



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

1 April 2025 / Volume 6, Issue 3

## VFW Post 8555 Newsletter/Calendar



# CELEBRATING THE LEGACY

### V-E Day **Historical Significance.**

V-E Day, or Victory in Europe Day, on May 8, 1945, was a pivotal moment in World War II, marking the formal end of the war in Europe with Germany's unconditional surrender to the Allies, sparking widespread celebrations and a sense of relief.

Here's a more detailed explanation

#### **The End of the European Theater:**

V-E Day signified the end of the European theater of World War II, as Nazi Germany surrendered its armed forces to the Allied forces.

#### **Celebrations and Relief:**

The news of Germany's surrender led to spontaneous celebrations and a sense of relief in many parts of the world, as years of war and hardship seemed to be coming to an end.

#### **A Cautionary Note:**

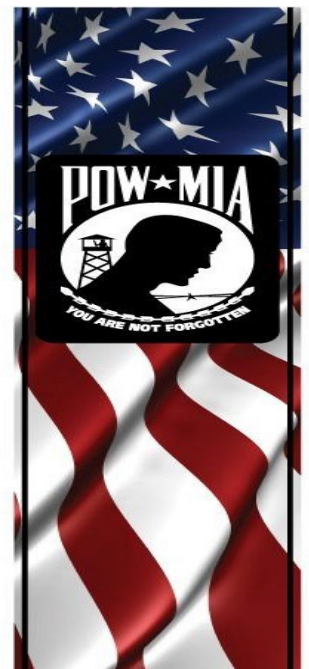
While the end of the war in Europe was a cause for celebration, President Harry Truman cautioned that the war was not yet over, as the conflict in the Pacific with Japan was still ongoing.

#### **Two Surrender Signings:**

The surrender of Germany occurred in two locations: the first signing took place on May 7, 1945, in Reims, France, and the second, insisted upon by Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin, took place in Berlin the next day.

#### **A Time for Reflection:**

V-E Day is also a time for reflection, remembering the sacrifices made by soldiers and civilians during the war, and the importance of peace, freedom, and democracy.



*Memorial Post  
8555*

*715 Houston St  
Poth, TX 78147  
Wilson County*



**Veterans  
Services Office**



**Ray Herrera**

Please call or email for appointment.  
830-393-7376  
ray.herrera@wilsoncountytexas.gov

2 Library Ln., Ste 105  
Floresville, TX 78114

VFWPost8555@gmail.com

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

# Loyalty Day 2025

Written by Veteran.com Team

Loyalty Day is observed annually on May 1<sup>st</sup>. In the United States, National Loyalty Day is a special holiday meant for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States of America, and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom. Loyalty Day was made an official re-

occurring holiday on July 18, 1958, although it was first recognized on May 1, 1955. Loyalty Day has been honored with an official proclamation every year, by every president, since its inception as a legal holiday in 1958.



## When is Loyalty Day 2025?

Loyalty Day will be observed on Thursday, May 1, 2025.

Loyalty Day kicks off National Military Appreciation Month each year.

Since 1958, each presidential proclamation has been vastly different, reflecting each president's own definition of loyalty, and with a unique emphasis in relation to the threats of the era. In his first Loyalty Day proclamation, President Dwight D. Eisenhower was quoted as saying that "the prime requisite for retaining our freedom is unswerving devotion to the liberties embodied in our Constitution."

As Americans, we do not command loyalty, but seek to earn it through our actions — including by living up to the principles enshrined in our Constitution and respecting the will of the people as reflected in the democratic process.

– **Joseph R. Biden Jr, President of the United States of America**

On Loyalty Day, we recognize and reaffirm our allegiance to the principles upon which our Nation is built. We pledge our dedication to the United States of America and honor its unique heritage, reminding ourselves that we are one Nation, under God, made possible by those who have sacrificed to defend our liberty. We honor our Republic and acknowledge the great responsibility that self-governance demands of each of us.

– **Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America**

As Americans, we are united not by the circumstances of our birth or our station in life, but by our fidelity to a set of shared ideals and unalienable rights. The principles of freedom, justice, and equality for all are at the very core of who we are as a Nation. We believe firmly in the power of democracy and opportunity — but we know that these blessings are only what we make of them, and that our experiment in self-government gives work and purpose to each new generation. Today, we recommit to the profoundly patriotic work of doing all we can to better the country we love.

– **Barack Obama, President of the United States of America**



# 5 reasons federal cuts are hitting veterans especially hard

## 1. Eroding the federal workforce

Federal law requires employers to give veterans an advantage in hiring over people who have not served in the military. Under the 1944 Veterans Preference Act, employers should hire veterans over other candidates and retain veterans over other employees during layoffs. The idea is to compensate for the economic loss of serving in the military and acknowledge the government's obligation, especially, to support disabled veterans.

**READ MORE:** Veterans say they feel betrayed after firing from federal jobs, including some who voted for Trump. Due to this veterans preference, nearly 30 percent of federal workers are veterans, half of whom are disabled. This means that veterans, who make up 6.1 percent of the U.S. population, are disproportionately affected by federal worker cuts. One estimate is that of the 38,000 federal employees fired in the first five weeks of the Trump administration, 6,000 are veterans.

## 2. Gutting VA health care

Cuts to the federal workforce are also affecting medical care for veterans. The Veterans Health Administration workforce constitutes 90 percent of the VA's 482,000 workers, so cuts to VA workers mean cuts to health care.

These cuts come at a time when veterans' health care needs are increasing. The VA enrolled 400,000 veterans in its benefits system from March 2023 through March 2024, 30 percent more than the prior year. It also expanded eligibility for former service members to receive VA health care. Trump's cuts will make it more difficult for the VA to provide health care for these newly eligible veterans.

These cuts roll back President Joe Biden's investment in the VA to address long-standing staffing problems. The Office of Inspector General's 2024 report on VA staffing shortages reveals that 137 of 139 VA health centers nationwide report a severe staffing shortage in at least one area, particularly nursing and psychology.

Staff shortages have led to long wait times for care. These wait times vary from days to months, with some VA clinics still so understaffed that they are unable to take new patients for primary care or mental health needs. Staff increases over the past few years shortened wait times while providing care to more veterans.

In 2024, the VA said it was working hard to fill its 66,000 vacancies, aiming to improve health care for the more than 9 million veterans it serves.

Now, just one year later, the VA faces the loss of 83,000 jobs. These cuts may contribute to fundamental changes in VA health care. Rather than help veterans directly, the VA may pay for veterans to seek medical care outside the VA system, leading to higher costs and lower quality.

Other Trump directives will prevent gender-affirming care to veterans. Veterans with diagnoses related to gender identity increased from 2,513 to 10,457 between 2011 to 2021.

## 3. Destaffing the suicide hotline

In Trump's cuts to social services, the country's Veterans Crisis Line, which both the VA and the Department of Health and Human Services oversee, is losing employees to layoffs, despite existing staffing shortages. An estimated 800 to 900 of the 1,130 crisis-line workers have always worked remotely, so ending remote work options will further undermine staffing.

Current data shows an average of 17.6 veteran suicides per day. Suicide remains the second-leading cause of death among veterans under 45 years old. Current VCL caller data is not publicly available, but staff report that the service fields 60,000 calls a month.

In the past, the VA reported nearly 3 million calls between 2009 and 2017, which led to 82,000 emergency dispatches to prevent veterans from harming themselves. The VA steadily increased crisis-line staffing to address concerns that, given the volume of calls, veterans were not receiving help in a timely manner.

Fewer staff, already suffering from burnout, undermines this work, as callers already at high risk for suicide will face longer wait times and improper care.

The first Trump administration made veteran suicide prevention a policy priority; its latest moves impede this goal.

## 4. Losing research

The VA's investment in research, about \$916 million a year, has contributed to a comprehensive understanding of veterans' well-being, meaning the government can target aid toward those in need.

VA research has also helped spark major medical breakthroughs on the link between smoking and cancer, prompting the surgeon general to put warnings on cigarettes, and the most widely used method to measure and treat prostate cancer.

VA research and data are instrumental in the social sciences. There are millions of veterans who come from diverse sociodemographic groups, and social science researchers are able to track them over time.

With overall budget cuts at the VA and the federal workforce reduction, at least 350 VA researchers will likely lose their jobs. That, along with a Trump directive to stop research on how poverty and race shape veteran health outcomes, will undermine not only the general well-being of veterans but also the entire medical establishment's knowledge about substance use, mental health and deeper insights that VA research can provide on prevention and treatment of cancer and cardiovascular disease.

## 5. Looming cuts to other benefits

Numerous reports indicate that Republicans in Congress want to reduce so-called entitlements, including food stamps and Medicaid, the health insurance for the country's poorest citizens.

Cutting Medicaid would hurt veterans' health, too, because not all veterans have access to federally funded health care through the VA, for a variety of reasons. Estimates show that over the past decade nearly 10 percent of veterans use Medicaid for at least some of their health care benefits, and 40 percent of those veterans rely exclusively on Medicaid for all their health care.

Further, approximately 400,000 veterans are uninsured. Given their income, half of these uninsured veterans should be eligible for Medicaid, as long as looming cuts don't change eligibility requirements.

In addition, 1.2 million veterans received aid through the federally funded supplemental nutritional access program, or SNAP. Working-age veterans face an elevated risk of experiencing food insecurity compared to their nonveteran peers.

Veterans are still overrepresented among the homeless population. Many do not have financial flexibility to make up for these cuts.

Making good on a promise

All Americans are affected by Trump's federal funding cuts. But as my research shows, the budget-slashing looks to be especially hard on those who served in the military.

The media and political blowback against Trump's cuts has already begun. Negatively impacted veterans are gaining increasing visibility. Both Democratic and Republican lawmakers have begun calling on the Department of Defense to prioritize retaining and rehiring veterans.

The first Trump administration committed to expanding services for veterans. Now, it's executing a stark policy reversal with acute consequences for the very same veterans the U.S. government promised to protect and serve since the country's founding.



# April 2025

May 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 April Fool's Day	2 Food Distribution	3	4	5
6 District 20 Picnic	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Palm Sunday	14 VFW Meeting	15	16	17 Maundy Thursday	18 Good Friday	19
20 Easter	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

© Calendar12.com

# May 2025

June 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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	3	4	5

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1 VPR Loyalty Day Food Distribution	2	3 District 20 Convention at Post 8541
4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6 District 20 Loteria Fundrais- er at Post 4700	7	8 VPR VE Day	9	10
11 Mother's Day	12 VFW Meeting	13	14	15	16	17
18 Carne Guisada Fundraiser	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day VPR Memorial Day	27	28	29 Ascension of Jesus	30	31

© Calendar12.com