## **National Convention**

Benefits Protection Team Seminar Friday, August 2, 2019

Joy J. Ilem
National Legislative
Director







#### **National Legislative Department Staff**

Joy J. Ilem, National Legislative Director Adrian M. Atizado, Deputy National Legislative Director Shane L. Liermann, Assistant National Legislative Director Jeremy M. Villanueva, Associate National Legislative Director Peter Dickinson, Senior Executive Advisor

- Lisa Bogle, Senior Legislative Support Specialist
- Jeannette King, Legislative Support Specialist



#### **Update on Critical Policy Goals 116th Congress**

- Implementation of VA Mission Act
- Expansion of Caregiver Benefits
- VA Budget FY 2020
- Blue Water Navy Claims Update
- Burn Pits—Concession of Exposure
- Improving Survivors' Benefits
- Women Veterans

Handouts from today's Seminar will be available on-line



# Interim Legislative Committee 2018-2019

- Al Labelle, Chairman (WI)
- Jim Procunier (NC)
- Glenn Hohman (AZ)
- Gregg Dunham (TX)





# 2018-2019 Outstanding Performance in Advocacy (OPA) Awards

- Department BPTLs are eligible to participate
- Department/BPTL compete within 5 divisions—
- Awards based on performance of legislative activities
- Advocacy period—July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019
- Awards presented at DAV Mid-Winter Conference 2020



#### **Criteria for Selection of OPA Awards:**

- The number of Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP)
   hours reported on legislative efforts
- Efforts to increase active DAV Commander's Action
   Network (DAV CAN) members signed up in your state;
- The total number of emails sent to Congress on action alerts from the DAV CAN advocacy website



#### **Criteria for Selection of OPA Awards (cont.)**

- A department website containing legislative/advocacy information such as alerts and DAV CAN links;
- A department newsletter (monthly, quarterly or semiannually) that includes relevant legislative/advocacy information;
- Use of social media on legislative issues, such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube



#### **Criteria for Selection of OPA Awards (cont.)**

- Attendance of department BPTL at the DAV Mid-Winter Conference;
- Scheduled meetings with elected officials in DC during the DAV Mid-Winter Conference;
- Scheduled meeting(s) at congressional district offices anytime during the year; and
- Department **BPTL-led seminar** on legislative issues presented at a district, department or chapter meeting/function or community event (to include educating and/or training chapter level BPTLs).



#### **Criteria for Selection of OPA Awards (cont.)**

- Department submission of resolutions for consideration at national convention—related to federal/national issues
- Participation on a DAV convention committee



Year	Number of departments submitted resolutions	Number of resolutions submitted
2017	12	208
2018	26	249
2019	33	346



#### **Next Steps:**

- Memo to departments/BPTLs outlining the OPA Award
- Advocacy Award Forms sent to departments
- Complete and submit form to <a href="mailto:BPTAwards@dav.org">BPTAwards@dav.org</a>.
- BPTL Advocacy Report Form must be received by September 2, 2019
   for award consideration
- Department BPTL Advocacy Award winners will be authorized travel to attend DAV 2020 Mid-Winter conference



# DAV Service and Legislative Seminar Saturday August 3, 2019 Gatlin B-C (Level One)

**❖ Please arrive by 1:45 PM** 

#### **Forum Speakers:**

- Rep. Mark Takano, House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman
- Dr. Paul Lawrence, Undersecretary for Benefits
- Larry Connell, Veterans Health Administration Chief of Staff





# Thank You!





# Implementation of the VA MISSION Act

Peter Dickinson
Senior Executive Advisor



#### **Background of VA MISSION Act**

- Replaced Expiring Veterans Choice Act
- Bipartisan, Bicameral Congressional Support
- Supported by Coalition of 38 VSOs & MSOs
- Signed on June 6, 2018: Public Law 115-182
- Took Effect on June 6, 2019



#### Overview of VA MISSION Act

- 1. Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP)
- 2. Expands VA's Capacity to Deliver Health Care
- 3. Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR)
- 4. Extends VA Caregiver Program to All Eras



#### **Caregiver Extension**

- Two Phase Expansion
- October 1, 2019 To Vietnam, Korean & WWII
   <u>BUT</u>, VA Seems Unlikely to Meet Timeline



#### Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR)

- Market Assessments
- Stakeholder Input
- AIR Acceleration Act



#### **Expand VA Capacity to Provide Direct Care**

- 45,000 Vacancies
- New Recruitment Tools
- Expanded Treatment Space
- Telehealth Across State Lines



#### **Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP)**

- Sunsets Choice, Consolidates Community Care
- Creates Integrated Networks of VA and Community Providers for Seamless Access
- VA is Primary Provider & Coordinator of Care
- New Eligibility Rules
- New Urgent Care Benefit



#### **New Eligibility Criteria**

- Service Not Available at VA Facilities
- State Lacks Full-Service VA Medical Facility
- 40-Mile Legacy / Grandfathered Choice
- "Best Medical Interest" Determination
- Medical Service Line Below Quality Standard
- VA Cannot Meet New Access Standards



#### **New Access Standards**

#### Wait Times

- Primary & Mental Health Care > 20 Days
- All Specialty Care > 28 Days

#### Travel Times

- Primary & Mental Health Care > 30 Minutes
- > All Specialty Care > 60 Minutes



#### **New Urgent Care Benefit**

- Non-Emergency, Urgent, Walk-in Care
  - Do Not Need Prior VA Authorization **BUT** Provider Must Be in VCCP Network





#### **New Urgent Care Benefit**

Copayments Will Be Charged by VA

PG1 thru PG5: 1 to 3 Visits = None 4+ Visits = \$30/per

PG6 if related: 1 to 3 Visits = None 4+ Visits = \$30/per

➤ PG6 not related: All Visits = \$30/per

PG7 & PG8: All Visits = \$30/per





### **Critical Implementation Questions -- UPDATE**



 Has VA Accurately Estimated the Cost & Will VA Request & Congress Approve Full Funding?



 Will VA IT Systems Be Ready & Capable of Running Seamless Integrated Networks?



Will VCCP Eligibility Be Clear to Veterans & VA?



 Will Community Providers Have Sufficient Capacity & Expertise to Care for Veterans?



### **Keys to Long Term Success -- UPDATE**



True Consultation with Veterans & VSOs



Fully Fund Community & VA Care Programs



Care Coordination with the Community



Community Care Must Meet All VA Standards



VA Must Maintain Full Continuum of Care



#### **DAV MISSION Act Health Care Survey**





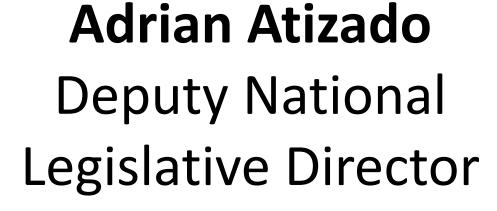
## Implementation of the VA MISSION Act



Peter Dickinson pdickinson@dav.org (202) 314-5232









# **Agenda**

#### **DAV Resolution No. 017**

- 1. Calls for congressional oversight of expansion (MISSION Act)
- 2. Improve caregiver support services



# Oversight of Expansion MISSION Act requires:

- 1. IT system in place prior to expansion
- 2. By October 1, 2018, VA Secretary implement IT system
- 3. By October 1, 2019, VA Secretary certify to Congress IT system works
- 4. Begin expansion to pre-9/11 veterans and caregivers in two-phases



## **Oversight of Expansion**

(IT program)

Joint Subcommittees on Health and Technology and Modernization Oversight Hearing: MISSION Critical: Caring for Our Heroes:

Date: 05.22.19 Time: 10:00 AM

**Location: House Visitors Center, Room 210** 





# Oversight of Expansion (IT program: Phase 3 ≈ Expansion)

BROWNLEY: --Thank you, thank you. I just want to make sure that, do we know when the program's going to start? So, you created a budget. You created some money for expansion. When's the program going to start, the expanded program, let me say?

VA WITNESS: We do not have a definite date, yet. We are waiting for the determination on when the IT system will be fully operational.

BANKS: . . . I understand you plan to release the new CARMA system in three phases, phase 1 in October, phase 2 in January, 2020, and then, **phase 3 at a date that has not yet been determined**.



# Oversight of Expansion (IT program)

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COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 16, 2019

The Honorable Robert L. Wilkie Secretary of Veterans Affairs 810 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Wilkie:

We write with concern regarding the delayed expansion of the l Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (Caregivers Program VA MISSION Act of 2018.

Under the law, eligibility for the Caregivers Program will be excreed prior to September 11, 2001, in two phases: first to those who is or prior to May 7, 1975, and then to those who incurred scrious injuries and September 11, 2001. However, before VA may expand the Caregi requires that VA implement an Information Technology (IT) system th Program and allows for data assessment and comprehensive monitoring unable to meet the statutory deadline of Cotober 1, 2018, to implement means that your certification of implementation of that solution, due or also be delayed.

The delay is troubling given Congress worked hand-in-hand wit establishing the timeline for expansion, and in particular the IT required law. Our understanding is that the Department had been developing a sithe Caregiver Application Tracker (CAT), called CareT, when VA idea serious concerns about the ability of CareT to support the current and e program. Ultimately, VA scrapped CareT in favor of a commercial off result, VA is well-behind when it indicated, during the drafting of the would be ready to implement an IT solution for the Caregivers Program

We also recently learned that VA now plans to replace CAT with the Caregiver Record Management Application (CARMA). We understand that replacement of CAT and the development of other IT to implement the expanded Program will occur in three phases. The target date for CARMA to replace CAT in Phase One is October 2019. During Phase Two, VA would also work to automate processing of the Caregiver stipend by January 2020. Finally, in

submissions and ensure that CARMA is able to meet all reporting needs. Regrettably, VA has no target for completion of Phase Three – but we understand that it could be as late as the third quarter of 2020.



July 16, 2019 —

Regrettably, VA has no target for completion of Phase Three – but we understand that it could be as late as the third quarter of 2020.



# Oversight of Expansion

#### MISSION Act requires:

```
1 IT system in place prior to expansion
2. By October 1, 2018, W. Sepretarius Historica Congress IT and 2010.
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- 3. By October 1, 2019, VA Secretary certify to Congress IT system Ward
- 4. Begin expansion to pre-9/11 veterans and caregivers in two-phases



### Oversight of Expansion (MISSION Act)

#### **CALL TO ACTION**



#### **Agenda**

#### DAV Resolution No. 017

- 1. Calls for congressional oversight of expansion (MISSION Act)
- 2. Improve caregiver support program



Wide spread media reports of inconsistently applying eligibility criteria Inconsistencies verified by VA Inspector General in August 2018 report

- April 2017 suspension of all revocation initiated by VA
  - Internal Review finished June 2017: better discharge letter; description of roles and responsibilities; released program SOP.



- Nov. 2018 public comment requested on MISSION Act improvement and expansion of VA Caregiver Program
  - >DAV provided comments
- Dec. 2018 (2nd) moratorium on discharges and reductions
  - ➤ Internal Review results pending



- S. 1648, the Supporting Veteran Caregivers Act of 2019
  - Sens. Casey, Tester, and Murray
  - ➤ Reevaluate all family caregivers who were removed from the program
  - ➤ Reinstate or reverse improper discharge or reduction



#### • S. 2216, TEAM Veteran Caregivers Act

- ➤ Sens. Peters, Blackburn
- > Requires a standard and explanatory decision notification letter
- ➤ Requires a 90 day extension of benefits when being discharged from the program
- Requires VA to identify and recognize <u>all</u> primary caregivers





#### **UPDATE: VA Budget**

Adrian Atizado

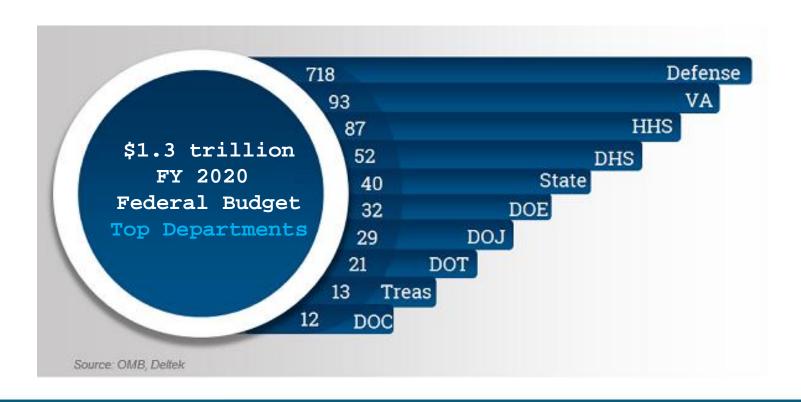
Deputy National
Legislative Director







#### FY 2020 Federal Discretionary Budget





#### **VA Budget: Medical Care**

	FY 2019 Appropriation	FY 2020 Administration Request	FY 2020 Independent Budget	FY 2020 House Proposed	FY 2020 Senate Proposed
(in billions)					
VA Medical Care	\$63.2	\$64.9	\$70.0	\$65.1	?
<b>VA Medical Community Care</b>	\$ 9.4	\$15.3	\$18.1	\$15.3	?
<b>VA Medical Care Collections</b>	\$ 3.4	\$ 3.9		\$ 3.9	?
Total, Medical Care Budget Authority (including Medical Collections)	\$76.0	\$84.1	\$88.1	\$84.3	?



#### VA Budget: VBA, BVA, IT, Construction

	FY 2019 Appropriation	FY 2020 Administration Request	FY 2020 Independent Budget	FY 2020 House Proposed	FY 2020 Senate Proposed
(in billions)					
<b>Veterans Benefits Administration</b>	\$2.96	\$3.03	\$3.04	\$3.0	?
Information Technology	\$4.10	\$4.34	\$4.34	\$4.34	?
(EHR Modernization)	\$1.11	\$1.80	\$1.80	\$1.80	?
<b>Construction Programs</b>	\$1.97	\$1.77	<i>\$3.84</i>	\$1.85	?



#### **VA Budget**

	FY 2019 Appropriation	FY 2020 Administration Request	FY 2020 Independent Budget	FY 2020 House Proposed	FY 2020 Senate Proposed
(in billions)					
Total Discretionary Budget Authority	\$88.1	\$96.8	\$103.3	\$97.2	?



#### **Federal Budget Agreement**



May 21, 2019 / 2:48 PM

U.S. budget negotiations advance but no deal yet

#### THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

August 8, 2019

Budget Deal Was Rare

Moment of Compromise in

Washington



#### Federal Budget impact on VA Budget







Administration's budget request and prior budget agreements to provide these veterans with health over and benefits, and minimizing any impact on VA's current workload.

Any new budget represent must allow for sufficent resources to fully and faithfully implement the VA MSSION Act and the Bire Water Nery Victoms Veterons Act. We call on the Administration, House of Representatives, and Sanate leadership to take appropriate actions that will ensure these recourses are provided as part of a trouble budget agreement.

In Fahrmon: write to the Administration's landret remost we released The Indonesident Review IV

"Any new budget agreement must allow for sufficient resources to fully and faithfully implement the VA MISSION Act of 2018 and the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019"

6.0.00 in P.T. 2021. This additional definancing feedures was never envisioned when congress result the Budget Control. Are budgeted young for FV 2020 and FV 2021 results are seen segn. Additionally, Congress has not addressed the need in past budget agreements and appropriations.

The recently-enacted Blue Water Navy Vienam Vereins Act of 2019 restores eligibility for VA byggiffs and health one to thousank of Blue Water Navy Vietnem veterates who were exposed in Agen Coming in the eithner water of Vicham. It also coxpands bench to volerance proposed to Agent Umage while serving along the Korean DMZ and to children born with spina bifida due to a parent's exposure in Thailanck, among other improvements to tygiggage benefits. As a result, there will be unanticipated export requiring additional FY 2020 and FY 2011 incorrectnery through that were not anticipated in the

Edward R. Reese, Jr. Executive Director Washington Headquarters DAV (Disabled American Veterans)

Carl Blake
Executive Director
Paralyzed Veterans of America

Robert E. Wallace Executive Director Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States





### Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans

Shane Liermann
Assistant National
Legislative Director

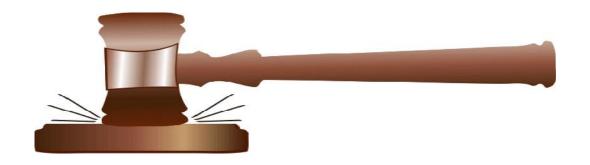


#### **Update August 2019**

- Where We Started--Critical Policy
- What has Happened?--HR 299 Became Law
- Where We Are Now—VA Stays All Cases



## Procopio v Wilkie & DAV Critical Policy Goal





### PROCOPIO v. WILKIE January 29, 2019

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that service in the Republic of Vietnam includes the territorial waters within 12 nautical miles of the baseline.

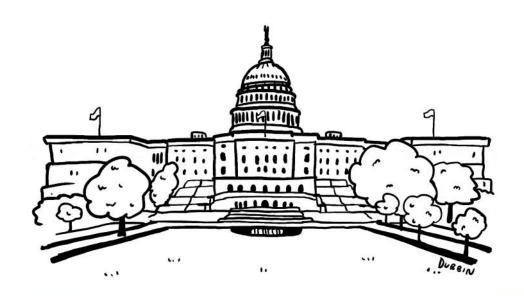


#### **Blue Water Navy Critical Policy Goal**

Congress should enact legislation to protect and codify *Procopio v. Wilkie*, to ensure Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans receive all of the benefits earned through their service.



## HR 299 Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act 2019



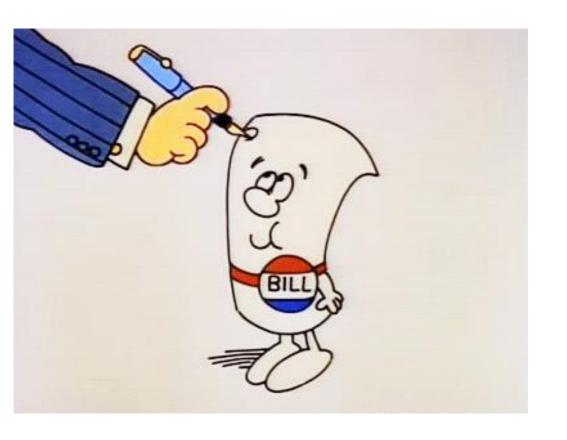


#### HR 299, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans



- Mouse Passed in May
- Senate Passed in June





# President signed HR 299 into law June 25, 2019







#### **Public Law 116-23**

Will establish 12 nautical miles FROM the line created by specific grid coordinates

Some locations over 90 nautical miles





#### **Public Law 116-23**



Law will be effective January 1, 2020

Earliest possible effective date will be September25, 1985





## VA Stays All Blue Water Navy Cases

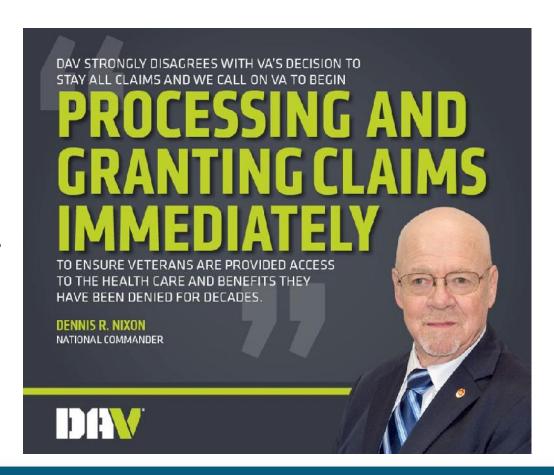


#### **Secretary Stays All Cases**

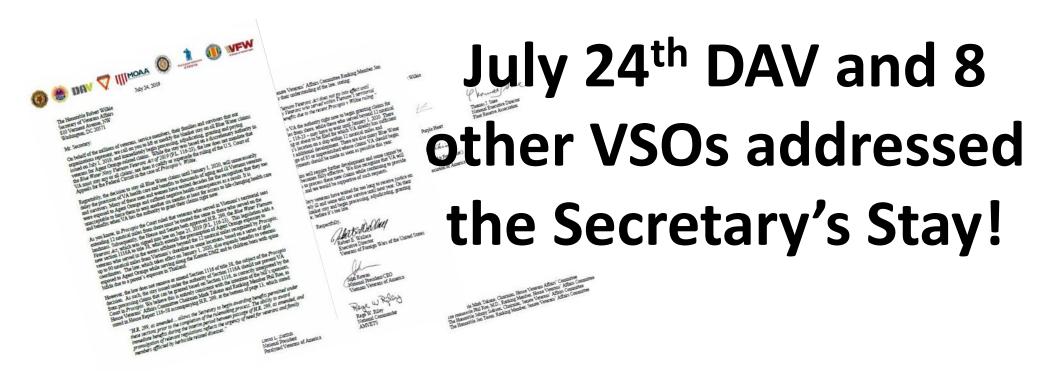
July 1, 2019, VA Secretary Wilkie issued a stay on ALL Blue Water Navy Cases including all *Procopio* cases and those that fall under HR 299.



We do **NOT** agree with the VA's decision to stay all of these cases.









#### We Need Your Help!!





#### **Call To Action!!**

If the opportunity arises, discuss with Congress

Be Ready for Upcoming Action (CAN)



File Claims Now!





## UPDATE Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans

**THANK YOU!** 





Shane Liermann
Assistant National
Legislative Director



#### **Update August 2019**

Where We Started—Current Claims Process

- DAV Unique Idea—Critical Policy Goal
- Where We Are Now—Forthcoming Actions



## Current Claims Process





- Currently, the VA does not provide presumption of service connection for diseases related to burn pit exposure
- Nor do existing statutes concede exposure to toxins from burn pits.



In April 2019, the National Academy of Medicine started a comprehensive study of long-term health effects due to burn pit exposure.

The study is expected in 2021. This may lead to presumptives.



#### **Direct Service Connection**

- (1) Medical evidence of a current disability;
- (2) Evidence of exposure to toxins;
- (3) Evidence of a link between the claimed disability and the burn pit exposure.



# Claims for Burn Pits Issues June 2007 through November 2018

- 11,581 Claims with 2,318 granted (20%)
  - Of the 9,263 denied
    - 44% were denied for no diagnosis
    - 54% were denied for no link to service



#### **Current Situation**

- No presumptives for burn pit exposure
- 80% of direct service connection claims for burn pit exposures have been denied.



## **Current Legislation**

- VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry & Research
  - OATH Act--HR 2617—S 1680
  - NDAA 2020
  - Burn Pits Accountability Act
    - HR 663—S191



## **Current Legislation**

- Service Connection (Presumptive)
  - H.R.4086
  - Introduced July 26, 2019
  - No text yet!





# Critical Policy Goal



## **Burn Pit Exposure Critical Policy Goal**

Congress should enact legislation to concede burn pit exposure for all veterans eligible to join the VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, and should include the same chemicals and toxins noted in VA's M21-1 Manual.



## Congress should concede burn pit exposure.

Apply to all exposed to burn pits to include veterans currently eligible to join the Burn Pit Registry.

Eliminate the need to prove each veteran's exposure to burn pits.



## Congress should concede burn pit exposure.

A concession of burn pit exposure will not establish presumptive service connection; however, it will concede what toxins/chemicals a veteran was exposed to.

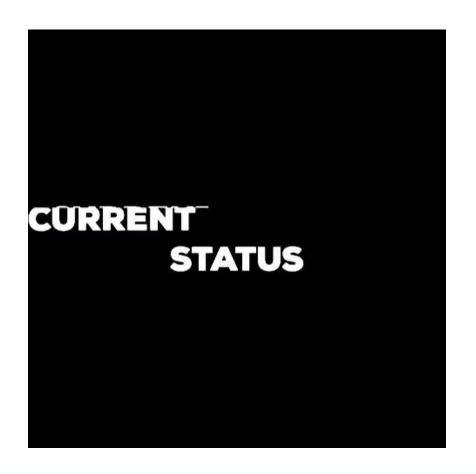


#### **Direct Service Connection**

- (1) Medical evidence of a current disability;
- (2) Evidence of exposure to toxins;
- (3) Evidence of a link between the claimed disability and the burn pit exposure.



# **Current Goal Status**





- Coalition of VSO Support
- Worked with Senate Office to establish language
- Bi-partisan Bicameral Approach





# We Need Your Help!!



Possibly September Introduction

DAV CAN

Conversations in your District





Thank You!





## Survivors' Benefits

Jeremy Villanueva Associate National Legislative Director



## SITREP

- Survivors, especially caregivers, are losing significant income once the veteran passes away
- Surviving spouses cannot remarry prior to the age of 57 for fear of losing their benefits
- Survivors and dependents of severely disabled veterans only has a 10-year period to utilize and complete a program of education through Chapter 35



## SITREP

- There is still a law that offsets DOD Survivor Benefit
   Program (SBP) payments against VA DIC benefits
- Veterans who have been rated 100% disabled, still have to wait 10 years before their loved ones are eligible for DIC



#### **Increase DIC Amount**



- DIC is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors/dependents
- Monetary value is less than 50% of what a veteran who is 100% receives
  - From \$3,227 <del>></del> \$1,283
- Equating to the loss of approximately \$24,000 a year
- Congress should index DIC benefits to 55% of a 100% disabled veterans compensation



## Legislation

- S. 1047, the "Dependency Indemnity Compensation Improvement Act"
  - Sen. Jon Tester (MT)
  - 3 co-sponsors
  - Increases DIC amount to 55 % of Corneone whose
     I disability in order as total
- H.R. 3221, the "Dependency Indemnity Compensation Improvement Act"
  - Rep. Jahana Hayes (CT)
  - 8 co-sponsors



#### Lowering DIC Remarriage Age

 Current law allows a surviving spouse to remarry at the age of 57 or place

• For Federal employees survivors, the age is

57 is ar arbhrary age and causes an

un elessary burden

• Congress should lower the remarriage age requirement



#### Delimiting Date for Chapter 35

Currently, a spouse or dependent eligible for Ch.
 35 benefits has 10 years from eligibility to apply for programs

Indifferent to caregivers, family obligations, & extenuating recurrences

Concress should remove the 10-year delimiting onte for spouses and surviving spouse to use their educational benefits provided under chapter 35, United States Code



## SBP/DIC Offset

- Today, a veteran who is eligible for both DIC and SBP would have their SBP payments reduced by the amount of DIC they receive
- SBP is not a "gratuitous" benefit
  - SBP is an insurance paid for by the retiree
- DIC and SBP are distinct and unique benefits
- Congress should repeal this offset as there is no duplication of benefits





## Legislation

- HR 553, the "Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act"
  - Rep. Joe Wilson (SC)
  - 371 co-sponsors
- S. 622, the "Military Widow's Tax Elimination Act of 2019"
  - Sen. Doug Jones (AL)
  - 75 co-sponsors
- H.R. 2500, 2020 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
   2020
  - Passed in House





#### Reduce the 10-Year Rule for DIC

- A veteran would have to be rated 100% for 10 years for DIC eligibility
- This time frame is non-negotiable
  - Spouses who gave up their careers
  - Dependent children
  - Caregivers
- Congress should pass legislation that reduces the 10-year rule





## What Can You Do?



- 1. Contact your representatives
- 2. Visit district offices
- 3. Write Letters
- 4. Visit DC
- 5.Op Eds
- 6.Contact Media
- 7.SIGN PEOPLE UP TO DAV CAN!







## Thank You!

Jeremy Villanueva Associate National Legislative Director

jvillanueva@dav.org





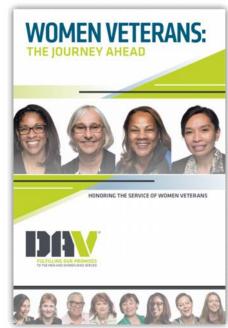


#### Women Veterans: The Journey Ahead

DAV Released new report on September 12, 2018 on Capitol Hill

#### **Critical Policy Issues:**

- Equitable access to comprehensive health care services and benefits
- Gender-tailored care and programs
- Environment of care issues—safety, privacy, culture
- Barriers to care for women veterans
- Recognition of contributions in military service









## Women Veterans Issues: A Major Focus in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress

#### Hearings

- February 28, 2019: Female Veterans' Access to VA Services
- May 2, 2019: Cultural Barriers Affecting Women's Access to Health Care
- June 20, 2019: Ensuring Access to Disability Benefits for Veterans Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma
- May 22, 2019: Senate Veterans' Affairs Legislative Hearing (S.318/S. 514)
- July 10, 2019: Economic Well-Being of Women Veterans



# 116<sup>th</sup> Congress Congressional Women Veterans Task Force

- Established by HVAC Chairman Mark Takano
- Chaired by Representative Julia Brownley,
   Chair HVAC Subcommittee on Health
- Task-Force Kick-off **Roundtable** held in May
- Monthly Women Veterans Task Force Meetings



### Women Veterans Bills 116<sup>th</sup> Congress

#### **HEALTH CARE**

- **S. 514** Deborah Sampson Act, a comprehensive women veterans bill to improve healthcare and benefits for women veterans
- H.R. 2681 Report to Congress on the availability of prosthetic items for women veterans
- H.R. 2982 Women Veterans Health Care Accountability Act
- H.R. 3036 Breaking Barriers for Women Veterans Act
- H.R. 3224 Increased access to VA medical care for women veterans



### Women Veterans Bills 116th Congress (cont.)

#### **HOMELESS**

- S. 91 Creating a Reliable Environment for Veterans' Dependents Act of 2019
- H.R. 95 Homeless Veteran Families Act
- H.R. 2924 Housing for Women Veterans Act
- H.R. 3189 Improving Legal Services for Female Veterans Act

#### **CHILD CARE/NEWBORN**

- S. 318/H.R. 2752 Authorizing VA to furnish medically necessary transportation for newborn children to certain women veterans
- H.R. 840 Veterans' Access to Child Care Act
- H.R. 1924 Vet Center Childcare Parity Act
- H.R. 2645 Improve newborn child care authorized by VA



### Women Veterans Bills 116<sup>th</sup> Congress (cont.)

#### **MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA (MST)**

- **H.R. 713** Beneficiary travel for veterans seeking care for MST in specialized VA outpatient or residential programs.
- H.R. 1092 Expansion of VA health care and benefits for military sexual trauma

#### **TRANSITION**

- H.R. 2941 Servicewomen's Health Transition Training Act of 2019
- H.R. 2942 Authorize Women's Health Transition Training pilot program

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- H.R. 2798 Building Supportive Networks for Women Veterans Act
- H.R. 2972 Improve VA communications relating to services available for women veterans



#### **Women Veterans Seminar**

Monday August 5, 2019 2:00PM/ Gatlin D

#### **VA Guest Speakers:**

- Jacquelyn Hayes-Byrd, Director, Center for Women Veterans
- Lynda C. Davis, Ph.D., Chief Veterans Experience Officer
- Lisa K. Kearney, Ph.D., Acting Deputy Director, Office of Suicide Prevention



#### **Seminar Wrap-Up**

- Progress made on all of DAV's Critical Policy Goals
- Congressional August Recess
- Year End—Legislative Wrap-Up
- Election Season 2020
- Do's & Don'ts
- **→** Get Involved; Be Informed; Stay Active
- Thanks For Your Support!!!



#### National Legislative Department—Washington D.C.



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