



Minnesota Commanders' Task Force 2022 Legislative Priorities

Congressionally chartered veterans organizations in Minnesota working together to pass legislation on behalf of all veterans.



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**





Increase the state grant given to veterans service organizations

The annual grant for veteran service organizations has been decreasing over the past several years and has not been updated since 2009.

We urge lawmakers to increase it to \$1 million for the sake of bolstering our nonprofit and effective efforts to help veterans in our communities statewide.

Pay a bonus to post-9/11 veterans, much like Minnesota did for veterans of other wars

The state of Minnesota has paid bonuses to veterans of previous wars but has not yet paid veterans of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Did you know?

1. Congressionally chartered service organizations are nonpartisan, but they are political in that they advocate for veterans and veterans-related issues.
2. Veterans groups grow weary of their proposed nonpartisan legislation being used to play partisan politics on other bills.
3. Veterans make up 13 percent of the voting population in America.
4. Supporting veterans garners elected officials greater trust among the general public, studies show.
5. The Commanders' Task Forces favors the creation of a veterans omnibus bill that contains only veterans-related language.



We feel 2022 would be within the same after-action timeframe the other bonuses to other veterans were paid. We propose paying combat veterans \$1,000, era veterans \$500, and next of kin of servicemembers who died as a result of military action \$1,500 to show our state's appreciation for their service over the preceding 20 years of war.

Give property-tax relief for post homes

State and county tax entities claim different interpretations of the property tax laws. Meanwhile, posts are closing as a result of heavy property tax burdens. Zero tax would remove any confusion.

Post homes for The American Legion, VFW, and other veteran service organizations donate so much time, money, and building space in their communities while at the same time they struggle to remain open. The CTF would like the state to give 100 percent property-tax relief to posts who own buildings available to their communities.



Reduce the cost of hunting, trapping and fishing licenses for disabled veterans

We are working hand-in-hand with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to reduce the cost of hunting, trapping and fishing licenses for service-connected disabled veterans.

We advocate for the Minnesota Legislature to approve the result of this proposal, as it would likely increase net license revenue for the DNR and give Veterans the health benefits that come from the great outdoors.

Modify the definition of a veteran

This proposal modifies existing language to include former service personnel of the Armed Forces of the United States who were granted service-connected disabilities by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs but, under current language, do not qualify for Minnesota state-level veterans benefits.

Require county recorders to document discharge papers for all branches of the military

As it stands, state law requires county recorders only to document discharge papers for servicemembers who left the Army, Navy and Marines. This corrective legislation would add Coast Guard, Air Force and Space Force.

Eliminate 2-year rule for DIC recipients

The current exclusion reads that the application for exclusion must be made by the surviving spouse within two years of the death of the veteran. This limited language doesn't allow for cases where the VA may take more than two years to make the proper decision for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). It also excludes the vast majority of surviving spouses made eligible by the recent changes to Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans who may have passed away while being denied all benefits.

Provide a percentage-based change to Homestead Market Value Exclusion

This proposal is a two-part initiative to improve the current benefit for those receiving it and to expand the benefit to more of our service-connected disabled veterans in Minnesota. Part one is to make the benefit based on the percentage of the rated service-connected disability proportionate to the maximum benefit. Example a 70% service-connected would receive 70% of the maximum exclusion, so \$210,000 of the maximum \$300,000. The second part is to expand the benefit to all veterans 50% service-connected or greater.

