

# IAVA Cavalry Update

07/19/2024

Happy Friday, IAVA Cavalry!

From Managing Director, Kristen Rouse

*“On Tuesday, I was proud to represent IAVA at a women veterans roundtable hosted by staff from the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees to discuss where VA is still not meeting the needs of women veterans. Our colleagues at other veterans' organizations raised some truly important points related to the implementation of the Deborah Sampson Act and areas where VA is not putting out data that it should be, with numerous examples of where VA is not meeting women's needs. I spoke to the broader issue of the need for continued cultural change at VA to properly serve women. If women veterans felt confident that VA provided safe, competent, and comprehensive care for their needs, from fertility and reproductive care to appropriate care for women as they age--then enrollment and utilization numbers would look very different than they do now. I called on Congressional leadership to commit to ensuring existing laws and policies get implemented in VA facilities across the country as well as advancing further policy change.”*



## ACTION CENTER

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There is an opportunity for veteran advocacy at the **STATE** level focusing on access to MDMA-Assisted Therapy and Breakthrough Therapies for veterans.

Heroic Hearts Project and Healing Breakthrough will be going to speak to lawmakers focused on the state specific advocacy for MDMA-AT. The goal is to address the federal legislators for key states right in DC. So rather than going to state legislators, it'll be to House and Senate members (staff). More details:

Heroic Hearts Project and Healing Breakthrough are seeking veterans interested in **traveling to Washington, D.C.**, to engage with legislators during their final push for member visits scheduled for the weeks of July 22nd and July 29th.

These important visits will take place in the legislators' **D.C. offices** and will be led by their team of policy experts. Their primary goal is to advocate for the FDA to adhere to scientific evidence and approve MDMA for therapeutic use in August.

Heroic Hearts Project and Healing Breakthrough are specifically looking for veterans who are either originally from or currently residing in the following states:

Arizona	Illinois	North Carolina	Washington
California	Michigan	Ohio	West Virginia
Delaware	Montana	Pennsylvania	Wisconsin
Georgia	Nevada	Rhode Island	

**IAVA Cavalry Member, Natalie Lupiani** is leading this effort and can answer questions via the link below.

[IF INTERESTED, FILL OUT THIS FORM HERE](#)

[CLICK HERE TO EMAIL NATALIE FOR MORE INFO](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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*Please join us for a*  IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA

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**Women of the IAVA Cavalry  
Listening Session**

Tuesday July 23, 6 PM on Zoom

Opening Remarks from  
IAVA CEO Allison Jaslow

Come discuss your service, share stories  
& build camaraderie with other women veterans.  
Please note: this event is for women only.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

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## UPDATES ON THE CAVALRY'S ADVOCACY

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This week IAVA worked with congressional offices to schedule upcoming meetings for IAVA's newest Cavalry cohort. Advocacy will focus on the following states, NC, NV, MN, OH, PA, and VA. Continuing our advocacy efforts, IAVA reviewed and signed-on to two important letters. The



first letter led by veterans organizations addressed to Senate and House leadership calls on Congress to drop dangerous riders within the FY25 NDAA, Defense appropriations, and MilCon-VA appropriations bill that threatens the health, safety, and well-being of our communities. The second letter addressed to the FDA, calls on the FDA to give full consideration to the needs of people living with PTSD when making their decision on the review of MDMA-assisted therapy. The letter highlights the

consequences of delaying breakthrough therapies and the successes reported in ongoing clinical trials.



*The following is a statement from the CEO of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, [Allison Jaslow](#), on former President Donald Trump's decision to add Senator J.D. Vance to the Republican Party Presidential ticket as his future Vice President.*

*"The Post-9/11 generation of veterans is ascendant in America today," **said Allison Jaslow**. "We applaud former President Trump for choosing a post-9/11 veteran to join him in his candidacy to be Commander-in-Chief again, and notably, someone who served in the enlisted ranks and is representative of the average veteran."*

*"J.D.Vance may be the first of our generation of veterans to be on a major party Presidential ticket, but he most certainly won't be the last. The post-9/11 generation of veterans is stepping up to lead, just when America needs us most."*

***Onward & Upward Cavalry!***