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**ADDRESSING THE  
TOXIC WOUNDS OF WAR**  
THROUGH ADVOCACY, RESEARCH, AND OUTREACH

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**BURNPITS360.ORG**  
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# GREETINGS,

On behalf of Burn Pits 360, we are writing to introduce you to our organization and to invite you to join members of the business community to become a financial backer of Burn Pits 360 and our Warrior Support Center.



Located in Robstown, TX, Burn Pits 360 is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to reintegrating, restoring and building resilience among our veterans by facilitating resources and services, and advocating in federal and state government on legislative issues important to our cause.

Transition into civilian life can be an overwhelming challenge for our veterans. Some return home with visible (and invisible) wounds that make it difficult for them to assimilate back into an environment that seems so different than what they remember. They deal with soul-crushing conditions that range from war-related brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder to depression, anxiety, homelessness, and unemployment due to medical conditions. Over 1.8 million veterans live in the United States of America – nearly 3 million of those veterans served in Iraq & Afghanistan where burn pits were prevalent throughout their service.



Our mission is to provide online and in person resources through training, peer support, case management services, referrals to community-based care, claims assistance, social activities and family programs. In addition to those resources, we advocate in government for legislation that supports and expands healthcare for service-members suffering from toxic exposure due to burn pits. Our Warrior Support Center is equipped with a care station, career closet, computer lab, recreation room, education room and case management rooms for veterans and their families.

Please join us in honoring our nation's heroes through your support. The success of the Center and our legislative goals can be achieved through your contribution to our grassroots efforts and organization. Your support will improve the well-being of those who have sacrificed so much to protect our Country and our freedom. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Le Roy &  
Rosie Torres*

**CPT, USAR (Ret.) Le Roy & Rosie Torres**  
Founders of Burn Pits 360

"The War that Followed Us Home"

**Transition into civilian life can be an overwhelming challenge for our veterans.**

**Some return home with visible (and invisible) wounds that make it difficult for them to assimilate back into an environment that seems so different than what they remember.**

The Internal Revenue Service has determined that Burn Pits 360 qualifies as a tax exempt organization under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and the donations to the organization are tax deductible. The Organization's Tax ID Number is 45-4258125.





Hundreds of tons of waste produced on Coalition bases in Iraq and Afghanistan were burned in football field-sized hollows of roiling flame and unceasing smoke, propelled by jet and diesel fuels – as American soldiers lived, worked, and slept on site.

It is well established that burning regular household waste releases carcinogens, neuro-disruptors, and heavy metals that can have devastating effects on the lungs, heart, brain, thyroid, and immune system. Both

federal and state government agencies have compiled decades of research linking these toxins to diseases and birth defects. It's why using burn pits on American soil is against the law.

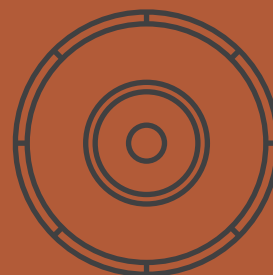
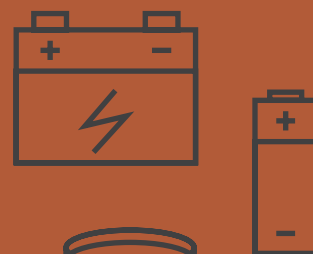
During the OEF and OIF wars, government contractors burned up to 227 metric tons of hazardous waste at forward operating bases using jet fuel in large ground pits. Items burned included: batteries, medical waste, amputated body parts, plastics,

ammunition, human waste, animal carcasses, rubber, chemicals, & more. Exposure to these toxins, have caused a traumatic impact on the lives of our service members and their families. Some of the devastating health conditions suffered by Veterans exposed include: neurological disorders, pulmonary diseases, rare forms of cancer, and many unexplained symptoms. There have been thousands of deaths resulting from the invisible wounds of war.

The toxins and smoke emitted from burn pits may affect the skin, eyes, respiratory system, cardiovascular system, and gastrointestinal tract.

Burn pit exposure has caused long-term concerns such as:

- **Reduced central nervous system function**
- **Reduced liver or kidney function**
- **Stomach, respiratory or skin cancer**
- **Skin lesions**
- **Leukemia**
- **Chronic bronchitis**
- **Constrictive bronchiolitis**
- **Autoimmune disorders**
- **Chron's Disease**
- **Infertility**
- **Migraines**
- **Throat infections**
- **Eczema**
- **Multiple Sclerosis**



The items depicted here are just some of the hazardous items burned in the pits. Typically, they were burned using JP8 Fuel.



# Burn Pits 360



Burn Pits 360 was founded in honor of Army Captain Le Roy Torres, who served in the U.S. Army for 23 years (7 years-Active, 16 Years-Reserve). He deployed to Balad, Iraq from 2007-2008. Captain Torres also served the State of Texas as a State Trooper for 14 years. Torres suffers from complications from illnesses that began after he was exposed to toxic fumes during service in post-9/11 Iraq. Le Roy was subsequently diagnosed with Constrictive Bronchiolitis and Toxic Brain Injury. After experiencing delay, denial of benefits, and ineffective treatment from his physicians, Le Roy alongside his wife, Rosie, founded Burn Pits 360.



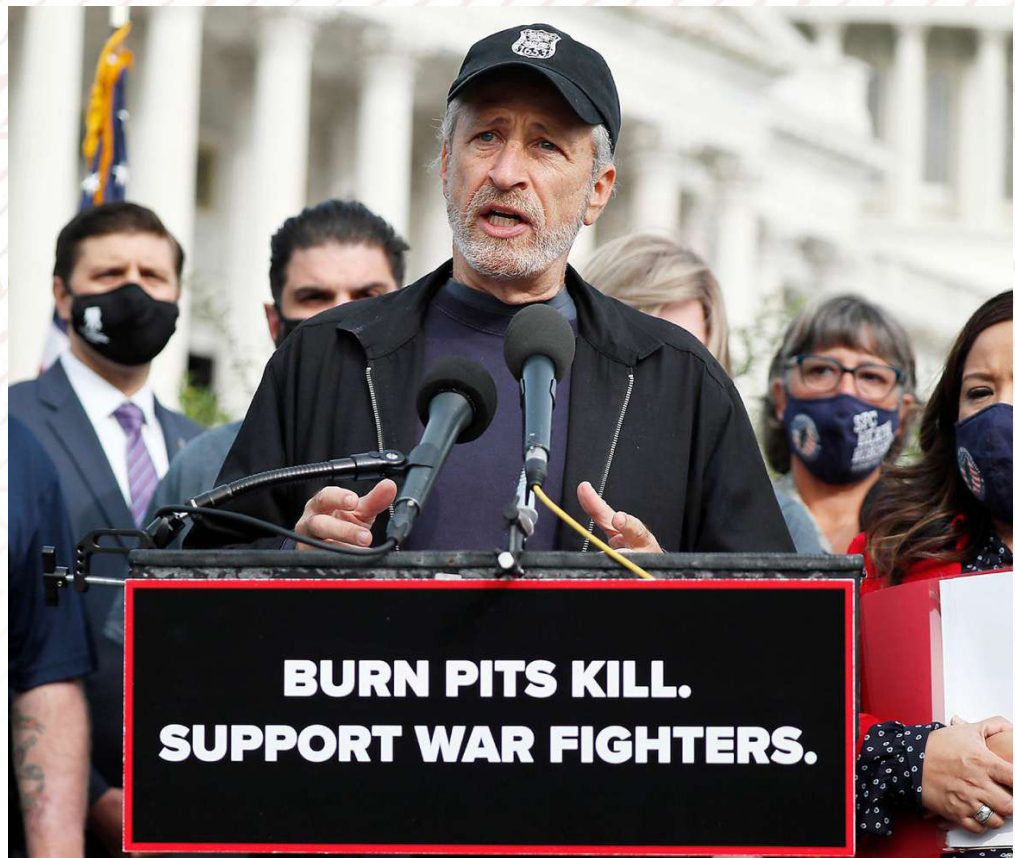
Burn Pits 360 seeks to ensure that no other service member or Veteran suffers his fate and to ensure that we would make the invisible visible. One of the greatest disservices to those who served is to become invisible.” over the years, Rosie and Le Roy established an independent Veterans exposure registry where thousands of war heroes and their families reported the same suffering and denial of health care and benefits. Le Roy and Rosie combined bring over 40 years of experience working with Veterans and active duty service members and families. Rosie worked for the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs for 23 years. Together they co-founded Burn Pits 360.





# OUR MISSION

**Our Mission is to integrate, restore and build resilience through facilitating the unmet needs to warriors and their families through outreach, advocacy, education and research.**



# OUR VISION

**Our vision is  
to empower,  
and provide  
reintegration  
and survival  
through online  
and in-person  
resources.**



# OUR FAMILY

## CORE TEAM

**CPT LE ROY TORRES**

Co-Founder  
U.S. Army Reserve (Ret.) /  
Texas Highway Patrol  
Governance Board Member

**ROSIE LOPEZ TORRES**

Co-Founder  
Executive Director

**JULIE M. TOMASKA, PHD**

Scientific Advisory Board Chair  
Governance Board Member  
U.S. Air Force (Ret.)

**DANIELLA MOLINA**

Director of Community  
Development

**KERRY BAKER**

U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)  
Toxic Exposure VA  
Claims Advisor

## ADVISORY BOARD

**COLONEL DAVID W.  
SUTHERLAND**

U.S. Army (Ret.)

**LTC DAN BREWER**

U.S. Army (Ret.)

**LTC BRIAN LAWLER**

U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)  
Attorney, Pilot Law, P.C.

**JAY KLEBERG**

Former Associate Director of  
the Texas Parks and Wildlife  
Foundation

## SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

**DR. ROBERT F. MILLER**

Associate Professor  
Vanderbilt University

**DR. STEVEN COUGHLIN**

Director of Public Health  
Augusta University

**DR. ANTHONY SZEMA**

Zucker School of Medicine at  
Hofstra Northwell

**TAMMY A. BUTTERICK, PHD**

Health Science Specialist  
Minneapolis VA  
Health Care System

# WARRIOR SUPPORT CENTER

Our warrior support center, located in Robstown, Tx, provides various services and resources for veterans and their families, as well as first responders.



The center is a place for all veterans and service members to have access to training, peer support, case management services, referrals to community-based care, claims assistance, social activities, and family programs. Everyone who walks through our doors is treated as family.





## SERVICES PROVIDED

- Case Work Assistance
- Claims Assistance
- Peer Support Groups
- Seminars
- Computer Lab
- Free Professional Attire
- Recreation Room
- Veteran and Caregiver Retreats

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Annual Texas Patriot Ruck March
- Annual Texas Patriot Golf Tournament
- Wrapping for Warriors Program
- Monthly Haircuts for Heroes
- Hope 4 Heroes Christmas Drive
- Annual Coastal Bend Veterans Day Celebration

Burn Pits 360 is proud to announce the establishment of our Warrior Hope Network. This program provides access to our various network partners that are providing many types of healthcare modalities equipment at either a discount rate or under full scholarship grant. Our partners are providing services such as hyperbaric oxygen therapy, stem cell therapy, detoxification, as well as nutritional, emotional and spiritual support.

Our pilot program launched in the spring of 2021 with an initial cadre of 4 veterans undergoing treatment at the NorthStart Hyperbaric Clinic in Tucson, AZ. These treatments were made possible through the support of a wonderful 501(c)3 charity, Healing Arizona Veterans. All four of our veterans came from other areas of the country and due to the length of treatment and the accompanying logistical support demands that go along with that, Burn Pits 360 provided a communal home free of charge so they could have a place to rest and heal while undergoing treatment without worry of how to pay for accommodations while away.

# LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Legislative advocacy at both the federal and state levels of our government is vital to the success of our missions and vision here at Burn Pits 360. In addition to offering support services for veterans, we feel we can effect change for all veterans in Washington DC, and our state capitols. Thanks to so many of our advocates, partners, and volunteers across the Country, we have had legislative successes in ensuring our veterans receive the support they need from our Country.

### Union Calendar No. 179

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

### H. R. 3967

[Report No. 117-249, Part I]

To improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances,  
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 17, 2021

Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Mrs. LERIA, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SLOTEKIN, Mr. THONE, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. LAMB, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. ALARID, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. RYAN, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SOTO, Ms. MENG, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Ms. SPANBERGER) introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

Document: 92-50929

## Signed Into Law

- S.3202 - Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012
- H.R. 43797, the Department of Defense (DOD) Burn Pits Health Provider Training Act of 2021
- H.R. 4400, Burn Pit Registry Expansion Act of 2021
- H.B. 306 (Texas), The Service Member and Veteran Open Burn Pit Registry Expansion Act of 2021
- H.R. 3967 - Honoring our PACT Act of 2021

## Pending Legislation (2021-2022)

- S.3541 - Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act
- H.R. 2433 - Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act
- S. 1188 - SFC Heath Robinson Burn Pit Transparency Act
- S. 952 - Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins Act of 2021



## Previously Legislative Efforts

- H.R. 1381- Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act of 2019
- H.R. 663 - Burn Pits Accountability Act of 2019
- H.R. 1001 - Family Member Access to Burn Pit Registry Act
- H.R. 1005 - Burn Pit Veterans Revision Act
- IN ADDITION TO MANY OTHERS...





Burn Pits 360

# IN THE MEDIA



**THE HILL**

NOVEMBER 12, 2022

Despite the PACT Act, much work remains to support veteran health



**MILITARY TIMES**

NOVEMBER 11, 2022

Will Biden award the Medal of Freedom to burn pit activists?



**CNN**

AUGUST 11, 2022

Biden signs bill expanding health care benefits for veterans exposed to toxic burn pits



**HUFFPOST**

AUGUST 3, 2022

Jon Stewart Hails Burn Pit Bill Passage: 'I Hope We Learned A Lesson'



**VANITY FAIR**

AUGUST 3, 2022

PACT Act Passes After Jon Stewart Flames Republican Lawmakers



**NPR**

AUGUST 2, 2022

The Senate passes help for veterans exposed to toxins, after a reversal drew fury



**FOX NEWS**

JUNE 29, 2022

Supreme Court rules in favor of burn pit veteran in wrongful termination case



**BOSTON GLOBE**

JUNE 29, 2022

Supreme Court rules veteran who lost job as Texas trooper can sue state



**LOS ANGELES TIMES**

JUNE 29, 2022

Supreme Court rules Texas veteran may sue to get his job back; conservative justices dissent



**NEW YORK TIMES**

MARCH 25, 2022

The Monster That Followed Him Home From War



**STARS AND STRIPES**

DECEMBER 2, 2019

'We were forced to find answers': Burn-pit injury and advocacy shape the lives of veteran and his wife

# THE PACT ACT

THE PASSING OF THE LANDMARK PACT ACT BILL  
HAS HAD A HUGE IMPACT ON THE HEALTH OF  
THOSE HARMED BY TOXIC CHEMICAL EXPOSURE



**329,706**

Total Veterans/Survivors with  
Completed PACT Act Related  
Claims (08/10/2022–06/17/2023)



**279,925**

Total PACT Act  
Claims Approved  
(08/10/2022–06/17/2023)



**322,802**

Total Veterans with Completed  
PACT Act Related Claims



**79.1%**

Approval Rate  
for PACT Act  
Related Claims  
(06/17/2023)

**6,911**

Total Survivors with Completed  
PACT Act Related Claims



**3,770,289**

Total Toxic Exposure  
Screenings

(09/06/2022–06/17/2023)



**1,593,387 (42.25%)**

Toxic Exposure Screenings  
where Veterans Endorsed  
at least 1 Potential Exposure

SOURCE: VA PACT ACT PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD JUNE 23, 2023





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