



PRESS RELEASE

Vietnam Veterans of America

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Mokie Porter
301-996-0901
mporter@vva.org**

The Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015 Passes Senate; Awaits President's Signature

(Washington, D.C.)—"Vietnam Veterans of America applauds the recent, unanimous passage by the Senate of the *Miller-Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Act of 2016*, and we are elated that the provisos of the *Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015* are among the 76 elements of the bill, which are aimed at improving veterans' access to care and benefits," said John Rowan, VVA national President.

"This legislation, a necessary first step, has been a top priority for VVA," noted Rowan. "It will lay the groundwork for the research we need on the health of our children and grandchildren, whom we believe have been impacted by exposures during our military service--and in keeping with our founding principle, 'Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another,' this legislation will ensure that our newer veterans will not have to wait 50 years for answers."

"My heartfelt congratulations go to all of you who answered the call and took action, organizing over 250 Agent Orange town hall meetings throughout our nation; activating your communities; building coalitions; and working with your representatives on Capitol Hill. You have shown that there are no political boundaries when it comes to justice for our children. Through your relentless perseverance, your voices have been heard," said Rowan.

"Vietnam veterans and their families owe a great debt of gratitude to Senators Moran (R-KS) and Blumenthal (D-CT) for introducing S.901 in the Senate; to Representatives Benishek (R-MI) and Honda (D-CA) for introducing the bill in the House (H.R. 1769); and to their colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working together to ensure that this bipartisan legislation is enacted into law," noted Rowan. "Congress has shown us that when it comes to veterans, they are united as one party."

"Vietnam Veterans of America is the nation's only congressionally chartered veterans' service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA's founding principle is "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

