

Legislative Victories

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.

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



- 1917 War Risk Insurance Act Amendments
- 1918 Vocational Rehabilitation Act (P.L. 178)
- 1919 Census Act Rider on Veterans Preference Discharge Allowance
- 1920 Widows and Orphans Pension Act (Spanish-America War)
- 1921 Veterans Bureau Act
- 1923 Veterans Preference Point System
- 1924 House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
World War Adjusted Compensation Act
- 1925 Senate Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs
- 1926 Spanish-American War benefits
New Johnson Act (WWI benefits)
- 1930 Veterans Administration (VA) World War Service Disability Pension Act (P.L. 522)
- 1931 Bacharach Amendment (P.L. 743) allows borrowing on WWI bonus certificates
- 1933 Wagner-Peyser Act: Veterans Employment Service
- 1934 Pension for widows of WWI vets
- 1936 VFW congressional charter signed by President Roosevelt
Bonus bonds (\$2.4 billion) to WWI vets redeemable
- 1938 Armistice Day (Nov. 11) legal holiday
- 1940 National Service Life Insurance
Selective Service & Training Act
- 1943 Benefits to WWII veterans (P.L. 10)
Disabled Veterans Rehabilitation Act
- 1944 GI Bill of Rights (P.L. 346)
Veterans Preference Act
- 1946 Veteran Emergency Housing Act
- 1947 Bureau of Veterans Re-employment Rights (BVRR)
- 1950 Vocational Rehabilitation Act
- 1951 Servicemen's Indemnity & Insurance
- 1952 Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (Korean War GI Bill)
- 1954 Veterans Compensation Act
November 11 declared as Veterans Day (P.L. 380)
- 1962 Veterans Benefits Act (Cold War GI Bill)
- 1966 Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act (P.L. 89-358)
(Vietnam War GI Bill)
- 1970 Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs
- 1972 Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act
- 1973 Federal court agrees veterans preference applies to state jobs
- 1974 Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act
(vocational rehabilitation)
- 1976 Veterans Education & Employment Assistance Act
- 1977 Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Act
- 1978 Veterans preference preserved
Veterans & Survivors Pension Improvement Act
Veterans Day returned to Nov. 11
- 1979 Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program (creates Vet Centers)
- 1980 VFW calls for Agent Orange study
Veterans Rehabilitation & Education Amendments
- 1981 Former POW Benefits Act
Veterans Health Care, Training & Small Business Loan Act
- 1982 Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS)
Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated
- 1983 Emergency Veterans Job-Training Act
- 1984 Montgomery GI Bill/Veterans Dioxin & Radiation Exposure
Compensation Standards Act (P.L. 98-542): Agent Orange & Atomic Exposure
- 1987 New GI Bill Continuation Act
- 1988 Radiation-Exposed Veterans Compensation Act
Department of Veterans Affairs Act
Veterans Judicial Review Act
- 1989 VA becomes a Cabinet department Court of Appeals for
Veterans Claims
- 1990 Agent Orange service-connection
- 1991 Agent Orange Act (P.L. 102-4)
Persian Gulf War Veterans Assistance Act (P.L. 102-25)
- 1992 Veterans Health-Care Act
- 1996 Veterans Health-Care Eligibility Reform Act
- 1999 Veterans Millennium Health-Care and Benefits Act
- 2003 Concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 50% disabled
or more
- 2004 Full concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 100%
disabled
Traumatic Injury Insurance supplemental created
- 2005 Protestors banned from military funerals
Stolen Valor Act signed into law
- 2006 VFW calls for VA/military health care system review after
Walter Reed outpatient debacle
- 2008 Record VA discretionary budget approved
GI Bill for the 21st Century signed into law
- 2009 Advanced Appropriations for VA becomes law
- 2010 Family Caregiver Legislation signed into law
Ensured all VA and DOD health care programs met
minimum
health care coverage standards
- 2011 VOW to Hire Heroes Act
VFW stopped TRICARE premiums from increasing
annually
- 2012 Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp
Lejeune
Families Act
Extended USERRA protections to veterans working for
TSA
- 2013 Reinstated military Tuition Assistance programs
New Stolen Valor Act signed into law
Stopped Creation of Distinguished Warfare Medal
(Drone Medal)
- 2014 Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014
In-State Tuition for Post-9/11 GI Bill eligible veterans
Advance appropriations for VA Benefits
- 2015 Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans
(SAV) Act
Eliminated 1% COLA reduction penalty on future
military retirees
Created government match to military Thrift Savings
Plan accounts
- 2016 Toxic Exposure Research Act to evaluate impact on
descendants
Enhanced fertility treatment and adoption services
- 2017 Forever GI Bill gives veterans a lifetime to use GI Bill
benefits
Streamlined claims appeals process
VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act
Global War on Terrorism memorial

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Improved VA hiring and retention authorities
Veterans Choice Program improvements and expansion
Declassifying Toxic Exposure Documents
Prevented significant copayment increases for TRICARE