



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES & POLICY INITIATIVES

118TH ★
CONGRESS



VVA Supports the *Korean American VALOR Act* (H.R. 366)

During the Vietnam War, the government of South Korea sent approximately 350,000 military personnel – a military presence second in size only to U.S. forces deployed during the conflict. Over the length of the war, nearly 11,000 Korean servicemembers were injured.

Understanding the Issue

There are approximately 3,000 Korean American Vietnam War veterans who are now naturalized citizens, living in the United States. Unlike our allies in World Wars, I and II, these veterans were not afforded access to VA healthcare. Unsurprisingly, like so many other Vietnam War veterans, they are falling ill with the chronic conditions and diseases caused by exposure to Agent Orange and other toxins, and they are not receiving adequate care.

The *Korean American VALOR Act* (H.R. 366), introduced by Representative Mark Takano, would amend Title 38 of the U.S. Code, allowing the VA Secretary to enter a reciprocal agreement with the Republic of Korea (ROK) to grant healthcare access to their veterans who served alongside U.S. forces in the Vietnam War.

If passed, the bipartisan *VALOR Act* will provide access to hospital and domiciliary care, as well as medical services through the VA, for veterans who served between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, and who became U.S. citizens during or after such service. This is especially significant for ROK veterans, many of whom suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, a range of disabilities, and many diseases and chronic conditions caused by toxic exposure.

VVA fully supports the passage of the *Korean American VALOR Act* (H.R. 366), as a requisite ancillary to the *PACT Act* in fulfilling the federal government's sacred obligation: "To care for him who shall have borne the battle."

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is the only national Vietnam Veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families.

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