



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

## NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE

The strategic location of our office in Washington, D.C., enables us to closely monitor all legislative developments impacting veterans and actively engage directly with lawmakers.

Our National Legislative Service defines the VFW's legislative priority goals and serves as a powerful advocate for the veteran community, ensuring all veterans' voices are heard.



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For more information,  
contact VFW National Legislative Service at  
[vfwac@vfw.org](mailto:vfwac@vfw.org).

# LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES

**The VFW played an instrumental role in virtually every significant piece of veterans' legislation passed in the 20th century, as well as bills enacted in the 21st century.**

1917	War Risk Insurance Act Amendments	1979	Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program	2014	Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act
1918	Vocational Rehabilitation Act	1980	Called for Agent Orange study		In-State Tuition for Post-9/11 GI Bill eligible veterans
1919	Census Act Rider on Veterans Preference Discharge Allowance		Veterans Rehabilitation & Education Amendments		Advance appropriations for VA benefits
1920	Widows and Orphans Pension Act (Spanish-American War)	1981	Former POW Benefits Act	2015	Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act
1921	Veterans Bureau Act		Veterans Health Care, Training & Small Business Loan Act		Eliminated 1% COLA reduction penalty on future military retirees
1923	Veterans Preference Point System	1982	Veterans Employment and Training Service		Created government match to military Thrift Savings Plan accounts
1924	House Committee on Veterans' Affairs		Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated	2016	Toxic Exposure Research Act to evaluate impact on descendants
	World War Adjusted Compensation Act	1983	Emergency Veterans Job-Training Act		Enhanced fertility treatment and adoption services
1925	Senate Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs	1984	Montgomery GI Bill	2017	Forever GI Bill
1926	Spanish-American War Veterans		Veterans Dioxin & Radiation Exposure Compensation		Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act
	New Johnson Act (WWI benefits)		Standards Act: Agent Orange & Atomic Exposure		VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act
1930	Veterans Administration	1987	New GI Bill Continuation Act		Global War on Terrorism Memorial
	World War Service Disability Pension Act	1988	Radiation-Exposed Veterans Compensation Act		Improved VA hiring and retention authorities
1931	Bacharach Amendment allows borrowing on WWI bonus certificates		Department of Veterans Affairs Act		Veterans Choice Program improvements and expansion
	Wagner-Peyser Act: Veterans Employment Service	1989	Veterans Judicial Review Act		Declassified toxic exposure documents
1934	Pension for widows of WWI vets		VA becomes a Cabinet department		Prevented significant TRICARE copayment increases
1936	VFW congressional charter signed by President Roosevelt	1990	United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims	2018	Expanded caregiver benefits to veterans of all eras
	Bonus bonds (\$2.4 billion) to WWI vets redeemable	1991	Agent Orange service connection		VA MISSION Act community care program
1938	Armistice Day (Nov. 11) legal holiday		Agent Orange Act		Process to evaluate and improve VA facilities to better serve veterans
1940	National Service Life Insurance	1992	Persian Gulf War Veterans Assistance Act		Defeated proposed cuts to Individual Unemployability
	Selective Service & Training Act	1996	Veterans Health Care Act	2019	Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act
1943	Benefits to WWII veterans	1999	Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act		Elimination of the Widow's Tax
	Disabled Veterans Rehabilitation Act	2003	Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act	2020	Added bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and parkinsonism to VA's list of presumptive conditions associated with exposure to Agent Orange
1944	GI Bill of Rights	2004	Concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 50% disabled or more		Changed the statutory definition of Vietnam veterans to include individuals who served in the Republic of Vietnam from Nov. 1, 1955, to Feb. 27, 1961
	Veterans Preference Act	2005	Full concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 100% disabled		Deborah Sampson Act
1946	Veteran Emergency Housing Act		Traumatic Injury Insurance supplemental created		Elimination of the 12-year limit on using Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) benefits
1947	Bureau of Veterans Re-employment Rights	2006	Protesters banned from military funerals		Expanded maternity care options from community providers
1950	Vocational Rehabilitation Act		Stolen Valor Act	2021	PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act
1951	Servicemen's Indemnity & Insurance	2008	Called for VA/military health care system review after Walter Reed outpatient debacle		Honoring our PACT Act
1952	Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (Korean War GI Bill)	2009	Record VA discretionary budget approved		Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act
1954	Veterans Compensation Act	2010	21st Century GI Bill		Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act
	November 11 declared as Veterans Day		Advance appropriations for VA		UCMJ reform on sexual assault and harassment
1962	Veterans Benefits Act (Cold War GI Bill)		Family Caregiver Act	2022	Senator Elizabeth Dole Act, which included the Not Just a Number Act
1966	Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act (Vietnam War GI Bill)		Ensured all VA and DOD health care programs met minimum health care coverage standards		
1970	Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs	2011	VOW to Hire Heroes Act		
1972	Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act		Stopped TRICARE premiums from increasing annually		
1973	Federal court agrees veterans preference applies to state jobs	2012	Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act	2024	
1974	Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act		Extended USERRA protections to veterans working for TSA		
1976	Veterans Education & Employment Assistance Act		Reinstated Military Tuition Assistance programs		
1977	Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Act	2013	Amended Stolen Valor Act		
1978	Veterans preference preserved		Stopped Creation of Distinguished Warfare Medal (Drone Medal)		
	Veterans & Survivors Pension Improvement Act				
	Veterans Day returned to Nov. 11				

*Note: In each case, this is the year an act was passed or an institution established.*