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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. 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
1919 Census Act Rider on Veterans Preference Discharge Allowance
1920 Widows and Orphans Pension Act (Spanish-American War)
1921 Veterans Bureau Act
1923 Veterans Preference Point System
1924 House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
1926 Spanish-American War benefits
1930 Veterans Administration
1931 Bacharach Amendment 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
1938 Armistice Day (Nov. 11) legal holiday
1940 National Service Life Insurance
1941 Selective Service & Training Act
1943 Benefits to WWII veterans
1944 GI Bill of Rights
1946 Veterans Preference Act
1947 Bureau of Veterans Re-employment Rights
1950 Vocational Rehabilitation Act
1951 Servicemen’s Indemnity & Insurance
1952 Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (Korean War GI Bill)
1954 Veterans Compensation Act
1956 Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act (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
1976 Veterans Education & Employment Assistance Act
1977 Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Act
1978 Veterans preference preserved
1979 Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program
1980 VFW calls for Agent Orange study
1981 Former POW Benefits Act
1982 Veterans Employment and Training Service
1983 Emergency Veterans Job-Training Act
1984 Montgomery GI Bill
1985 Veterans Dioxin & Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act: Agent Orange & Atomic Exposure
1987 New GI Bill Continuation Act
1988 Radiation-Exposed Veterans Compensation Act
1989 VA becomes a Cabinet department
1990 Agent Orange service-connection
1991 Agent Orange Act
1992 Veterans Health Care Act
1996 Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act
1999 Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act
2000 Concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 50% disabled or more
2004 Full concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 100% disabled
2005 Protestors banned from military funerals
2006 VFW calls for VA/military health care system review after Walter Reed outpatient debacle
2008 Record VA discretionary budget approved
2009 Advance Appropriations for VA becomes law
2010 Family Caregiver legislation signed into law
2011 VOW to Hire Heroes Act
2012 Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act
2013 Reinstated military Tuition Assistance programs
2014 Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act
2016 Toxic Exposure Research Act to evaluate impact on descendants
2017 Forever GI Bill gives veterans a lifetime to use GI Bill benefits
2018 Expanded caregiver benefits to veterans of all eras
2019 Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act
2020 family Caregiver legislation signed into law
Ensured all VA and DOD health care programs met minimum health care coverage standards
2021 VFW to Hire Heroes Act
VFW stopped TRICARE premiums from increasing annually
2022 Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act
Extended USERRA protections to veterans working for TSA
2023 Reinstated military Tuition Assistance programs
New Stolen Valor Act signed into law
Stopped Creation of Distinguished Warfare Medal (Drone Medal)
2024 Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act
2025 Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act
Eliminated 1% COLA reduction penalty on future military retirees
Created government match to military Thrift Savings Plan accounts
2026 Toxic Exposure Research Act to evaluate impact on descendants
Enhanced fertility treatment and adoption services
2027 Forever GI Bill gives veterans a lifetime to use GI Bill benefits
Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act
VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act
Global War on Terrorism Memorial
Improved VA hiring and retention authorities
Veterans Choice Program improvements and expansion
Declassified toxic exposure documents
Prevented significant copayment increases for TRICARE
2028 Expanded caregiver benefits to veterans of all eras
Consolidated community care into one improved program
Established a process to evaluate and improve VA facilities to better serve veterans
Defeated proposed cuts to Individual Unemployability
2029 Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act