



DEMOCRATIC VETERANS CAUCUS OF FLORIDA 2020 PLATFORM

OVERVIEW

We have the best trained and hardest working men and women serving in the United States Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy. Service Members work 24/7 and sacrifice to keep America safe. We must respect and honor Service Members, Veterans, and their Families. Forever.

We are now asking you to carry our flag to help our Military, Veterans and their Families as you sit in a position of authority.

Thank you,

Democratic Veterans Caucus of Florida

HONOR, RESPECT & DIGNITY

America has the sacred, moral and ethical responsibility to “keep the faith” with all Veterans.

- **We feel that all active Military Members, Veterans and their Families should be treated with respect and dignity regardless of Age, Race, Sex, Gender Identity, National Origin, Religion, Disability, Medical Condition, or Political Affiliation.**
- **We embrace Diversity. The strength of America's Military comes from the diversity of those who are serving and have served America in uniform. Our country's continuing struggle for equality is reflected in our Military.**
- **We honor the sacrifice of Military Families. We recognize the concerns and challenges they face, their years of deployment and the burden of being assigned to new duty stations. We especially honor the Families who have to rebuild their lives after a disability, life-altering injury or the loss of a loved one.**
- **We support fair treatment to present and past Military Service Personnel, in employment, health care, educational benefits, deployment and reintegration training. A qualified Veteran should be hired ahead of other applicants whenever possible.**
- **We are in strong support of “Basic Allowance for Housing”. If someone is entitled to “Basic Allowance for Housing” they should receive 100%.**
- **We support programs designed to significantly increase the amount of affordable housing for Active Service Personnel, Veterans and their Families. It is critical that we do away with homelessness in this population.**
- **We demand the reinstatement of the Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) program. This helped Military Families on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).**

- **We strongly support the Veterans Treatment Court system whereby Veterans who commit a misdemeanor or other non-violent crime are given treatment for their injuries and assistance in gaining meaningful employment and housing and are helped to apply for Veterans benefits. Our DVCF members sponsored and fought for the passage of Florida Statutes that created Florida Veterans Treatment Courts. Now let's fund them.**

- **We support removing the chain of command from investigating and prosecuting claims of rape and sexual harassment in the Military. This is a "dishonorable act".**

- **We agree with 92% of Military Veterans who believe the answer lies in continuing to improve the V.A., rather than privatizing the Veteran healthcare system. We oppose attempts to privatize the V.A. The V.A. must be fully resourced so every Veteran receives the care they have earned and deserve.**

- **We support the continuing improvements, simplification and implementation of the "2014 Choice Act".**

- **We support the "Mission Act". It must receive its own funding and not reduce in any way the approved budget funding of the V.A.**

- **We support creating a system similar to the V.A. Dental Insurance Program for urgent care centers across America.**

- **We demand that every effort be given to reduce the 20 Veterans a day that lose their lives to suicide.**

- **We demand that pensions be fully restored, with no cuts, and demand they include a cost of living increase.**

- **We demand that any non-citizen who serves in the US Military and receives an honorable discharge or has been wounded in the line of duty during their Military Service should be automatically made a US citizen.**

- **We recognize that climate change constitutes a severe and immediate threat to our national security. The Department of Defense has been telling us that since 2003. We must act now to stop and reverse climate change, while there still is time to do so.**

We thank all DVCF members, past and present, who have contributed to this document, as well as the DNC's Military Families and Veterans Council, the California Democratic Veterans Caucus and the Florida Democratic Party. Any questions or concerns should be directed to DVCF President Phil Giorno at presdvcfgiorno@gmail.com. Additional information about certain topics may be found on our website, demvetsfl.org.

