



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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VFW 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.

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| 1917 | War Risk Insurance Act Amendments | 1982 | Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) |
| 1918 | Vocational Rehabilitation Act (P.L. 178) | | Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated |
| 1919 | Census Act Rider on Veterans Preference Discharge Allowance | 1983 | Emergency Veterans Job-Training Act |
| 1920 | Widows & Orphans Pension Act (Spanish-American War) | 1984 | Montgomery GI Bill |
| 1921 | Veterans Bureau Act | | Veterans Dioxin & Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act (P.L. 98-542): Agent Orange & Atomic Exposure |
| 1923 | Veterans Preference Point System | 1987 | New GI Bill Continuation Act |
| 1924 | House Veterans Affairs Committee | 1988 | Radiation-Exposed Veterans Compensation Act |
| | World War Adjusted Compensation Act | | Department of Veterans Affairs Act |
| 1925 | Senate Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs | | Veterans Judicial Review Act |
| 1926 | Spanish-American War benefits | 1989 | VA becomes a Cabinet department |
| | New Johnson Act (WWI benefits) | | Court of Veterans Appeals |
| 1930 | Veterans Administration (VA) | 1990 | Agent Orange service-connection |
| | World War Service Disability Pension Act (P.L. 522) | 1991 | Agent Orange Act (P.L. 102-4) |
| 1931 | Bacharach Amendment (P.L. 743) allows borrowing on WWI bonus certificates | | Persian Gulf War Veterans Assistance Act (P.L. 102-25) |
| 1933 | Wagner-Peyser Act: Veterans Employment Service | 1992 | Veterans Health-Care Act |
| 1934 | Pension for widows of WWI vets | 1996 | Veterans Health-Care Eligibility Reform Act |
| 1936 | Bonus bonds (\$2.4 billion) to WWI vets redeemable | 1999 | Veterans Millennium Health-Care and Benefits Act |
| 1938 | Armistice Day (Nov. 11) legal holiday | 2003 | Concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 50% disabled or more (P.L. 108-136) |
| 1940 | National Service Life Insurance | 2004 | Full concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 100% disabled (P.L. 108-375) |
| | Selective Service & Training Act | 2005 | Traumatic Injury Insurance supplemental created |
| 1943 | Benefits to WWII veterans (P.L. 10) | 2006 | Protestors banned from military funerals |
| | Disabled Veterans Rehabilitation Act | | Stolen Valor Act signed into law |
| 1944 | GI Bill of Rights (P.L. 346) | 2007 | VFW calls for VA/military healthcare system review after Walter Reed outpatient debacle |
| | Veterans Preference Act | | Record VA discretionary budget approved |
| 1946 | Veteran Emergency Housing Act | 2008 | GI Bill for the 21 st Century signed into law |
| 1947 | Bureau of Veterans Re-employment Rights (BVRR) | 2009 | Advanced Appropriations for VA becomes law |
| 1950 | Vocational Rehabilitation Act | 2010 | Family Caregiver Legislation signed into law |
| 1951 | Servicemen's Indemnity & Insurance | | Ensured all VA and DOD health care programs met minimum health care coverage standards |
| 1952 | Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (Korean War GI Bill) | 2011 | VOW to Hire Heroes Act |
| 1954 | Veterans Compensation Act | | VFW stopped TRICARE premiums from increasing annually |
| | Nov. 11 as Veterans Day (P.L. 380) | 2012 | Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act |
| 1962 | Veterans Benefits Act (Cold War GI Bill) | | Extended USERRA protections to veterans working for TSA |
| 1966 | Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act (P.L. 89-358) (Vietnam War GI Bill) | 2013 | Reinstated military Tuition Assistance programs |
| 1970 | Senate Veterans Affairs Committee | | New Stolen Valor Act signed into law |
| 1972 | Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act | | Stopped Creation of Distinguished Warfare Medal (Drone Medal) |
| 1973 | Federal court agrees veterans preference applies to state jobs | 2014 | Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 |
| 1974 | Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (vocational rehabilitation) | | In-State Tuition for Post 9/11 GI Bill eligible veterans |
| 1976 | Veterans Education & Employment Assistance Act | | Veterans Funding First Act: Advance appropriations for VA Benefits |
| 1977 | Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Act | 2015 | Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans (SAV) Act |
| 1978 | Veterans preference preserved | | Eliminated 1% COLA reduction penalty on future military retirees |
| | Veterans & Survivors Pension Improvement Act | | Created government match to military Thrift Savings Plan accounts |
| | Veterans Day returned to Nov. 11 | 2016 | Toxic exposure research |
| 1979 | First joint meeting of House/Senate Veterans Affairs Committees | | In Vitro Fertilization treatments for wounded veterans |
| | Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program (creates Vet Centers) | | Discharge upgrade process for those discharged due to mental health conditions |
| 1980 | VFW calls for Agent Orange study | | Eighteen month extension for GI Bill benefits if a college loses their accreditation |
| | Veterans Rehabilitation & Education Amendments | | |
| 1981 | Former POW Benefits Act | | |
| | Veterans Health Care, Training & Small Business Loan Act | | |