



## **2024 DVCF Mission Statement and Platform**

**Revised April 23, 2024**

### **Mission Statement**

**The mission of our Caucus is to expand the participation of Florida Veterans in the Florida Democratic Party. Our focus is threefold:**

- 1. Promote the election of Democratic veterans at all levels – local, state, and national.**
- 2. Advise and promote the election of non-veteran, Democratic candidates who support veteran issues.**
- 3. Increase involvement of all Democratic veterans in the electoral process as candidates, policy experts and advisers, and campaign volunteers.**

### **Platform**

In order to encourage the enactment of legislation beneficial to the health and wellbeing of veterans and military families, the DVCF works to engage veterans in the Florida Democratic Party and the political process to elect Democratic veterans and supporters of veterans to positions from President Biden on down the ballot. We believe the United States of America and its leaders have the responsibility to “keep the faith” with all veterans, active-duty military and their families. The DVCF platform below reflects the specifics required to keep that faith.

We support the platform of the Florida Democratic Party.

We strongly support all required to build and maintain the complete capabilities of our military forces and our alliances, including all required to maximize the individual capabilities and quality of life of each of our precious military service members and their families.

We support ensuring Ukraine immediately has the capabilities required to defeat current and deter future Russian aggression. We look for the United States to appropriately help build the capabilities of our alliance across the world to defeat and deter Russian, Chinese, Iranians, North Korean, Cuban, Venezuela and all other authoritarian aggression.

We support and have sworn oaths to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. We condemn any and all leaders who work to damage and destroy our Constitutional norms. We are certain that demands the defeat of Republicans at all levels in the 2024 elections and a Supreme Court that protects, rather than corruptly attacks, the freedoms of our people.

All active military, veterans and their families should be treated with well-earned dignity and respect regardless of age, race, sex, gender identity, national origin, religion, disability, medical condition, or political affiliation. None should be denied proper healthcare and respect due to assignment to jurisdictions that restrict them. All should be fully protected from discrimination, sexual assault or other indignities.

We embrace diversity. The strength of America's military and security of our nation comes in part from the diversity of those who serve and those who have served.

We honor the sacrifice of military families through the course of their countless moves, separations, losses, worries, health and economic impacts and so much more. We especially honor and expect complete support for those who must rebuild their lives after injury, disability or loss.

We support fair treatment and proper recognition for all past and present military personnel and their families, including health care, employment, education, deployment/relocation support and reintegration preparation. Qualified veterans and their spouses have earned employment and educational opportunities ahead of other applicants wherever possible.

We support GI bill funding and other benefits at the level required to give veterans the best possible opportunities to continue to effectively serve themselves and the nation after leaving active service,

We support and expect the full range of programs and funding required to properly house our active military, veterans and their families, including the elimination of "homelessness" in our veteran population and military housing allowances that cover 100% of active military housing costs.

We support a continuing and improved Veterans Administration system as a governmental entity held accountable to the highest standards. Ensure the VA has the funding and capabilities to fully implement the PACT Act without detriment to other VA services.

We require comprehensive, fully effective support to fight active, veteran and family suicides and substance abuse and meet all military mental health needs, strengthening active military and veteran mental health capabilities to 100% of the requirement.

We support the Veterans Treatment Court System where veterans that commit a misdemeanor or non-violent crimes are given counseling, treatment for their injuries, assistance in gaining housing, meaningful employment and VA benefits.

We demand that all non-citizens who serve honorably in our military receive citizenship at the end of their first term of honorable enlistment/service.

Ensure concurrent receipt of disabilities and pensions at all levels of military disability.

Prevent degradation of TRICARE pharmacy benefits and increase in copays. Address TRICARE Young Adult parity issue by extending eligibility to dependents up to age 26 with no separate premium to bring TRICARE on par with commercial health plans.

We promote gun safety and responsible possession and use in accordance with the actual intent of the 2nd Amendment and the legislative and executive common defense provisions of the U.S. Constitution.