

MILITARY /VETERANS COALITION OF INDIANA - 2012 Legislative GOALS

1. To secure full State Income tax exempt status for all military income.

Rationale: *Military service members are a major economic force bringing to the State over one billion dollars per year in disposable income. Every effort should be made and incentives developed to attract military personnel to Indiana. Indiana continues to lose qualified veterans because of the greatly enhanced benefits available in adjacent and other states.*

2. To increase funding for the Indiana Veterans Affairs Trust Fund and to modify the eligibility for assistance by the Fund by the following actions:

***To implement additional fund sources for the trust fund to include:**

- a. A check block on State Income Tax forms to enable taxpayers to donate all or part of tax refunds.
- b. A check block on State Income Tax forms to enable taxpayers to donate \$1 to the Fund.
- c. Institution of a separate and unique Lottery scratch off ticket with proceeds to benefit Indiana Veterans via the Fund.

***To amend the language "Other than Honorable" regarding the type of discharge required to benefit from the Trust to "Honorable".**

Rational: *Requiring less than an Honorable discharge to receive assistance from the Trust open the door to granting benefit to those who may have never experienced active service, have been convicted of a felony or been discharged for any number of offenses or conditions that have made them unacceptable for service. This is just stupid and is a slap to all of us who earned an Honorable Discharge.*

***To expand the eligibility to all Indiana combat veterans. Current documentation requirements of a qualifying need to remain unchanged .**

Rational: *Existing qualified Veterans are limited to service since 2001 and only if need is requested within one year of service. Many veterans serving prior and since 2001 have needs which extend beyond the one year limitation for requesting assistance. No time period should be required; only documentation of a qualifying need.*

3. To secure legislative approval for an Indiana State Resettlement/Service Bonus and/or combat duty pay of \$ 1,000 for military members who are residents of Indiana and have served in a combat zone during the Gulf Wars.

Rationale: Indiana service members deserve recognition and compensation for their personal sacrifice and economic hardships caused by unit activation and family separation. This would be a continuation of the recognition granted by the State for previous wars.

4. Institute a \$1000 Corporate Indiana Tax Credit for each documented veteran hired as a fulltime employee during their tax year.

Rationale: To encourage Indiana businesses to hire Veterans, this credit will be an incentive to put veterans to work in the State. The Federal Government currently offers a \$2000 Federal Tax Credit for this action.

5. To commission a feasibility study for adding a Gulf Wars Monument on the Veterans Mall.

Rationale: It has been 20 years since the start of hostilities in the Middle East. Many Indiana Veterans, mostly Guard and Reserves, answered the call to service and several have made the ultimate sacrifice. It is fitting the comparable recognition be afforded those that have served during this period.