



Service Officer Update Aug 2021

VFW Dept of Ohio/ VFW National

- **Aug 4** The more than 1.5 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and its Auxiliary congratulate the U.S. Coast Guard, America's oldest continuous maritime service, on its 231 years of service and bravery defending our great nation.
- Since 2007, Burger King franchisees, and their customers have contributed over \$5 million to the VFW Unmet Needs program. The Unmet Needs program has provided more than \$10 million in assistance to nearly 9,000 veterans and military families since its inception in 2004.

American Legion Magazine, Aug 2021

On April 1, Veterans Readiness and Employment (VR&E) changed the limits on Post 9/11 GI Bill Benefits. Any using Chapter 31/Chapter 33 Benefits should contact the VA for clarification and eligibility of additional Benefits. (36 months of Chapter 31 may be eligible for additional 36 months of Chapter 33)

VFW Magazine, Aug 2021

VA started processing disability claims with three new Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

- Bladder Cancer
- Hypothyroidism
- Parkinsonism

VFW urges veterans who served in or off the coast of Vietnam or Thailand to contact a VA-accredited VFW service officer to eligibility for benefits related to Agent Orange exposure.

The Comprehensive and Overdue support for Troops (COST) Act of 2021 could allow all veterans who were at risk for toxic exposure to burn pits and other toxins to obtain access to VA health care and benefits. 11 different conditions are being considered and it would apply to all generations.

VA.gov/Veterans Affairs

VA processing disability claims for certain conditions related to particulate matter

VA is now processing disability claims for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis on a presumptive basis based on particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas – if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service.

This will expand benefits for Veterans who served in:

- Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria, and Uzbekistan during the Persian Gulf War, from September 19, 2001, to the present, **or**
- The Southwest Asia theater of operations from August 2, 1990, to the present

If you have a pending claim for one or more of these conditions, you don't need to do anything. We'll send you a decision notice when we complete our review.

For more information on the new presumptive conditions, visit our website at [Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures - Public Health \(va.gov\)](#).

To apply for benefits, Veterans and survivors may visit [VA.gov](#) or call toll-free at 800-827-1000.

Veterans have options as foreclosures, evictions bans set to expire

<https://blogs.va.gov/vantage/92589/veterans-have-options-as-foreclosure-evictions-bans-set-to-expire/>