



ARE YOU A
VETERAN?
WE NEED YOU IN CONGRESS!

WHY WE NEED MORE VETERANS
TO RUN FOR CONGRESS



AMERICAN ALLIANCE FOR
MILITARY VETERANS

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Why We Need More Veterans to Run for Congress
The Ultimate Guide About How to Run for Federal Office



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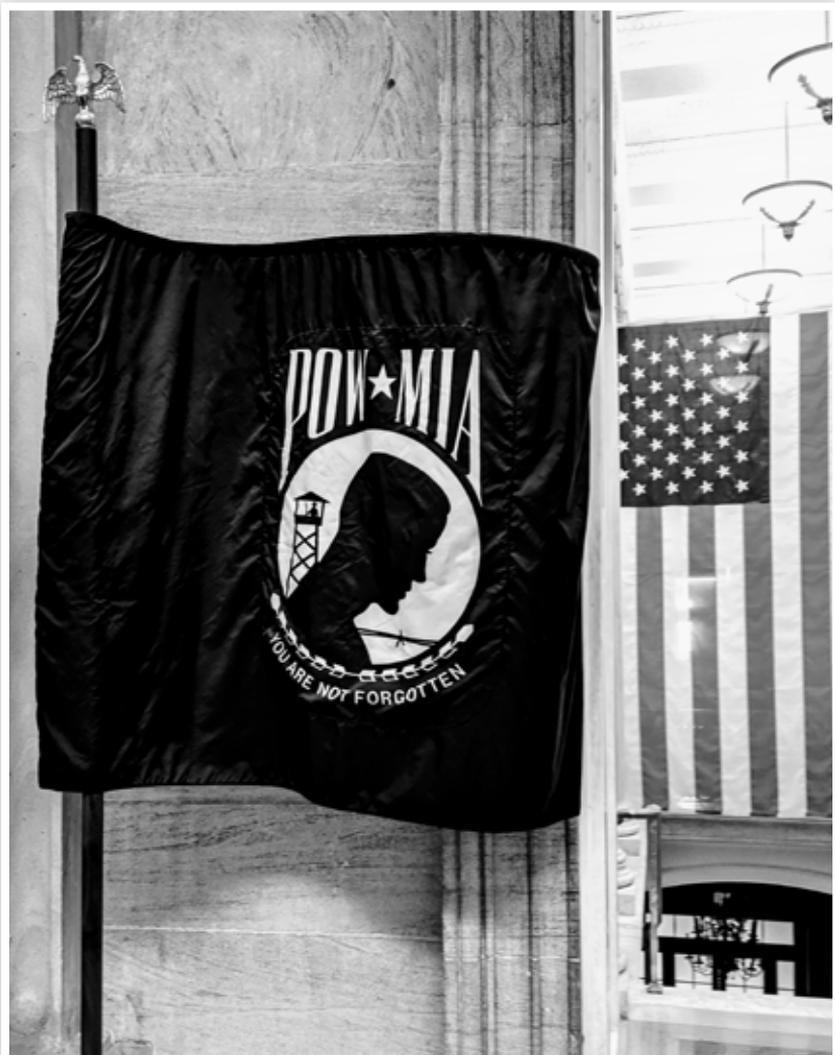




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VETERANS IN FEDERAL OFFICE – THE BACKGROUND



In today's modern political landscape, many Americans have low confidence in federal institutions such as Congress and the Senate. Moreover, this notorious fact is a direct consequence generated by the extreme levels of partisanship that has changed our national legislature. In the same time, these high levels of hyper-partisan influence often undermine many of the high profile federal institutions in the United States. And often some of these federal institutions are facing blockades amid the different partisan views and policies.

Therefore, the public is worried about the future of the United States. Simply said, the internal divide is something that tends to impede the ability of the federal government to operative effectively and efficiently. That is why it is

imperative to find and adopt certain solutions and ideas. One notable approach that can bring a broad spectrum of solutions for America's problems is the potential for veterans to take an active role in the federal government. Therefore, this book will analyze the needs and the benefits of veterans running for federal office, house and senate.

■ **The Need for Veterans to Run for Office**

Before heading into a more detailed analysis, it is imperative to understand the need for more veterans to run for office. On that note, it is important to emphasize that several elements in this equation need to be considered.

First and foremost, there has been a change in a negative direction in the last 2 decades. To be more specific, the current representation of a military veteran in Congress is 19%. And that is the historic low compared to the second half of the 20th Century, during which half of the Congress members have served in the military.

Moreover, during that 2nd half of the 20th century, the high level of military veterans in Congress and the Senate had a

galvanizing effect on American politics. This is based on the fact that during those years there were far less partisan based confrontations and blockades.

That was the case due to the fact that military veterans that were part of Congress and Senate were focused only on the national interest. In other words, military veterans were more patriotic and understood that American interests are above any partisanship. Therefore, they were often able to put aside their political differences (democrat and republican) and to work together towards the common goal.

Based on that experience, the increased number of military veterans in congress can create a proper platform for solving the differences between the Republicans and the Democrats.

That is why increased participation of the next generation veterans can be an ideal formula for solving the country's broken politics. Furthermore, the proper veterans' representation in Congress and the Senate represents the catalyst for change and a uniting element that can bring both sides together.





BENEFITS OF MILITARY VETERANS RUNNING FOR OFFICE



I - Experience

There are numerous benefits that military veterans can bring to the table. For instance, military veterans have a broad spectrum of skills and knowledge. Most notably, many of these servicemen have extensive knowledge about the geopolitical situation. This can be a great benefit for national security as certain veterans have dealt with many threats overseas that can compromise national security.

II – Performances

The second notable benefit is closely related to their performances. To be more specific, veterans that served in the army have shown exceptional results. And this is not a

coincidence as lawmakers who have served in the military maintain that sense of duty and to go the extra mile to get things done. In other words, veterans are often led by their principles and values, rather than partisan and self-interest. That is why they often perform better than career politicians regardless of their political affiliation.

III - Cross Partisan Abilities

Another notable benefit is their ability to create those cross-partisan relations. According to a research study from Lugar Bipartisan Center and a team led by a West Point political scientist showed that veteran lawmakers in Congress have acted more often in cross-partisan ways compared to the career politicians. These bi-partisan initiatives and policies have led to many great achievements for the country in general.

IV- Trust

It is well documented that the U.S public opinion is favourable towards our military veterans. Moreover, these veterans have a primary obligation which is patriotic service, not partisan politics. Also, a few decades ago, these patriots represented more than 70% of the members in Congress. And during

that historical period, this federal institution enjoyed a high level of confidence among Americans. However, heading back to the present day, only 18% of the seats in Congress are filled by U.S military veterans. That is why the House of Representatives is one of the least trusted institutions in the United States. Besides the hyper-partisan approach and the lack of strong, experienced veterans have led to this state of affairs. Therefore, to improve the level of trust in the House of Commons, the political landscape will need to shift focus to the next generation of military veterans. And those military-connected potential congressmen and -women present an ideal opportunity to help the institution to function again.

V - Veteran Affairs

One of the main focal points of every political campaign is the promise of improving the quality of life for every veteran in the United States. However, the reality is that often than not, these politicians fall short of achieving any significant results. That is where these former military servicemen came into the broad picture. They are quite aware of the potential challenges and problems the veterans are facing in the homeland. Moreover, some of them have been through a complex period in their lives as a result of their service in

combat. Therefore, it is safe to say that these patriots have a unique insight into the daily challenges and obstacles of the average veteran. And they will know how to deal with this complex topic.

VI - Uniting Force

The prospect of increased military veterans in a federal office can be a solution for the increased tensions between the Republicans and the Democrats. After these vets have been in service for many years. Their main party is the United States of America. The Nationals interests are above the partisan ones for many of them. That was there to be seen as most of the veterans that joined the House of Representatives have a great record of solving many of the partisan obstacles in the U.S politics.

The veterans in Congress and the Senate have shown that they can take a lead in asking colleagues to come together and identify issues and policies that will advance the country. The former military servicemen have been involved in more traditionally areas — including public service, veterans issues and national security.



HOW A MILITARY VETERAN CAN RUN FOR OFFICE?



One of the key questions is how former servicemen can run for office? On that note, it is important to emphasize that running for federal office as a military veteran can be a long and challenging road. However, there are numerous resources and certain levels of support that can help in the process of transitioning to the new type of public service. After all, these servicemen are highly regarded and their expertise is valued at the federal government. The fact is that there is an increased need for more veterans in federal office as they bring certain expertise in diversity invoice. Therefore, as we mentioned earlier, there is a broad spectrum of resources that can guide the veterans who are aiming to run for office.

Various organizations are strictly dedicated to the process of training and support of potential veteran political candidates.

For instance, the American Alliance for Military Veterans is a political organization that is focused on many issues related to veterans, including encouragement for running for office.



RUNNING FOR OFFICE – WHAT EVERY VETERAN NEEDS TO KNOW



A veteran firstly needs to analyze and determine if running for office is a pathway that is closely related to his/her core values, character, and personality.

I - Get involved at the local level

Now that you've decided to run for office, it's time to get involved and be visible within your community. Most elected officials get their start at the local level and have plenty of opportunities to get involved. Being active in the community is step one in the process of being elected for office. To be more specific, a military veteran that wants to run for federal office should be part of the local community organizations that work for the public benefit.

In the same time, it is valuable to show a certain success at a local level. For example, being part of the local city hall and working towards improving the local infrastructure can be a great asset that will make someone to stand out. In the same time, working on projects that are for the benefit of the community can launch a political career for every military veteran. After all, success attracts followers. That is why being involved and successful at the local level can open a broad spectrum of opportunities for everyone that wants to run for office. And that especially applies to military veterans.

II - The Local Level Opportunity

One of the main prerequisites for a successful campaign is to connect with the local level of government. Also, that connection is beneficial as it can be a stepping stone for getting connected with the community. Therefore, a military veteran should start attending hall meetings or other meetings open to the public within your community. Moreover, it is imperative to hear the voices of the community about adopting policies and changing laws. In simple words, a military veteran that wants to run for office should connect with the community to get that sense about what are the needs of his audience.

A successful military veteran must develop skills such as connecting with his potential voters by facilitating discussions about the future. That feedback will be a catalyst for creating a political program and vision platform.

III - Get to know your constituents

One of the most important aspects of every political campaign is to know your constituents. This is not just a broad statement, but rather a key component for every military veteran that wants to run for office. To be more specific, it is imperative to be familiar with the political environment in your region that you are running.

Also, a military veteran that wants to run for office should be quite aware of the policies that are important to his/her potential constituents. Furthermore, it is vital to have a great knowledge of your potential constituents. For instance, a military veteran that wants to run for office needs to know what his/her constituents expect from representatives. That way, you can address to the people in a more direct and simplified way.

IV – Education

Another important tip is that if former servicemen that are uncertain about this information is to seek a proper political education. In the past, many military veterans have been through certain education pathways that will improve the working knowledge of the political environment. That will significantly increase the chances to get elected for federal office. These days, many political academies can educate and prepare veterans to make that ultimate step in their transition towards a political career.

V - Create a Winning Team

A political campaign requires a supportive and dedicated team. That applies even for military veterans that are well known for their dedication and hard work. After all, a campaign is only as successful as the team behind it. In other words, even if you are well proven former servicemen, you should not run for office on your own.

Being surrounded by a strong and effective team, the prospect of success is high as it will enhance the campaign in general.

However, the reality is that certain military veterans that want to run for office are facing financial barriers. That is why it is imperative to create a team of volunteers at the start. And that can be the staging point for building a team that will share the values and goals of the campaign. And that will be the base for creating a strong supporters movement that will eventually result in being elected for office.





CONCLUSION



On a final note, we can conclude that electing more military veterans for federal office represents an indivisible part of our democracy. Also, it is a key element that can improve the political landscape in the United States and can create bridges among the two main parties. After all, it is a well-documented secret that the military veterans in the federal officials are also great servants of the public. They are great representatives of the people and they have proven loyalty and patriotism for their country. That is why these great people must take their rightful place in Congress and the Senate. And to lead this country to greatness, the same way they did it on the battlefield and during their service.





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APPENDIX



Who and what is the American Alliance for Military Veterans:

The American Alliance for Military Veterans is a political organization registered with the IRS under section 527 of the tax code. The mission of the AAMV is to help and encourage more veterans to run for congress, in order to help fix the many issues that our country and veterans face.

You can order more copies of this publication by emailing the AAMV at : info@aamvpac.org

For more information please visit us online at:
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