

Between the Two World Wars

1918 to 1939

- 1912 Sherwood Act
The Sherwood Act extends military pensions to all Veterans. Union, Mexican, and Civil War Veterans now automatically receive pensions until the age of 62 years, regardless of injury or disability. Before this act, military pensions were only available to soldiers discharged due to illness or disability inflicted during service.
- 1914–1918 World War I
World War I involved nearly 5 million U.S. soldiers, with more than 100,000 dead and 200,000 wounded.
- 1929–1939 The Great Depression
The Great Depression was the longest, deepest, and most widespread depression of the 20th century. It has been estimated that nearly 25% of America's work force were homeless or living in "shantytowns" during this time period.
- 1930 Veterans Administration Established
President Herbert Hoover signs an Executive Order elevating the Veterans Bureau to a federal administration—the Veterans Administration—to "consolidate and coordinate government activities affecting war Veterans."
- 1939–1945 World War II
More than 16 million U.S. soldiers served during World War II, which led to more than 400,000 deaths during service and 600,000 wounded.
- 1944 GI Bill passed
The Servicemen's Readjustment Act, known as the GI Bill, provided returning Veterans with unemployment compensation and financial resources for education to help them reintegrate after military service.
- 1950–1953 Korean War
Over 1.5 million U.S. soldiers served during the Korean War, with over 30,000 deaths and 100,000 wounded.

Figure 1 Homelessness Among US Veterans: A Critical Approach edited by Jack Tsai, Pg 5

Wikipedia – Interwar Period (1918-1939) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interwar_period

The Knox-Porter Resolution 1921 – Declaring an end to the war with Germany.

<https://history.house.gov/HistoricalHighlight/Detail/15032423345?ret=True>

Congress in 1914 authorized insurance for the maritime industry providing compensation for vessels and individuals during WW1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_Risk_Insurance_Act

This act morphed into the VA Life Insurance.

https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/infographics/pdfs/timeline_100.pdf

1918

The Great War was over and 5 million men and women were demobilized. What future lay ahead for them as they had either enlisted or been drafted to serve their country? Would there be jobs for them? The roaring twenties was a period of good times and economic expansion for the country. Then the bust of 1929 led to one of the largest unemployment periods for the U.S. It wasn't till the end of the 1930s the country was finally getting past the downturn and employment was rising. While the hostilities with Germany ended in 1918, it wasn't till 1921 Congress got around to declaring an end to the war.

American Military History – Between World Wars:

<https://history.army.mil/books/AMH/amh-19.htm>

Laws of the United States Governing the Granting of Army and Navy Pensions Together with Regulations and Instructions Relating Thereto in Effect November 1, 1923

<https://play.google.com/store/books/details?id=Y85BAAAAIAAJ&rdid=book-Y85BAAAAIAAJ&rdot=1>

The World War Veterans' Act, 1924 with amendments prior to July 3, 1926 : an act to consolidate, codify, revise, and reenact the laws affecting the establishment of the United States Veterans' Bureau and the administration of the War Risk Insurance Act, as amended, and the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, as amended <https://archive.org/details/worldwarveterans00unit>

<http://www.worldwar1.com/dbc/bonusm.htm>

Bonus Army (Wikipedia): https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonus_Army

<http://www.american-historama.org/1929-1945-depression-ww2-era/bonus-army.htm>

Patman Bill 1932 <https://history.house.gov/Historical-Highlights/1901-1950/World-War-I-veterans-bonus-bill/>

Congress Payout 1933 <https://history.house.gov/HistoricalHighlight/Detail/35509?ret=True>

The great debate about Veteran's health.

<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/w/wsfh/0642292.0031.015?view=text;rgn=main>

Records of the Veterans Administration [VA]

<https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/015.html>

Congressional Records for the 1920s: <https://www.govinfo.gov/features/crecb-1920s-now-available>

War Department Appropriation Bill for 1934 (Military Activities): Hearings Before the Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate, Seventy-second Congress, Second Session, on H.R. 14199 : Bill Making Appropriations for the Military and Nonmilitary Activities of the War Department for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1934, and for Other Purposes

<https://play.google.com/store/books/details?id=B4w0AAAAIAAJ&rdid=book-B4w0AAAAIAAJ&rdot=1>

Fold3 – WW1 US Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards:

<https://www.fold3.com/browse/250/h3PrcBSAN>

FamilySearch Military Records Pensions

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_World_War_I_Pension_Records

Online World War 1 Indexes and Records – USA:

<https://www.militaryindexes.com/worldwarone/>