



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
LEGISLATIVE REPORT
OCTOBER 2017**

According to our National Ambassador, Carmelita Jones, everything we do for the Legislative Program, our watchword will be Veterans, Active-Duty Military, and their Families. She asks us to do 2 things:

1. **Subscribe to the VFW Action Corps Weekly** which is a free weekly e-newsletter that is available to all that sign-up. If you sign up, you will receive the key issues and legislation affecting veterans and the military national security, and other news affecting America's defenders. You will also receive the VFW Alerts about current legislative activities and how to make your voice heard.
2. **Familiarize yourself with our 2017 VFW Priority Goals.** These goals reflect the resolutions passed and supported by the men and women of the VFW and its Auxiliary. Print out the priority goals at www.vfw.org.

Camelita emphasizes that there are **Three Keys to Advocacy**:

1. **Know the issues:** Familiarize yourself with the Action Corps Weekly, the VFW Priority Goals, Congressional Testimony, and how your legislators vote on veterans' issues. Go to the website, www.vfw.org and click on Advocacy and then Grassroots Efforts for more information.
2. **Communicate the issues:** At your Auxiliary, District, and Department meetings, discuss your successes, what still needs to be done, and encourage members to be involved and be an advocate.
3. **Take Action:** Respond to Action Alerts, host and attend congressional townhall meetings and local/statewide events where you can interact with legislators, and meet with them in their districts when they break throughout the year. Invite legislators to come to your "Family Freedom Festival."

Congress passed the Budget Control Act of 2011 which runs through 2022. This act caused and is causing a 10% spending cut across the board (sequestration) equally between defense and non-defense programs. **Sequestration** does not take into consideration the actual or projected cost needs of the Department of Defense (DOD) to reflect the realities of defense and veterans' programs. Contact your congressional members to tell them to **end sequestration** and help give our veterans needed benefits and keep our country's security. Take this action before the upcoming VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. in September, 2017.

"Stand Together with Veterans and Family" to "Catch the Dream for our Veterans."

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