

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022



The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022 became law on August 10, 2022. Wounded Warrior Project® strongly advocated for this bill, which finally addresses one of the most urgent issues for post-9/11 veterans — health problems related to exposure to burn pits and other toxic substances. This comprehensive legislation ensures that exposed veterans are able to access the health care and disability benefits they have earned from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in the following ways:



Grants permanent VA health care eligibility to more than 3.5 million post-9/11 veterans who may have been exposed to toxic substances while in service.

- ★ Phases in eligibility over a 10-year period, with veterans who were discharged at earlier dates gaining eligibility first.
- ★ Extends enhanced enrollment eligibility for post-9/11 combat veterans from five to 10 years after discharge, with a one-year open enrollment period beginning October 1, 2022.



Establishes a framework that requires VA to add new presumptive disabilities based on available data for all toxic exposures, now and in the future.



Concedes exposure to burn pits and other toxic substances for veterans who served in several additional areas where they are known to have been present.



Adds more than 20 presumptive disabilities related to exposure to burn pits and other toxic substances for veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and surrounding areas.

- ★ Payments will not be retroactive, except for dependency and indemnity compensation claims.

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Expands presumptive disabilities related to Agent Orange exposure.

- ★ Includes certain dates of service in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Atoll as locations of Agent Orange exposure.
- ★ Adds hypertension and Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) as presumptive disabilities beginning in 2026.



Directs new research on military toxic exposures.



Requires periodic toxic exposure screening for all VA health care enrollees.



Improves VA employee training and veteran resources for toxic exposure-related issues.



Increases VA capacity by making investments in:

- ★ VA claims modernization.
- ★ VA medical facilities.
- ★ VA workforce.

★ ★ ★ ABOUT SERGEANT FIRST CLASS HEATH ROBINSON ★ ★ ★

Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson deployed to Kosovo and Iraq with the Ohio National Guard. He suffered from multiple illnesses as a result of his exposure to burn pits and passed away of lung cancer at 39 years of age in 2020.