

American Alliance for Military Veterans Political Organization

AAMV Reviewing the Recent NDAA

Why the National Defense Authorization Act Can Be a Turning Point in Veteran Affairs

In today's complex political landscape, most of the attention on Capitol Hill has been focused on the National Defense Authorization Act. And while there are differences among certain political figures, the fact remains that the NDAA incorporates a few areas that are strictly focused on the veteran affairs and veteran wellbeing. However, because of these bipartisan issues surrounding the NDAA, many people failed to obtain the proper information about the Veteran's benefits in the recent National Defense Authorization Act. Therefore, this article will analyze the "Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act," in the NDAA that can improve the state of our American veterans.

The Issue of Agent Orange

For many Americans, the Vietnam War remains a distant memory. However, the reality is completely different for many U.S military veterans that fought in Vietnam. After all, it is a common knowledge that many American patriots are still suffering from bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinson's-like symptoms as a result of the exposure to the herbicide known as Agent Orange. Moreover, many of these loyal patriots were denied throughout the years the much-needed care. However, it seems that the NDAA represents a major battle won for the U.S Veterans from the Vietnam conflict. This statement is based on the fact that the final version of the NDAA incorporates significant measures that will result in approval of benefits for those veterans that suffer from certain conditions as a result of the exposure to Agent Orange.

To be more specific, the legislation aims to add the Agent Orange cause diseases such as bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinson's-like symptoms to the Veteran's Affairs veterans presumptive list. This represents a breakthrough for these American patriots since it will decrease the amount of evidence that the veterans need to provide in order to receive their deserved VA benefits.

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A Brave Message

The third notable element needs to be analyzed through the actual message that this act will send to the U.S Veterans. For far too long, the American servicemen from the Vietnam War were neglected. And while their war on the battlefield was over decades ago, the harsh reality is that have been denied the critical health care they need. Therefore, this is a significant stride forward that will ensure that veterans get what they deserve for their bravery, sacrifice, and services to our country. It will also be seen as a major victory and a motivational factor that will enable many veterans to be even more determined in voicing their needs and rights. Therefore, the amendment in the NDAA is a step in the right direction. Yet, there is broad consensus among veteran affairs experts that more needs to be done. On that note, it is important to emphasize that there are many veterans that detrimental effects and traumas from their battlefield experiences. The evidence overwhelmingly supports adding more benefits that can mitigate from the war traumas. All in all, this is the only first battle of the many. The next strategic goal is the actual implementation and to utilize the positive experience in order to put more pressure for obtaining more care for the U.S veterans in general.

The Bottom Line

On a conclusive note, we can firmly state that the support for Vietnam veterans is long overdue. The overwhelming majority of the Vietnam veterans feels that they never really got thanked for their service. However, with the inclusion of the “Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act,” in the NDAA, the United States has a chance to turn a corner and recognize the service, patriotism and sacrifice of the Vietnam War veterans. After all, they deserve to get that debt repaid