

Benefits Update: New Conditions Covered Under the PACT Act May Grant You VA Health Care and Disability Coverage



On August 10th, 2022, President Biden signed the **Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act** into law. This legislation expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances while serving. If you are a Veteran of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era with a toxic exposure, you may be entitled to VA health care. For Gulf War and Post-9/11 era Veterans, if you served in **Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, or The United Arab Emirates** on or after August 2, 1990 or if you served in **Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan, or Yemen** on or after September 11,

2001 you may be eligible for inclusion in presumptive status. Presumptive status means that the VA automatically presumes that certain disabilities were caused by military service and you may be awarded disability compensation. Here is a list of presumed Service-Connected conditions:

- Asthma (diagnosed after service)
- Brain cancer
- Chronic bronchitis
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Chronic rhinitis
- Chronic sinusitis
- Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis
- Emphysema
- Gastrointestinal cancer of any type
- Glioblastoma
- Granulomatous disease
- Head cancer of any type
- High blood pressure (hypertension)
- Interstitial lung disease (ILD)
- Kidney cancer
- Lymphomatic cancer of any type
- Lymphoma of any type
- Melanoma
- Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)
- Neck cancer
- Pancreatic cancer
- Pleuritis
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Reproductive cancer of any type
- Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type
- Sarcoidosis

If any of the above conditions apply to you and you're a Veteran, you are eligible to file a new claim if you have never filed for a certain condition, **OR** you

can file a supplemental claim if you were previously denied for a condition that is now considered presumptive.

The VA is holding three upcoming in-person enrollment sessions in the NYC area:

Date: December 12, 2022

Time: 8:30AM - 3:30PM

Location: Manhattan VAMC

423 East 23rd Street

New York, NY 10010

Phone: (212) 686-7500

Date: December 14, 2022

Time: 8:30AM - 3:30PM

Location: Brooklyn VAMC

800 Poly Place

Brooklyn, NY 11209

Phone: (718) 836-6600

Date: December 15, 2022

Time: 10:00AM - 2:00PM

Location: Bronx VAMC

130 W. Kingsbridge Road

Bronx, NY 10468

Phone: (718) 584-9000

[For more information on the PACT Act Click Here!](#)

[Click here to learn how DVS can help with your benefits claim!](#)

New Crisis Resource



Every year around this time, you probably hear from a friend or see in the news that the suicide rate peaks during the holidays. However, according to the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), which has been monitoring the data for decades, this is a myth and [December sees the fewest attempted suicides](#).

Unfortunately, the fact remains that the Veteran community experiences higher rates of suicide compared to the general population. It is important to remind our community that suicide is preventable and we all have a role to play. This holiday season we would like to take the time to remind you that there are resources available.

One resource we wanted to highlight is the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's new number 988](#). This number is available to anyone experiencing mental health distress to include **suicidal thoughts, substance use crisis, and emotional distress**. If you or someone you care about is experiencing a crisis event, you can **call, text or chat 988** and you will be directly connected to a crisis counselor. To access support in Spanish press 2. Interpretation services are available in over 150 different languages.

Please, look out for one another and may you keep your loved ones close this holiday season.

**Peer Resource Corner: Stress is Gone
with Brett Cotter**

STRESS IS GONE

with Brett Cotter

"My mission is to help you break free from cycles of trauma, stress and anxiety to nurture your power, purpose and happiness."



As referenced in our Facebook post, the holiday season can get pretty stressful. If you're looking to breath easier, Brett Cotter has over 20-years experience in helping people reduce and manage stress. He is certified by the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress and National Center for Crisis Management.

Brett has numerous **FREE** tools for Veterans to help relieve stress including:

[A Free Masterclass](#)

[A Free Workbook](#)

[Guided Meditation Classes held virtually on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9:00AM:](#)

[Military Monday's Healing Circle at 12:00PM:](#)

[Nighttime Veteran Healing Circle on Tuesdays at 7:00PM:](#)

[Free Tools to Reduce Stress, Anxiety and Heal Trauma:](#)

[Stress Is Gone App on iPhone:](#)

[Stress Is Gone App on Android:](#)

If you're interested in learning more, visit Brett's website here: [Stress Is Gone](#)

Wreaths Across America: Cypress Hills National Cemetery (NYCHNB)



On **December 17, 2022 at 12:00 pm**, Wreaths Across America will be at [Cypress Hills National Cemetery](#) to Remember and Honor Veterans through the laying of Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud.

If you are interested in participating as a sponsor or would like to volunteer in the wreath laying ceremony at [Cypress Hills National Cemetery](#), click on the "Sponsor a Wreath or Volunteer" button below or visit [Wreaths Across America](#) for more information about the mission.

What does it mean to sponsor a wreath? It means you'll honor an American hero at one of more than 2,800 locations nationwide this year on Wreaths Across America Day. Your sponsorship will ensure that a wreath is hand-crafted of all-American balsam and hand-tied with a red velvet bow here in Columbia Falls, Maine. It will then be sent to one of our participating locations, where a volunteer will place it on the marker of a fallen hero. That volunteer will

then “say their name” to ensure that the legacy of duty, service and sacrifice of that veteran is never forgotten.

What does it mean to volunteer? It means you’ll honor an American hero by placing a wreath on the marker of a fallen hero. You will then “say their name” to ensure that the legacy of duty, service and sacrifice of that veteran is never forgotten.

[Sponsor a Wreath or Volunteer](#)

Join Our Team! Be Part of the Mission!



Being part of our team is a great way to continue to serve. The [NYC Department of Veterans' Services \(DVS\)](#) empowers communities with Veteran talent, skills, and preparedness. Join us in serving again - your community.

See below for current job openings at DVS:

[Current DVS Job Openings](#)

[Visit NYC.gov/jobs](https://www.nyc.gov/jobs) and select “Veterans’ Services” from the agency menu to learn more about and apply to any of the jobs below:

Burials Care Coordinator

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](#)
- [Communications Intern](#)
- [Data Analyst Intern](#)
- [Information Technology Intern](#)
- [IT Support Intern](#)
- [Legal Intern](#)
- [Outreach Coordinator Intern](#)
- [Veteran Business Promotion Intern](#)

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

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

NYC Civil Service Job Openings and Exams



You served your country. Now serve your city!

Do your part to keep the city running! The [NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services \(DCAS\)](#) makes City government work for all New Yorkers.

There are many diverse career opportunities with NYC DCAS.

Veterans are no longer required to pay application fees for NYC Civil Service examinations.

See below for open competitive NYC Civil Service exam highlights:

Open Competitive Exams

School Food Service Manager - Manage three or more elementary, junior high, or high school cafeterias; make assignments, supervise and train personnel, and direct and evaluate their work; or you are assigned to appropriate responsibilities in other units of the school food service program; and work twelve months per year.

Scientist (Water Ecology) - Collect water samples and other environmental data in the field to support water ecology research; perform routine water ecology and water quality testing and analyses; you may assist in performing moderately complex testing and analyses, employing standard controls, utilizing manual and automated techniques and conducting data and statistical analyses, using computer software and mathematical models.

Telecommunications Associate (Data) - Work includes analytical, technical, administrative, supervisory, and/or related data telecommunications tasks necessary for the selection, procurement, installation, testing, operation, evaluation, modification, financial control, and/or usage control for data telecommunications systems, equipment, and services.

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 Here](#)

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



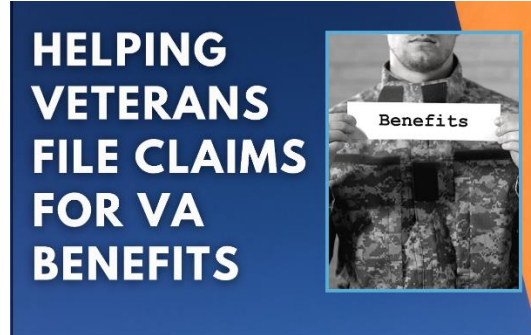
[VetConnectPro](#), is a new employment tool designed to help Veterans find employment within NYC government. The platform features a military skills translator that can match your service experience and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) to City jobs and civil service exams. Upload your resume and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

nyc.gov/vetconnectpro.

Programs and Initiatives

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](#). During a time of economic crisis and high unemployment, we want to ensure that all Veterans get the financial benefits they earned and deserve. To file a claim, fill out the [VetConnectNYC.org](#) form and select **Benefits Navigation** as your preferred service.



To request claims support, visit [VetConnectNYC.org](#).



Our Fight to End Veteran Homelessness



Over the past five years, our [Housing Support Services \(HSS\)](#) team has found homes for over 1,000 formerly unhoused Veterans. Click [here](#) to learn more about DVS's efforts to end chronic homelessness among Veterans in New York City.

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.



Veterans Voices Project: Changing the Narrative of Veterans



Administered by the [NYC Department of Veterans' Services](#), the [Veteran Voices Project \(VVP\)](#) is an oral history initiative designed to preserve the stories of New York City's Veterans across all military branches and service areas. For more information, visit nyc.gov/vetvoices.

Contact Us

- Complete the services request form at vetconnectnyc.org
- [Message the Commissioner](#)
- [Partner with DVS](#)

- [Press Inquiries](#)

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

