



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
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## VFW Post 8555 Newsletter/Calendar

From the archive, 28 February 1991: The liberation of Kuwait

President Bush declared a suspension of Gulf war hostilities this morning 100 hours after the ground offensive began. At the same time, he confronted President Saddam Hussein with a series of uncompromising demands which reflected the overwhelming allied victory achieved since Operation Desert Storm was launched in the air six weeks ago.

There was no immediate reaction from Baghdad but sources at the United Nations indicated that the Security Council might reconvene to hear a possible Iraqi response.

As allied forces reported sweeping victories and deep penetration into Iraq, Mr Bush went on television to declare 'Kuwait is liberated' and Iraq's army defeated.

'Tonight, the Kuwaiti flag flies above the capital of a free and sovereign nation.'

He said the de facto ceasefire was contingent on Iraqi agreement not to attack coalition forces or to continue Scud missile assaults. If Iraq failed to comply, then the war would resume.

The President said all PoWs had to be released along with any Kuwaitis taken by Iraqi troops as they fled Kuwait.

In his televised address from the Oval Office, Mr Bush also announced that the US Secretary of State, James Baker, would travel to the Middle East next week to begin consultations on a post-war settlement.

'This war is now behind us,' the President added. 'Ahead of us is the task of achieving a potentially historic peace' in the Middle East.

In a clear hint that the US continued to seek the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein, Mr Bush looking tired but triumphant invited Iraqi military commanders designated by their government to meet their counterparts to make military arrangements for the ceasefire. There have been hints in Washington in recent days that the Administration hoped to turn Saddam's army against him and secure his demise. 'Our quarrel is not with people of Iraq,' Mr Bush said. 'It is with the Iraqi leadership and above all, with Saddam Hussein.'

In a dramatic conclusion to a day of high political drama and continuing sharp military confrontation which culminated in US successes on the battlefield and at the UN, Mr Bush declared that Kuwait, invaded by Iraq on August 2, was liberated, that Iraq had been defeated, and that the allies' objectives had been met.

'Seven months ago, we drew a line in the sand,' he said. 'We said that aggression would not stand.

America and the world has kept its word.' It was not a time to gloat, he added, but a time for pride.

'Our military objectives are met. Kuwait is once more in the hands of the Kuwaitis, in control of their own destiny. We share in their joy, a joy tempered only by our compassion for their ordeal . . . And soon, we will open wide our arms to welcome back home to America our magnificent fighting forces.'



*Iraqi soldiers surrendering to the allied forces on 25 February 1991, Kuwait. Photograph: Jacques Langevin/CORBIS SYGMA*

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<https://www.theguardian.com/theguardian/2014/feb/28/kuwait-iraq-united-states-george-bush>

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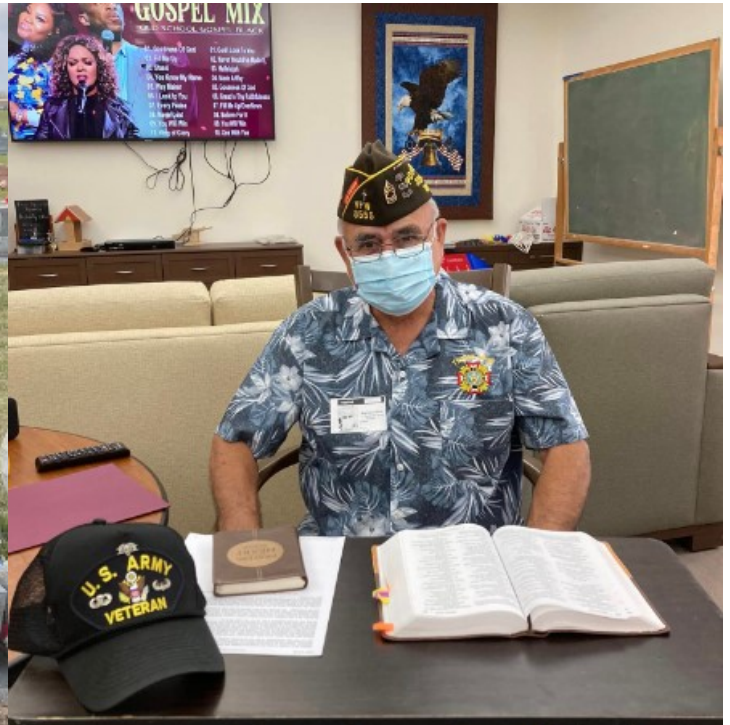
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# VFW Post 8555 Spotlight





# President Biden fiscal year 2024 budget proposes historic investments in Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors

**WASHINGTON** — Today, the Biden-Harris administration released the president's budget for fiscal year 2024. This budget proposes critical resources to help VA serve all Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors as well as they have served their country.

This is the largest budget proposal in U.S. history for Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors. The total FY 2024 request for VA is \$325.1 billion, a \$16.6 billion (+5.4%) increase above the FY 2023 budget enacted level. This includes a discretionary budget request of \$142.8 billion, a \$3.0 billion (+2.1%) increase over FY 2023. The 2024 mandatory funding request is \$182.3 billion, an increase of \$13.6 billion (+8.1%) above 2023.

“As President Biden often says, our nation has a sacred obligation to support Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors — and this proposed budget will help us do exactly that,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “With these historic investments, we at VA can continue to deliver more care and more benefits to more Veterans than ever before in our nation's history.”

**Expand health care and benefits for toxic-exposed Veterans:** The PACT Act, landmark legislation which President Biden signed into law last year, expands VA health care and benefits to millions of Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxins. The budget requests \$20.3 billion in 2024 for the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund — \$15.3 billion above 2023 — for health care, research and benefits delivery associated with exposure to environmental hazards for Veterans and their survivors.

**Invest in preventing Veteran suicide:** Suicide prevention is VA's top clinical priority and a top priority of the Biden-Harris administration. This budget provides \$16.6 billion in 2024 for mental health efforts, including suicide prevention — up from \$15.0 billion in 2023. As a part of that, the budget includes \$559 million for Veteran suicide prevention outreach programs and an estimated \$2.5 billion in suicide-specific medical treatment. Among other efforts, these funds will support VA's initiatives to provide free emergency health care to Veterans in suicidal crisis at VA or non-VA facilities and help fund local organizations that provide or coordinate suicide prevention services for Veterans and other eligible individuals and their families.

**Bolster efforts to end Veteran homelessness:** Veteran homelessness has decreased by 11% since 2020 and VA permanently housed more than 40,000 homeless Veterans in 2022, but VA and the Biden-administration will not rest until every Veteran in America has a good, safe home. The budget invests \$3.1 billion in providing homeless Veterans — and Veterans at-risk of homelessness — with permanent housing, access to health care and other supportive services.

**Support women Veterans' health care:** More women Veterans are choosing VA health care than ever before, with the number of women Veterans using VA services tripling over the last 20 years — growing from 160,000 in 2002 to more than 627,000 today. The budget invests \$257 million for women's health and childcare programs to increase access to infertility counseling and assisted reproductive technology, eliminate copayments for contraceptive coverage, and support full-time women veteran program managers at all 172 VA medical centers. These investments support provide comprehensive specialty medical and surgical services for women Veterans, including \$1.0 billion for women's gender specific care.

**Invest in Veteran medical facilities:** Veterans deserve world-class health care facilities, but the median VA's hospital was built nearly 60 years ago — compared to just 13 years ago in the private sector. The budget makes a historic investment of \$4.1 billion (discretionary and mandatory) for construction to begin restoring VA's aging infrastructure and providing Veterans with state-of-the-art health care facilities, as well as a \$5 billion investment in medical care funding (discretionary) for non-recurring maintenance to improve medical facility infrastructure.

# MARCH 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Food Distribution (0745)	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 VFW Meeting	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 VPR Start of Kosovo Campaign 1999	25 District Picnic Camanche Park Pavilion 2/ 1200
26	27	28	29	30	31 VPR - End of OP Restore Hope Somalia 1995	

# 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 0800 Poth City Park
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 AFJROTC National Award Ceremony FHS 1800	28	29
30						