

GI Bill Parity

The VFW's Concern:

The sacrifices of National Guard and Reserve members have continued to be overlooked for decades despite an increase in deployments since September 11, 2001. Though they have served alongside active duty service members during increasingly frequent activations both domestic and abroad, they do not always earn their Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education benefits at the same rate. This inequity has been highlighted during the frequent activations due to natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, and border security missions as National Guard and Reserve members have stood on the front lines administering relief and services.

Currently, Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility is based on active duty service for at least 90 days. For those in the reserve components, initial skills and training periods are deemed non-qualifying service. Also, full-time National Guard service and certain responses to national emergencies do not qualify.

This is a joint legislative priority for both the VFW and the Student Veterans of America (SVA). The 2024-2025 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellows have advocated on their college campuses around the country this academic year to bring awareness to this issue.

The VFW strongly urges Congress to pass legislation to allow National Guard and Reserve members to rightfully earn GI Bill benefits for every day served. It is long past time for parity with all the armed forces in earning VA education benefits. This inequity must end now.

The VFW Urges Congress to:

Pass the *Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025* to allow any day in uniform for which military pay is received to count toward Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility, creating equity for National Guard and Reserve members.

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