

**DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS
VFW AUXILIARY
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
2025-2026**

NATIONAL AMBASSADOR AMY JO LETT

BE AN ADVOCATE; BE INFORMED; BE ENGAGED

Our National Ambassador, Amy Jo Lett, has offered some new insights into this program. "Lighting the Way between Veterans' Families and Legislators with a Wave of Gratitude." Legislative "Gratitude Days" such as Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Vietnam War Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day, or the birthdays of the U.S. Military Branches can be used to send thank you notes to your legislators for their advocacy of Veterans legislation. These can be handwritten, emailed or incorporate social media campaigns and involve youth in activities.

Thank you notes with a purpose: host note-writing campaigns to thank veterans; Pair notes with QR codes directing recipients to VFW Action Corps Weekly and VFW Priority Goals; Connect this with a community veterans' event; and work with youth to decorate the cards.

BE AN ADVOCATE: Prepare Auxiliary members to become powerful voices in legislative advocacy. Organize training workshops for members, teaching them advocacy skills and strategies for engaging lawmakers. Veteran Advocacy Tools can be found under MALTA Member Resources: I Vote in Honor of a Veteran Stickers; VFW Auxiliary Guide to Contacting your Legislators; VFW Auxiliary Guide to the Legislative Process; VFW Auxiliary Involvement in Elections and Political Activities; 2025-2026 Legislative Award No. 1 Form; Legislative Website links.

One of the main objectives of the Legislative Program is to improve the lives of our veterans, service members and their families through advocacy. Your efforts, combined with nearly 1.5 million other VFW and Auxiliary members, can influence lawmakers whose decisions affect veterans and their families every day. Study the issues laid out clearly in the VFW Priority Goals. These goals are grouped under six areas of concern and are updated each January. **BE INFORMED:** know what the VFW and Auxiliary are fighting for on Capitol Hill.

Another tool that is greatly used is the VFW Action Corps Weekly. This weekly update keeps you informed on the legislation being endorsed and presented to Capitol Hill for our veterans and families by the VFW. One of the most crucial responsibilities of the VFW Washington, D.C. office is to actively lobby Congress and the administration on behalf of veterans. The office monitors all legislation affecting veterans and alerts VFW and Auxiliary members about key legislation under consideration. **BE ENGAGED:** respond to "Action Alerts" that requires you to contact your elected officials to let them know you support the legislation being presented. You will only receive these if you are signed up for the VFW Action Corps Weekly. It has been documented that only a small percent of people signed up for the VFW Action Corps Weekly actually respond to the "Action Alerts". Let's see if we can increase this percentage by responding every time one is received!

To continue empowering tomorrow's leaders, the VFW and the Student Veterans of America hosts a VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship, providing exemplary student veterans the opportunity to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill and in their community. This program has been held annually since 2014. During the VFW event, they will engage with Congress members, educating them on the challenges faced by today's veterans. Fellows can also join VFW advocates from their respective states and form teams to directly meet with the leadership from the committees responsible for veterans' issues, including the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees.

This year, our Department Auxiliary President, David Huddleston, has put this program on the Circle of Achievement for Auxiliaries. There must be two reports submitted on this program from each Auxiliary by March 31, 2026. I know you can do this, because we are Auxiliary members that support legislation that benefits our Veterans, service members and their families and we do so by contacting our Legislators. You just need to REPORT IT!

National Award for Auxiliaries:

Most outstanding activity and/or event to create thank-you notes and cards to veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or the VFW Priority Goals.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging. The Department Legislative Chairman must sign and send a copy of the competed Department-winning entry form to the National Legislative Ambassador by April 30, 2026 for judging.

My Department Legislative Awards will be based on participation, reporting and entering your reports through the Kansas Auxiliary Web-site: www.vfwauxks.org. If you are still needing training on how to do that, please let me know and I will provide you the training.

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