



VFW Facts: Legislative Victories

VFW played an instrumental role in virtually every significant piece of veterans' legislation passed in the 20th century, as well as bills developed in the 21st century. Note: In each case, this is the year an act was passed or an institution established.

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| 1917 | War Risk Insurance Act Amendments | 1987 | New GI Bill Continuation Act |
| 1918 | Vocational Rehabilitation Act (P.L. 178) | 1988 | Radiation-Exposed Veterans Compensation Act |
| 1919 | Census Act Rider on Veterans Preference Discharge Allowance | | Department of Veterans Affairs Act |
| 1920 | Widows & Orphans Pension Act (Spanish-American War) | | Veterans Judicial Review Act |
| 1921 | Veterans Bureau Act | | Veterans Benefits & Improvement Act |
| 1923 | Veterans Preference Point System | 1989 | VA becomes a Cabinet department |
| 1924 | House Veterans Affairs Committee | | Court of Veterans Appeals |
| | World War Veterans Act | 1990 | Agent Orange service-connection |
| | World War Adjusted Compensation Act | 1991 | Agent Orange Act (P.L. 102-4) |
| 1925 | Senate Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs | | Persian Gulf War Veterans Assistance Act (P.L. 102-25) |
| 1926 | Spanish-American War benefits | | Veterans Benefits Improvement Act (P.L. 102-86) |
| | New Johnson Act (WWI benefits) | 1992 | Veterans Health-Care Act |
| 1930 | Veterans Administration (VA) | 1996 | Veterans Health-Care Eligibility Reform Act |
| | World War Service Disability Pension Act (P.L. 522) | 1999 | Veterans Millennium Health-Care and Benefits Act |
| 1931 | Bacharach Amendment (P.L. 743) allows borrowing on WWI bonus certificates | 2000 | Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000 (PL 106-419) |
| 1933 | Wagner-Peyser Act: Veterans Employment Service | 2001 | Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act (PL 107-103) |
| 1934 | Pension for widows of WWI vets | 2002 | Jobs for Veterans Act (PL 107-288) |
| 1936 | Bonus bonds (\$2.4 billion) to WWI vets redeemable | | VFW Charter Act (PL 107-242) |
| 1938 | Armistice Day (Nov. 11) legal holiday | 2003 | Veterans Benefits Act (PL 108-183) |
| 1940 | Philippine Travel Pay Bill | | Military Family Tax Relief Act (PL 108-121) |
| | National Service Life Insurance | | Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (PL 108-189) |
| | Selective Service & Training Act | | Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Act (PL 108-126) |
| 1943 | Benefits to WWII veterans (P.L. 10) | 2004 | Concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 100% disabled (P.L. 108-136) |
| | Disabled Veterans Rehabilitation Act | | Veterans Health Programs Improvements Act (PL 108-422) |
| 1944 | GI Bill of Rights (P.L. 346) | | VFW Anniversary Recognition – S. Res. 444 & H. J. Res 108 |
| | Veterans Preference Act | 2005 | Traumatic Injury Insurance supplemental created (S. 806) |
| | Mustering-Out Pay Act | | Blocked review of 72,000 cases of severely disabled veterans suffering from PTSD: <i>(Congress added language to Appropriations bill to prevent VA from future reviews.)</i> |
| | Extra pay for combat infantrymen | | Increased SGLI to \$400,000, created a traumatic injury supplemental insurance program of up to \$100,000 and increased the death gratuity to \$100,000 (PL 109-13) |
| 1946 | Veteran Emergency Housing Act | 2006 | VFW Passes Resolution to Support War in Iraq. |
| 1947 | Bureau of Veterans Re-employment Rights (BVRR) | | Respect for Fallen Heroes Act (PL 109-228) makes it illegal to protest at military funerals. |
| 1948 | Cash subsistence for GI Bill increased | | Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2006 (PL 109-233) |
| 1950 | Vocational Rehabilitation Act | | Call Home Act of 2006 (PL 109-459) reduces telephone communications costs for military personnel stationed overseas. |
| 1951 | Servicemen's Indemnity & Insurance | 2007 | VFW calls for VA/military healthcare system review after Walter Reed outpatient debacle. |
| 1952 | Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (Korean War GI Bill) | | Wounded Warrior Act is incorporated into the FY2008 Defense Authorization Act: |
| 1954 | Veterans Compensation Act | | - <i>Provides seamless transition between active duty and veterans' status, including a single physical exam for DOD and VA benefits;</i> |
| | Nov. 11 as Veterans Day (P.L. 380) | | - <i>Extends VA health care eligibility for returning vets from 2 to 5 years</i> |
| 1962 | Veterans Benefits Act (Cold War GI Bill) | | <i>Improves VA efforts regarding veterans with traumatic brain injury and mental health issues</i> |
| 1966 | Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act (P.L. 89-358) (Vietnam War GI Bill) | | Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act |
| 1970 | Senate Veterans Affairs Committee | | - <i>Expresses the sense of Congress that suicide among veterans suffering from PTSD is a serious problem and asked the Secretary of VA to develop and implement a comprehensive program with special consideration of such veterans who are at risk for depression and suicide.</i> |
| 1972 | Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (raised GI Bill stipend to \$220 per month) | | Military Reservist & Veterans Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act |
| 1973 | Federal court agrees veterans' preference applies to state jobs | | - <i>Expands SBA programs for veterans and military Reservists</i> |
| 1974 | Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (vocational rehabilitation) | | - <i>Reauthorizes SBA programs for veterans and Reservists for two years and provides up to \$4.4 million on Veterans Business Outreach Centers</i> |
| 1976 | Veterans Education & Employment Assistance Act | | Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2007 |
| 1977 | Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Act | | - <i>Increases by 2.3 % the rates of disability compensation and DIC</i> |
| 1978 | Veterans preference preserved | 2008 | Record VA discretionary budget approved |
| | VA home loan increase | | |
| | Veterans & Survivors Pension Improvement Act | | |
| | Veterans Day returned to Nov. 11 | | |
| 1979 | First joint meeting of House/Senate Veterans Affairs committees | | |
| | Veterans Outreach Program (P.L. 96-22) (creates Vet Centers for PTSD counseling) | | |
| | Vietnam Era Veterans Week | | |
| 1980 | VFW calls for Agent Orange study | | |
| | VA home loan increase | | |
| | Veterans Rehabilitation & Education Amendments | | |
| 1981 | Former POW Benefits Act | | |
| | Veterans Health Care, Training & Small Business Loan Act 1982 | | |
| 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): <i>Agent Orange & Atomic Exposure</i> | | |