

# FEDERAL ISSUES

## - POLICY STATEMENT -

The Grange came into being one hundred fifty (150) years ago. Soon it was involved in legislation as issues facing rural America came to the forefront, such as malpractice by railroads, the trusts, and the birth of the Extension Service and the formation of the Department of Agriculture.

Food and toy safety, debt reduction, health programs, Social Security, the environment and other issues continue to attract the attention of the Grange. The Grange, standing on its solid foundation built more than a century ago with its strong family and moral values, is in a position to influence solutions to these problems in a positive way.

Crime, terrorism, illegal immigration and cessation of the “automatic granting of citizenship” to any child born to foreign nationals while touring/visiting the United States and national safety are of great concern to American citizens. The illegal use of drugs and human trafficking continue their adverse effects on society. Violence has entered into the educational system and penalties cannot be agreed upon. The cost of operating the penal system, homeland security and legal fees is skyrocketing. These issues are present challenges to Congress, and the Grange fully supports enforcement of current laws and/or reforms, that are consistent with Grange policies.

Job growth is needed to enable American workers to be competitive with other major industrial powers. The Grange also supports the Veteran’s Employment Assistance Act and other Veterans’ programs; and seeks solutions to address the problems within the Veterans Administration.

Social Security and Medicare are not entitlement programs and are very important. It is critical that they be protected. For many of its recipients, it is their sole source of income and/or medical insurance.

Mandates issued by judicial proclamations, executive orders and legislative action must be curtailed.

The Grange understands the importance of protecting private lands from being taken over by eminent domain for the sole purpose of economic development.

The Grange supports the English language as the official language of the United States.

A modern, well-kept and safe transportation system is essential to agriculture as well as the total economic system. The Grange believes in and strongly supports the dedicated highway fund. These funds should be protected against any “raiding” for budget balancing purposes. Attention to local roads and bridges is strongly supported by the New York State Grange.

The New York State Grange and its local units will continue to work with our Congressional delegation to speak for the good of rural America.

October 2018

## **AIRLINES/AVIATION**

### **AIRLINE PASSENGER BILL OF RIGHTS**

We support “passenger rights legislation” that would provide passengers aboard a flight that has been delayed from takeoff for more than one hour with electricity for fresh air and lights, adequate food and drinking water, and working toilets. (2018)

### **UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES**

We urge the U. S. Government to continue to proceed on a path of transforming America’s armed forces into a modern force expanding our military capabilities using unmanned aerial vehicles. (2018)

## **BANKING/FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

### **FEDERAL BAILOUT OF BANKING INDUSTRY**

We support federal legislation/regulations to prevent the manipulation of U.S. financial institutions and support the investigation and prosecution of persons and entities that led to the collapse of these institutions. (2018)

### **MANDATED ELECTRONIC BILLING AND PAYMENTS**

We support empowering the newly created Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to ban banks, mortgage lenders, credit card companies and any other consumer financial institutions from charging consumers fees for paper statements. (2015)

## **BIO-TERRORISM**

### **AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY**

We urge federal legislators to pass legislation on the following: (1) increase investment in the Diagnostic Laboratories throughout the United States to ensure biosecurity for agriculture (2) increase penalties for bio-terrorism (3) increase funding for research into control and/or eradication of diseases that may be used by bio-terrorists to disrupt our food supply. (2018)

## **BUSINESS/LABOR RELATIONS**

### **COMPANY TAX EVASION**

We request federal legislators to pass legislation that would make it illegal for a United States business licensed and chartered in the United States to have a post office box address located in an off-shore country as the legal location of that business while the physical business is located in the United States (for the purpose of tax-exempt status). (2018)

## **ELIMINATION OF SELECT U.S. CURRENCY**

We favor the continuation of the penny and dollar bill in U.S. currency. (2016)

## **KEEPING AMERICA WORKING**

We oppose the practice of businesses relocating to other countries for cheaper labor and operating costs and urge the United States Congress to do all in its power to encourage and assist businesses and manufacturing firms to remain in the United States, thereby retaining their jobs for American citizens. (2017)

## **THE STOCK ACT**

We support legislation that would stop Congressional Representatives from Insider Trading with Congressional information which is available to them and the prosecution of those who continue to use Congressional information for Insider Trading. (2016)

## **CHILDREN**

### **BABY TOURISM**

We support legislation that would cease the “automatic granting of citizenship” to any child born to foreign nationals while touring/visiting the United States. (2015)

### **IDENTITY THEFT**

We support legislation that would allow children’s Social Security numbers and other private information to be frozen by the child’s legal custodian in the same manner as adults in order to protect them from identity theft. (2014)

### **INEXPENSIVE CHILDREN’S JEWELRY CONTAINING CADMIUM**

We support further legislation to stop the import of all jewelry and any other products from foreign countries that contain highly dangerous levels of cadmium. (2016)

## **CONSUMER ISSUES**

### **ALCOHOL WARNING LABELS**

We support the use of more prominent alcohol warning labels on all beer, wine and liquor containers. (2016)

### **DO NOT CALL REGISTRY**

We urge the Federal Government strengthen the “Do Not Call Registry” restrictions in order to prevent annoying phone solicitations. (2016)

## **NO-MAIL LIST**

We recommend enactment of legislation for a non-mail list for credit card companies similar to the no-call law for telemarketers. (2016)

## **TELEPHONE PRIVACY**

We support legislation that would prohibit telephone companies from releasing personal account records to third parties except law enforcement agencies. (2016)

We support legislation that prohibits companies from selling an individual's private and/or cell phone numbers to telemarketers without the individual's consent. (2016)

## **TESTING OF NEW MEDICATION**

We request the Food and Drug Administration review its protocol for the testing of new medications to ensure that possible side effects and drug interactions are discovered prior to releasing these new medications on the market. (2017)

## **ELECTIONS/VOTING/CAMPAIGNS**

### **ELECTION REFORM**

We stand behind a National Election Standard showing proof against fraud, and ease of operations and clarity of results. Said standard would leave the exact methods to the various states as long as the standards are met. (2016)

### **ELECTORAL COLLEGE SYSTEM**

We strongly support the continued use of the Electoral College system to elect the President of the United States and urge that any action on state and national levels to abolish the Electoral College be opposed by New York State Grange and the National Grange. (2016)

### **GENERAL ELECTION DAY**

We oppose any legislation that would move the general election from the traditional Tuesday in November to a weekend day. (2016)

### **P.A.C. FUNDS**

We urge the Federal Government to pass legislation that would immediately freeze the P.A.C. (Political Action Committee) funds of a political candidate when that candidate announces withdrawal from the campaign and that all eligible expenses (those incurred previous to the date of the candidate's withdrawal) must be submitted and paid within 90 days of the withdrawal, at which time remaining funds will be returned to the P.A.C. (2017)

## **PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

We oppose cross party votes during a presidential primary election, further that there be one set date for a National Presidential Primary Election Day. (2015)

## **RECORDED TELEPHONE POLITICAL MESSAGES**

We urge the Federal Government to pass legislation that will place recorded telephone messages from political candidates and political action committees under the “Do Not Call” provisions. (2017)

## **REFORM OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS**

We support reforming campaign finance laws to include campaigns that are limited to 4 months prior to the primary and general elections. (2015)

## **VOTING RIGHTS ACT**

We support the restoration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in its entirety so that states, counties, and municipalities with a history of discriminatory voting practices must obtain federal permission before changing voting procedures. (2014)

## **ENERGY/FUELS**

### **FOSSIL FUELS**

We support government investment in research conducted by the private and public sector that will lead to the development and implementation of alternative technologies that reduce dependence on fossil fuel products. (2015)

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

### **ENGLISH AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**

We support English as the official language of the United States. (2016)

### **MULTILINGUAL SIGNS**

We urge the NYS Legislature and the U.S. Congress to keep highway signs predominately in English only. (2015)

## **FEDERAL BUDGET/GOVERNMENT**

## **EMERGENCY FUNDING**

We support legislative action that would make all emergency funding legislation automatically exempt from any other non-related legislation and pork barrel funding proposals. (2018)

## **FOOD/ALCOHOL**

### **CHEESEBURGER BILL LAWSUITS**

We oppose anyone bringing a lawsuit against the fast food industry claiming the fast food industry is responsible for the claimant's obesity. (2014)

### **FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBILITIES**

We seek legislation that would focus the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) priorities on regulating and policing foods and drugs for human consumption and that some of the FDA's responsibilities be passed on to other departments such as Agriculture, Health and Homeland Security. (2018)

### **POWDERED ALCOHOL**

We support legislation that would ban the sale of powdered alcohol. (2014)

## **FOREIGN/INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**

### **CONTROL OF PARKS BY UNITED NATIONS**

We oppose the creation of Biosphere Reserves and any other action, which allows the control over the use of land in our country to the United Nations, or any international body. (2014)

### **ENFORCEMENT OF IMMIGRATION LAWS**

We support the federal government using money earmarked for lawsuits against the states they feel are in violation of the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution to properly enforce the existing Federal Immigration and Nationality Act to stop the influx of illegal immigrants. (2016)

### **ILLEGAL ALIENS**

We urge the U.S. Government to have the immigration laws strictly enforced including the deportation of illegal aliens. (2015)

## **IMMIGRATION POLICY-U.S./MEXICAN BORDER**

We oppose the continued construction of the border fence between the United States and Mexico without first securing the funding and approval of Congress and to stop using waivers to fund the construction and to take the land. (2017)

We support more stringent patrols of the U.S./Mexican border. (2017)

## **INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND**

We call on our elected officials to more closely monitor how the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other U.S. loans and grants to foreign countries are disbursed. (2014)

## **KYOTO LEGISLATION**

We do not support Kyoto Legislation or any other legislation that would put the United States under the jurisdiction of the United Nations. (2017)

## **LAW OF THE SEA TREATY**

We oppose ratification of the Law of the Sea Treaty which would give the United Nations control and jurisdiction over the world's bodies of water. (2014)

## **NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA)**

We support changes to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that will require Mexican trucks and truckers to meet the same regulations the U.S. trucks and truckers are required to meet. (2017)

## **OCEAN SHIPPING LEGISLATION**

We support legislation that would establish regulations requiring all shipping lines to change their ballast water in the open sea to curtail introduction of foreign species into our domestic waterways. (2015)

## **PROTECTION OF U.S. ECONOMY**

We support review of Congress on all trade and tariff policies with a view of protection for American agriculture, industry and jobs. (2014)

## **U.S. AGREEMENTS OR TREATIES WITH THE UNITED NATIONS**

We strongly oppose the United States government getting involved with agreements or treaties with the United Nations or any other international body that takes away individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution or Bill of Rights or that imposes taxation on the citizens of the United States. (2015)

## **GOVERNMENT FUNDING/PROGRAMS**

### **FOREST FIRE FUNDING**

We support legislation that would provide funding for major wildfires the same as other disasters through emergency funds so that The Forest Service prevention programs are not raided. (2017)

### **MANDATE RELIEF**

We call upon the President and Congress to enhance the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4) to fully fund Federal programs administered at the state and local levels. (2018)

### **OLDER AMERICANS ACT**

We support the passage of the Older American Reauthorization Act of 2014 which amends the Older Americans Act of 1965 to reauthorize through fiscal year 2018, appropriations for the Administration on Aging, including the Eldercare Locator Service, pension counseling services and information programs; grants for state and community programs on aging; grants and contracts for educational activities; Older American community service employment programs and grants for Native Americans. (2014)

### **REMOVAL OF SNAP (SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM) FROM FARM BILL**

We recommend that the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) be removed from the USDA and placed under the direction of the Health and Human Services Department. (2018)

### **REPARATION PAYMENTS TO SLAVE DESCENDANTS**

We urge our U.S. Senators and Representatives to refrain from passing legislation that would make the U.S. Government responsible for making reparation payments to descendants of slaves who worked in the United States. (2016)

## **GUN CONTROL/REGULATIONS**

### **BUMP STOCKS/HIGH CAPACITY MAGAZINES**

We support legislation that forbids the use of bump stocks or high capacity magazines and firearms. (2018)

### **CELL PHONE GUN**

We support legislation that would prevent the production of handguns that look like cell phones. (2016)

### **HAND GUN RECIPROCITY**

We oppose any legislation that would establish handgun reciprocity between states. (2017)



## **HOMELAND SECURITY**

### **CYBERSPACE THREATS**

We urge Congress to appropriate the necessary funding to combat the continuing cyberspace warfare threats to the United States. (2018)

We support legislation that would establish a collaborative committee that would do research and development on how to rapidly identify, respond to and deter all future cyber-attacks. (2018)

### **ECOTERRORISTS**

We favor legislation that would encourage the criminal justice system to prosecute ecoterrorists as violent criminals. (2016)

### **HOMELAND SECURITY FOR AGRICULTURE**

We request the Office of Homeland Security investigate, monitor, and develop plans for prevention of and/or protection from acts of terrorism and destruction against agricultural producers, facilities of agricultural research, and major food processing and distribution centers. (2017)

## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

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We encourage more aggressive enforcement of existing Human Trafficking Laws, and further recommend that Grange members should use resources to educate themselves and others about the dangers of human trafficking. (2015)

We support legislation that would require a standardized training program for lodging industries that addresses the nature of human trafficking; how it is defined in state law; how to identify trafficking victims, relief and recovery options for survivors; and social and legal services available to victims. The legislation would also require all lodging facilities to post signs, in a visible place, spelling out what human trafficking is and how to get help by contacting the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline. (2017)

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **ANTIQUA/VINTAGE CARS**

We oppose any Federal Scrapage legislation which will require the scrapage of vehicles over 15 years old. (2017)

## **CONTROL OF SO-CALLED “BATH SALTS” TYPE COMPOUNDS**

We support the efforts of the Federal Government, State Attorney General and state and local law enforcement officials to control the supply and dissemination of so-called “bath salts,” “glass cleaner,” and other synthetic compounds that cause psychotic episodes, etc. (2017)

## **FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**

We urge our New York state legislators to vote “No” to any proposal for a Federal Constitutional Convention and to share with others the inherent dangers in having one. (2017)

## **NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION DAY**

We request that the Federal Government and the President establish September 27<sup>th</sup> as an annual National First Responder Appreciation Day. (2017)

## ***SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA***

*We support legislation banning the sale of synthetic marijuana also known as “Spice” or “K2” regardless of what chemicals are used to produce them and what name they are sold under. (2018)*

## **NATIVE AMERICANS**

### **NATIVE AMERICAN LAND CLAIMS**

We recommend the Federal Government ratify any and all treaties relating to Native American lands, and failing in their duty to do so, assume full responsibility for any monetary settlement through the courts to the Native American Nation with no inclusion of land. Any land to be purchased, should be only from willing sellers with the same taxes and benefits accorded all residential or business owners. (2014)

We urge our Congress to ratify any treaties in question with the Iroquois Confederacy, to enact a statute of limitations of not more than 40 years which will apply to the Federal Government and the Native American Nations, and to provide just compensation to the Native American Nations for an inadequacy in the payment they received when the land was sold to New York State. (2018)

## **NUCLEAR WASTE**

### **TRANSPORTATION OF NUCLEAR WASTE**

We oppose the shipment of all grades of nuclear waste excluding low level medical radioactive waste on the St. Lawrence Seaway and to the importation of nuclear waste from foreign countries. (2015)

## **PARKS**

### **NATIONAL PARK FEES**

We support legislation that would allow the federal government to charge fees for the use of the National Parks for producing movies, videos, ads and commercials with the income to be used to maintain and make improvements to the National Parks and Monuments. (2015)

## **POSTAL SERVICE**

### **POSTAL SERVICE CLOSING**

We urge the United States Postal Service to proceed with caution in relation to the proposed Post Office closures, taking into consideration the special needs of the community as well as the statistical analysis developed for closure criteria. (2016)

### **SATURDAY MAIL SERVICE**

We oppose the elimination of Saturday mail delivery by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). (2015)

## **PRAYER/PATRIOTISM/FREEDOMS**

### **FLAG CODE**

We encourage our Government officials and school officials review the United States Flag Code, Title 4, Chapter 1, to promote more respect for the American Flag. (2017)

### **MEMORIAL DAY**

We support the passage of the legislation, originally introduced by Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, which would restore the original Decoration Day to May 30<sup>th</sup> of each year, restoring the recognition our veterans deserve for the sacrifices they have made on behalf of our nation. (2018)

### **PATRIOT ACT**

We urge the federal government to amend those parts of the Patriot Act which infringes on U.S. civil liberties and civil rights. (2018)

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE IN THE U.S. SENATE**

We believe that the members of the U.S. Senate should recite the Pledge of Allegiance out of respect for those who have fought for and in many cases died for the benefits that the Constitution of the United States has guaranteed for all the citizens of the United States. (2014)

## **REMOVAL OF “GOD” FROM PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CURRENCY**

We object to the removal of “One Nation under God” from the pledge of allegiance and “In God We Trust” from our United States currency. (2014)

## **PROPERTY OWNERS’ RIGHTS**

### **LIMITATION OF EMINENT DOMAIN**

We support the passage of legislation to protect private lands from being taken over by eminent domain for the sole purpose of greater economic revenue. (2016)

We urge the U.S. Congress to pass legislation which will give property owners some protection for the expanded scope of eminent domain procedures. (2015)

## **PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

### **PERFORMANCE BONUSES**

We support legislation that would eliminate the practice of awarding performance bonuses to any elected or appointed Federal public service employees. (2014)

## **SOCIAL SECURITY/PENSION PLANS**

### **EARNING LIMITS**

We support federal legislation that would substantially raise the Social Security earning limit for individuals. (2017)

### **FRAUDULENT USE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS**

We support legislation that would help stop the unauthorized sale of Social Security numbers and increasing the penalties for fraud that involves the use of another person’s Social Security number. (2015)

### **ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

We support legislation such as the No Social Security for Illegal Immigrants Act that would permanently terminate plans to use Social Security funds to support illegal immigrants. (2014)

### **SAFEGUARDING SOCIAL SECURITY**

We support that top priority be given to ensure continued funding of Social Security, sufficient for future generations, and without drastically increasing the eligibility age. (2014)

We strongly support that any monies in the Social Security fund be used only for Social Security purposes. They should not be used by other agencies/departments or be put in a general fund to help balance the budget. (2016)

## **SOCIAL SECURITY “NOTCH” SETTLEMENT**

We support the “Notch Fairness Acts” to compensate “Notch Victims” (born 1917 – 1926) with an immediate \$5,000 settlement plus monthly compensation based on a post notch formula. (2015)

## **TELEVISION/TELEPHONE/RADIO**

### **BROADCAST COVERAGE BY CABLE/SATELLITE SYSTEMS**

We support legislation to authorize the Federal Communications Commission to adopt rules that allow for interim carriage of local stations when there is an impasse in negotiations for renewal of retransmission or must carry agreements. (2014)

### **EMERGENCY FREQUENCY RADIO TRANSMISSIONS**

We support legislation that would make the act of intentional radio jamming of emergency radio frequencies a criminal offense and that this crime is punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine, in addition to civil penalties. (2014)

### **LANDLINE TELEPHONE SERVICE**

We support legislation that would authorize and require the Federal Communications Commission to impose on internet-based telephone service the same basic service requirements that are required to be provided by the traditional copper-wire based telephone system. (2014)

### **TELEVISION, ENTERTAINMENT & RADIO VIOLATIONS**

We support substantial increases in penalties for Federal Communication Commission violations in the transmission of obscene, indecent and profane language and images by television and radio broadcasters. (2014)

## **TOYS**

### **COLOR OF TOY WEAPONS**

We recommend that toy retailers do not sell toy weapons with the appearance of a real weapon. (2016)

### **CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY**

We support passage of legislation that will exempt U.S. Artisan-made toys and homemade articles from third party testing as required by the Consumer Products Safety Improvement Act of 2008. (2014)

### **SAFETY LAW**

We support rescinding the exemption from third-party testing given to Mattel by the Consumer Products Safety Commission and supports requiring all companies comply to the full extent of the law, setting strict

limits for lead, lead paint and chemicals known as phthalates, and the mandatory third-party testing of products geared for children 12 and under. (2014)

### **TOY SAFETY**

We support legislative action to require toys sold in the United States, whether made in the United States or off-shore, be inspected to U.S. safety standards by the sponsoring company at the site of assembly for any safety hazards, including type of paint and liquids being used in making the toys. (2018)

## **TRANSPORTATION/ROADS**

### **OPPOSITION TO A NATIONAL SPEED LIMIT**

We oppose a national speed limit and oppose commissioning a study to determine the optimal speed limit, and we favor energy-saving options including:

- Use of public transportation
- Promotion of car pooling
- Better enforcement of current speed limits
- Promotion of alternative fuel development (2018)

### **TRANSPORTATION OF CRUDE OIL**

We request that the United States Department of Transportation, New York State Department of Transportation, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), New York State Department of Health (DOH), Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSEERDA) address the following concerns relative to transportation of crude oil:

1. Finalize new tank car regulations to remove from service older puncture-prone tank cars;
2. Codify into federal regulation the voluntary safety measures adopted by railroad companies;
3. Require testing of crude oil to provide critical information to state and local emergency responders. (2014)

## **U. S. MADE**

### **MILITARY EQUIPMENT**

We urge Congress to require government contractors to utilize United States made components and subsystems in construction and repair of their military equipment over those made by foreign subcontractors for use by the United States Armed Forces to ensure the defense of the country as well as the employment of United States citizens at subcontractor facilities. (2018)

### **UNITED STATES MADE SOUVENIRS**

We urge the National Parks Service and other National entities such as the Smithsonian Institution to purchase souvenirs, clothing, etc. made in the United States for resale in their gift shops rather than buying items from foreign markets for resale. (2016)

## **VEHICLES**

### **ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV) INJURIES**

We support a renewed effort be made by public health officials, the all-terrain vehicle industry and the United States Consumer Protection Safety Commission to work with individual states to increase helmet use through a combination of stricter policy enforcement and better education to help in the reduction of ATV injuries by children younger than 18. (2016)

## **VETERANS/MILITARY ISSUES**

### **ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME**

We support legislation that would increase the active duty service member's deduction to \$1.00 per month from their monthly paycheck and revising the fee structure with any additional shortfall in fund balance being subsidized by the Department of Defense with no reduction in current veteran activities, to include golf courses. (2017)

### **CAMP LEJEUNE WATER CONTAMINATION**

We support legislation that would require the Veterans Administration to pay compensation benefits on a presumptive basis to any veteran that was stationed at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between 1953 and 1987 and who subsequently developed cancer of the esophagus, lung, breast, bladder or kidney, leukemia, multiple myeloma, myelodysplastic syndromes, renal toxicity, hepatic steatosis, female infertility, miscarriage, scleroderma and/or neurobehavioral effects of Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. (2016)

### **CHILD CARE FOR MILITARY FAMILIES**

We support the "Availability of Child Care for Every Service Member and Spouse Act" (ACCESS). (2017)

### ***COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS OF PRE-9/11 VETERANS***

*We support legislation that would extend "Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers" to caregivers of all war era veterans. (2018)*

### ***FEMALE VETERAN PEER COUNSELING***

*We support legislation that would direct the Veterans Affairs Secretary to assist female veterans in reintegrating in their communities after discharge from the Armed Forces. (2018)*

### **FORFEITED RETIREMENT FOR DISABLED VETERANS**

We support legislation that repeals the law which reduces the retirement benefits of disabled veterans by the amount they receive in disability pay. (2018)

## **FORT McCLELLAN REGISTRY**

We support legislation that would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish and maintain a special registry of each individual who served at Fort McClellan between 1935 and 1999 and require the VA to look into the health of any soldier who had trained and/or worked at the former Army base. (2014)

## **LAUREL BAY HOUSING AREA CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION**

We support legislation that would expedite the two-pronged process that includes an environmental study and an epidemiological study at Laurel Bay Housing Area, South Carolina to determine if chemical contamination is responsible for cancers in residents. (2017)

## **MILITARY AVIATION ACCIDENT RESOLUTION**

We support legislation that would provide the funds necessary to put military readiness back where it needs to be, to deliver a readier force which in turn will help decrease military aviation accidents. (2018)

## **MILITARY ELECTION BALLOTS**

We support development of a mechanism for counting all military absentee ballots. (2016)

## **MILITARY MEDALS RANKING**

We urge the Federal Government to legislate the Department of Defense, should it develop new military medals (e.g. Distinguished Warfare Medal, now defunct, for cyber warriors and drone pilots) be placed in the Military Order of Precedence under those medals that can only be earned in direct combat (e.g. Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" and the Purple Heart). (2018)

## **MILITARY RETIREE BENEFITS**

We urge the Federal Government include in all future Status of Forces Agreements negotiated, renegotiated or revised with host countries that retired United States military members and their dependents be allowed to use United States military facilities such as post and base exchanges, commissaries, healthcare, mail, recreational facilities, etc. (2018)

## **MILITARY SUICIDES**

We support action that would direct the Pentagon to develop policies and procedures that would refer service members who attempt suicide to mental health services and use the prosecution of service members under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) only as an absolute last resort. (2018)

## **NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS BACK PAY**

We support legislation that would require all vetting requirements be done before a promotion is awarded allowing automatic Federal recognition and immediate increase to reflect the new pay grade for National Guard Officers. (2018)



## **NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVES RETIREMENT BENEFIT FAIRNESS**

We urge Congress to amend the law to retroactively allow early retirement for those Reserve and National Guard members who have completed 20 years of service and had been activated to Active Federal Duty since August 2, 1990 the same military benefits as those who began in 2001. (2018)

## **PENSION BENEFITS FOR MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS**

We support legislation that would increase the monthly pension of Medal of Honor recipients to \$3,000. (2016)

## **POST 9/11 BILL STIPEND FOR CHILD(REN)**

We support legislation that would keep the child(ren) post 9/11 GI Bill stipend at its current level, a promised benefit when the military sponsor re-enlisted. (2016)

## **PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS**

We support legislation that requires the Veterans Administration to pay benefits to in-country Vietnam veterans effective the first day of the month that the veteran was diagnosed with the service connected presumptive condition. (2014)

## **PRIVATIZATION OF VA HEALTH CARE**

We oppose the privatization of the Veterans Administration Health Care. (2016)

## **PROSECUTION OF GRAVE DEFILERS**

We support legislation to make it a Federal offense to defile the grave of any service member, regardless of where the grave is located. (2018)

## **PROSTATE CANCER**

We support legislation that would require the Veterans Administration to pay Title 38 VA Compensation Benefits to veterans having prostate cancer surgery, effective the date of said surgery rather than the date the veteran files a claim. (2014)

## **SELECTIVE SERVICE**

We support retention of the Selective Service System. (2014)

## **SERVICE DISABLED VETERANS LIFE INSURANCE**

We support legislation to increase to \$50,000 the maximum coverage a service-connected disabled veteran can purchase under the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance Program. (2018)

## **SERVICE DOGS FOR VETERANS**

We support legislation that would direct the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs to establish a program to award competitive grants to organizations that train and place service dogs with members of the military and veterans who have been diagnosed with military service related Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury or other mental health issues related to their military experience. (2014)

## **SUPPORT FOR THE MEMBERS OF OUR ARMED FORCES**

We voice support to the men and women in the armed forces and to their families for their dedication and sacrifices. (2017)

## **“UP OR OUT” RULES FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL**

We support legislation that would end “up and out” rules for all military personnel that have not advanced to a higher rank within the prescribed period of time. (2016)

## **VA CLAIMS BACKLOG**

We urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to efficiently use their resources to resolve the serious backlog of veteran’s benefit claims. (2018)

## **VA EMPLOYEE BONUSES**

We support the suspension of bonuses to all Veterans Administration employees involved in claim processing for compensation and pension benefits until such time as the claims backlog has been eliminated and the processing time for veterans’ claims has been reduced to 120 days and that the money saved by eliminating performance bonuses be used for the medical care of our veterans. (2014)

## **VETERANS AFFAIRS MORTGAGE PROTECTION**

We support legislation that would extend the Veterans Administration Mortgage Protection Life Insurance, to all service-connected veterans who are rated as permanently and totally disabled. (2018)

## **VETERANS’ DAY OBSERVANCE**

We oppose legislation that would change Veterans’ Day from November 11<sup>th</sup>. (2016)

## **VETERANS EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE ACT**

We support the enactment of the proposed Veterans Employment Assistance Act (S3234), or similar legislation, to provide our returning veterans with an opportunity for jobs, training and higher education. (2015)

## **VETERANS’ HOSPITALS**

We support action to permanently removal all Veterans Administration Hospital directors/administrative employees who were involved in maintaining secret patient lists which prevented veterans from getting medical appointments at Veterans hospitals. (2014)

## **VETERANS REPRODUCTIVE INJURIES**

We support legislation that would compensate men and women veterans for reproductive injuries that prevent the veteran from having children and that this benefit for the “loss or loss of use of creative organs” would be above and beyond any disability compensation the veteran receives. (2016)

## **WATER**

### **CLEAN WATER ACT**

We urge federal legislators to pass legislation that would amend the regulations of the Clean Water Act, to limit the powers of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Protection Agency over inland waters and wetland, thus preserving States and individual rights. (2018)