



Veterans-**For**-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, January 10, 2016

Volume 7, Issue 02

This-N-That

As many of you know Members of Congress are great for good lip service, but when it comes to Veterans, they're just not always there for you!

One bill has been coming up over and over for at least ten years now that I'm aware of and that is a bill which would deal with the SBP/DIC off set!

SBP is paid for by the Soldier/Veteran and is a life insurance policy which you pay for! DIC (Disability Indemnity Compensation) is also in essence a life insurance policy too, but this is paid for by your service and when the time comes paid for in full by your life!

For years and years now, widows have been penalized as it's called double dipping! Which it is NOT, one policy is paid for by your hard earned money the other is as I said paid for by the loss of your life. But the penalty is that what ever amount you receive from DIC benefits, is deducted from SBP benefits.

To me this is the worst form of GRAND THEFT and could be as much as \$1,075.00 per month that your widow is NOT or will NOT receive! And that is a hell of a lot of money to many and sometimes could mean the difference between paying the mortgage or rent along with utilities, and putting food on the table or making co-payments on doctors visits and medications!

And this truly does need to stop and widows be compensation for this theft of benefits due, so I really am asking for your help!

I need for every one who reads our newsletter to please burn up those phone lines, call your reps in DC and ask your Senators to co-sponsor and vote for S-979, then call your Congressman and ask they co-sponsor and vote for HR-1594!

Further down in this newsletter are phone numbers you can use to call them. Then log on to their websites and send them a message there, and you can also push a little more by going to the [CapWiz](#) site, fill in your information, then click on the section where is shows the SBP/DIC bills and send that pre-written message!

I can't stress enough how important this is for the 60,000+ widows now, and all our future widows! So please, please, please, help us to get these bills voted on, passed, and signed into law!

Make you voice count!

The Veterans-For-Change website is currently being updated and upgraded hardware wise for security software updates and hardware installation, but do check often if you find the site down and off line!

We apologize for the inconvenience, but this is a necessity in order to maintain security of our subscribers, and a virus and malware FREE site!

Last week and again this week further down in this newsletter I've listed many areas in which the VA needs to be changed, corrected, finished, etc. and I asked for anyone who has experienced any of these to please write me with your story.

I'm running it again as I'd still like to hear from more of you so when I can compile enough information and specific areas of concern I will be better able to address those issues with all 535 members of Congress!

Additionally, Brian Sinykin of the Buchanan Investigations Internet Radio Program is also asking you to please contact him as well. He's looking for those interested in sharing their stories on the air, and personally I feel the more we can get these issues out and on the table, the better the chances are of other media sources picking it up and maybe helping Veterans to drive home the point of crappy care, claims processing and VETERANS LIVES MATTER!

We seriously want and need to know so that maybe, just maybe we might have a good chance as fixing some of the problems.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Volunteers nationwide, we wish you and your family good health!

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder & CEO

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org

Giving Widows More Relief from SBP-DIC Offset

In a hopeful sign for 60,000 military widows and widowers who lost spouses to service-connected illnesses or injuries, a key House subcommittee is taking a fresh look at how Congress might allow a further easing the "SBP-DIC offset" to provide heartier and fairer survivor benefit packages. Rep. Joe Heck (R-Nev.), chairman of the House armed services subcommittee on military personnel, isn't promising yet specific relief from the offset, which surviving spouses prefer to call the "military widows' tax". But Heck and colleagues did gather anew complaints about the offset during a special December hearing, and vowed to look for ways to end it, or at least to continue to dull its effect on the widows' financial health.

TRICARE: State of Emergency in Tennessee

The governor of Tennessee has declared a State of Emergency due to tornadoes. Emergency prescription refill procedures are in place through January 11, 2016. To get an emergency refill, take your prescription bottle to any TRICARE retail network pharmacy. To find a network pharmacy, call Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303 or search the [network pharmacy locator](#). If possible, visit the pharmacy where the prescription was filled. If you use a retail chain, you can fill your prescription at another store in that chain. If your provider is available, he or she may call in a new prescription to any network pharmacy. You can request assistance at another pharmacy, but it is at that pharmacy's discretion to help you.

Avoiding Errant Termination of VA Benefits

In response to letters and pressure by Congressman David Jolly, R-Indian Shores, Fla., the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is instituting a new process to avoid wrongly declaring veterans deceased. In a recent letter sent to Jolly, the VA says it erroneously stopped benefits to 115 people between July 7, 2014 and April 1, 2015. Under the new guidelines, beneficiaries will have an opportunity to correct an error before the VA terminates their monthly benefits. For more information, read the news release on [Congressman David Jolly's website](#).

Department of Defense Releases Third Quarter Calendar Year 2015 Suicide Information

Today, the Department of Defense released the Quarterly Suicide Report (QSR) for the third quarter of calendar year 2015.

The report summarizes confirmed suicide counts for all services and components during the months of July through September 2015, and also includes total suicide counts for calendar years 2012, 2013 and 2014.

In the third quarter of 2015, there were 72 suicides among service members in the active component, and 70 suicides in the reserve component, which includes 38 suicides among reserve service members and 32 suicides among service members in the National Guard.

The QSR is intended to communicate the department's suicide data on a routine basis. The QSR is available at <http://www.dspo.mil/SuicideData/QuarterlyReports.aspx>. Additional suicide prevention information is available on the Defense Suicide Prevention Office website at <http://www.dspo.mil/>.

The Department of Defense continues to partner with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to promote the Military Crisis Line, a 24/7 confidential crisis line staffed by caring, qualified responders, many of who have served in uniform themselves. The number is 1-800-273-8255, press 1 for military.

Additionally, Military OneSource provides free and confidential peer counseling for service members and their families. The number is 1-800-342-9647 or go to <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/>.

Did You Know? Managing Your Health History Online Made Easy

Did You Know? My HealtheVet lets you keep track of your health history. From immunizations to allergies, and even family and military history, *Health History* lets you keep everything in one place and up to date. Log in to My HealtheVet and select *Track Health*, then select Health History. You can add your own personal information including allergies, vaccines and immunizations, family history and your own military health history. Everything you enter will always be available on My HealtheVet. Just remember to save it and share with your health care team using the VA Blue Button! [Log on today.](#)

Veterans Treatment Court Pilot Program

A Veterans Treatment Court, the first of its kind located on a major military installation, was recently established at Fort Hood. The Veterans Treatment Court on Fort Hood (VETS Court) will work to divert veterans with service-connected mental health or substance abuse disorders out of the court system and into enduring treatment solutions. The VETS Court will offer community supervision and treatment provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as an alternative to federal convictions for qualified veterans charged with committing misdemeanors while on Fort Hood. Individuals seeking to get involved in supporting veterans in the VETS Court are encouraged to contact Magistrate Court on Fort Hood or the Texas Veterans Commission Military Veteran Peer Network.

Navy Wants Smartphone App to Diagnose PTSD, TBI

Officials with the Office of Naval Research are supporting the development of a smartphone application that may help to screen for autism in children — and, down the road, may identify symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury in war veterans. The technology in play is an algorithm that maps landmarks on faces and assesses emotional responses based on facial movements, officials said in a news release. For more details, see [this Defense tech article](#).

Veterans fought for us; we continue to fight for our veterans!

VFC Website Update

If you've not visited our website, maybe you should visit today! Since going on-line on 10/28/12 we have been averaging between 2,100 and 3,000 visitors per day and have had **2,527,850** visitors to date.

Visit today and subscribe, it's 100% **FREE** of charge to all! Just be sure to use a valid E-Mail address so the system can send you an authentication E-Mail. Becoming a subscriber will show you all the various forum's, added libraries, and more.

We have the largest One-Stop-Shop Veterans website available that is user friendly, offers a host of information on many topics, Several forums, Frequently Asked Questions and Answers, a massive Documents Library with more than 12,900 documents, various VA and DoD forms.

www.veterans-for-change.org

- Documents Library with over **140** different libraries and over **14,417+** documents
- FAQ's (**1,567** on-line now) (**Updated 04/05/15**)
- Forums (**with Licensed Mental Health Worker Moderator**)
- Job Postings and Job Fairs (Updated 01/02/16 **41** New Jobs and **0** New Job Fair)
- Memorial Pages (**Updated 01/02/16** added **17**)
- News (Updated almost daily, **5,438** articles on-line)
- Web Links (**1,659** Active Links)(**Updated 01/02/16** added **1** New Links)

The documents library has many different categories and contains more than 55 million pages of information and forms.

There are forums for all Eras of service and one just for Women Veterans, which is locked to use by women only. Another for Men Veterans which is also locked to men only.

In the documents and forums we provide information pertaining to women and the ability speak freely in the forums to other women about the same issues and problems you face.

The Memorial Pages are open, and if you have a loved one or a buddy you've lost and would like for them to be added to our Memorial Pages, please send a photo, First and Last Name, Rank, Branch of Service, DOB and DOD, and allow us 2-3 days to install on the proper page. (Send to: Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org)

You also have the ability to comment and rate all NEWS articles which would be very helpful for us so we know the types of information you'd like to see on our website.



Problems with the Veterans administration?

I'm associated with the Buchanan Investigations Internet Radio Program (www.thebuchananreport.com) and a Facebook Group "Problems with the Veterans Administration?" Both organizations represent veterans and their problems

with the Veterans Administration. We are working on taking one issue at a time and trying to take a step in solve it by exposing it publicly on the radio program.

I see your Facebook Group has a variety of members. We put together a list of 26 issues. (See below). You may have someone that would like working on one of those or found another to be added to the list they would work on solving.

We would like to see if you are interested in coming on the show or finding one of your members that would and discussing your issue so other veterans can be informed about it and told what they can do if that is affecting them. The show airs Tuesday's and Thursday's 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM mountain time.

Brian Sinykin

mnvag@comcast.net

1. VA police departments improperly enforcing disruptive behavior issue.
2. Veterans waiting list issue.
3. VA denying medical benefits and getting away with it by violating Veterans civil rights to due process.
4. VA hospitals construction problems.
5. Help with Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans act.
6. Medical malpractice issues.
7. Brain injury exams problem in Minneapolis Minnesota VA hospital. Is this happening elsewhere.
8. Suicide prevention.
9. Homeless Vets issue.
10. Choice card and being referred to outside medical care issue.
11. Spinal cord injury bathing issue in Tampa Bay Florida. Is it also happening elsewhere.
12. Whistleblower protection issue
13. VA lying issue and how to enforce current laws that are not being enforced and/or implemented new stronger laws.
14. Traumatic brain injury issue.
15. Caregiver issues.
16. Agent Orange issues.
17. Veterans housing building project.
18. Sexual trauma in the military Karen over to the VA.
19. Management payment and bonus issue.
20. Veterans medical care funding issue.
21. VA assignment of a guardian for Veterans implementation issue.
22. Criminal charges not being levied against employees who violate criminal laws.
23. Disruptive Behavior and treatment by VA Police Department.
24. Provide female Veterans with OBGYNS and other women's medical personnel.
25. Getting Veterans that are affected by illness due to chemical exposure faster medical care and Disability coverage. It took over 19 years before they even started to except their illness and many more years to cover everything that was caused by that exposure.
26. Get the VA to stop collecting separation pay before paying Disability benefits earned by Veterans and Disabled separating military personnel.

State of Emergency in Several States due to Storm Goliath

The governors of Missouri, Alabama, New Mexico, and Texas have declared a State of Emergency for all four states (the entire states) due to Storm Goliath. In these states, emergency prescription refill procedures are in place from December 28, 2015 through January 27, 2016.

The governors of Georgia, Louisiana, Illinois, and Mississippi have also declared States of Emergency for all four states (the entire states) due to Storm Goliath. In these states, emergency prescription refill procedures are in place from December 30, 2015 through January 29, 2016.

Emergency Refills

To get an emergency refill, take your prescription bottle to any TRICARE retail network pharmacy. To find a network pharmacy:

- Call Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303
- Search the [network pharmacy locator](#)

If possible, visit the pharmacy where the prescription was filled.

- If you use a retail chain, you can fill your prescription at another store in that chain.
- If your provider is available, he or she may call in a new prescription to any network pharmacy.
- You can request assistance at another pharmacy, but it's at that pharmacy's discretion to help you.

Announcing
Wells Fargo Veterans
Scholarships and
Wells Fargo Veterans
Emergency Grants

Scholarship
AMERICA®



Scholarship America and Wells Fargo are pleased to announce the launch of the Wells Fargo Veterans Scholarship and Wells Fargo Veterans Emergency Grant programs, designed to fill funding gaps to help veterans complete the postsecondary education or training they need to return to -- and succeed in -- civilian life and work. These programs can make a significant impact on students across America, and we need your help to spread the word.

The [Wells Fargo Veterans Scholarship Program](#) provides scholarships up to \$10,000 per year, to fill gaps for veterans and the spouses of disabled veterans after military benefits and other grants and scholarships have been utilized. To ensure that recipients can focus on completing their degree, these scholarships will be renewable, and award amounts will grow by \$1,000 each year.

Wells Fargo's [emergency grant program](#) helps veterans already enrolled in postsecondary education meet their household expenses when faced with unexpected financial setbacks. Ranging up to \$1,000, these immediate, one-time grants will ensure that recipients are able to stay in school without creating undue financial hardship for themselves or their families.

As a Dollars for Scholars volunteer, you're in a unique position to reach out to veterans, students and supporters in your community. Both programs are accessible via www.scholarshipamerica.org/wellsfargovets, and will be linked in the "Student Opportunities" section of your website. Please take a moment to share the link with veterans, military families and veterans' organizations in your hometown, so we can ensure that they get the help they need. Thank you!

Government Accountability Office (GAO) Reports

DOD and VA Health Care: Actions Needed to Help Ensure Appropriate Medication Continuation and Prescribing Practices <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-158>

Corporate Boards: Strategies to Address Representation of Women Include Federal Disclosure Requirements. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-30>

Amtrak: Better Reporting, Planning, and Improved Financial Information Could Enhance Decision Making. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-67>

Small Business Administration: Leadership Attention Needed to Overcome Management Challenges, by William B. Shear, director, financial markets and community investment, before the House Committee on Small Business. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-134T>

Federal Acquisitions: Use of 'Other Transaction' Agreements Limited and Mostly for Research and Development Activities. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-209>

TSA Acquisitions: Opportunities Exist to Enhance Efficiency of Screening Technology Test and Evaluation, by Michele Mackin, director, acquisition and sourcing management, before the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, House Committee on Homeland Security. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-322T>

Troubled Asset Relief Program: Status of Housing Programs. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-279R>

Drug Compounding for Animals: FDA Could Improve Oversight with Better Information and Guidance. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-671>

DoD Identifies Army Casualty

The Department of Defense announced today the death of a Soldier who was supporting Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Q. McClintock, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, died Jan. 5, 2016, in Marjah District, Afghanistan, from wounds suffered when the enemy attacked his unit with small arms fire. The incident is under investigation.

McClintock was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Buckley, Washington.

Follow Veterans-For-Change on Twitter



<https://twitter.com/Veterans4Change>

New Vet Lifeline Created

A new national help hotline, [Vets4Warriors](#), was recently created. The hotline's mission is to provide 24/7 confidential, stigma free peer support by veterans to active duty, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers, veterans, retirees, and their families/caregivers. The hotline just received special state funding and can help connect clients with a new \$5 million program called the Veterans Total Care Initiative. This six-month pilot program will help any servicemember, vet or reservist bypass long wait lines and get expedited treatment. The Veterans Total Care Initiative went live Jan. 1 and can be reached at (866) 838-7654. If you need help now, call the Vets4Warriors National Help Hotline at (855) 838-8255 and visit the [Vets4Warriors website](#).



Are you seeking employment? Been looking forever and not found the right job?

Well Veterans-For-Change is working very hard to bring you more information on Job Fairs and Job Postings available across the country.

Click on the link below, and find all the jobs available, Job Fairs coming up, locations, details, etc.

<http://veterans-for-change.org/documents-library/category/167-job-fairs-job-postings>

If you have a job position open, and are willing to hire a Veteran, please send an E-Mail to: JIM.DAVIS@VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE.ORG there is never any fee involved, this is a 100% free service in order to help thousands of Veterans nationwide to gain full time employment.

To be updated by 10pm PST 01/09/16

Talk With Your Healthcare Provider

"Time is of the essence" is a phrase that is important during appointments with your doctor. Because there are so many patients to be seen, health care appointments usually seem too short. This leaves many patients unsatisfied at the end of their visit. Learn how to [make the most of every visit](#) with your health care providers.

Links to other Stories

- 1) [America's Veterans deserve better in O.C.](#)
- 2) [Big Win For Children of Vietnam Veterans](#)
- 3) [Boston Makes Major Progress Toward Ending Veteran Homelessness](#)
- 4) [Craig Joint Theater Hospital blood bank provides life force in trauma](#)
- 5) [Finding Patient Centered Care](#)
- 6) [Former Air Force surgeon general named as new Uniformed Services University senior vice president](#)
- 7) [Implicated VA exec: Fire me or let me go back to work](#)
- 8) [New VA Health Care Center should improve wait times, officials say](#)
- 9) [Patriot Place for homeless Veterans needs donations for furnishing, finishing](#)
- 10) [Sexual Assault Of Female Veterans Reported At Tomah VA](#)
- 11) [Sudden removal of director Linda W. Weiss stirs unrest at Stratton VA hospital](#)
- 12) [TRICARE Pharmacy copays change February 1, 2016](#)
- 13) [Truth about Veterans' care programs](#)
- 14) [VA Officials Have Committed Thousands of Privacy Breaches Since 2011](#)
- 15) [VA PTSD facility turns away Veteran's service dog](#)
- 16) [VA, police probe Veteran's death](#)
- 17) [VETERANS VOICE: Suicide can affect VA survivor benefits](#)

You can help Veterans-For-Change by reading the articles posted, and comment at the bottom and rank the article. If you don't have an account, sign-up today, it's **FREE**. Your comments and rankings help us to better determine the type of information you'd like most to see.

Check us out today: www.veterans-for-change.org

Veterans Crisis Line

September is suicide prevention month. The Veterans Crisis Line is a confidential service, so veterans who call do not even have to say who they are. Veterans and their loved ones can connect with VA responders 24 hours a day, seven days a week by: (1) calling the toll-free hotline (800) 273-8255, and then pressing 1; (2) texting the number 838255; or (3) or chatting online at the Veterans Crisis Line website at www.veteranscrisisline.net/chat. Veterans and family members can visit the Veteran Crisis Line website at www.veteranscrisisline.net for suicide prevention resources. Also, there are suicide prevention coordinators (over 300) located at every VA medical center in the country.

To Contact your Members of Congress

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| To Call your Representative: | 202-225-2305 |
| To call your Senator: | 202-224-3841 or 202-224-3553 |
| To call different members of Congress: | 202-224-3121 |
| Toll FREE Number: | 866-272-6622 |

My TRICARE: Amend it But Don't End it!

The House and Senate Armed Services Committees want to replace the current TRICARE program with an entirely new system, and plan to craft legislation this year to achieve this objective. The starting point will be the health care recommendations from the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) that suggests that TRICARE be replaced with a plan similar to the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program (FEHBP). The MCRMC proposal recommends that "Non-Medicare eligible retirees should continue to have full access to the military health benefit program at cost contributions that gradually increase over many years..." These beneficiaries would eventually be required to pay 20 percent of all health care costs, and premiums would be increased every year to ensure that beneficiaries keep paying 20 percent. Like FEHBP beneficiaries, this new program would allow beneficiaries to choose from a selection of commercial insurance plans.

FRA believes that a military retiree's health care premium, is at least in part, paid for with 20 or more years of arduous military service. FRA advocates that military beneficiaries incur distinctive and extraordinary physical and mental stresses that are completely different to the service conditions of federal civilian employees, and their health benefits should be significantly better than civilian programs. Further the Association does not believe that TRICARE cannot be fixed. Please use the Action Center to ask your legislators to amend TRICARE but don't end it!

[Take Action](#)

C-141C Hanoi Taxi Exhibit at AF Museum

Restoration crews at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force recently moved the Lockheed C-141C Hanoi Taxi into the museum's new fourth building. The aircraft, which airlifted the first American prisoners of war out of North Vietnam in February 1973, will be displayed in the Global Reach Gallery. The public will be able to view the aircraft as they move into the fourth building from a designated area on the museum grounds. The 224,000 square foot fourth building is scheduled to open to the public in June 2016. Information on the new fourth building will be updated regularly on the [museum's website](#). The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, is the world's largest military aviation museum. For more information, visit the [National Museum of the U.S. Air Force website](#).

~ We Proudly Support Our Military Personnel & Families ~

If you received this Newsletter as a forward or as a Courtesy Copy and would like to continue to receive this FREE weekly newsletter, click on link below:

<https://app.expressemailmarketing.com/survey.aspx?sfid=121170>

Complete all information, and select the appropriate box at the bottom of the form. You will then receive an automated authentication E-Mail, follow the instructions and you will then be added to the weekly distribution list.

Our mailing list is never sold, traded or shared with anyone ever, and is held in the strictest of confidence.

America is another name for opportunity. Our whole history appears like a last effort of divine providence on behalf of the human race.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson~

Veterans-For-Change, Inc.

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today
www.veterans-for-change.org

Serving those who served!

Please pass to all your Veteran friends and family!

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| Twitter: | 27 |
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| U.S. Senators & Staff | 80 |
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