

LEGISLATIVE CHAMPIONS



The MAG has bi-partisan support and leadership from elected members of the state's legislature in order to

influence the introduction and shepherding of bills for Veterans issues.

PAST LEGISLATION

With the help of the MAG members the following Veteran's Initiatives were passed in the 2010 Legislative Session:

- ✦ One time funding for MAC-V and for the Honor Guards.
- ✦ Support of the Case Management, Outreach, Referral and Education (CORE)
- ✦ Free entrance to State Parks for Veterans with service-connected disability
- ✦ Expanded Veterans License Plates
- ✦ Amended Veteran-Owned Small Business Law
- ✦ Higher Education Veterans Program sunset date extended

-source: 2010 MDVA Session Review

MAG MISSION STATEMENT

The Military Action Group (MAG) is a collaborative body of individuals who advocate for improved policies and practices that benefit Veterans in the state of Minnesota, principally through legislation. The MAG operates as a "think tank" for ideas that – because of the group's non-partisan approach and independence from established Veteran organizations – seeks to provide innovative legislative and advocacy approaches to those who shape policy for Veterans.



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CONTACT

Communication to MAG members is provided through a collective email list. Requests for inclusion should be sent to: rep.bob.dettmer@house.mn

MILITARY ACTION GROUP



2011 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Working to Make Minnesota even more "Veteran Friendly"



2011 MAG LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

REDUCING BARRIERS

- ⊕ Veterans Preference for direct hiring authority
- ⊕ Employment Issues – Educate Higher Education and Employers on how to interpret military experience
- ⊕ Expand usage of Veteran Owned Businesses and Service Disabled Veteran Owned Businesses in contracting and procurement
- ⊕ Support the homeless and in-crisis Veterans in the state
- ⊕ Education – maintain funding for Higher Education Veterans Program



photo credit: www.minnesotanationalguard.org

WOMEN VETERANS

- Elevating the Awareness of Women Veterans
- ⊕ Encourage employers and educators to hire more women as Veteran service providers.
- ⊕ Creating a Women Veteran License Plate – giving Women Veterans the recognition they deserve.



photo credit: SGT Dale Sweetnam

- ⊕ Almost 400,000 Veterans live in Minnesota—roughly 11% of the adult population
- ⊕ Of that, nearly 23,000 are Women Veterans; only a small fraction of the Women Veterans access VA Medical Benefits
- ⊕ Over 16,000 Minnesota Veterans are receiving their active duty retirement pension
- ⊕ Unemployment Rate among young Veterans in MN is the highest group – nearly 22 percent

VET FRIENDLY STATE

- ⊕ Attract defense contractors to relocate to Minnesota and bring long-term stimulus to our economy
- ⊕ Exemption to extend property tax for spouse after death of 75-100% disabled veteran, which would have little to no financial impact to the Minnesota State Budget.
- ⊕ Incentives to retain second career military members who would otherwise retire in other states.

The MAG has worked with a number of community organizations and stakeholders in the Veterans Community to start identifying solutions to issues facing our veterans and their families. The MAG will work to raise issues related to barriers to employment and education, Women Veterans issues and ensuring our state is welcoming to our retired military. It will also continue to advocate for Veterans and their families in future years so that continued momentum is delivered to this issue, allowing it to become a high priority on the agenda of the Legislature over the long-term.