



## Vietnam Veterans of America

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*A Not-For-Profit Veterans Service Organization Chartered by the United States Congress*

June 9, 2016

The Honorable Johnny Isakson  
Chairman  
Senate Veterans Affairs Committee  
131 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
Ranking Member  
Senate Veterans Affairs Committee  
724 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Isakson and Blumenthal:

On behalf of the members of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) and our families, we are writing to urge you to press for a floor vote on S. 2921, the Veterans First Act.

As you know, this legislation embraces S. 901, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015 introduced by Senators Jerry Moran and Dick Blumenthal. This bill is, for us, the most important piece of veterans' legislation since the Agent Orange Act was enacted in 1991. It will help ensure that the offspring of *all* of veterans from all eras, who have been exposed to toxic substances while serving our nation in uniform, will benefit from peer-reviewed epidemiological research into illnesses associated with a parent's military service.

S. 2921 also will extend caregiver benefits to catastrophically injured or wounded veterans who served prior to 9/11, and it will grant the necessary leasing authority so that development of the West LA Veterans Affairs Campus can proceed apace in providing housing and other services for homeless veterans, men and women who have needed, and will benefit from the institution of these services, for decades.

Vietnam Veterans of America fully supports S. 2921. And we will do our utmost to ensure that the bill is enacted into black-letter law.

We thank you for your untiring efforts on behalf of all veterans, our dependents, and our survivors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Rowan".

John Rowan  
CEO/National President