



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

1 May 2023 / Volume 4, Issue 3

VFW Post 8555 Newsletter/Calendar

Loyalty Day

[Loyalty Day](#) originally began as "Americanization Day" in 1921 as a counter to the Communists' May 1 celebration of the Russian Revolution.



On May 1, 1930, 10,000 VFW members staged a rally at New York's Union Square to promote patriotism. Through a resolution adopted in 1949, May 1 evolved into Loyalty Day. Observances began in 1950 on April 28 and climaxed May 1 when more than five million people across the nation held rallies. In New York City, more than 100,000 people rallied for Ameri-

ca. In 1958 Congress enacted Public Law 529 proclaiming Loyalty Day a permanent fixture on the nation's calendar.

*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



VA secretary worries mistrust, awareness holding back benefits claims

Apr 6, 03:23 PM

By [Leo Shane III](#)

<https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/2023/04/06/va-secretary-worries-mistrust-ignorance-holding-back-benefits->

Veterans' mistrust or misunderstanding of federal assistance programs may be cheating them out of tens of millions of dollars in benefits, [Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough](#) warned on Thursday.

In remarks during the [War Horse Symposium](#) on military and veteran reporting issues, McDonough said only a small fraction — about 10% — of individuals potentially eligible for new benefits under [toxic exposure legislation](#) approved last year have filed claims.

He said he hopes to see that number increase significantly in coming months, but knows there are obstacles in the way.

"There's just a general lack of trust issue in VA," he said. "It's not everybody, and the trust numbers are getting better. ... But we have to get through the trust issue."

McDonough and other top VA officials have repeatedly advocated for veterans to screen for potential military toxic exposure injuries and inquire about potential financial benefits in response to last summer's passage of the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act, better known as [the PACT Act](#).

The legislation provides for presumptive benefit status for 12 types of cancer and 12 other respiratory illnesses linked to [burn pit exposure](#) in the Gulf War, the War in Afghanistan and the War in Iraq; hypertension and monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) for veterans who served in Vietnam; and radiation-related illnesses for veterans who served in several new locations in the 1960s and early 1970s.

More than 400,000 individuals have applied for disability benefits through the legislation in recent months. But VA officials said as many as 5 million individuals may be eligible under the legislation.

McDonough said that discrepancy points to the need for even more outreach and advocacy by his department.

"There are still a lot of vets who are unaware, and that means we have to get out there more aggressively," he said.

"There are 19 million vets in the country. We want to reach all of them."

Information on PACT Act benefits is available through [the VA web site](#). In addition, veterans who visit VA health care facilities are being screened for potential toxic exposure issues during routine health care visits and can receive information from local staff on how to apply for benefits.



Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough answers questions from War Horse Managing Editor Kelly Kennedy during the publication's symposium at the University of Chicago on April 6. (Leo Shane III/Staff)

<https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-vb-benefits/>

APRIL 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5 Food Distribution	6	7	8
9	10 VFW Meeting	11	12	13	14 Carne Guisada Fundraiser	15 Ride to Remember
16 Strawberry Festival	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 AFJROTC National Award Ceremony FHS 1800	28	29
30						

MAY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 VPR Loyalty Day	2	3 Food Distribution	4	5	6
7	8 VPR VE Day VFW Meeting	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day VPR Memorial Day	30	31			