

# WHO WE ARE



More than one million veterans in the labor movement play a critical role in our fight for justice. Throughout history, veterans have left military service and joined the workforce and unions. Veterans are in every corner of the labor movement, from job sites to bargaining tables -- from first-year apprentices to international union presidents.

The Union Veterans Council, AFL-CIO (UVC) is guided by a simple vision: to improve the lives of veterans by providing the tools and platforms to use our unique and credible voice to advance causes that benefit veterans, military families, and all workers through direct advocacy.



## WHAT WE DO

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**We are the veterans' advocacy organization for the American labor movement and a voice for working-class veteran issues.**

We engage, educate, and mobilize veteran union members and our families to harness our collective voices to bring about change -- legislatively, politically, and at the bargaining table.

Our work is organized around four pillars: membership engagement, community outreach, legislation and policy, and political and strategic campaigns.

We support AFL-CIO affiliates' internal, veteran-focused programs with materials, training, content, and engagement opportunities at the national level or through our local chapters. This fosters a more unified veteran-focused message for the labor movement.

We then use that message to educate the public and hold government officials and candidates accountable to the needs of veterans and our families. We do not simply focus on military and veteran issues; our focus is on the socio-economic issues that affect our veteran community and all working-class people on a day-to-day basis.

We make our positions on issues known to candidates, elected officials, and the public through letters, media, and questionnaires. We have a constant presence on Capitol Hill, in statehouses, and on the campaign trail. Our work is also in the field through supporting UVC chapters at the central labor council and area labor federation and state federation levels.



**The Union Veterans Council is a force multiplier for the labor movement. Engaging, educating, organizing and mobilizing veterans, military families, and working class folks throughout the country, it is long overdue our veterans have a space in the labor movement, the UVC is now that place.**

*– Cecil Roberts, Chair of the Union Veterans Council & President of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA).*



Members of UVC meeting with President Biden and Secretary of Labor Walsh at the White House.



UVC ED Attig speaking at the UA MCAA Convention.



**Veterans Arrested at Mineworkers Strike**  
10 Vet union leaders arrested blocking scabs from leaving mine, workers at 2 months strike.



**The Allegheny Fayette UVC stands with the union members of the Post Gazette for fair wages and better working conditions.**



UVC paying tribute to the fallen on the 20th anniversary of 9/11.



# LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

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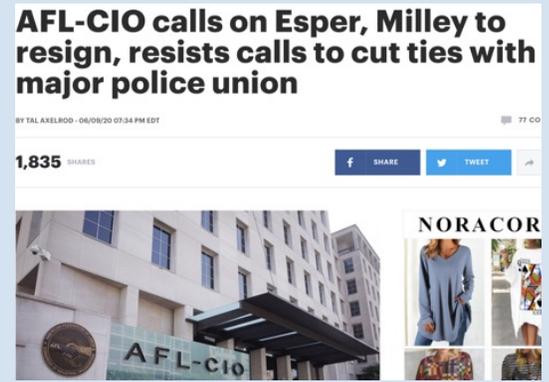
UVC adds labor's voice to conversations and brings key labor issues to the veterans' space, including Speaker Pelosi's veterans service organizations round table. Our focus on the veterans' community's socio-economic issues has made us a trusted source for the VA, DOD, DOL (VETS), White House, and Congress.

The relationships the UVC has built with members of Congress, the reputation it has earned as a leader on issues facing the veterans' community, and the ability to drive grassroots advocacy through UVC's state chapters and affiliate members has enabled us to implement a comprehensive strategy to advocate for working veterans.

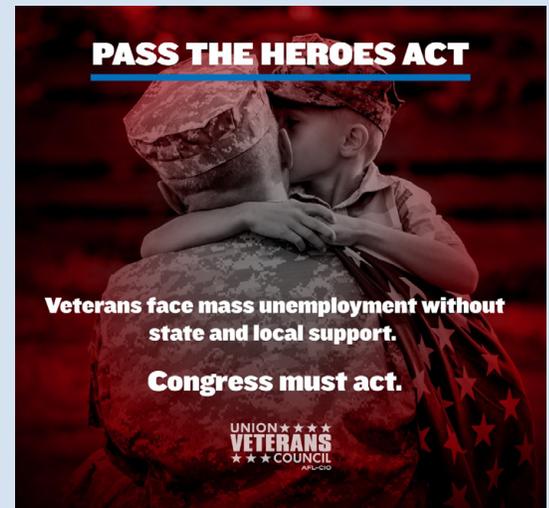
The UVC also works directly with an expanding group of bipartisan legislators on Capitol Hill with backgrounds as veterans or leaders in supporting veteran training and transitioning programs. The UVCs COVID-19 and workforce legislative agenda received endorsement via two bipartisan Dear Colleague letters in the House by [Rep.Conor Lamb](#) and [Rep.Brian Fitzpatrick](#) and Senate by [Sen.Gary Peters](#) and [Sen.Lisa Murkowski](#).

The UVC helped frame the argument for the **HEROES Act** in a veterans context, including developing toolkits, op-ed templates, and other educational materials. The Colorado UVC chapter partnered with the Colorado AFL-CIO on a [live-streamed](#) letter drop at Sen. Cory Gardner's office, urging him to support the bill.

During the AFL-CIO's **PROACT** week of action UVC, local leaders from around the country spoke through videos, events, and call-in campaigns, on how a union career was our pathway to the American Dream and how more American workers should have the freedom to organize.



UVC ED Attig Speaking to Congress on Veterans issues.



We've also assisted in efforts to stop right-to-work bills and pass veteran workforce development legislation. Additionally, we've helped drive support for pro-veteran legislation, some of which hasn't historically been an engagement area of the labor movement.

**The AFL-CIO joins the Union Veterans Council in calling for the resignation of Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley for their participation in President Trump's gross misuse of American military last Monday in Washington, D.C., "Simply put, our military is not a prop for photo ops and political statements," Will Attig, executive director of the Union Veterans Council, part of the AFL-CIO, said in a statement. "We are calling on them to resign not as a point of shame, but as an example of leadership."**

**About 800,000 federal workers were furloughed or working without pay during the shutdown.** According to the Congressional Budget Office, **about 31 percent of federal workers are veterans.**



# THE 2020 ELECTION



The UVC executes an integrated and aggressive strategic and political campaign support program, adding an additional layer that hits above its weight.

In 2020, the UVC deployed its resources to support targeted candidates and campaigns across the country. The goal was to help elect candidates who are supportive of working veterans and build relationships with those candidates so they would lean on the UVC as a resource in policy making. In 2020, the UVC political program spoke to union and veteran voters in key swing states to support Congressional champions of veterans issues while working tirelessly to elect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.



**Joe Biden Meeting with union veterans in Lancaster, PA.** The UVC worked with then 2020 Democratic presidential nominee [Joe Biden](#) to meet with four union members and veterans in a residential backyard in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The event was one of two campaign stops he made to mark the Labor Day holiday.



**CO UVC Turnout event for Rep Jason Crow 2018.**



**Local UVC Leader Craig Ronanovich with President Biden.**

The Union Veterans Council regularly voiced support for targeted candidates on social media and remained in regular contact with the campaigns. **When pro-worker candidates needed an ally in the veterans' community, the UVC was there to act as a surrogate and validator.**



**The impact of the UVC's political program is clear. Trump dropped a net 14 points from his 61 to 35 percent victory with veteran households in 2020. These results reinforce the critical work of the UVC and why we need more support."**

UVC and the Biden campaign host Battle Ground Union Vets For Joe event with USW President Tom Conway, Rep. Conor Lamb, and Sen. Gary Peters



## A NEW DAY

Four years ago, the UVC put a strategic plan in place to establish itself as a credible voice for working-class veterans inside and outside of labor. This strategy also included establishing a network of chapters at the local labor body level, centralizing support for affiliate veteran-focused programs, and making the union veterans' title better understood and more recognized inside and outside the labor community.

The impact of that plan is clear. Now, the Democratic leadership in the House and Senate consults policies with the UVC, that will impact our union veterans and families. From the start of the Biden administration, the UVC has been sought as a trusted voice and resource on critical issues ranging from economic policy to Afghanistan. from economic policy to Afghanistan.

### *Biden Gained With Moderate and Conservative Voting Groups, New Data Shows*

President Biden cut into Donald Trump's margins with married men and veteran households, a Pew survey shows. But there was a far deeper well of support for Mr. Trump than many progressives had imagined.



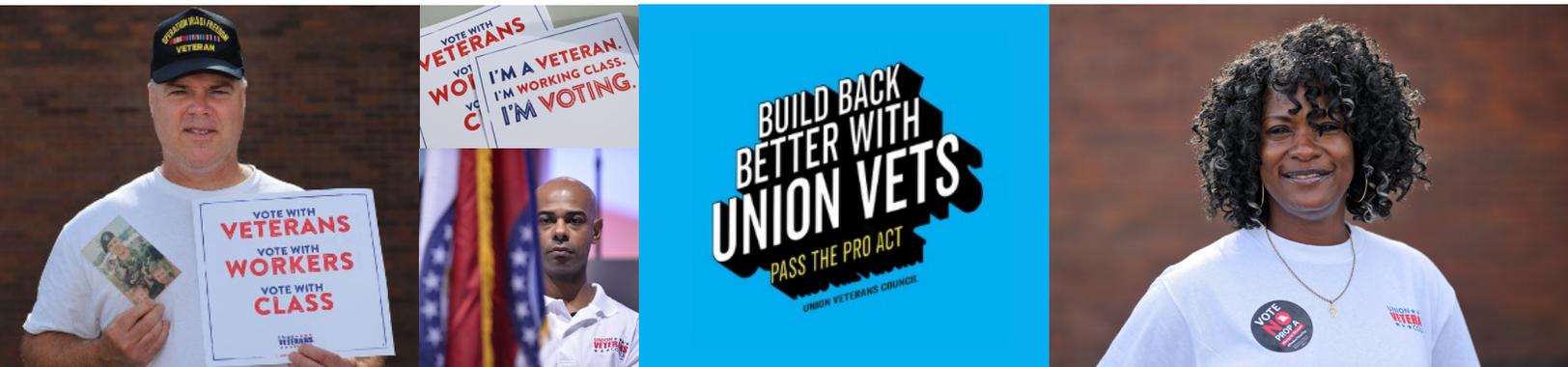
UVC ED Will Attig talking to House Veterans Administration Chair Mark Takano.



# THE FUTURE

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For the UVC to continue its success and growth, we need your support. We are dedicated to helping advocate for over 1 million union veterans and for the priorities of all working people. Our organization has accomplished so much since our creation with limited resources and staff. Now is the time to build on our success. To work with UVC members, affiliated unions' veteran-focused programs, and a supportive White House and Congress to help veterans and working families. Through your support, we hope your union will allow us to expand this critical work.



**“Continue to Fight. Continue to Build. Continue to Win.”**

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE UVC**

Please contact Executive Director William Attig

| [unionveterans.org](https://unionveterans.org)

