

For Immediate Release

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**Texas VFW Lauds State Sen. Dawn Buckingham for filing SB 989 and
State Sen. Donna Campbell for her steadfast support of the Texas VFW**

AUSTIN, TEXAS—*SB 989 will allow Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Posts with a TABC license to be exempt from closure by future Emergency Orders.*

“The Texas VFW is grateful to our allies and friends in Congress, the Texas Legislature, and the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission (TABC) who have heard our concerns and assisted us with reopening our Posts since July 2020. We are particularly grateful to Sen. Dawn Buckingham for filing SB 989 and to Sen. Donna Campbell for her steadfast support of the Texas VFW, especially since July 2020 when our Posts with TABC licenses were shuttered.

“Emergency Orders related to the Covid-19 pandemic put over 290 Texas VFW Posts at risk of permanent closure during the past nine months due to a loss of revenue. It also limited Texas VFW Post Service Officers’ ability to provide support to Texas veterans accessing earned benefits.

“For over 100 years Texas VFW Posts have provided vital services to Veterans and their families across the State of Texas. In 2019 our VFW Posts completed 156,456 voluntary community service projects for a total benefit to Texas communities of over \$4.1 million. Additionally, our Posts donated another \$1.862 million directly to organizations in the communities we serve and 8,925 Texas middle school and high school students participated in the VFW Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy programs that awarded \$318,788 in college scholarships.

“SB 989 will address the legal shortcomings and procedures identified by the Covid-19 pandemic and will allow our more than 290 Posts to remain open regardless of any future emergency circumstances so that we can serve and contribute to our communities and care for all Veterans and their families as we have consistently for the past 100 years.

“The Texas VFW looks forward to working with the Sen. Buckingham and other members of the Texas Legislature and Gov. Abbott to facilitate passage of SB 989 so that VFW Post homes don't ever have to endure the hardship of closures again and continue our legacy of and commitment to service.”

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