

*Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2024*

**Statement on the Second Anniversary of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022**

*August 9, 2024*

As Americans, we have a sacred obligation to care for veterans and their families. We owe them a debt we can never fully repay. Two years ago, I signed the bipartisan Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins (PACT) Act enacting the most significant expansion of benefits and health care for toxic-exposed veterans and their survivors in over 30 years.

Vice President Harris and I moved swiftly in making sure this law was fully implemented as soon as possible, so veterans and their survivors would be able to get the expanded services they deserve. Today, because of the PACT Act, over 1 million veterans and more than 10,000 survivors are now getting monthly disability benefits related to toxic-related illnesses. Over 5.7 million veterans have been screened for toxic exposure, and over 333,000 toxic-exposed veterans have enrolled in VA health care. These benefits have been life changing for so many families. For survivors of veterans who died from a toxic-related illness, the PACT Act provides a pathway to benefits including monthly stipends, access to home loans, and education benefits as well. Surviving veteran spouses with children could qualify for over \$2,000 per month and funding toward college tuition.

While we have made great strides in addressing military-related toxic exposures, we still have work to do. My administration continues to study other illnesses for presumptive status and to sign up more veterans for health care. And today I am announcing that the Department of Veterans Affairs will take additional steps to close loopholes for certain veterans exposed to harmful toxins during their military service. No one should be left behind if they were exposed to toxins and are experiencing health-related problems. My message to veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors is simple: Jill and I will always have your back.

*Categories:* Statements by the President : Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022, second anniversary.

*Names:* Biden, Jill T.; Harris, Kamala D.

*Subjects:* Military and veteran spouses, military caregivers, and survivors, efforts to advance economic security; Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022; U.S. servicemembers, environmental exposures in war zones; Veterans benefits; Veterans Health Administration; Veterans, health and medical care; Vice President.

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