

## Legislative Committee

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**DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK**



**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**



**2025**

## **Legislative Goals of Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**

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State Commander

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**The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)** is an organization of U.S. war veterans who have fought in wars, campaigns, and expeditions on foreign lands, waters, or airspace. The VFW was founded to aid the rehabilitation of disabled and needy veterans, assist veterans' surviving families and the dependents of needy or disabled veterans, promote Americanism by means of education in patriotism, and by constructive service to local communities. The VFW offers a wide range of assistance programs aimed at helping veterans of every generation. This includes providing free, professional help filing or appealing a Veterans Administration claim, offering scholarships for postsecondary education or providing emergency financial relief. There are 11 VFW districts in New York, comprised of hundreds of posts located in communities statewide.

**The 2025 New York State Legislative Priorities of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of New York include the following:**

**Real Property Tax Exemption for 100% Disabled Veterans**

The VFW supports legislation to establish a real property tax exemption for veterans with a 100% service connected disability. Disabilities suffered while serving can leave veterans unable to work and provide for their families, having sacrificed their health to protect our country. These veterans have earned this relief in reducing their financial strain and increasing their quality of life A.2965-A (Pheffer-Amato)/S.2058 (Addabbo)

**Charitable Gaming Legislation** - The VFW's work in local communities is partially supported by fundraising through charitable gaming, including bingo, raffles, bell jar tickets, and pull tabs. Charitable gaming helps provide vital funding that supports the VFW and our posts across New York.

- To authorize electronic bell jar vending machines.
- To ease certain restrictions on the conducting of games of chance and bingo for charitable purposes.

Outdated laws and unnecessary restrictions in New York State now hinder our ability to use charitable gaming for fundraising. The VFW asks for your support for long-overdue amendments to ease restrictions on charitable gaming in New York State. The viability of organizations like the VFW depends on it.

**Increase for the VFW Chapter Field Service Operation** – The VFW Department of New York requests an increase in the annual appropriation for services and expenses of the VFW Chapter Field Service Operation. Accredited Veteran Service Officers help veterans navigate and access various benefits available on the federal, state, and local level.

### **National Legislative Goals for the VFW**

The VFW is working with members of Congress both locally and nationally to achieve these goals.

**Budget:**

To fully fund programs for veterans, service members, and their families.

**Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs:**

To ensure veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits.

**Education, Employment, and Transition Assistance:**

To ensure veterans succeed after leaving military service.

**Health Care:**

To ensure service members and veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares.

-The G.U.A.R.D VA Benefits Act (S. 740/H.R. 1139)

**Military Quality of Life:**

To maintain a quality, comprehensive benefits and retirement package that is the backbone for an all-volunteer force.

**National Security, Foreign Affairs, and POW/MIA:**

To fully support service members and protect our nation's citizens and interests around the world.

We are grateful for the Legislature's ongoing support of the VFW Department of New York. Your support ensures that the important work of the VFW can be sustained in communities around the State.