



# Obama's Economy Isn't Working For Veterans

***It's Not Just Veterans' Care – Obama's Sluggish Economy Is Also Leaving Behind Many Veterans In America***

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## **RHETORIC: OBAMA PROMISED POLICIES TO HELP VETERANS "LEAD US INTO THE 21st CENTURY"**

**In August 2009, Obama Promised That The Post-9/11 G.I. Bill Would Help "Those Who Have Borne The Heaviest Burden Lead Us Into The 21<sup>st</sup> Century."** "In early August of 2009, President Barack Obama stood with a group of young soldiers at George Mason University in Virginia and proudly announced that the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, which he'd sponsored in the Senate, had taken effect. 'This is not simply a debt that we are repaying to the remarkable men and women who have served,' Obama said of the bill, which provides tuition and housing support to veterans. 'We are letting those who have borne the heaviest burden lead us in to the 21st century.'" (Rosie Gray, "For Thousands Of Veterans, The New G.I. Bill Isn't Working," [BuzzFeed](#), 3/8/12)

**In November 2011, Obama Signed An Executive Order "To Give Tax Credits To Employers Who Hire Post-9/11 Veterans And Wounded Warriors."** "President Barack Obama announced executive orders today to give tax credits to employers who hire post-9/11 veterans and wounded warriors, as well as enhanced career counseling and related services for veterans." (Donna Miles, "Obama Announces Jobs Initiatives For Veterans," [American Forces Press Service](#), 11/9/11)

- **The Director Of Obama's Veterans Task Force Said Obama's Executive Action "Won't Create Jobs For Veterans."** "Matt Flavin, the veterans task force director, said Obama's new executive action won't create jobs for veterans. 'In terms of creating new jobs, what we're doing, you're right, is giving veterans access to many of the jobs that there are that they are qualified to do,' he said." (Matt Negrin, "New Effort Won't Create Jobs," [Politico](#), 11/7/11)

## **REALITY: DESPITE PROMISES, MANY VETERANS ARE STILL BEING LEFT BEHIND IN OBAMA'S ECONOMY**

**The Unemployment Rate For Veterans Who Served Between 2001-2013 Is "Well Above Overall Civilian Unemployment Levels."** "The unemployment rate for veterans who served since 2001 dipped

slightly in 2013 to 9 percent, the Labor Department reported Thursday. That's down from 9.9 percent the year before, but well above overall civilian unemployment levels of around 7 percent over the same period." (Tom Raum, "Unemployment Rate Among Veterans Drops, But Remains High," [The Associated Press](#), 3/20/14)

- **McClatchy Headline: "Higher Jobless Rates For Iraq, Afghanistan Vets"** (James Rosen, "Higher Jobless Rates For Iraq, Afghanistan Vets," [McClatchy](#), 3/20/14)

**"[Y]oung Veterans Of Recent Conflicts Have Generally Encountered More Difficulty In Finding Work Than Civilians."** "The report documents that, despite training and job skills acquired in the military, young veterans of recent conflicts have generally encountered more difficulty in finding work than civilians." (Tom Raum, "Unemployment Rate Among Veterans Drops, But Remains High," [The Associated Press](#), 3/20/14)

- **"Veterans With The Highest Jobless Numbers Served In The Military After The Sept. 11, 2001, Terror Attacks."** (Tom Raum, "Unemployment Rate Among Veterans Drops, But Remains High," [The Associated Press](#), 3/20/14)

### ***Recent Veterans Have Seen Higher Unemployment Rates Than Non-Veterans***

**Veterans Of Recent Wars Had A 9 Percent Unemployment Rate in 2013, While Non-Veterans Had An Unemployment Rate Of 7.2 Percent.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 5/27/14)

**Recent Veterans 18-To-24-Years Old Had A 21.4 Percent Unemployment Rate in 2013, 7.1 Percentage Points Higher Than Their Non-Veteran Peers.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 5/27/14)

**Recent Veterans 25-To-34-Years Old Had An Unemployment Rate Of 9.5 Percent, While Non-Veterans In That Age Range Have An Unemployment Rate of 7.3 Percent.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 5/27/14)

**Recent Female Veterans Had A 9.6 Percent Unemployment Rate In 2013, While Non-Veteran Women Had An Unemployment Rate Of 6.8 Percent.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 5/27/14)

**Recent Male Veterans Had An 8.8 Percent Unemployment Rate In 2013, While Non-Veteran Men Had An Unemployment Rate Of 7.5 Percent.** ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 5/27/14)

## **OBAMA VOWED TO END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS BY 2015, BUT THOUSANDS ARE STILL WITHOUT A HOME**

**In 2008, Candidate Obama Promised "No More Homeless Veterans; No More Begging For Disability Payments; No More Waiting In Line For The V.A."** OBAMA: "And it means caring for our troops when they come home, not forgetting about our troops. No more homeless veterans; no more begging for disability payments; no more waiting in line for the V.A. We have a solemn obligation to honor those who have served on our behalf." (Senator Barack Obama, Remarks Following The Wisconsin Primary, Houston, TX, 2/19/08)

**In 2010, Obama Made A Policy Goal To End Veteran Homelessness By 2015.** "At 51, with a history of drug use and illness, Smith in many ways is the face of veteran homelessness that Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki has vowed to end by 2015, a goal that became Obama administration policy in 2010." (Larry Copeland And Gregg Zoroya, "Time Is Short For Audacious Goal: End Vet Homelessness," [USA Today](#), 4/19/14)

- **In An August 2013 Speech, Obama Said "We're Not Going To Rest Until Every Veteran Who Has Fought For America Has A Home In America."** OBAMA: "We're not just bringing our veterans off the streets, we're doing more to reach at-risk and low-income vets, so they don't

become homeless in the first place. And we're not going to rest until every veteran who has fought for America has a home in America." ("Remarks By The First By And The President At Disabled American Veterans Convention," Hilton, Orlando Florida, [The White House](#), 8/10/13)

### ***Despite The Rhetoric, Tens Of Thousands Of Veterans Remain Homeless***

#### **According To A 2013 Report To Congress, In One Night 57,849 Veterans – Including 4,456**

**Homeless Female Veterans – Were Considered Homeless.** (The 2013 Annual Homeless Assessment Report To Congress: Part 1, [Department Of Housing And Urban Development](#), 11/21/13)

- **According To A Previous Annual Report To Congress On Homelessness, Approximately Twice As Many Veterans Are Considered Homeless At Some Point During The Year.** (The 2012 Annual Homeless Assessment Report To Congress: Part 2, [Department Of Housing And Urban Development](#), September 2013)

**Obama Has Been Criticized By His Former Law Professor Laurence Tribe And Democrat Activist Bobby Shriver For Failing To Address The Growing Population Of Homeless Veterans.** "The Obama administration also faces criticism from some allies, including the president's former Harvard law professor Laurence Tribe and Kennedy family scion Bobby Shriver, for being slow to stem the growing numbers of homeless veterans. Tribe is among a group of lawyers suing the administration in an attempt to push the VA to refurbish and reopen a 400-acre shuttered shelter and rehab property in west Los Angeles." (Aamer Madhani, "Obama Campaign Lagging On Vets Support," [USA Today](#), 5/31/12)

- **Laurence Tribe: "There's A Huge Gap Between Our Rhetoric And Reality."** LAURENCE TRIBE: "You know, you tell me. I mean, it's shocking that we don't live up to our ideals. I believe the president when he says that we should solve the problem of homelessness among veterans. I believe General Shinseki. They've got a lot on their plate, and they have high aspirations. But these veterans in the meantime are roaming the streets, sleeping under bridges. And there's a huge gap between our rhetoric and reality." (PBS's "The Charlie Rose Show," 7/11/11)

#### **In 2012, Democrat Activist Bobby Shriver Criticized Obama For Not Doing Enough To Fulfill His Campaign Promise To Veterans: "Nobody Who Serves, Nobody Who Fights For This Country Should Have To Fight For A Job Or A Roof Over Their Heads When They Come Back Home."**

"'Nobody who serves, nobody who fights for this country should have to fight for a job or a roof over their heads when they come back home,' President Obama said as he kicked off his 2012 campaign. And he pointed to his administration's work for veterans. That claim may work elsewhere, but not in L.A., Mr. President. Every time the president's helicopter lands on the Veterans Affairs grounds in West Los Angeles, he is setting down at the center of his policy failure. Three years into his administration, the Los Angeles area has the highest reported number of homeless vets in the nation. There are empty buildings, 100 feet from where his chopper lands, on that VA campus that can and should be used for veterans' care." (Bobby Shriver, Op-Ed, "How To House Homeless Vets," [Los Angeles Times](#), 5/28/12)

### **WHILE VETERANS FACE UNCERTAIN ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, OBAMA HAS ATTEMPTED TO INCREASE THEIR HEALTHCARE COSTS**

**Obama's FY 2015 Budget Would Cut \$11 Million From TRICARE By The End Of His Second Term.** ([OMB](#), 3/4/14)

- **Obama Would Increase TRICARE Pharmacy Copayments By \$7 Million By 2016.** ([OMB](#), 3/4/14)
- **Obama Would Increase TRICARE-For-Life Annual Premiums By \$4 Million By 2016.** ([OMB](#), 3/4/14)

**In Obama's FY 2015 Budget, TRICARE Benefits Would Be Cut By \$4.4 Billion Over Ten Years.** ([OMB](#), 3/4/14)

- **Obama Would Increase TRICARE Pharmacy Copayments By \$3.2 Billion Over Ten Years.** ([OMB](#), 3/4/14)
- **Obama Would Increase TRICARE-For-Life Annual Premiums By \$1 Billion Over Ten Years.** ([OMB](#), 3/4/14)

**In 2012, Veterans' Advocates Called Previous Obama Administration Attempts To Hike TRICARE Fees "A Significant Breach Of Faith" With Military Retirees.** "Veterans' advocates denounced the proposed increases. Retired vice admiral Norb Ryan, president of the Military Officers Association of America, called it 'a significant breach of faith with those who have already completed arduous careers of 20-30 or more years in uniform.'" (Tom Vanden Brook, "Pentagon's \$525B Budget Lists Cuts To Jets, Benefits," [USA Today](#), 2/14/12)

- **The VFW Called The 2012 TRICARE Hikes "An Attempt To Balance The Budget On The Backs Of Disabled Veterans And Men And Women In Uniform."** "Still, veterans' organizations are angry at the proposed TRICARE cost increases. The Veterans of Foreign Wars, for example, panned them as an attempt to balance the budget on the backs of disabled veterans and men and women in uniform." (Leigh Munsil, "TRICARE Cost Hikes Draw Fire," [Politico](#), 4/4/12)