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TO: National Executive Committee
Department and Chapter Commanders and Adjutants
All Employees

FROM: Barry A. Jesinoski, National Adjutant

DATE: September 19, 2024

SUBJECT: DAV releases groundbreaking toxic-exposure report

Two years ago, DAV celebrated the passage of the PACT Act, the most comprehensive toxic-exposure legislation in history. The legislation relieved the unjust burdens placed on thousands of toxic-exposed veterans who were struggling to access the health care and benefits they earned as they fought life-changing and sometimes life-threatening illnesses.

But the PACT Act was just the beginning. It did not address all known military toxic exposures and did little to reform what has long been a flawed and burdensome system that results in delayed access to care and benefits. If the system is left to continue as is, countless veterans made ill by toxic exposures will fall through the cracks and future generations will bear the injustices of our shortcomings. DAV is determined to not let that happen.

Yesterday, in partnership with MOAA (Military Officers Association of America), DAV released [*Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans*](#), a groundbreaking report that reveals an enduring legacy of failure by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Congress to adequately care for veterans made ill by toxic exposures in service. Shockingly, we found that on average, toxic-exposed veterans have to wait more than 30 years to access the full range of health care and benefits they were promised.

Backed by original research, historical analysis and decades of advocacy, DAV and MOAA offer a blueprint for dramatically reforming how the VA and Congress handle the consequences of service-related toxic exposures. The findings and recommendations put forth in the report—which were presented during a Capitol Hill luncheon yesterday—would help end the wait for millions of current and future toxic-exposed veterans and ensure we keep our nation’s sacred promise to all those who served.

I urge you to visit endingthewait.org to read the full report and to find resources to help you advocate for your fellow veterans. For those interested in procuring hard copies of the report, please contact legislative@dav.org. Alternatively, you can download a copy from the website.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry A. Jesinoski', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Barry A. Jesinoski
National Adjutant

BAJ:ads