



## **Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars National Legislative Overview 2023-2024**

My name is Jim Brown, and along with my Co-Chair Rich Cassey, we are your VFW National Legislative Representatives for the Department of Pennsylvania. We have been appointed by State Commander Gyger to represent ALL veterans and their families, from the State of Pennsylvania, in Washington DC. This is an extreme honor that has been bestowed upon us, and we take fighting for veterans' legislation very seriously!

There is a vast array of legislation we as a National Legislative Team are working on, through the guidance of our VFW DC office. Bills that impact suicide, female veterans' healthcare, and MST (Military Sexual Trauma) are just a few pieces of legislation that we on the VFW National Legislative Team continue to fight for.

Recently, the Honoring Our PACT Act was passed and put into law. This is one of the largest pieces of legislation to ever get passed to benefit our veterans! The PACT Act covers many veterans, from various time frames, that served and/or are still serving in different areas around the world. Pieces of legislation like this only get passed with the help of all of YOU! Please contact an Accredited VFW Service Officer, to see if you qualify for benefits under the PACT Act.

YOU are able to help your fellow Comrades and their Families by signing up for Action Corps (see next page). Action Corp let's YOUR voice be heard. It is a direct link to some of the legislation, we as the VFW National Legislative Team, are working on. Action Corps also gives you a POW/MIA weekly update.

Signing up for Action Corps is important and may be done by anyone who cares about veterans and their families. This includes our Auxiliary members, and any other individuals of voting age who want to advocate for our veterans and their families.

However, responding to Action Alerts is paramount! This is where your voice is heard. Action Alerts are pre-filled messages to YOUR Representatives (based off the address you used when signing up), telling them how YOU and the VFW want them to vote on a particular piece of legislation heading to the floor.

We here in Pennsylvania have over 100,000 VFW & Auxiliary members, and only 17,000 Action Corp Members. Worse yet, we only average around 350 responding to Action Alerts. We, as Pennsylvanians, need to have a stronger response to these Action Alerts, so our Representatives in DC take us seriously!

Rich and I are here to serve you on Capitol Hill. We will do our best, to ensure the veteran legislative fight for benefits continues.

Rich and I are your voice on the Hill, YOU are the amplifier to make our voice be heard!

Yours in Service,

*Jim Brown*

Jim Brown

VFW National Legislative Chair/PA



<https://vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts>

