

“Honor the Dead by Helping the Living”



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States**

Veterans Service Division
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Department Veterans Service Committee

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Jessica King, Committee Member



Service Officer Bulletin Summer 2023 Issue

PACT ACT EXPIRATION DATE

As we get closer to the anniversary date of the signing of the PACT ACT all Post Service Officers are to ensure all veterans are informed that they need to File their claim prior to August 9, 2023.

By filing their claim prior to this date, they can receive back pay from the date of the signing of the PACT ACT to August 9, 2022

All claims filed after this date (August 9, 2023) will not receive back pay compensation.

HEALTH CARE ENROLLMENT

Veterans with service after September 11, 2001, will have special health care enrollment eligibility that expires on September 30, 2023.

Post Service Officers need to inform their Post Members of these dates.

DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION CLAIMS

There is an increase in filing claims for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for surviving spouse and dependent children or parent(s) of a veteran who died or died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness. Post Members need to immediately contact their accredited VSO in the Area (**Please see attached current accredited Service Officers/Claims Consultants contact information**) and make an appointment for the Family. **Post Service Officers** are not authorized to sign any forms related to any type of claim.

STATE VFW POST OFFICER TRAINING SESSIONS – REGIONAL EVENTS

Training for Post Service Officers will take place in the upcoming year and is mandatory for all Post Service Officers. The State will be divided into (3) three areas to allow maximum attendance at training. The first (1st) training session will be held at the Mid-Winter Conference January 19th thru January 21st in Cranberry, PA

VFW ACTION CORPS

The VFW Action Corps is what gives the VFW its strength in advocating for benefits for our nation's heroes. The VFW Action Corps Weekly is an e-newsletter published every Friday to help keep patriotic Americans, that care about the military and veterans' communities, well informed of significant changes and updates to care and benefits for service members, veterans, and their families. Sign up or scan the QR code below:

<https://www.vfw.org/ActionCorpsSignup>



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SUCIDE PREVENTION

Veterans Crisis Line:

Veterans, family members, and care providers can initiate a free and confidential conversation with an experienced and caring VA responder by calling the Veterans Crisis Line or. If you are concerned about the safety and well-being of a Veteran dial 988 for immediate assistance for suicide & crisis lifeline. Chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat to get support anonymously. A text message can be sent to 838255 to connect to a VA responder or call 800-273-8255 and Press 1. These resources can be used even if a Veteran is not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care.

Make the Connection:

For Veterans who are not in immediate crisis, there are many treatment options and resources available. One universal resource is the Make the Connection website (**[www.MakeThe Connection.net](http://www.MakeTheConnection.net)**) which provides a way for Veterans to privately explore mental health issues and difficult life experiences. You can read the stories and experiences of other Veterans; you are not alone.

Coaching Into Care:

A free, confidential coaching service that helps families and friends discover constructive ways to talk with Veterans about their concerns and treatment options. Visit **www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/** or call 1-888-823-7458, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time

SENATE BILLS/LEGISLATIVE

US SB 2078: A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take actions necessary to ensure that certain individuals may update the burn pit registry with the cause of death of a registered individual, and for other purposes.

US SB 1952: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for care from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

US SB 2431: A bill to require the Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to carry out a grant program to assist certain members or former members of the Armed Forces in transitioning to civilian life, and for other purposes.

US SB 2294: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish hospital care and medical services to veterans and dependents who were stationed at military installations at which those veterans and dependents were exposed to perfluorooctanoic acid or other... Toxic Exposure



**PENNSYLVANIA VFW ACCREDITED SERVICE OFFICERS AND
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