

The 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.

1917	War Risk Insurance Act Amendments	1981	Former POW Benefits Act	2015	Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act
1918	Vocational Rehabilitation Act		Veterans Health Care, Training & Small Business Loan Act		Eliminated 1% COLA reduction penalty on future military retirees
1919	Census Act Rider on Veterans Preference Discharge Allowance	1982	Veterans Employment and Training Service		Created government match to military Thrift Savings Plan accounts
1920	Widows and Orphans Pension Act (Spanish-American War)	1983	Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated	2016	Toxic Exposure Research Act to evaluate impact on descendants
1921	Veterans Bureau Act	1984	Emergency Veterans Job-Training Act		Enhanced fertility treatment and adoption services
1923	Veterans Preference Point System		Montgomery GI Bill	2017	Forever GI Bill gives veterans a lifetime to use GI Bill benefits
1924	House Committee on Veterans' Affairs		Veterans Dioxin & Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act: Agent Orange & Atomic Exposure		Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act
1925	World War Adjusted Compensation Act	1987	New GI Bill Continuation Act		VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act
1926	Senate Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs	1988	Radiation-Exposed Veterans Compensation Act		Global War on Terrorism Memorial
	Spanish-American War benefits		Department of Veterans Affairs Act		Improved VA hiring and retention authorities
	New Johnson Act (WWI benefits)		Veterans Judicial Review Act		Veterans Choice Program improvements and expansion
1930	Veterans Administration	1989	VA becomes a Cabinet department		Declassified toxic exposure documents
	World War Service Disability Pension Act		VA becomes a Cabinet department		Prevented significant copayment increases for TRICARE
1931	Bacharach Amendment allows borrowing on WWI bonus certificates	1990	Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims		Expanded caregiver benefits to veterans of all eras
1933	Wagner-Peyser Act: Veterans Employment Service	1991	Agent Orange service-connection		Consolidated community care into one improved program
1934	Pension for widows of WWI vets	1992	Agent Orange Act	2018	Established a process to evaluate and improve VA facilities to better serve veterans
1936	VFW congressional charter signed by President Roosevelt Bonus bonds (\$2.4 billion) to WWI vets redeemable	1996	Persian Gulf War Veterans Assistance Act		Defeated proposed cuts to Individual Unemployability
		1999	Veterans Health Care Act		Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act
1938	Armistice Day (Nov. 11) legal holiday	2003	Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act		Elimination of the Widow's Tax
1940	National Service Life Insurance Selective Service & Training Act	2004	Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act	2019	Added bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and parkinsonism to VA's list of presumptive conditions associated with exposure to Agent Orange
1943	Benefits to WWII veterans		Concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 50% disabled or more		Changed the statutory definition of Vietnam veterans to include individuals who served in the Republic of Vietnam from Nov. 1, 1955, to Feb. 27, 1961
	Disabled Veterans Rehabilitation Act	2004	Full concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 100% disabled	2020	Deborah Sampson Act
1944	GI Bill of Rights	2005	Traumatic Injury Insurance supplemental created		Elimination of the 12-year limit on using Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) benefits
	Veterans Preference Act		Protestors banned from military funerals		Expanded maternity care options from community providers
1946	Veteran Emergency Housing Act	2006	Stolen Valor Act signed into law		PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act
1947	Bureau of Veterans Re-employment Rights		VFW calls for VA/military health care system review after Walter Reed outpatient debacle	2022	Honoring our PACT Act
1950	Vocational Rehabilitation Act	2008	Record VA discretionary budget approved		Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act
1951	Servicemen's Indemnity & Insurance		GI Bill for the 21st Century signed into law		Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act
1952	Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (Korean War GI Bill)	2009	Advance Appropriations for VA becomes law		UCMJ reform on sexual assault and harassment
1954	Veterans Compensation Act	2010	Family Caregiver legislation signed into law	2021	Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, which included the Not Just A Number Act
	November 11 declared as Veterans Day		Ensured all VA and DOD health care programs met minimum health care coverage standards		
1962	Veterans Benefits Act (Cold War GI Bill)	2011	VOW to Hire Heroes Act		
1966	Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act (Vietnam War GI Bill)		VFW stopped TRICARE premiums from increasing annually		
1970	Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs	2012	Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act		
1972	Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act		Extended USERRA protections to veterans working for TSA	2024	
1973	Federal court agrees veterans preference applies to state jobs	2013	Reinstated military Tuition Assistance programs		
1974	Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act		New Stolen Valor Act signed into law		
1976	Veterans Education & Employment Assistance Act		Stopped Creation of Distinguished Warfare Medal (Drone Medal)		
1977	Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Act	2014	Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act		
1978	Veterans preference preserved Veterans & Survivors Pension Improvement Act	2014	In-State Tuition for Post-9/11 GI Bill eligible veterans		
	Veterans Day returned to Nov. 11		Advance appropriations for VA Benefits		
1979	Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program				
1980	VFW calls for Agent Orange study				
	Veterans Rehabilitation & Education Amendments				

Note: In each case, this is the year an act was passed or an institution established.