

AVVA Government Affairs

End of Year Report

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The AVVA Government Affairs team would like to thank the committee, Board of Directors and members for a very successful year as we effectively and efficiently presented the legislative and policy goals of the organization.

Our grassroots advocacy leads to the enactment of AVVA top legislative **policy number 2, Military and Veterans Caregivers Legislation**. The 115th Congress passed the Mission Act Public Law 115-182, and in subtitle C of the law, Congress expanded the caregivers act to include Vietnam veterans. AVVA also supported passage of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act which was signed by the President on June 26, 2019 the law will provide Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans who served in the inland waterways from January 9, 1962, and ending May 7, 1975 with proof of service eligible for Compensation and Health Care Benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Under the law if a Veterans or survivor of a veteran filed a disability claim on or after September 25, 1985 and before January 1, 2020 and was denied will be entitled to back compensation. The law also includes presumptive of Herbicide exposure for certain Korean veterans, benefits for children of certain Thailand service veterans born with spina bifida and other benefits and also includes language in **AVVA policy number 3, Gulf War Veterans** requesting the VA to provide Congress a report of the follow-up Study of a National cohort of Gulf War and Gulf Era Veterans under VA epidemiology program.

The Government Affairs Committee ends our report by saying “how honored we were for the opportunity to advocate on behalf of this great organization”.

Sharon and Nancy