



Veteran Programs

Advocacy

Advocate for post-9/11 veterans on Capitol Hill

- Fight for accountability within the VA
- Utilize the 400,000+ IAVA membership to inform data-driven advocacy with the largest and longest running post-9/11 veteran survey in the country
- Train, educate, and unleash dedicated IAVA members via the Storm the Hill program
- Publish best-in-class research reports and white papers positioning IAVA as the veteran thought leader

Awareness

Insert veterans' unique issues and perspectives into the national conversation

- Recognize and celebrate the contribution of veterans through public awareness campaigns
- Promote IAVA's public policy agenda on the national, state, and local levels
- Tell IAVA's story through a world class website, social media platforms, and digital products
- Connect veterans to IAVA, our programs, and each other

Assistance

Connect veterans to IAVA transition assistance programs, tools and a community of peers both on and offline

- Unite veterans around common causes and experiences at events, from family-friendly movies, to BBQ's, to concerts
- Connect veterans of all generations to IAVA's best-in-class Rapid Response Referral Program (RRRP) offering access to trained social workers
- Empower veterans to lead at home through leadership opportunities, trainings, and mentorships

About IAVA

IAVA is the leading post-9/11 Veteran Empowerment Organization (VEO) with the most diverse and rapidly growing membership in America. IAVA is a bipartisan 501(c)(3) solely focused on improving the lives of veterans. IAVA fosters a strong and lasting community, provides valuable veteran assistance resources and empowers our post-9/11 veterans.

400 IAVA's dedicated membership is over 400,000+ and growing

8 The Rapid Response Referral Program (RRRP) has opened and closed over 8,000 individual cases, helping veterans in need

50 IAVA has dedicated members and member leaders in all 50 states

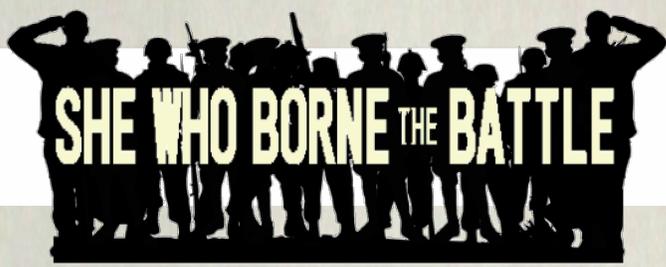
1 IAVA served more than one million Post-9/11 veterans in 2016

Through assistance, education, advocacy and community building, IAVA strives to create a country that honors and supports veterans of all generations. IAVA increases awareness in the media, on Capitol Hill and among the public, leading the charge to change the landscape for veterans today.

IAVA represents the more than 2 million men and women veterans who have served since 9/11. As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan come to an end, we must have the infrastructure and programs in place to empower veterans to effectively navigate healthy, successful, and rewarding civilian lives.

IAVA provides valuable lifesaving resources through the IAVA Rapid Response Referral Program (RRRP) and offers community for veterans by empowering them to connect with one another at organized programs.

IAVA is funded privately and depends upon the generosity of corporate, individual and foundation donors. The organization is focused on addressing critical issues facing new veterans and their families, including addressing mental health challenges, a stretched and difficult to navigate VA system, inadequate health care access for female veterans and ensuring today's veterans have access to the same GI Bill education benefits that were afforded to their predecessors.



20 percent of IAVA's 400,000+ veteran membership base is female

280 thousand women have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

15 percent of IAVA members feel the public understands the contributions of women in the military

30 percent of women veterans rated VA support of women as good or very good

20 percent of IAVA's Rapid Response Referral Program clients are women

79 percent of IAVA members think it is important for IAVA to address the issues faced by women veterans

The Campaign to Recognize and Provide Services for Women Veterans

Current State of Veteran Affairs:

Our Nation does not support women veterans. Not only do women veterans encounter barriers to care and benefits, they do so in a culture that often does not accept them or fully recognize them as veterans.

Women are the fastest growing segment of the veteran population, a trend that will continue as the number of male veterans simultaneously declines over the next five years. But the VA is not keeping up.

To many Americans, including those who run the VA, women are an afterthought. This glaring problem is best exemplified in the gendered and very outdated motto that greets every person, male and female, who walk into the VA:

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan."

IAVA has a Solution:

IAVA will right this wrong and transform the landscape for women veterans in our country forever.

We need to take the American people to a place where women vets are envisioned just as readily as men. Not every GI is a Joe, but our culture sadly still thinks that way.

Congress must act to not only bring equality to VA healthcare for women, but also resource-sensible services like childcare. "Access to Quality Care for Our Veterans" should be gender blind, which in the case of supporting single parents, can impact men just as much as women.

And finally:

We will change the VA motto to represent ALL veterans.

"Not every GI is a Joe, but our culture sadly still thinks that way."

- Paul Rieckhoff
IAVA Founder & CEO



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SHE WHO BORNE THE BATTLE

CAMPAIGN ASKS:

1

Foster Culture and Leadership Change in the VA

- Initiate Change from the Top Down
Leadership must be dedicated to critical culture change to foster actual change and should represent the veterans using the service
- Make the VA Motto Inclusive
For minority and women veterans to feel welcome and respected at the VA, it is necessary to update the VA's current motto to reflect the diversity of the veterans utilizing the VA's services
- Fully Support and Mandate Training for Women Veterans Program Managers (WVPM)
- Focus Effort to Hire and Fill Open Positions
The existing framework the VA has created to support the healthcare of women through the WVPM's will only work if the positions are filled
- Fully Institute Child Care at VA Facilities
- Address Minority Community Concerns in All Initiatives
- Support Equitable Access to Fertility Treatments

2

Strengthen Data and Transparency Through Research

- Share WVPM Usage Best Practices
Many VA facilities report high usage and others do not share best practices between successful facilities and those that are not seeing success to create a uniform female veteran experience
- Include Gender on All Federal Agency Reporting
To correct gaps in benefits and services everyone must understand what the gaps include
- Make Public and Analyze Data on Use of Women Veterans Hotline
- Evaluate all DoD, VA, and Contracted Programs for Women
- Analyze Use of Vet Centers By Women
Vet Centers are frequently cited as being highly successful at addressing the needs of veterans at a local level. Usage and satisfaction of women veterans is not tracked, nor understood
- Integrate Women's Health Outcomes into Evaluations for Health Executives
Metrics designed to prove outcomes must be included in Veteran Health Administration (VHA) executive evaluations to establish greater accountability

3

Recognize and Support Women's Peer Programs

- Establish Integrated Peer Support Programs
VA should establish community-oriented peer support networks and community outreach teams at each VA Women's Clinic
- Institute Retreat Setting Peer Support Options
After the highly successful recent pilot program, it is time to put the pilot into practice and permanently implement retreat setting peer support options

4

Increase Initiatives to Better Inform on Existing Programs

- Include Information Specific to Women in DoD's Transition Assistance Program (TAP)
- Create a Centralized Website for Services and Benefits for Women Veterans
- Coordinate a Campaign to Reach Minority and Women Veteran Populations Across Federal Government

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Require High Level of Community Care Cooperation

- Expand Primary Care Women's Health Training Program
The existing successful training program to better educate primary care physicians on how to interface with women's healthcare professionals must be expanded to include specialists
- Populate Community Care and Choice Networks Adequately
Female veterans use community care at a higher rate than male veterans
- Streamline Healthcare Record Sharing
- Ensure Housing Options for Homeless Women Veterans with Children
Many VA programs aimed at reducing veteran homelessness exclude the ability to house veterans with dependents
- Fully Support Women Amputees
- Support Peer Programs to Facilitate Mentoring for Women in the Workforce
Women veterans experience higher unemployment rates than male counterparts



About IAVA

IAVA provides valuable resources and empowers veterans to connect with one another, fostering strong and lasting community. Through education, advocacy and community building, we strive to create a country which honors and supports veterans of all generations.

IAVA is the leading post-9/11 veteran empowerment organization with the most diverse and rapidly growing membership in America. We don't just support veterans, we empower them!

To Support IAVA Please Contact

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