



# 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 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  | 1981 | Former POW Benefits Act  |
| 1918 | Vocational Rehabilitation Act (P.L. 178)   |      | Veterans Health Care, Training & Small Business Loan Act   |
| 1919 | Census Act Rider on Veterans Preference Discharge Allowance  | 1982 | Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS)<br>Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated   |
| 1920 | Widows & Orphans Pension Act (Spanish-American War)  | 1983 | Emergency Veterans Job-Training Act  |
| 1921 | Veterans Bureau Act  | 1984 | Montgomery GI Bill<br>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<br>World War Veterans Act<br>World War Adjusted Compensation Act                          | 1988 | Radiation-Exposed Veterans Compensation Act<br>Department of Veterans Affairs Act<br>Veterans Judicial Review Act<br>Veterans Benefits & Improvement Act                                 |
| 1925 | Senate Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs  | 1989 | VA becomes a Cabinet department<br>Court of Veterans Appeals   |
| 1926 | Spanish-American War benefits<br>New Johnson Act (WWI benefits)  | 1990 | Agent Orange service-connection  |
| 1930 | Veterans Administration (VA)<br>World War Service Disability Pension Act (P.L. 522)  | 1991 | Agent Orange Act (P.L. 102-4)<br>Persian Gulf War Veterans Assistance Act (P.L. 102-25)<br>Veterans Benefits Improvement Act (P.L. 102-86)   |
| 1931 | Bacharach Amendment (P.L. 743) allows borrowing on WWI bonus certificates  | 1992 | Veterans Health-Care Act   |
| 1933 | Wagner-Peyser Act: Veterans Employment Service   | 1996 | Veterans Health-Care Eligibility Reform Act  |
| 1934 | Pension for widows of WWI vets   | 1999 | Veterans Millennium Health-Care and Benefits Act   |
| 1936 | Bonus bonds (\$2.4 billion) to WWI vets redeemable   | 2003 | Concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 50% disabled or more (P.L. 108-136)   |
| 1938 | Armistice Day (Nov. 11) legal holiday  | 2004 | Full concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 100% disabled (P.L. 108-375)   |
| 1940 | Philippine Travel Pay Bill<br>National Service Life Insurance<br>Selective Service & Training Act                          | 2005 | Traumatic Injury Insurance supplemental created  |
| 1943 | Benefits to WWII veterans (P.L. 10)<br>Disabled Veterans Rehabilitation Act  | 2006 | Protestors banned from military funerals<br>Stolen Valor Act signed into law   |
| 1944 | GI Bill of Rights (P.L. 346)<br>Veterans Preference Act  | 2007 | VFW calls for VA/military healthcare system review after Walter Reed outpatient debacle  |
| 1946 | Veteran Emergency Housing Act  | 2008 | Record VA discretionary budget approved<br>GI Bill for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century signed into law  |
| 1947 | Bureau of Veterans Re-employment Rights (BVRR)   | 2009 | Advance Appropriations for VA becomes law  |
| 1950 | Vocational Rehabilitation Act  | 2010 | Family Caregiver Legislation signed into law<br>Ensured all VA and DOD health care programs were recognized as meeting minimum coverage standards under national health care law         |
| 1951 | Servicemen's Indemnity & Insurance   | 2011 | VOW to Hire Heroes Act<br>VFW stopped TRICARE premiums from increasing annually  |
| 1952 | Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (Korean War GI Bill)  | 2012 | Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act<br>Extended USERRA protections to veterans working for TSA  |
| 1954 | Veterans Compensation Act<br>Nov. 11 as Veterans Day (P.L. 380)  | 2013 | Reinstated military Tuition Assistance programs<br>New Stolen Valor Act signed into law<br>Stopped Creation of Distinguished Warfare Medal (Drone Medal)                                 |
| 1962 | Veterans Benefits Act (Cold War GI Bill)   | 2014 | Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014<br>In-State Tuition for Post 9/11 GI Bill eligible veterans<br>Veterans Funding First Act: Advance appropriations for VA Benefits |
| 1966 | Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act (P.L. 89-358) (Vietnam War GI Bill)   | 2015 | Advance Appropriations for VA mandatory accounts becomes law<br>Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans (SAV) Act   |
| 1970 | Senate Veterans Affairs Committee  |      |  |
| 1972 | Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act   |      |  |
| 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<br>Veterans & Survivors Pension Improvement Act<br>Veterans Day returned to Nov. 11          |      |  |
| 1979 | First joint meeting of House/Senate Veterans Affairs Committees<br>Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program (creates Vet Centers) |      |  |
| 1980 | VFW calls for Agent Orange study<br>Veterans Rehabilitation & Education Amendments   |      |  |

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