



## PRESS RELEASE

Vietnam Veterans of America

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Vietnam Veterans of America Honors Senator Richard Blumenthal As “Legislator of the Year”**

(New Orleans) –“We are proud to recognize Senator Richard Blumenthal as Vietnam Veterans of America 2017 Legislator of the Year,” said John Rowan, VVA National President. “We applaud Senator Blumenthal for his leadership in introducing and fighting for the Toxic Exposure Research Act, which passed on the last day of the 114th Congress, ensuring the Department of Veterans Affairs can no longer ignore the impact of military toxic exposures on the health of our children and grandchildren.” On Friday, August 11, Senator Blumenthal (CT-D) received a standing ovation from the over 1,300 Vietnam veterans and their supporters gathered in New Orleans for VVA’s 18th National Convention.

“Our veterans, our families, and our survivors are indebted to Senator Blumenthal for his efforts to translate this act, VVA’s highest legislative priority for several years, into black-letter law,” Rowan said. “We will not rest until we see the second phase of the law implemented and the research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions affecting our children and grandchildren begin,” said

“All of us in VVA are also grateful to Senator Blumenthal for providing the strong leadership and effective advocacy assistance we need to ensure confidentiality of our military and veterans records,” said Rowan.

Following the resounding applause, Senator Blumenthal said to those assembled, “It is an honor to stand with Vietnam Veterans of America today to discuss achievements we have made to honor our nation’s promise to our veterans. Passage of the bipartisan Toxic Exposure Research Act could not have been possible without the steadfast, dedicated advocacy of these brave patriots. I remain committed to the serious work ahead to ensure all veterans have access to the full benefits, affordable, quality healthcare and support they need and deserve.”

*Vietnam Veterans of America is the nation’s only congressionally chartered veterans’ service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. In keeping with its founding principle, “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another,” VVA aggressively advocates for all veterans.*