



## 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  |      | New GI Bill for the 21st Century passed  |
|      | 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 &amp; Atomic Exposure</i> |      |  |