STILL SERVING: IT’S WHO WE ARE
The American Legion is the voice of 2.2 million
American veterans and servicemembers. As a
resolution-based organization, The American
Legion’s positions represent the views of its
members and are based on the four pillars:
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National
Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.
Included in this brochure are the top issues
The American Legion will be fighting for in 2016.

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Updated Feb. 10, 2016
Fully fund a superior national defense as the global war on terror continues

The global war on terrorism is continuing to pose a threat to America's security and national interests. It is critical to maintain a well-funded Department of Defense to ensure a strong national defense to protect America and its allies from enemies such as the Islamic State and North Korea. Additionally, The American Legion strongly advocates for a good quality of life for troops and a sensible transition from military service to civilian life. The Legion vows to fight against those who seek to jeopardize the benefits promised to past, present and future servicemembers for short-term budget gains. The severity of sequester cuts has been lessened, however force reductions continue and the military remains in a recovery mode after absorbing dramatic cuts.

Contact: Dean Stoline

Ensure real accountability within VA

The American Legion believes in a strong Department of Veterans Affairs. In the aftermath of news coverage on VA mismanagement and patient waiting lists, the Legion believes that in order to restore trust and confidence in VA, there must be real accountability for employees and managers who violate the trust of veterans and the public. There must be consequences for poor performance and actions that hurt veterans. The men and women who served our nation with honor deserve to see justice to those who act against their interests.

Contact: Warren Goldstein

Institute a 21st century health-care system

Veterans need to know that there will be a robust system built for them to care for their needs. The American Legion led the way in calling for reform in the midst of a crisis in patient access to VA health care. The Legion strongly opposes efforts to privatize care and diminish the VA health-care system.

Contact: Warren Goldstein

Develop alternative help for veterans struggling with mental health issues and brain injuries

The American Legion has dedicated extensive resources to studying the devastating effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Veterans and servicemembers in need of treatment for brain injuries and mental stress deserve access to the best care and research in alternative and other forms of therapy.

Contact: Warren Goldstein

Make sure transition programs are not adversely affected by sequestration

Sequestration cuts are having an impact on servicemen and women who are transitioning to the civilian world. The primary issue is that Transition Assistance Programs (TAP) face budget shortfalls as Department of Defense funds are being squeezed to accommodate security goals. At the same time, reductions in force strength are forcing more servicemembers out. Congress must act to reverse these cuts and ensure that transitioning servicemembers are able to make contributions in the civilian workforce.

Contact: Matthew Shuman

Create opportunities for veteran business owners

Veterans who own small businesses hire a greater percentage of other veterans. These veteran-owned businesses represent a great tool in the fight against veteran joblessness. The Legion supports veteran-owned small businesses and encourages parity for veterans in government contracting.

Contact: Matthew Shuman

Provide opportunities through Post-9/11 GI Bill

As the founding author of the original GI Bill, The American Legion is continuing to press for legislation to help transitioning servicemembers receive quality education benefits. The Legion believes that veterans should be allowed to convert GI Bill education funds into capital for business start-ups. These grants would further the goal of growing the veteran-owned small business industry, which, in turn, would generate jobs for veterans.

Contact: Matthew Shuman

End veteran homelessness

The American Legion believes that not a single man or woman who has defended our nation should be forced to sleep on the streets at night. While the goal of eliminating veterans homelessness by 2015 was not met, the Legion urges Congress to pledge any and all necessary resources to eradicate the problem immediately. The programs in place are working. It is essential that their funding continues unabated in order to eliminate veterans homelessness.

Contact: Matthew Shuman

Reject any attempts to diminish benefits earned by veterans

The American Legion strongly opposes any attempts to further dilute the promises made to the men and women who served, or are still serving, our nation. The Legion opposes any proposed degradations of the promised health care and benefits to retired servicemembers from when they enlisted.

Contact: Dean Stoline

Repeal unfair offsets that penalize disabled veterans and widows

VA disability compensation should not be offset from military retired pay regardless of the VA rating percentage, nor should VA survivor benefits (DIC) be offset from military Survivor Benefit Plan annuities. The American Legion supports legislation that would repeal those unjust offsets now.

Contact: Dean Stoline

Protect the American Flag

The American Legion remains committed to protecting Old Glory, and continues to support legislation that safeguards our nation's flag from physical desecration. H.J. Res. 9, S.J. Res. 21

Contact: Jeff Steele