State Legislative Priorities 2019

“Veterans issues are non-partisan issues.”
DAV of Minnesota State Level Priorities
2019

In this booklet you will find a brief overview of current priorities the DAV of MN has identified for 2019. These priorities focus on ways we can improve the lives of Minnesota’s Veterans, their families, and their surviving spouses at the state level.

This is in no way intended to be an all-inclusive list for the upcoming session. We are actively traveling the state gathering additional information/ideas and building support from Veterans, and non-veterans alike, in every region of the state.

I hope you will consider joining us as we fight for common sense, responsible creation, or expansion, of some benefits to improve the lives of our disabled Veterans.

We also need your assistance in protecting the benefits already in place from attack. There are people who no longer understand why these benefits exist and only see them as items on a budget.

You do not need to be a member of the DAV, a Veteran, or a family member of a Veteran to join us in working for our state’s Veterans.

To stay up-to-date on the latest information or if you have questions, concerns or comments please contact me at: Trent@davmn.org

Trent C Dilks, Legislative Director
Disabled American Veterans, Dept. of Minnesota
Revisions to the Current Property Tax Value Exclusion to Recognize the Contributions of Surviving Spouses

- Currently there is an 8-year expiration date on the property tax value exclusion for the surviving spouses of those who die during, or as a result of, their service in the U.S. Military.
- Spouses of our most severely disabled Veterans often leave work early to become full-time uncompensated caregivers for their disabled Veterans, resulting in better care for our Veterans and saving U.S. taxpayers millions of dollars.
- After their Veteran passes away many surviving spouses see a 60%, or more, reduction in income.
- As a state we offer almost no benefits for the spouses we all know give so much.
- At the state level we can do BETTER!
- Therefore, the DAV of MN fully supports a revision to the current exclusion that will care for these surviving spouses for their lifetime.
- Furthermore, to truly create a benefit for the spouses who give so much, we support creating the ability of a one-time transferability of the exclusion to a new property.
Creation of a Veterans Omnibus Bill

- It is often the rhetoric of our politicians to say, “Veteran’s issues are non-partisan issues.”. While this may be true at its core, the reality is year-after-year Veteran’s issues get held back as a part of larger partisan fight taking place in St. Paul.
- In recent years we have watched a highly partisan culture develop in St. Paul, derailing efforts to improve services and benefits to our Veterans.
- During the same time the lawmakers in St. Paul have shown a strange unwillingness to consider single pieces of legislation, instead preferring unwieldly omnibus bills.
- Year-after-year we have watched as meaningful legislation that could improve the lives of our Veterans, their families, and survivors die as part of these partisan omnibus bills.
- Therefore, the DAV of MN calls on our elected officials to create a Veterans Omnibus Bill so the issues affecting Minnesota’s Veterans can truly rise above the partisan fighting and be considered on their own merit.

Expansion of Opportunities for Disabled Veterans to Fish, Hunt, etc…

- The effects of the outdoors on Veterans has been widely researched and recognized as beneficial.
- Increasing access to those opportunities has proven to be a cost-effective way to show a state’s appreciation for the sacrifices made by Veterans disabled in service.
- Therefore, the DAV of MN supports revising the current policy to include more of the state’s disabled Veterans in the opportunity to receive free, or significantly reduced, hunting and fishing licenses.
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Increasing Opportunities for Disabled Veterans to Receive a College Education

- This is an area many believe is taken care of by the federal benefits created for Veterans (GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation). However, limitations, pointless expiration dates, and federal bureaucratic nightmares have presented our Veterans with unique challenges in receiving the education and training they need to succeed.

- There are also significant barriers to ensuring our Veterans are aware of the benefits they’ve earned regarding education and training.

- The unemployment, and underemployment, of Minnesota’s disabled Veterans remains a concern for the DAV of MN.

- The state of Minnesota falls way behind in offering education benefits to our state’s disabled Veterans, when compared with other states.

- Therefore, the DAV of MN supports increased opportunities for our disabled Veterans in technical/community colleges and universities in Minnesota.

**How?**

*The DAV of MN proposes a “last-dollar in” program for state colleges and universities. Under which the disabled Veteran would be assisted in activating every possible, non-debt creating, benefit available. If any cost of the education or vocational training remained, that amount would be forgiven.*
Learn More:

DAV MN Benefits Protection Team

The mission of the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Minnesota Benefits Protection Team is to represent the interest of disabled Veterans, their families, their widows(ers), and their orphans before Congress, the White House, Judicial Branch, as well as state and local governments.

Goals & Objective-

- Improve the life of Minnesota’s disabled Veterans through beneficial legislation.
- Provide advocacy regarding legislation for our disabled Veterans, their families and spouses.
- Educate Minnesota’s disabled Veterans on the legislative process.
- Organize our Veterans to create a cohesive community to better advocate for change.
- Motivate our Veteran community to participate in the legislative process.
- Participate in the legislative process while remaining non-partisan.

Non-Partisan Legislative Advocacy

The Disabled American Veterans is a non-partisan organization that works with all legislators to improve the lives of our disabled Veterans. We do not endorse candidates, nor, political parties as an organization.

Furthermore, we are single issue group “disabled Veterans”, or those wounded/injured during their service. We refrain from offering testimony or opinion on issues outside our area. Also, we will defend against the use of disabled Veterans to further other non-related issues.
DAV of MN’s Mission Statement:

We are dedicated to a single purpose: empowering Veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish this by ensuring that Veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; **fighting for the interests of America’s injured heroes at the Capitol**; and educating the public about the sacrifices and needs of Veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

DAV of MN’s Vision:

The DAV is committed to fulfilling its mission of building better lives for America’s Veterans and their families through service, quality, integrity and leadership in representation and advocacy now and in the future. We will maintain the highest ethical standards as a charitable organization through which our society can express its gratitude to the men and women who continue to pay the price of our nation’s freedom.

Contact Us

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