

# Veterans of Foreign Wars Legislation 2020

The Veterans of Foreign Wars was established to assist veterans. Our mission is to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts and to serve our veterans, the military and our communities and advocate on behalf of all veterans.

Knowing our Veterans of Foreign Wars organization arms us with the knowledge to not only promote achievements and initiatives, but to truly advocate and live up to our motto “No One Does More for Veterans.”

Please visit the Veterans of Foreign Wars Website at <https://www.vfw.org/> and our Department of Tennessee Veterans of Foreign Wars Website at <https://vfwtn.org/>. Provided below are direct links to valuable information.

1. Advocacy - The VFW is one of the most respected voices in Washington, D.C., and within local governments across America. We advocate for justice for our nation's veterans, service members and military families on an array of issues and continue to be the voice for veterans everywhere. We regularly testify before Congress, meet with elected officials, and rally our national network of VFW members and patriotic supporters to ensure our lawmakers put veterans first. When those who've served their country and those that support them stand together, we cannot be ignored.  
<https://www.vfw.org/advocacy>
2. Veterans of Foreign Wars Legislative Priorities March 2020 – Legislation addressing Veteran’s Benefits, Veteran’s Health Care, Concurrent Receipt, Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program and Transition (Transition Assistance Program); covering Agent Orange, Burn Pits, Suicide Prevention and Mission Act.  
<https://vfwtn.org/uploads/Documents/VeteransofForeignWarsLegislativePrioritiesMarch2020.pdf>
3. Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals and Materials Burn Pit & Agent Orange VA Website 2020 – Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry and Ten Things to Know About Burn Pits. Agent Orange Exposure in Vietnam (includes Blue Water Navy), Thailand, Korea and from C-123 Aircraft.  
<https://vfwtn.org/uploads/Documents/ExposuretoHazardousChemicalsandMaterialsBurnPit&AgentOrangeVAWebsite2020.pdf>
4. Action Corps “Know Legislation and Issues and Take Action”- The VFW **Action Corps** is our national grassroots advocacy network comprised of more than 300,000 VFW members and patriotic supporters of veterans. This group stays up to date on the issues facing our veterans, our military, and their families, standing ready to email, write, call, and visit our nation’s lawmakers to make their voices heard. The VFW Action Corps is free and open to all patriotic Americans who care about the military and veterans’ communities.  
[Join the VFW Action Corps today](#) and add your voice to the thousands of veterans’ advocates making a difference every day, and if you’re already a member of the VFW Action Corps, encourage your friends and neighbors to join the effort!  
<https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts>
5. Legislative Victories – The VFW played an instrumental role in virtually every significant piece of veterans’ legislation passed in the 20th century, as well as bills enacted in the 21st century.  
<https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Media-and-Events/Press-Room/VFWLegislativeVictories.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20200128T203330Z>
6. Department of Tennessee Legislation at <https://vfwtn.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=63870>

# Tennessee State Legislation

## Tennessee Veterans Empowerment Team (TVET)

Organization, 501c (19), originated at a meeting held in Nashville, TN on July 28, 2018 to discuss views, common problems and put forth a united effort to formulate and request the Legislature to enact laws favorable to veterans and their dependents.

As a separate and distinct entity of veteran organizations of Tennessee, it is TVET's aim to be mindful of, address and pursue, through legislative means, the needs of Tennessee veterans. Its purposes are to unite the leadership of Tennessee's veteran organizations for a team effort on behalf of veterans in advancing services and/or benefits for these particular citizens; and, to provide a forum in which to present, discuss, debate and propose procedural and/or legislative solutions to inequities in ongoing veterans programs and to address the concerns of the future.

American Veterans (AMVETS)

Buffalo Soldiers

Farmer Veteran Coalition

Marine Corps League

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

Military Order of the Purple Heart

National Sojourners

ROA – Reserve Officers Association

The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

Women Veterans of America (WVA)

Below are some of our successes:

- Restoration of 100% disabled veteran personal property tax exemption
- Legislation to ensure exemption is maintained if veteran is in long-term care.
- Hiring Preferences for Veterans, spouses, and widows/widowers
- Legislation to end Stolen valor
- Legislation to encourage governor to appoint veterans to mental health and education boards
- Working with TDVA to standardize veteran home naming
- Resolution to recognize 12 June as Women Veterans Day
- Legislation to mandate suicide prevention training for TDVA and VSO office employees who interact with veterans
- Worked with TDVA Commissioner to restore suicide prevention hotline and information on state website

### **HJR0814 - Allow for bingo games conducted by congressionally chartered nonprofit Veterans organizations 501(c)(19)**

Representative Bruce Griffey

<http://www.capitol.tn.gov/> to read this resolution

A RESOLUTION to propose an amendment to Article XI, Section 5 of the Constitution of Tennessee, to allow for bingo events to benefit certain organizations.

Constitutional Amendments - Proposes an amendment to Article XI, Section 5 of the Constitution of Tennessee, to allow for bingo games conducted by congressionally chartered nonprofit veterans organizations that are tax-exempt as 501(c)(19) organizations to meet charitable, not-for-profit, or community service purposes.

In support of this resolution the Department of Tennessee Veterans of Foreign Wars will take Action after the November elections. Department Legislative Chairman Michael Rhew will provide a prepared email, includes addressees, for veteran and auxiliary members to send to Tennessee Legislators requesting support of this House Joint Resolution. The more we support the better chance of approval, so we must maximize participation.

Michael Rhew

Legislative Chairman

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