

**From:** Dan West <[DWest@vfw.org](mailto:DWest@vfw.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 10, 2022 4:07 PM  
**Subject:** Veterans Day message from Chief Borland

My fellow war veterans,

Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland in his Veterans Day message focused on his message of “Every Veteran Counts” and the PACT act. <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2022/11/be-proud-of-your-vfw-on-veterans-day>

In his article he says,

*“Because Every Veteran Counts, I encourage all who think they were exposed to toxic substances to register with VA’s Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry (<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp>).*

*It does not matter where or when you served, your gender or your race. If you’ve worn the nation’s uniform, the VFW offers you a chance to join a compassionate team that respects your service and exists to serve you. VFW also needs your help to assist your fellow brothers- and sisters-in-arms.”*

Some have taken the Chiefs comments and wrongly interpreted them as meaning every veteran is eligible for membership in the VFW. I know you are getting calls about it from your members as I am getting calls.

Nothing in his article is about membership, it’s about the PACT act and Burn Pit Registry, nothing more. Could the wording have been more precise to avoid conclusions based on wrong interpretations? Maybe.

Chief Borland wants every veteran to know that their service counts, that they count and that if they believe or even think they have been exposed to toxins while in service they need to get registered now and visit with a VFW Accredited Service Officer.

Should you have questions, please call.

**Dan West**

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