

After Website Problems, VA Extends PACT Act Deadline for Retroactive Benefit Claims



10 Aug 2023

Military.com | By [Patricia Kime](#)

The [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) has extended the filing deadline for retroactive disability compensation claims under the [PACT Act](#) through Monday, after technical problems hampered the process for veterans attempting to file.

VA officials announced Wednesday night that the deadline for the disability claims or submission of intentions to file a claim is now 11:59 p.m. Aug. 14 for compensation to be backdated to Aug. 10, 2022 -- the date the legislation was signed into law.

The previous deadline had been Aug. 9. However, the surge in applications as the date approached overwhelmed [the department's online filing portal](#), resulting in nearly 1 in 5 veterans or survivors receiving error messages Tuesday after submitting their intent to file applications.

VA officials said those error responses had been reduced to less than one-tenth of 1% of the filings by 5 p.m Wednesday, but they nonetheless decided to extend the deadline "out of an abundance of caution."

"We encourage all veterans and their survivors to apply -- or submit their intents to file -- for PACT Act benefits now by visiting [VA.Gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT)," the department said in a press release. [\[READ MORE...\]](#)

**Agent Orange Day
Remembrance Event: Saturday, August 19, 2023
Hosted by VVA Chapter 126**



Text from VVA Chapter 126

Next Saturday, on **August 19th, from 6 pm to 8 pm**, the **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 126** will sponsor the **third New York City Agent Orange Remembrance and Awareness Day event** at the **Vietnam Veterans Plaza** in **lower Manhattan**.

At this event, we will **honor those who have died from Agent Orange-related and burn pit illnesses, with a candle lighting ceremony** where an orange candle is lit and placed before the monument by a loved one in their honor.

This **August 10th** marks the **62nd anniversary of the first use of Agent Orange in the Vietnam War**.

The **58,479 who died in combat in the Vietnam War** have their names engraved on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC and are forever memorialized. However, almost eight times that number, the **400,000 who died from Agent Orange illnesses after they came home from Vietnam** do not have a monument in New York City.

Your participation is simple and straightforward. Come to the event and honor those we lost or are afflicted with Agent Orange caused illnesses. If you have a loved one who is suffering or has passed because of Agent Orange, give us their name and we will read out their name and light a candle for them at the dedication ceremony. If for any reason you can not come to the event in person, send us their name for inclusion into the program and we will read their name to honor him for you. [\[LEARN MORE\]](#)



The Wall That Heals | *In Memory* Program
Application Deadline August 28th

WAS YOUR VIETNAM VETERAN'S LIFE CUT SHORT AFTER THEY RETURNED HOME?

HONOR THEIR SACRIFICE THROUGH THE **IN MEMORY** PROGRAM

Since the Vietnam War ended, thousands of Vietnam veterans have suffered each year due to Agent Orange exposure, PTSD/ suicide, cancer and other causes related to their service. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's *In Memory* program honors those who returned home from Vietnam and later died.

**The Wall That Heals will be on display in
New York City, NY from September 28th -
October 1st.**

Apply to honor your veteran, through In Memory, by August 28th and their photo will be included as part of the mobile Education Center display when The Wall That Heals is on display in New York City.

To apply online , visit www.VVMF.org/In-Memory-Program



The VVMF's *IN MEMORY* program invites families and communities to remember those Vietnam Veterans whose lives were cut short by their service.

Honorees submitted before August 28, 2023, will be remembered on a special video display at The Wall That Heals during its visit to New York City from Sept 28 - Oct 1.

These veterans will also be included in a ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. on June 15, 2024, and will be celebrated in a number of other ways by the VVMF. You can sign up or learn more at vvmf.org/InMemory

Thank you in advance for your help in honoring our Vietnam Veterans!

[Submit Your Loved Ones to the In Memory Project Here](#)

[Read More About The Wall That Heals](#)

[Volunteer Registration Form for The Wall That Heals](#)

VETERAN NEWS

**Soldier Who Called Out Torture in Iraq
Is Laid to Rest at Arlington**



By [C. J. Chivers](#)

Reporting from Arlington National Cemetery

Aug. 8, 2023

On a gentle knoll within plain view of the Pentagon he once labored to hold to account, Ian Fishback, an anti-torture whistle-blower during the U.S. occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq, was laid to rest Tuesday with full military honors on the nation's most hallowed ground.

The ceremony, held on a bright morning at Arlington National Cemetery, came almost two years after Mr. Fishback, 42, died of cardiac arrest while in court-mandated mental health care in Michigan. Among those who gathered were much of his family along with fellow veterans, former students and many admirers.

They came to pay respects to a paratrooper and Special Forces officer who dared to challenge the Army on its soldiers' sustained abuse of Iraqi and Afghan men in their custody. The ceremony also offered a morning for his family and supporters to reflect on what they regard as his unnecessary death while awaiting care from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Fishback was a dissident-in-uniform who ultimately set aside a sparkling military career to become a philosopher before entering a dizzying mental

health spiral. He was often hard to categorize. The presiding Army chaplain, Maj. Joanna Forbes, highlighted the manner in which he applied the values he embraced as a West Point graduate and as a military officer to protect those who ended up in the Army's battlefield grasp. [\[READ MORE...\]](#)

More Veteran-related Headlines

ABC7: [Maui residents had little warning before flames overtook town; at least 55 people died](#)

NBC News: [Gay veterans sue Defense Department over military discharges](#)

NY Post: [NY judge blocks new state cannabis licenses after disabled veterans claim discrimination](#)

Border Report: [400 deported veterans want to come back to U.S.](#)

Times Leader: [Bill would ensure VA services are accessible for veterans with disabilities](#)

NYC Emergency Management Veterans Hiring Event

VETERANS:

We're hiring!



OPEN POSITIONS:

Community
Engagement

Government
Relations

Procurement

JOB SECURITY. GREAT BENEFITS. A REWARDING MISSION.



Join our Zoom meeting:



contact:

Veronica Geager,
Deputy Director of
People & Culture
vgeager@oem.nyc.gov

 @nycemergencymgmt

 @nycemergencymgt

 @nycemergencymanagement

 NYC Emergency Management



If you require a reasonable accommodation to attend this webinar, please contact Veronica Geager at vgeager@oem.nyc.gov

Are you a veteran interested in a career opportunity helping New Yorkers before, during, and after emergencies? Do you want to be part of a team that includes the best and brightest emergency management professionals in the world? Well, look no further! NYC Emergency Management (NYCEM) is hiring for various positions including community engagement, government relations, and procurement. Join DVS and NYCEM to learn about these job opportunities, the City's hiring process, and to hear from current NYCEM employees about their experiences on the job.

📅 Wednesday, August 30, 2023

🕒 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

🔗 Zoom Meeting

For more information, please contact: Veronica Geager, Deputy Director, People and Culture at vgeager@OEM.NYC.GOV

[NYCEM Registration Link](#)



We are looking to highlight Veterans in the arts community! Whether it's an upcoming free exhibition, performance, or piece/installation you've created, we want to showcase your

work and help spread the word. Submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis and promoted at our discretion. We want this to be a space for Veteran artists to express themselves in an authentic way.

Please email submissions to connect@veterans.nyc.gov with a brief bio, an artist statement, art medium, and your affiliation to the Veteran community.

A Message From Mayor Adams:

Each week DVS will share a short update about how our administration is getting stuff done for New Yorkers.



The Adams administration is dedicated to cutting through the noise and delivering information directly to you and all New Yorkers.

Sign up to "Hear From Eric" and get direct messages from City Hall, tailored to your interests and neighborhood, sent directly to your inbox – at [nyc.gov/hearfromeric!](https://nyc.gov/hearfromeric)

Join Our Team! Be Part of the Mission!



Current DVS Job Openings

Being part of our team is a great way to continue to serve.

[Visit NYC.gov/jobs](https://nyc.gov/jobs) and select "Veterans' Services" from the agency menu to learn more about and apply to the job below.

Client Services Manager - DVS seeks a highly qualified candidate to join Community Services as a Manager. The Manager will be responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of a team responsible for performing intakes and sending referrals within the VetConnectNYC system, a multi-provider network of participating organizations, government agencies, and other partners that provide direct services to Veterans. The Manager will also be a subject matter expert in claiming VA benefits through accreditation by New York State Department of Veterans Services.

VA Work Study Positions at DVS

The NYC Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) supports VA Work-Study Positions! Here is a current list of available VA Work-Study openings:

- [Administrative Intern](#)
- [Benefit Intern](#)
- [Care Coordination Intern](#)
- [Data Analyst Intern](#)
- [Information Technology Intern](#)
- [IT Support Intern](#)
- [Legal Intern](#)
- [Outreach Coordinator Intern](#)
- [Veteran Business Promotion Intern](#)

If you are interested in applying for a DVS-specific Work-Study position and meet eligibility requirements, please submit the following to VAWorkStudy@veterans.nyc.gov:

- Resume
- Job Specific Cover Letter
- Supporting Documents found in the Job Description

[Check Here for VA Work-Study Postings](#)

NYC Civil Service Job Openings and Exams



Open Competitive Exams

Administrative Education Analyst - Administrative Education Analysts plan and/or oversee large scale and/or highly technical and complex budget administration functions that involve distribution of funds under education laws and in accordance with legal mandates based on school needs, in the areas of instructional services, continuing education, special education, district/central headquarters, and school administration; to read more visit [here!](#)

Contract Specialist - Contract Specialists, under supervision, with some latitude for independent initiative and decision making, perform professional work of routine difficulty managing contracts for social services programs. All Contract Specialists perform related work.

Instructor (Construction) - Inspectors (Construction), under general supervision, perform technical work in the inspection of construction, repair or alteration of structures to ensure conformance with building codes, standards, plans and specifications and issue summonses for non-compliance; to read more visit [here!](#)

To read more, visit the full job descriptions [here!](#)

To receive monthly updates on upcoming civil service exams click the button below to be directed to the [Subscribe to the DCAS Newsletter](#) page. On the registration form, select "City Jobs and Civil Service Announcements".

[Subscribe to the DCAS Newsletter Here](#)

Programs and Initiatives

Affordable Housing For Veterans



The [NYC Department of Veterans' Services \(DVS\)](#) maintains a list of federal, state, and city programs that offers a limited, but selective list of affordable housing options for veterans seeking financial relief for their housing arrangements. Visit our [Affordable Housing for Veterans](#) page to learn more.

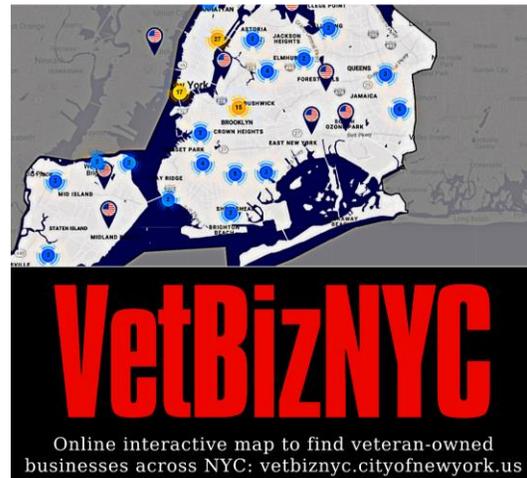
Empowering Veteran Business Owners



The primary mission of the [VBLA](#) is to serve Veterans seeking support and assistance with running a business and in their pursuit of New York City Government contracting opportunities. Our leadership association engages with the private sector, government, advisory board, and local partners to build a consortium that facilitates the growth and development of Veteran Businesses.

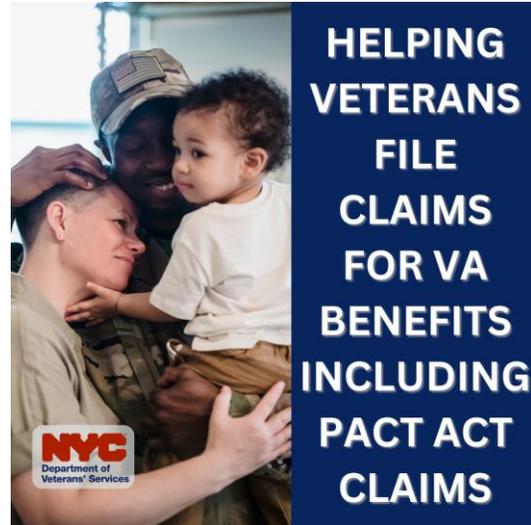
VetBizNYC: Supporting Veteran Entrepreneurship

DVS has launched [VetBizNYC](#), an interactive map that identifies Veteran-owned businesses across the five boroughs. New Yorkers can use our interactive map to find and support Veteran-owned businesses in their community.



Are You Getting the Benefits You Deserve?

The [NYC Department of Veterans' Services \(DVS\)](#) represents NYC Veterans in claims for benefits from the [U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs](#). Our team is also qualified to assist with PACT Act related claims. If you had a toxic exposure during your service, time is crucial for you to get the benefits you deserve. To file a claim, fill out the [VetConnectNYC.org](#) form and select **Benefits Navigation** as your preferred service.



VetConnectPro: A First-in-the-Nation Employment Tool



[VetConnectPro](#), is a new employment tool designed to help Veterans find employment within NYC government. The platform features a military skills translator that can match your service experience and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) to City jobs and civil service exams. Upload your resume and get started today: nyc.gov/vetconnectpro.

Newsletter Sign-up

If you received this newsletter by way of a friend or colleague and have yet to sign-up on your own, click [here](#), and stay up-to-date with the latest news impacting the community, updates on city services, info on DVS programs, Veteran-specific resources & more.

Contact Us

- Complete a service request form at vetconnectnyc.org
- [Message the Commissioner](#)
- [Partner with DVS](#)
- [Press Inquiries](#)
- [Event Request Form](#)

Stay tuned on our website www.nyc.gov/vets and social media platforms [@nycveterans](#), or via email at connect@veterans.nyc.gov.