



## United Veterans Committee of Colorado

### 2011 Priorities

*The following document contains the 2011 UVC Organizational Priorities. The numbering does not reflect a priority order.*

#### **State Organizational Priorities**

1. Support the recommendations from the strategic planning efforts conducted by the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs.
2. Protect Veterans Trust Fund and explore and secure additional sources of funding.
3. Support the recommendations of the 2007 Final Report of the Commission on State and Veterans Nursing Homes related to the facilities at Florence, Homelake, Rifle, Walsenburg and Fitzsimons.
4. Take appropriate steps as approved by the UVC to obtain funding support to employ a qualified Executive Director/Secretary and to meet other organizational obligations to serve our membership.
5. Initiate a cooperative effort with casino operators to provide funding and services to address unmet needs of veterans and their families, possibly including a portion of Veterans Day and Memorial Day proceeds..
6. Strengthen accountability and administrative effectiveness at the State and Veterans Nursing Homes to ensure the highest quality of care for veterans and their families, including measures to assure proper management and oversight of the Central Enterprise Fund (505 fund).
7. Support the "Support our Troops" license plate, with proceeds to support families of service men and women and veterans.
8. Support efforts to fund the Colorado Veterans Monument Preservation Trust Fund to ensure the timely and ongoing maintenance of the Monument and surrounding park area west of the Capitol.
9. Seek solutions, funding sources and partnerships to serve homeless veterans.
10. Identify effective means and funding sources to provide transportation to needed health care for veterans from rural areas (e.g. to VA hospitals in Denver, Grand Junction, Cheyenne & Albuquerque).
11. Support efforts to maintain and strengthen the provision and enforcement of veterans' preference in employment, especially for veterans recently returned from active military duty.
12. Continue work with DHS & SVNH administrators to find resolution to and mitigate the impact on the 505 Central Fund caused by state budget cuts with implications to personnel decisions.
13. Support executive or legislative action, including obtaining a complete financial report from the State Comptroller, and an audit by the State Legislative Audit Committee/State Auditor of the 505 Enterprise Fund, established for funding of the State and Veteran Nursing Homes with a public report of its findings and recommendations.
14. Support executive/legislative action requiring the DHS establish a viable 5-year plan for each of the state and Veteran nursing homes, including the requirement the DHS must consult with the SVNH Commission and the State Board of Veterans Affairs.

#### **Federal Organizational Priorities**

1. Support the continued expansion of Community Based Outreach Clinics by VISN 19 to provide medical services to veterans living in rural areas of Colorado.
2. Support full funding for commissaries.
3. Encourage each Colorado U.S. Senator and Representative to establish and regularly consult with a military/veterans affairs committee.

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