



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

1 May 2022
Volume 3, Issue 5

VFW Post 8555 Newsletter/ Calendar



Flag colors: The colors of the U.S. flag are red, white and blue. According to the official website of the [United States government](https://www.usa.gov/), red symbolizes "valor and bravery" while white symbolizes "purity and innocence" and blue symbolizes "vigilance, perseverance, and justice."

Designs throughout the years: There have been 27 official versions of the American flag since its first adoption more than 240 years ago.

Ways to celebrate: Americans who observe Flag Day often display the national flag in a prominent location, according to [America's Library](https://www.americanlibrary.org/). The government-run historical resource also says that salutes offered to the flag are "a way to celebrate and honor the United States of America."

Flag Day's start: While the adoption of the first U.S. flag happened on June 14, 1777, Flag Day was initially established by President Woodrow Wilson in 1916, according to the Library of Congress. By 1949, President Harry Truman signed legislation that made it a national day. Since that signing, presidents have had to issue a Flag Day proclamation every year.

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/flag-day-5-facts-know>



*Memorial Post 8555
715 Houston St
Poth, TX
Wilson County*

830-484-2327

VFWPost8555@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Veterans-of-Foreign-Wars-Post-8555-179838536027305/>

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

VFW Post 8555 Spotlight



The veteran population has declined 34% since 2000. Veterans Affairs spending is up 185%.

Spending is increasing due to an aging population and more veterans seeking care for severe disabilities.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) spends the fifth most of all federal agencies, accounting for 5% of federal spending. VA expenditures have almost tripled in the last 20 years, from \$70 billion in fiscal year 2000 to \$200 billion in fiscal year 2019, adjusted for inflation. This makes the VA the second fastest federal agency for expenditure growth over that time.

The veteran population in the US is shrinking and getting older, increasing the costs for care. The number of veterans decreased by one-third from 26 million to 17 million from 2000 to 2019, according to the US [Census Bureau](#). Veterans went from 9% of the population in 2000 to 5% in 2019.

Half of all veterans in the US are 65 and older as of 2019, compared to 39% in 2005. With this aging population, total annual VA spending per veteran increased from about \$2,700 annually in 2000 to \$11,800 in 2019.

The VA spends money on veterans through two programs, the Disability Compensation program and the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). The Disability Compensation program provides monthly benefits to veterans with service-related disabilities. The level of benefits each veteran receives varies according to the veteran's degree of service-connected disability and number of dependents. The disability program accounted for 41% of VA expenditures in fiscal year 2019.

Spending for the disability program almost quadrupled, from \$22 billion in 2000 to \$85 billion in 2019, according to the [Veterans Benefits Administration](#). Two factors are driving this spending growth — the overall number of veterans receiving disability compensation and the number of veterans classified with the most severe service-connected disabilities and receiving the highest level of benefits. The share of veterans receiving disability compensation rose to 28% in 2019, more than triple the 8% of veterans in 2000.

A veteran's disability compensation is based on a Combined Disability Rating. The rating measures the degree of disability from 0% to 100%, with 0% meaning a veteran does not need disability compensation and 100% meaning the veteran is fully disabled from service. The rating covers all of a veteran's service-connected disabilities. While the number of veterans with a rating between 0% to 20% has remained roughly constant in the last 20 years, the number of veterans with a rating between 70% and 100% is six times higher, according to the [VA](#). As the number of more severely disabled veterans has increased, so has Disability Compensation program spending — from \$9,500 per enrolled veteran in 2000 to more than \$17,000 in 2019.

The VHA oversees all medical care for the VA. It is the largest integrated health care system in the US. Medical care for veterans was more than one-third of all VA expenditures in 2019. VA spending on medical care more than tripled from 2000 to 2019, growing from \$33 billion to \$78 billion, outpacing the increase in [private health insurance](#) spending.ⁱ

The [VA](#) categorizes veterans into healthcare priority groups. The highest priority group is for veterans who cannot work due to severe service-related disabilities, and those with a Medal of Honor.

The rise in VHA spending coincides with an increase in the number of patients and the number of veterans categorized in the highest priority group for healthcare. Unique VHA patients doubled from 3.7 million veterans to more than 6 million veterans in the last 20 years.ⁱⁱ

<https://usafacts.org/articles/how-much-money-veterans-spending-us/>

May 2022

June 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 VPR—Loyalty Day	2	3	4 Food Distribution (0745)	5	6	7
8 Mother's Day VPR—VE Day	9 VFW Meeting	10	11	12	13	14 District 20 Convention
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Memorial Day Svc Blessed Sacrament Cemetery 1000
29	30 Memorial Day VPR—Memorial Day	31	1	2	3	4

June 2022

July 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 Food Distribution (0745)	2	3	4
5	6 VPR—D-Day	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 VFW Meeting	14 Flag Day VPR—Flag Day Army Birthday	15	16 TX VFW Convention (15-19 Jun) Choctaw Conference Center Durant, OK	17	18
19 Father's Day	20 Juneteenth Day Holiday	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2