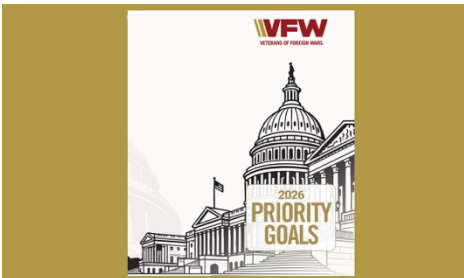




January 12, 2026



**VFW Commander Congratulates Operation Absolute Resolve Troops:** VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore released a statement commending the U.S. service members involved in Operation Absolute Resolve for their swift and precise mission achievement. “In complex and demanding conditions, these men and women upheld the highest traditions of the U.S. Armed Forces,” said Whitmore. “Their discipline and commitment to mission execution reflected the values that generations of veterans have sworn to defend.” [Read the statement.](#)



**VFW 2026 Priority Goals:** The 119th Congress is now in its second session, and there is still much work to be done. The [VFW 2026 Priority Goals](#) include many issues concerning benefits and services for veterans, service members and their families such as the Major Richard Star Act, VA community care reform, ending mental health overprescription harm and exploring alternative treatments for invisible wounds. The VFW will continue to advocate diligently to ensure members of Congress and the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense and Labor provide the resources and care our nation’s veterans have earned and deserve.



**VFW-Supported Tuition Fairness Bill Signed into Law:** H.R.983, Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act of 2025, is now [Public Law 119-55](#). Introduced by Rep. Van Orden (WI-3), this bill was approved by the House without objection and passed the Senate by unanimous consent. It requires VA to disapprove courses provided by educational institutions that charge higher than in-state tuition for individuals utilizing

the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve benefits while living in the state where the education is located, regardless of the individual's state of residence. The VFW applauds the passage of this legislation.



**VA Warns About New Benefits Scam Targeting Veterans:** The VA announced that scammers are impersonating its representatives to deceive veterans, surviving spouses and family members into believing their VA benefits have been overpaid and must repay immediately. These fraudulent contacts may arrive via letters, emails, text messages or phone calls and include fake VA logos, letterheads and spoofed phone numbers to appear legitimate. Veterans can protect themselves by only using official VA channels to resolve any real overpayments, never sharing sensitive information like VA login information, and being cautious of urgent demands for quick payment. Veterans who believe they have been targeted should contact the VA at 1-800-827-1000 and can file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission or at [VSAFE.gov](https://www.vsafe.gov). [Read more.](#)



**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one identification for a service member who has been missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

Identification:

-- [Vietnam War U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. James H. Calfee](#)

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