

DAV: Helping Women Veterans

Veterans fought for our way of life, it's our duty to fight for theirs.

DAV actively supports women veterans, and continuously works to ensure that gender-specific programs are implemented in VA's health care services, compensation and other benefits programs, through several initiatives:

■ DAV's Interim Women Veterans Advisory Committee meets annually during National Convention and Mid-Winter Conference to help set the agenda on the needs of women veterans.

■ As the founders of the "Stand Up For Women Veterans" advocacy campaign, DAV was instrumental in working with Congress to pass legislation that:

- Authorized a study of barriers to health care for women veterans.
- Established a pilot program for counseling women veterans in retreat settings.
- Established a child care pilot for veterans undergoing intensive counseling or in need of health care services at VA.
- Authorized VA to furnish health care services to newborns of women who receive maternity care.

■ Published two special edition "Stand Up For Women Veterans" magazines showcasing stories of women veterans and their resilience and courage in rehabilitating and recovering from their injuries, wounds and traumatic experiences sustained during military service.

■ To educate Members of Congress, legislative staff, policy makers in VA and DoD, other veteran advocacy groups and the public about women who serve in wartime deployments and what programs and services are needed when they come home, DAV has:

- Coordinated Capitol Hill screenings of the films *Lioness*, *Service: When Women Come Marching Home*, and *Journey to Normal: Women of War Come Home*, along with Q&A panels with the filmmakers and women featured in the documentaries.
- Developed and produced an ongoing DVD series featuring women veterans, including *Honoring Our Women Veterans* and *Women Veterans: Making Our Voices Heard*.
- Regularly testified before Congress on issues related to women veterans.

■ DAV sponsors multiple initiatives around the country to highlight the needs of women veterans, such as:

- Supporting the founding of the Women In Military Service to America (WIMSA) Memorial at the entrance of Arlington National Cemetery, in addition to numerous other WIMSA activities.
- Co-sponsoring all of VA's Women Veterans Summits.
- Co-sponsoring the 2012 and 2013 SWAN (Service Women's Action Network) Summits on Military Sexual Violence.
- Granting funds through DAV's National Service Foundation to the filmmakers of *Service: When Women Come Marching Home*, which allowed DAV to underwrite the nationwide PBS broadcasts of the film and host a number of events to spread awareness and advocate on behalf of women veterans.
- Annually contributing to the Women Veterans article in the Independent Budget, a policy document for veterans.

■ DAV actively seeks out and recruits female veterans to add to the 63 women who serve in our National and Transition Service Officer corps. While all of our service officers are highly trained, our women NSOs and TSOs help to ensure a deeper understanding of the unique needs and experiences of women disabled during military service.

■ In 2014, DAV commissioned a study to look at women veterans' transition issues. *Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home* identifies gaps in federal services and highlights recommendations for improvements in federal laws, regulations, policies and programs to improve the lives of women veterans as they transition from military service to civilian life, especially those who have served during wartime.

*With the strength of 1.2 million members behind us,
DAV represents the voices of veterans before Congress,
fighting for much-needed services.
We understand the needs of veterans, because we are an
organization of veterans helping veterans.*

To learn more, visit
dav.org/womenveterans.



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED