

The GI Bill

ANNCR: The GI Bill — Today on Congressional Moment

In 1937, in New York City, a 10-year-old boy named Pat, abandoned by his father, shined shoes and worked on the docks to help his mother make a living. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1944, the same year that Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the GI Bill, sent to him by Congress after passing by an overwhelming margin. A more comprehensive version of earlier bills, the GI Bill provided assistance to World War II veterans in the form of college tuition aid, medical benefits, and special rates on home and farm loans.

After serving in the war, Pat used his GI Bill benefits to attend Tufts University in Massachusetts, where he earned a doctorate degree. He became a Fulbright Scholar at the London School of Economics in the early 1950s, and eventually broke into politics.

Pat became well known as Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. He went on to serve four distinguished terms in the Senate, and was a member of four successive presidential administrations... both Democratic and Republican.

The GI Bill for World War Two veterans is considered one of the federal government's best investments, boosting our post-war prosperity and paying dividends to the nation for decades. It has undergone several modifications for veterans of recent conflicts—as each generation of veterans presents new challenges—and it continues to be a major recruiting tool for the armed services.

CLOSING: This is Lee Hamilton. Congressional decisions impact all our lives. To find out more about how Congress works, or to get involved in your government, visit the Center on Congress website at congress.indiana.edu.