



PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 28, 2022

No. 22-6
Contact: Mokie Porter
301-996-0901

VVA Decries Senate Failure to Pass the *PACT Act of 2022*

(Washington, D.C.) — “We are grievously disappointed by yesterday’s shocking and unexpected Senate vote, failing to pass the bipartisan *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act*,” said Jack McManus, National President, Vietnam Veterans of America. “U.S. Senators have betrayed our nation’s veterans by prioritizing partisan politics over caring for our sick and disabled veterans.”

“By voting down the comprehensive legislation designed to deliver all generations of toxic-exposed veterans their earned healthcare and benefits, our country has failed to keep its solemn promise to the men and women who raised their hand in defense of our Constitution,” said McManus. “This betrayal of trust will prevent those veterans from receiving earned healthcare and benefits. We ask, how many more veterans must die waiting for the care and benefits they so desperately need?”

“For over 40 years, VVA has steadfastly advocated for veterans living with chronic illnesses resulting from toxic exposures during their service,” said McManus. “All veterans have earned the comprehensive relief this bill offered them. For our aging Vietnam veterans, the speedy passage of this bill was especially important, not only for the care they desperately need, but as an acknowledgement the country recognizes and honors their service.

To the naysayers in the Senate and to those who did not vote, we urge caution by sharing with you these words of wisdom: The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.

The bill failed due to the Nays: *Barrasso (R-WY); Blackburn (R-TN); Blunt (R-MO); Braun (R-IN); Burr (R-NC); Cassidy (R-LA); Cornyn (R-TX); Cotton (R-AR); Cramer (R-ND); Crapo (R-ID); Cruz (R-TX); Daines (R-MT); Ernst (R-IA); Fischer (R-NE); Hagerty (R-TN); Hawley (R-MO); Johnson (R-WI); Kennedy (R-LA); Lankford (R-OK); Lee (R-UT); Hyde-Smith (R-MS); Inhofe (R-OK); Lummis (R-WY); Marshall (R-KS); McConnell (R-KY); Paul (R-KY); Portman (R-OH); Risch (R-ID); Romney (R-UT); Rounds (R-SD); Sasse (R-NE); Schumer (D-NY); Scott (R-FL); Scott (R-SC); Shelby (R-AL); Sullivan (R-AK); Thune (R-SD); Tillis (R-NC); Toomey (R-PA); Tuberville (R-AL); Wicker (R-MS); and Young (R-IN).*

In early June, the bipartisan bill had been voted unanimously out of the Senate with an 84-14 vote and by a 342-88 vote in the House. We will continue our battle for the passage of this bill in the 117th Congress.