

Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs

2026 Legislative Initiatives

In order to continue the programs that support Iowa veterans and their families, we support the protection of the financial integrity of the following agencies and programs:

- Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs
- Iowa Veterans Home
- Iowa Veterans Cemetery
- Military Home Ownership Program
- Iowa Veterans Trust Fund
- County Allocation Funds
- Injured Veteran Grant Program
- Veterans License Fee Fund

TOP PRIORITIES

1. **Property Tax Relief:** We fully support Disabled Veterans rated 10% through 90% having their **property taxes offset** by the percentage of their United States Department of Veteran Affairs Disability Compensation Rating.
2. **Protecting Veteran VA Benefits:** We strongly oppose any legislation that will in any way **diminish VA benefits paid to Iowa veterans** by modifying Iowa Code 546B to allow for-profit 'claim sharks' to operate in the state.
3. **CVSO Excellence:** We fully support legislation that **encourages efficiencies, innovation, incentivization of high performance, and increased minimum hours** in the county veteran service officer system.
4. **Support Veteran Service Organizations:** We fully support proposals for **partial grants** to help maintain Veteran Service Organization officers and services currently co-located in downtown Des Moines.
5. **Iowa Veterans Trust Fund Modernization:** We fully support revisions to Iowa Code that would raise the terminal balance of the Iowa Veterans Trust Fund from \$50 to \$75 million and continue the annual \$500,000 transfer from the Iowa Lottery **that supports the Commission's efforts to assist Iowa veterans in need.**

AWARENESS ISSUES:

- A) We support any legislation that will improve **Mental Health** support and **Suicide Prevention** for our veterans, their families, and all Iowans.
- B) We support legislation that supports the needs of **homeless and under-served veterans.**
- C) We support legislation to establish and expand **Veterans Treatment Courts.**
- D) We support legislation that would establish a **Green Alert system.**
- E) We support legislation to align Iowa Code with Federal Code regarding the timing and manner of display of the **National League of POW/MIA families' flag** on all State of Iowa properties

Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs

- **Darlene McMartin**, Chair, Public Member at Large, macmp75@gmail.com
- **Joella Perry**, 1st Vice Chair, Iowa Association of County Veterans Services, jperry@waynecountyia.org
- **Lt. Col. George Mosby**, 2nd Vice Chair, Iowa National Guard, Email: george.t.mosby.mil@mail.mil
- **Becky DirksHaugsted**, Veterans of Foreign Wars, bkyhaugsted@gmail.com
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- **Scott Miller** Paralyzed Veterans of America, iowapvascott@yahoo.com
- **Gregory Paulline**, Vietnam Veterans of America, ghpaulline@gmail.com
- **Reggie Richardson**, Reserve Organization of America, rrichardon@aol.com
- **Robert Suesakul**, Military Order of the Purple Heart, suespara@aol.com
- **American Veterans (AMVETS)** Vacant

Senate Veterans Affairs Committee:

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- Liz Bennett (D, District 39)
- Matt Blake (D, District 22)
- Doug Campbell, R, District 30)
- Mark Costello (R, District 8)
- Dan Dawson (R, District 10)
- Charlie McClintock, (R, District 42)
- Mike Pike (R, District 20)
- Thomas Townsend (D, District 36)
- Kara Warne (R, District 26)

House Veterans Affairs Committee:

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- David Blom (R, District 52)
- Ken Croken (D, District 97)
- Ruth Ann Gaines (D, District 33)
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- Helena Hayes (R, District 88)
- Christian A. Hermanson (R, District 59)
- Chad Ingels (R, District 68)
- Elinor A. Levin (D, District 89)
- Angel Ramirez (D, District 78)
- Matthew Rinker (R, District 99)
- Ray Sorensen (R, District 23)
- Mark I. Thompson (R, District 56)
- Aime Wichtendahl (D, District 80)