



**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

# 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.*

## Media Contacts:

*Jerry Newberry, VFW communications director, 816-968-1168, [jnewberry@vfw.org](mailto:jnewberry@vfw.org)*

*Joe Davis, Washington Office public affairs director, 202-608-8357, [jdavis@vfw.org](mailto:jdavis@vfw.org)*

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|------|--|--|---|
| 1917 | War Risk Insurance Act Amendments  | VA home loan increase                        |   |
| 1918 | Vocational Rehabilitation Act (P.L. 178)   | Veterans & Survivors Pension Improvement Act |   |
| 1919 | Census Act Rider on Veterans Preference Discharge Allowance                                  | Veterans Day returned to Nov. 11             |   |
| 1920 | Widows & Orphans Pension Act (Spanish-American War)  | 1979   | First joint meeting of House/Senate Veterans Affairs committees   |
| 1921 | Veterans Bureau Act  |  | Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program (P.L. 96-22) (creates Vet Centers for PTSD counseling)  |
| 1923 | Veterans Preference Point System   |  | Vietnam Era Veterans Week   |
| 1924 | House Veterans Affairs Committee   | 1980   | VFW calls for Agent Orange study  |
|      | World War Veterans Act   |  | VA home loan increase   |
|      | World War Adjusted Compensation Act  |  | Veterans Rehabilitation & Education Amendments  |
| 1925 | Senate Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs  | 1981   | Former POW Benefits Act   |
| 1926 | Spanish-American War benefits  |  | Veterans Health Care, Training & Small Business Loan Act  |
|      | New Johnson Act (WWI benefits)   | 1982   | Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS)   |
| 1930 | Veterans Administration (VA)   |  | Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated   |
|      | World War Service Disability Pension Act (P.L. 522)  | 1983   | Emergency Veterans Job-Training Act   |
| 1931 | Bacharach Amendment (P.L. 743) allows borrowing on WWI bonus certificates                    | 1984   | Montgomery GI Bill  |
| 1933 | Wagner-Peyser Act: Veterans Employment Service   |  | Veterans Dioxin & Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act (P.L. 98-542): Agent Orange & Atomic Exposure                       |
| 1934 | Pension for widows of WWI vets   | 1987   | New GI Bill Continuation Act  |
| 1936 | Bonus bonds (\$2.4 billion) to WWI vets redeemable   | 1988   | Radiation-Exposed Veterans Compensation Act   |
| 1938 | Armistice Day (Nov. 11) legal holiday  |  | Department of Veterans Affairs Act  |
| 1940 | Philippine Travel Pay Bill   |  | Veterans Judicial Review Act  |
|      | National Service Life Insurance  |  | Veterans Benefits & Improvement Act   |
|      | Selective Service & Training Act   | 1989   | VA becomes a Cabinet department   |
| 1943 | Benefits to WWII veterans (P.L. 10)  |  | Court of Veterans Appeals   |
|      | Disabled Veterans Rehabilitation Act   | 1990   | Agent Orange service-connection   |
| 1944 | GI Bill of Rights (P.L. 346)   | 1991   | Agent Orange Act (P.L. 102-4)   |
|      | Veterans Preference Act  |  | Persian Gulf War Veterans Assistance Act (P.L. 102-25)  |
|      | Mustering-Out Pay Act  |  | Veterans Benefits Improvement Act (P.L. 102-86)   |
|      | Extra pay for combat infantrymen   | 1992   | Veterans Health-Care Act  |
| 1946 | Veteran Emergency Housing Act  | 1996   | Veterans Health-Care Eligibility Reform Act   |
| 1947 | Bureau of Veterans Re-employment Rights (BVRR)   | 1999   | Veterans Millennium Health-Care and Benefits Act  |
| 1948 | Cash subsistence for GI Bill increased   | 2003   | Concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 50% disabled or more (P.L. 108-136)  |
| 1950 | Vocational Rehabilitation Act  | 2004   | Full concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 100% disabled (P.L. 108-375)  |
| 1951 | Servicemen's Indemnity & Insurance   | 2005   | Traumatic Injury Insurance supplemental created (S. 806)  |
| 1952 | Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (Korean War GI Bill)                                    | 2006   | Protestors banned from military funerals (H.R. 5037)  |
| 1954 | Veterans Compensation Act  |  | VFW Passes Resolution to Support War in Iraq  |
|      | Nov. 11 as Veterans Day (P.L. 380)   | 2007   | VFW calls for VA/military healthcare system review after Walter Reed outpatient debacle   |
| 1962 | Veterans Benefits Act (Cold War GI Bill)   | 2008   | Record VA discretionary budget approved   |
| 1966 | Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act (P.L. 89-358) (Vietnam War GI Bill)                       |  | GI Bill for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century signed into law  |
| 1970 | Senate Veterans Affairs Committee  | 2009   | Advanced Appropriations for VA becomes law  |
| 1972 | Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (raised GI Bill stipend to \$220 per month) | 2010   | Family Caregiver Legislation signed into law  |
| 1973 | Federal court agrees veterans preference applies to state jobs                               |  | Ensured all VA and DOD healthcare programs were recognized as meeting minimum coverage standards under new national health care law |
| 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  |  |   |

VFW National Headquarters  
406 W. 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111  
(816) 756-3390, fax: 816-968-1199  
Web site: [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)