



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 [vfw.org](http://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	1981	Former POW Benefits Act	2015	Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act
1918	Vocational Rehabilitation Act		Veterans Health Care, Training & Small Business Loan Act		Eliminated 1% COLA reduction penalty on future military retirees
1919	Census Act Rider on Veterans Preference Discharge Allowance	1982	Veterans Employment and Training Service		Created government match to military Thrift Savings Plan accounts
1920	Widows and Orphans Pension Act (Spanish-American War)	1983	Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated	2016	Toxic Exposure Research Act to evaluate impact on descendants
1921	Veterans Bureau Act	1984	Emergency Veterans Job-Training Act		Enhanced fertility treatment and adoption services
1923	Veterans Preference Point System		Montgomery GI Bill	2017	Forever GI Bill gives veterans a lifetime to use GI Bill benefits
1924	House Committee on Veterans' Affairs		Veterans Dioxin & Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act: Agent Orange & Atomic Exposure		Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act
1925	World War Adjusted Compensation Act	1987	New GI Bill Continuation Act		VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act
1926	Senate Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs	1988	Radiation-Exposed Veterans Compensation Act		Global War on Terrorism Memorial
	Spanish-American War benefits		Department of Veterans Affairs Act		Improved VA hiring and retention authorities
	New Johnson Act (WWI benefits)		Veterans Judicial Review Act		Veterans Choice Program improvements and expansion
1930	Veterans Administration	1989	VA becomes a Cabinet department		Declassified toxic exposure documents
	World War Service Disability Pension Act		Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims		Prevented significant copayment increases for TRICARE
1931	Bacharach Amendment allows borrowing on WWI bonus certificates	1990	Agent Orange service-connection		Expanded caregiver benefits to veterans of all eras
1933	Wagner-Peyser Act: Veterans Employment Service	1991	Agent Orange Act	2018	Consolidated community care into one improved program
1934	Pension for widows of WWI vets	1992	Persian Gulf War Veterans Assistance Act		Established a process to evaluate and improve VA facilities to better serve veterans
1936	VFW congressional charter signed by President Roosevelt Bonus bonds (\$2.4 billion) to WWI vets redeemable	1996	Veterans Health Care Act		Defeated proposed cuts to Individual Unemployability
		1999	Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act		Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act
1938	Armistice Day (Nov. 11) legal holiday	2003	Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act		Elimination of the Widow's Tax
1940	National Service Life Insurance Selective Service & Training Act	2004	Concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 50% disabled or more	2019	Added bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and parkinsonism to VA's list of presumptive conditions associated with exposure to Agent Orange
1943	Benefits to WWII veterans	2004	Full concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 100% disabled		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
	Disabled Veterans Rehabilitation Act	2005	Traumatic Injury Insurance supplemental created	2020	Deborah Sampson Act
1944	GI Bill of Rights		Protestors banned from military funerals		Elimination of the 12-year limit on using Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) benefits
	Veterans Preference Act	2006	Stolen Valor Act signed into law		Expanded maternity care options from community providers
1946	Veteran Emergency Housing Act		VFW calls for VA/military health care system review after Walter Reed outpatient debacle		PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act
1947	Bureau of Veterans Re-employment Rights	2008	Record VA discretionary budget approved	2022	Honoring our PACT Act
1950	Vocational Rehabilitation Act		GI Bill for the 21st Century signed into law		Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act
1951	Servicemen's Indemnity & Insurance	2009	Advance Appropriations for VA becomes law		Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act
1952	Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (Korean War GI Bill)	2010	Family Caregiver legislation signed into law		UCMJ reform on sexual assault and harassment
1954	Veterans Compensation Act		Ensured all VA and DOD health care programs met minimum health care coverage standards	2021	Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, which included the Not Just A Number Act
	November 11 declared as Veterans Day	2011	VOW to Hire Heroes Act		
1962	Veterans Benefits Act (Cold War GI Bill)		VFW stopped TRICARE premiums from increasing annually		
1966	Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act (Vietnam War GI Bill)	2012	Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act		
1970	Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs		Extended USERRA protections to veterans working for TSA	2024	
1972	Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act		Reinstated military Tuition Assistance programs		
1973	Federal court agrees veterans preference applies to state jobs	2013	New Stolen Valor Act signed into law		
1974	Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act		Stopped Creation of Distinguished Warfare Medal (Drone Medal)		
1976	Veterans Education & Employment Assistance Act	2014	Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act		
1977	Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Act	2014	In-State Tuition for Post-9/11 GI Bill eligible veterans		
1978	Veterans preference preserved Veterans & Survivors Pension Improvement Act		Advance appropriations for VA Benefits		
	Veterans Day returned to Nov. 11				
1979	Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program				
1980	VFW calls for Agent Orange study				
	Veterans Rehabilitation & Education Amendments				

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