



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

Veterans & Survivors Pension Improvement Act

Veterans Day returned to Nov. 11

Amendments

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1918 Vocational Rehabilitation Act (P.L. 178) 1919 Census Act Rider on Veterans Preference Discharge Allowance 1920 Widows & Orphans Pension Act (Spanish-American War) 1921 Veterans Bureau Act 1923 Veterans Preference Point System 1924 House Veterans Affairs Committee World War Veterans Act 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 Bonus bonds (\$2.4 billion) to WWI vets redeemable 1938 Armistice Day (Nov. 11) legal holiday 1940 Philippine Travel Pay Bill 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 Mustering-Out Pay Act Extra pay for combat infantrymen 1946 Veteran Emergency Housing Act 1947 Bureau of Veterans Re-employment Rights (BVRR) 1948 Cash subsistence for GI Bill increased 1950 Vocational Rehabilitation Act 1951 Servicemen's Indemnity & Insurance 1952 Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (Korean War GI Bill) 1954 Veterans Compensation Act Nov. 11 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 Veterans Affairs Committee 1972 Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (raised GI Bill stipend to \$220 per month) 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 VA home loan increase | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1979 First joint meeting of House/Senate Veterans Affairs committees Vietnam 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 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 Veterans Benefits & Improvement Act 1989 VA becomes a Cabinet department Court of Veterans Appeals 1990 Agent Orange service-connection 1991 Agent Orange Act (P.L. 102-4) Persian Gulf War Veterans Assistance Act (P.L. 102-25) Veterans Benefits Improvement Act (P.L. 102-86) 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 (P.L. 108-136) 2004 Full concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 100% disabled (P.L. 108-375) 2005 Traumatic Injury Insurance supplemental created (S. 806) 2006 Protestors banned from military funerals (H.R. 5037) VFW Passes Resolution to Support War in Iraq 2007 VFW calls for VA/military healthcare system review after Walter Reed outpatient debacle 2008 Record VA discretionary budget approved 21st Century GI Bill that rewards transitioning military personnel with educational benefits that reflect today's high cost 2009 Advanced Appropriations for VA becomes law |
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