



Veterans Group

For more information, go to nalc.org/veterans.

Veterans' legislative update

More than 30 percent of letter carriers have served in our nation's military. NALC is proud to represent these service members and closely monitors policies related to veterans. Congress has oversight of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and can introduce and pass legislation that affects veterans and their benefits.

Below is a sampling of recent bills introduced in Congress to address veterans' unique needs.

Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act—H.R. 8371

The leaders of the House and Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Chairman Mike Bost (R-IL), Chairman Jon Tester (D-MT) and Ranking Member Jerry Moran (R-KS), introduced this bill on May 14. It is a comprehensive package of bipartisan proposals to reform and improve the delivery of health care, benefits and VA services for veterans and their families. The VA would receive additional pay flexibilities for its health care workforce, set new requirements for the VA before it resumes the rollout of a new electronic health record, and more.

Maternal Health for Veterans Act—H.R. 3303/S. 2026

This bill was introduced in May 2023 in the House by Reps. Lauren Underwood (D-IL), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Julia Brownley (D-CA) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), and in the Senate in June 2023 by Sens. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Susan Collins (R-ME). The bill would help improve maternal care at the VA by authorizing new funding to ensure that the agency can provide more female veterans with the care they have earned. In April, the House version was marked up in the subcommittee but has yet to be considered by the

full House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Fiscal Year 2024 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act—H.R. 6324/S. 4176

This bill was introduced in the House by Chairman Bost and in the Senate by Chairman Tester and Ranking Member Moran. It would authorize 11 VA construction projects in Washington, Texas, Maryland, Oregon, Nevada, California, Puerto Rico, Missouri and Connecticut. The new infrastructure would help ensure that veterans can access the care and benefits they have earned. The House version advanced out of committee on May 1 and was reported to the full House. No committee action has been taken in the Senate.

1 million claims approved under PACT Act

In May, it was announced that more than 1 million PACT Act-related claims had been granted in the nearly two years since the law was enacted.

In August 2022, the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act was signed into law. It was the first law to provide care and benefits from the VA for millions of veterans who have been exposed to toxic exposure from burn pits. It improved the presumptive process by streamlining access to health care benefits for veterans, regardless of their disability status, who served in areas known for toxic exposure.

The law has helped veterans in every state and territory by screening for toxic exposure, prioritizing veterans with cancer, delivering benefits to survivors, and more. For more information on the PACT Act or to file a claim, visit va.gov/pact.

For updates on legislation and other congressional action that affects our veteran members, check the "Government Affairs" section on nalc.org.



Boston national convention

The NALC Veterans Group will host a booth at the Boston national convention. The following link is active to donate: p2p.onecause.com/nechvlettercarriers. Monetary donations will provide vital support to veterans via the New England Center and Home for Veterans.

Contact Assistant to the President for Community Services Christina Vela Davidson at 202-662-2489 or cdavidson@nalc.org with any questions.

Join the NALC Veterans Group

The NALC Veterans Group is designed to provide NALC members—both active and retired letter carriers—who are also military veterans the ability to connect with fellow NALC veterans and stay informed on issues of importance to letter carrier veterans. It is free to join.

Members receive a pin as a symbol of gratitude for their military service and membership in NALC.

If you are interested in joining the group, complete the sign-up card at nalc.org/veterans.