



# CORE FOUR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## Mental Health & Suicide Prevention

- Reduce stigma
- Increase access to care
- Improve identification & treatment
- Increase knowledge of mild-to-moderate TBIs & behavioral after effects
- Advocate for veterans with bad paper discharges as a result of undiagnosed or improperly treated post-deployment mental health issues, including TBIs
- Increase acceptance and use of Veteran Treatment Courts

## Toxic Wounds

- Recognition and compensation for diseases acquired after toxic exposure – emphasizing exposures not yet recognized by VA as presumptively causing ill health, such as Burn Pits

## Service Dogs & Assistive Technology

- Assistive Technology Service Dogs can aid in dressing, opening/shutting doors, retrieving items, turning lights off/on, alert to medical issues, and more
- Prosthetics & Traditional Assistive Technology

## Complementary & Alternative Medicine (CAM)

- Expand and enhance VA's offering of CAM for chronic pain and other health conditions including mental health
- Most commonly used alternative treatments for chronic pain:

*Acupuncture*

*Chiropractic Care*

*Exercise*

*Medical Marijuana*

*Stress-Management/Relaxation Techniques*

*Supplements/Vitamins*

*Yoga*



AMVETS' (American Veterans) Mission Statement is, "to enhance and safeguard the entitlements for all American Veterans who have served honorably and to improve the quality of life for them, their families, and the communities where they live through leadership, advocacy and services."

Since 1944, AMVETS has been one of the largest congressionally-chartered Veterans' Service Organizations (VSOs) in the United States and includes members from each branch of the military, including the National Guard, Reserves, and Merchant Marine. AMVETS is the most inclusive VSO in the country.

AMVETS is a resolution-based organization, meaning, that our membership passes resolutions at our annual National Convention which become part of our legislative agenda for two years. In addition to advocating legislatively for our membership for improvements in health care and benefits that affect all veterans, those currently serving, and their families—we pride ourselves in serving the same population in communities around the country.

The helping hand that AMVETS extends to veterans and their families comes in many forms. From our National Service Officers around the country who are accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs and provide free professional advice and assistance in filing disability compensation claims or appeals, to AMVETS' signature programs, which include:

- **“Call of Duty” Career Centers:** provide free career training and employment assistance for those in the Guard/Reserves, on active duty, veterans, and their spouses;
- **Educational Scholarships:** a variety that are open to Guard/Reserves, veterans, and their children and grandchildren who are high school seniors;
- **Healing Heroes:** distributes grants to aid critically wounded veterans and their families with transportation, lodging, food, and child care expenses during the recovery period;
- **Warrior Transition Workshops:** assist combat veterans with reintegration after deployments.

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