The US Department of Veteran Affairs: Incompetence, Corruption, & Suicide

Created by: Michael R. Wahl

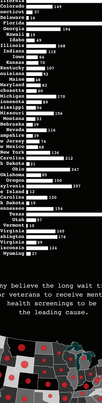
Every day in America, an estimated 20 veterans are lost to suicide.

Since 2005, a total of 78,646 veterans have taken their own lives.

To put that in perspective, only 6,828 American soldiers were killed in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars combined...

6,141 veterans have commit suicide in 2017 alone.

This is how they were divided by state.



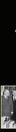
Many believe the long wait times for veterans to receive mental health screenings to be the leading cause.

To understand how we got here,

One must know the VA's roots.

1776

The constitutional congress provides pensions for veterans injured during the revolutionary war. The idea of rewarding soldiers in issues to my function.



1865

Congress introduces veteran benefits for "soldiers and Sailors". Veterans, widows, and children would be given medical and relief here.

1918

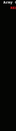
World War I leads to a massive spike in the veteran population. Congress expands the pension program for disability compensation and insurance for veterans.

1930

President Hoover establishes the exclusively veteran-focused agency known as "the Veterans Administration"

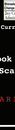
1945

1.5 million American are still living in the population after World War II. In response, FDR passes GI Bill to help veterans transition back into society. "Veterans Bureau" caught in scandal due to corruption and unconstitutionality. Results in its reorganization giving rise to state field offices.



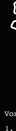
1950 - 1973

1/3 of general population after Vietnam are eligible for veteran benefits. Further education/loan expansions introduced to reintegrate veterans from Korea and Vietnam.



1988

President Reagan reforms "Veteran's Administration" into the cabinet level Department of Veteran Affairs. Veteran needs are prioritized as women, a minority, and a disabled group in the president was needed.



2005

17 of veterans declared to have some form of mental illnesses.

2014

VA critics expose **DEATH** by scheduling issues regarding timely access to medical care. Investigation finds that 56 personnel attempted scheduling at the Phoenix VA Hospital alone and **40 DIED** while waiting. **TIMES** found across the US the VA approximately **1000** Those are secretary of the VA Eric Shinseki, the Army General, Rick Shinseki **RESIGN** and accepts blame for the scandal.

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