killing yourself; looking for ways to kill yourself; talking about death, dying or suicide; self-destructible behavior, such as drug abuse, risky use of weapons, etc.; warning signs such as hopelessness, feeling like there's no way out; anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, mood swings' feeling like there is no reason to live; rage or anger; engaging in risky activities without thinking; increasing alcohol; withdrawing from family and friends. If someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive free, confidential support and crisis intervention available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Dial 988 then press 1, or chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/Chat), or text 838255.

Remember this is the special project for our Department President, David Huddleston, so whatever you can do to promote Suicide Awareness this month, it will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for what you do and continue to do to support our Veterans, active military and their families through all our programs!

Loyally

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