

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.

Media Contacts:

Joe Davis, Director, Communications, Publications & Public Affairs, 202-608-8357, jdavis@vfw.org

Randi Law, VFW Communications Manager, 816-968-1104, rlaw@vfw.org

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| 1917 War Risk Insurance Act Amendments | 1983 Emergency Veterans Job-Training Act |
| 1918 Vocational Rehabilitation Act (P.L. 178) | 1984 Montgomery GI Bill |
| 1919 Census Act Rider on Veterans Preference Discharge Allowance | Veterans Dioxin & Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act (P.L. 98-542): Agent Orange & Atomic Exposure |
| 1920 Widows and Orphans Pension Act (Spanish-American War) | 1987 New GI Bill Continuation Act |
| 1921 Veterans Bureau Act | 1988 Radiation-Exposed Veterans Compensation Act |
| 1923 Veterans Preference Point System | Department of Veterans Affairs Act |
| 1924 House Committee on Veterans' Affairs | Veterans Judicial Review Act |
| World War Adjusted Compensation Act | 1989 VA becomes a Cabinet department |
| 1925 Senate Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs | Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims |
| 1926 Spanish-American War benefits | 1990 Agent Orange service-connection |
| New Johnson Act (WWI benefits) | 1991 Agent Orange Act (P.L. 102-4) |
| 1930 Veterans Administration (VA) | Persian Gulf War Veterans Assistance Act (P.L. 102-25) |
| World War Service Disability Pension Act (P.L. 522) | 1992 Veterans Health-Care Act |
| 1931 Bacharach Amendment (P.L. 743) allows borrowing on WWI bonus certificates | 1996 Veterans Health-Care Eligibility Reform Act |
| 1933 Wagner-Peyser Act: Veterans Employment Service | 1999 Veterans Millennium Health-Care and Benefits Act |
| 1934 Pension for widows of WWI vets | 2003 Concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 50% disabled or more |
| 1936 VFW congressional charter signed by President Roosevelt | 2004 Full concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 100% disabled |
| Bonus bonds (\$2.4 billion) to WWI vets redeemable | Traumatic Injury Insurance supplemental created |
| 1938 Armistice Day (Nov. 11) legal holiday | 2005 Protestors banned from military funerals |
| 1940 National Service Life Insurance | Stolen Valor Act signed into law |
| Selective Service & Training Act | 2006 VFW calls for VA/military health care system review after Walter Reed outpatient debacle |
| 1943 Benefits to WWII veterans (P.L. 10) | 2008 Record VA discretionary budget approved |
| Disabled Veterans Rehabilitation Act | GI Bill for the 21 st Century signed into law |
| 1944 GI Bill of Rights (P.L. 346) | 2009 Advanced Appropriations for VA becomes law |
| Veterans Preference Act | 2010 Family Caregiver Legislation signed into law |
| 1946 Veteran Emergency Housing Act | Ensured all VA and DOD health care programs met minimum health care coverage standards |
| 1947 Bureau of Veterans Re-employment Rights (BVRR) | 2011 VOW to Hire Heroes Act |
| 1950 Vocational Rehabilitation Act | VFW stopped TRICARE premiums from increasing annually |
| 1951 Servicemen's Indemnity & Insurance | 2012 Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act |
| 1952 Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (Korean War GI Bill) | Extended USERRA protections to veterans working for TSA |
| 1954 Veterans Compensation Act | 2013 Reinstated military Tuition Assistance programs |
| November 11 declared as Veterans Day (P.L. 380) | New Stolen Valor Act signed into law |
| 1962 Veterans Benefits Act (Cold War GI Bill) | Stopped Creation of Distinguished Warfare Medal (Drone Medal) |
| 1966 Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act (P.L. 89-358) (Vietnam War GI Bill) | 2014 Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 |
| 1970 Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs | In-State Tuition for Post-9/11 GI Bill eligible veterans |
| 1972 Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act | Advance appropriations for VA Benefits |
| 1973 Federal court agrees veterans preference applies to state jobs | 2015 Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans (SAV) Act |
| 1974 Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (vocational rehabilitation) | Eliminated 1% COLA reduction penalty on future military retirees |
| 1976 Veterans Education & Employment Assistance Act | Created government match to military Thrift Savings Plan accounts |
| 1977 Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Act | 2016 Toxic Exposure Research Act to evaluate impact on descendants |
| 1978 Veterans preference preserved | Enhanced fertility treatment and adoption services |
| Veterans & Survivors Pension Improvement Act | 2017 Forever GI Bill gives veterans a lifetime to use GI Bill benefits |
| Veterans Day returned to Nov. 11 | Streamlined claims appeals process |
| 1979 Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program (creates Vet Centers) | VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act |
| 1980 VFW calls for Agent Orange study | Global War on Terrorism memorial |
| Veterans Rehabilitation & Education Amendments | Improved VA hiring and retention authorities |
| 1981 Former POW Benefits Act | Veterans Choice Program improvements and expansion |
| Veterans Health Care, Training & Small Business Loan Act | Declassifying Toxic Exposure Documents |
| 1982 Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) | Prevented significant copayment increases for TRICARE |
| Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated | |