

With Anniversary of GI Bill, \$3 Billion in Benefits Issued

On the 66th Anniversary of the signing of the first G.I. Bill, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced that more than \$3.6 billion worth of benefits have been issued under the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill of 2009. Since implementation last year, benefit payments have gone to more than 285,000 people and their educational institutions.

On June 22, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the GI Bill. The Veterans Administration, as it was known at that time, was responsible for carrying out the law's key provisions for education and training; loan guaranty for homes, farms or businesses; and unemployment pay.

By the time the original GI Bill ended on July 25, 1956, 7.8 million of the 16 million World War II veterans had participated in an education or training program.

In 1984, former Mississippi congressman G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery revamped the GI Bill. The Montgomery GI Bill assured that VA home loan guaranty and education programs continued to work for Veterans of the post-Vietnam era.

In 2009, GI Bill benefits were updated again. The new law gave veterans with active duty service on or after September 11, 2001, enhanced educational benefits to cover more expenses, provide a living allowance, money for books, and the ability to transfer unused educational benefits to spouses or children.

For more information about the Post-9/11 GI Bill for Veterans, visit <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>.