



Coalition of Veterans Organizations

Leave No Veteran Behind

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Coalition Members:

Veterans for Unification

American Legion
Harold Washington Post 67

AMVETS
Chicago Chapter

Veterans for Peace
Chicago Chapter

Filipino American
Veterans of Illinois

Korean War Veterans
of America

Montford Point Marine
Association
Chicago Chapter

National Women
Veterans United

Veterans Commission
City of Country Club Hills, IL

Veterans Strike Force

VetNet

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Illinois District 2

24th Infantry
Regiment Association
Illinois Chapter

173rd Airborne Brigade
Elite Forces Chapter VI

555th Parachute Infantry
Association "Triple Nickle"
Chicago Chapter

Our Issues

The Coalition of Veterans Organizations is an activist group of veterans' organizations and individuals which fights to educate veterans and the public on seven key points on behalf of veterans. They are:

- a) Full Mandatory Funding of VA healthcare for veterans. Federally funded healthcare for *all* veterans without further pay. We have already paid with our service and in many cases our blood and our lives.
- b) Eligibility for VA healthcare and benefits for all honorably discharged veterans—male and female—without co-payments and categories of service delivery. Today, not all veterans are eligible to receive healthcare and many who do must pay for it.
- c) Ending veteran homelessness and the realignment of the VA Per Diem grants system. There is no greater disgrace than the fact that thousands of veterans in this country are homeless. Some of those are also sick, but many simply do not have the jobs and support structures they need to be off the streets. This disgrace can be and must be changed!
- d) Reform of funding and full accounting for all VA mental health services for veterans. The travesty is that scores of veterans—many returning from Iraq and Afghanistan—do not receive the mental health care they need, despite front-page stories detailing the horrors these veterans face.
- e) Ending the backlog of veterans' and survivors' benefits through Presumptive Benefits. We call on the federal government to *immediately* fund benefits for all veterans applying for VA disability. If they have the medical diagnosis and the military records to show they should get the benefits, then the benefits should be granted as soon as they apply. The government can figure out whether to award or disallow the benefits. That policy would end the government backlog very quickly and would make sure needy veterans get benefits in a prompt and caring manner.
- f) Full equality of women's benefits and healthcare. We recognize the special needs of women veterans and the unacceptable gap between services and benefits for women and those for men. That gap must be closed immediately and all services and benefits for women made fully available immediately.