

Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, July, 09, 2017

Volume 8, Issue 28

This-N-That

I trust everyone had a great weekend last week with the 4th of July holiday.

It seems a once thought issue was resolved and dead has come back to life! Gender re-assignment is now been revived with nine states and the District of Columbia taking a stand in federal court on Wednesday saying it should be covered in their medical care plan.

I'm sure I will end up taking some heat on this issue some where along the line but I personally feel this is not a medical necessity, it's not needed to resolve any service connection to cause an illness and most would feel this is a complete waste of taxpayer money just as with Planned Parenthood and tax payer supported abortions.

Gender re-assignment is a personal choice, not a medical necessity. And frankly it's also THEFT from Veterans who have REAL MEDICAL ISSUES and REAL MEDICAL PROBLEMS.

And for all those who agree with me on this issue, then I very strongly ask that you please take a moment and send President Trump a very loud and clear message by going to the White House contact page and let him know!

And please don't think this is a waste of your time! I have sent several letters to President Trump over the past two months regarding Veterans and their issues and out of shock and amazement, I got replies, and they were not canned, generic replies! They were actual direct replies and the letters were signed by President Trump.

And again I am running the information on the White House Veterans phone line further down in this newsletter.

I encourage you to please use it wisely and call if you have personal issues regarding the VA, your healthcare, and issues like I just mentioned above!

President Trump kept one of his many campaign promises with this phone line, manned by volunteers of Active Duty, Veterans, spouses and family members so you're talking to people who know first hand, are more than willing to listen to you, take notes, and get them to the appropriate person or department head and you just never know where a miracle might come from!

We are gaining ground even though it doesn't look like it, not in leaps and bounds, but inch by inch which is far better than nothing at all, so please keep sending out the letters when we post calls to take action as in this and many of our past newsletters.

And even if you have already done it, please send them over and over, get friends and family members to do it too. Everyone can help, it's not strictly limited to Veterans only.

We can succeed with your help!

We continue to receive more stories and have been blast faxing to all members of Congress since eight weeks ago Sunday non-stop.

It's not too late, so if you'd like to share your story and help put faces on the problems that you face in your everyday life in dealing with the VA, please send them on to my e-mail address.

Only rules are no last names, no social security numbers, no phone numbers, only first name, city and state. All other information would be redacted and isn't needed so we can insure the protections of everyone.

On behalf of our Volunteers nationwide and myself, we wish you and your family good health!

Respectfully,
Jim Davis
Founder
Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org

Key Law Maker Seeks 2.4% Raise for 2018

A key Republican in the House recommended a 2.4 percent pay raise for military personnel in 2018 as opposed to the 2.1 percent in President Donald Trump's proposed defense budget. Speaking on background, staffers for House Armed Services Committee Chairman Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, said the higher level would comply with "statutory requirements" for military pay increases that have at times been ignored by presidents of both parties. Read the full story.

Veterans and Eye Disorders

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) researchers recently published two studies showing that the rate of eye disease may be increasing in the VA system, and that Veterans with serious mental illness have a higher rate of eye diseases than other Veterans. The first study, published in the November–December 2016 issue of General Hospital

Psychiatry, showed that VA patients with serious mental illness have an even higher rate of dry eye, cataract and glaucoma than the general Veteran population. The second study, published in the January 2017 edition of the American Journal of Ophthalmology, found that the rate of eye disease, specifically glaucoma and cataract, increased in the VA Capitol Health Care Network from 2007 to 2011. For more information, read the VA VAntage Point Blog.



Support SBP/DIC Offset Repeal Legislation

Senator Nelson (FL) has introduced legislation (S. 339) and Congressman Joe Wilson (SC) has introduced identical legislation in the house (HR 846) that repeals the SBP/DIC offset for survivors, sometimes referred to as the "Military Widows Tax.". Please use this action center contact your legislators to ask them to support this important legislation.

Take Action!

2010 Sequestration May Block House Plans for 2018

The House Armed Services Committee cleared a \$696.5 billion fiscal 2018 defense authorization (National Defense Authorization Act) bill early Thursday, but supporters warn it will be sliced back if the 2010 Budget Control Act (BCA), a.k.a. sequestration, isn't repealed. Though the House bill supports \$696 billion overall for defense, some in the

House feel it is highly unlikely that at the end of this process we're going to have \$696 billion. Read the full article.

ATTENTION BLUE WATER NAVY VETERANS

Your immediate help is greatly needed to further the cause of BWN Benefits and Healthcare!

We need you, your family members, and as many of your friends to send this letter off to Sec. VA. Dr. Shulkin to get Commander John Wells, USN (Ret.) on this committee to insure all inaccuracies are corrected and to help make sure benefits are awarded as they should have been all along.

This letter was drafted by a Navy Veteran, Michael K. who has worked both with Commander Wells and VFC intensively along with many other BWN Veterans tirelessly to correct a wrong doing by the VA.

Again, please copy and past the letter below into an E-Mail and send to Dr. Shulkin at:

david.shulkin@va.gov

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I have reviewed the minutes of the Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation for both December and March.

I was Shocked to see the inaccuracies and downright lies that were shared with the Committee by VA employees. Especially egregious were the statements of Jim Sampsel who distorted and fabricated the facts.

As you know Mr. Sampsel was recently called to task by Pro Publica expose.

We know that Commander John Wells, USN (Retired) has applied to be a member of the Committee. Commander Wells has a through knowledge of Agent Orange issues as well as other toxic exposure matters.

If he were to serve on this Committee he would certainly challenge the misrepresentations of Mr. Sampsel and other VA employees.

His military legal and Veterans exposure experience will greatly assist the Committee and ensure logical recommendations based on facts are provided to your office.

I join with many other Veterans and citizens and ask you to appoint Commander John Wells to the Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation.

Thank You,



Veterans: Career Exploration & Planning JULY 10th, 2017 12:00 pm Mountain

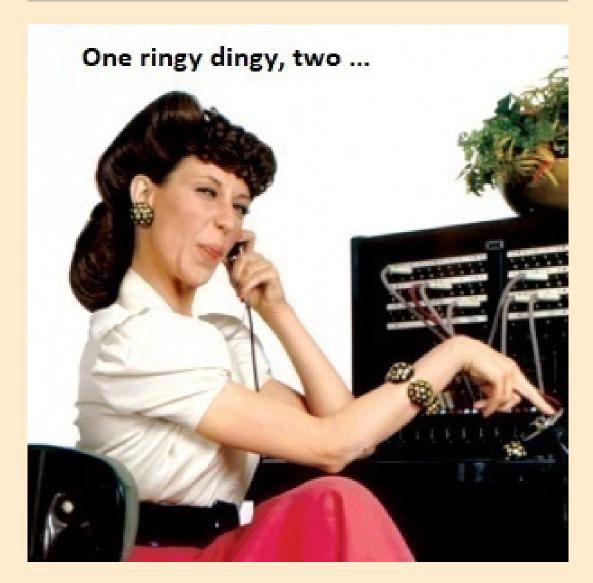
WEBINAR LINK: https://cc.readytalk.com/r/njlg4anxnjps&eom

Where: VFW Post #1 Denver, CO AND Farmers Insurance 5555 Tech Center Dr. Suite 110, Colorado Springs, CO AND South West Branch Weber County Library, 2039 W 4000 S, ROY, UT

Need a change but don't know what's your best next career? This free workshop is for you! Exploring your options is the first step toward winning a fulfilling and lasting career. Let's dramatically speed up the process. Experts will show you how to use R2W's innovative tools to quickly zero in on jobs matching your career goals, while increasing your interviews and job offers. You might find the perfect job during the class. You will also learn how to get additional training and one-on-one support from caring counselors. Applying for the right job could last a lifetime. It's worth exploring! Signup for a mentor! "Workshops are comprised of a 20 minute overview online. FAST! It results in an Action Plan used by Mentors who make a big commitment to you."

U.S. Government Accountability Office Reports

- 1) Critical Infrastructure Protection: DHS Has Fully Implemented Its Chemical Security Expedited Approval Program, and Participation to Date Has Been Limited.
- 2) Defense-Wide Working Capital Fund: Action Needed to Maintain Cash Balances within Required Levels.
- 3) Hospital Value-Based Purchasing: CMS Should Take Steps to Ensure Lower Quality Hospitals Do Not Qualify for Bonuses.
- 4) Telecommunications: Additional Action Needed to Address Significant Risks in FCC's Lifeline Program.



Veterans call the President. Whose VA is it?

We need everyone to call The President's VA Hotline @ 855-948-2311 8:00AM till 5:30PM ET and tell them about the Veterans plight with the VA denying presumption of exposure to Agent Orange and various other illnesses related to Agent Orange. Tell them your story.

This would also apply to Veterans from Korea, Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan as well.

This is YOUR CHANCE to get the message through to the President . Be patient and wait for the operator to talk to you .

The line is being manned by military spouses, parents and veterans. All are volunteers. Please show them the respect they deserve.

And if you have not written your story and sent it to me, please do keep them coming. We're not stopping the attack from the side of Congress either!

Send your stories to: Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org

Just please keep in mind, no last names, street addresses, social security numbers or phone numbers. Just First Name, City and State.

CONTACT YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS!

To Call your Representative: 202-225-2305

To Call your Senators:

202-224-3841 or 202-224-3553

To call Different Members of Congress:

202-224-3121

TOLL FREE: 866-272-6622

PLEASE... STOP Making Excuses!

www.veterans-for-change.org

AF Changes the Developmental Special Duty Process

The Air Force is making three substantial changes to the

developmental special duty process. The changes include opening military training instructor opportunities to staff sergeants, reverting the technical training instructor process for three-level awarding schoolhouses back to the Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing-Plus website and lowering the physical training score for all DSD and TTI positions to the Air Force standard of 75 points versus the former DSD standard of 80. Developmental special duty qualifications are outlined in the special duty catalog. Additional information can be found on myPers under Special Duty Assignment Programs on the Active Duty: Enlisted Assignments Home Page or select 'Active Duty Enlisted' from the dropdown menu and search 'DSD.'

New Law Meant to Speed Up Vet Hiring

President Donald J. Trump has signed into law S. 1094, the 'Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017,' which makes a number of changes to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) authorities related to personnel, accountability and whistleblower protections. The law also provides VA with direct-hiring authority to fill medical center director and network director positions. VA encourages qualified candidates for medical center or network director positions to apply immediately by contacting the VHA Virtual Recruitment Center at 844-456-5208 or by visiting the VA Careers webpage and submitting a résumé for consideration.



Report Cites Privacy Issues for Women Vets at VA

In 2014, a study by the VA Inspector General found that 20.4 percent of community-based outpatient clinics run by the Veterans Health Administration failed to provide adequate privacy for female veterans. That number dropped to 14.3% in 2015, but still has a ways to go, according to a new report on the VA Inspector General website. The report recommended that the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) acting under secretary for health, Dr. Poonam Alaigh, review and update the requirements for female veteran providers and make note of how and when those requirements are met by VA facilities.



Help Extend VA's Comprehensive Assistance Program to Family Caregivers of Veterans of All Military Service Eras

DAV's "Unsung Heroes Initiative" was launched to great fanfare on Capitol Hill on Monday, June 20. As part of this campaign, DAV National Commander Dave Riley, in concert with Paid Leave for the United States (PL+US), a new organization that shares our goal of supporting family caregivers, recently published a Change.org petition urging Congress to expand comprehensive caregiver benefits to severely disabled veterans of all generations.

Join more than 30,000 supporters who have already signed this important petition calling for change. Ensure Congress makes this a top legislative priority in the 115th Congress.

Click here to sign.



VA Plan to Provide Emergency Mental Health Care

The Department of Veterans Affairs has released finalized plans that lay the framework for providing emergency mental health coverage to former servicemembers with other than honorable (OTH) administrative discharges. Effective July 5, all Veterans Health Administration (VHA) medical centers will offer emergency stabilization care for former servicemembers who arrive at the facility with an emergent mental health need. These veterans may receive care for their mental health emergency for an initial period of up to 90 days, which can include inpatient, residential or outpatient care. During this time, VHA and the Veterans Benefits Administration will work together to determine if the mental health condition is a result of a service-related injury. Read the full story.

Veteran Crisis Resources

Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1
Military Crisis Line 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
National Call Center for Homeless Veterans
1-877-4AID-VET (424.3838)
VA Caregiver Support Line 1-855-260-3274

Links to Other Stories

- 1) 9 States And DC Are Standing Up For These Transgender Veterans In A Case Against The Fed
- 2) Can I combine ratings for TDIU?
- 3) CN honors 3 Veterans in June
- 4) Eligibility for Unemployability While Still Working
- 5) Every day is PTSD Awareness Day for VA center, doctors
- 6) Human Body Organ Systems
- 7) In North Korea, we must pray for peace but prepare for war
- 8) Rating Knee Disabilities Instability
- 9) Senate health care bill 'shameful'
- 10) Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Passage of Appeals Modernization Bill
- 11) Trump's breakthrough for Veterans
- 12) VA and Air Force Announce Tele-Intensive Care Unit Sharing Agreement
- 13) VA apprenticeship program to train, employ Veterans to assist other Veterans in properly filing for VA benefits
- 14) VA Secretary Shulkin unveils world's most advanced commercial prosthesis
- 15) Veteran of the Month: Senator Tammy Duckworth Fights for Veterans' Rights
- 16) Veterans Matter Program and VA Announce Milestone of Helping

1,500 Homeless Veterans Secure Stable Housing17) Why Habitat for Humanity is having trouble giving desert homes to Veterans

You can help VFC by reading articles posted and commenting at the bottom and rate the articles. If you don't have an account, sign up today, it's FREE. Your comments and rankings tell us what type of information you want most.

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

Milestone Hit in Fight to End Vet Homelessness

The U.S. Department Veterans Affairs and Veterans Matter, a program that provides security deposits to homeless Veterans in 14 states and the District of Columbia, have announced that they have helped 1,500 Veterans exit homelessness and move into permanent housing. Veterans Matter provides security deposits to homeless Veterans who qualify for rental subsidies from the joint U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program. Once Veterans are housed through the HUD-VASH program, VA case managers can connect them to other supportive services, such as employment assistance, health care, mental health treatment and substance use counseling. To date, HUD-VASH has allocated more than 88,000 housing vouchers nationwide.

Veterans-For-Change Web Site

The Veterans-For-Change website has been under construction since day one back in 2009 and every day since then. The looks pretty

much stay the same, but in the background constant improvement and change is being done to make our website the most user friendly "One-Stop-Shop" website to find almost everything you might have tried to find searching the internet.

Almost a hundred people have been involved; collecting web links to documents now houses on the VFC website, collecting thousands of web links for various issues, illnesses and benefits. Creating forums for all eras of service and two forums one just for men and one just for woman where you can go question, comment, share medical and personal concerns, what ever you'd like it to be.

We also have a forum with a licensed Mental Health Worker, again where you can seek help or just ask questions.

We average 2,200 hits per day, and downloads average 1,000 per day with a total **3,401,081** visitors as of Friday.

If you subscribe you will have full access to the entire website and best of all it's FREE of charge! You just need a valid E-mail address so the system can send you a confirmation E-Mail. Once received, click on the link to be authorized automatically.

www.veterans-for-change.org

- Documents Library with over 16,034 documents on-line (Updated: 5/19/17)
- FAQ's with more than 1,600 FAQ's and answers
- Multiple Forums
- o Afghanistan Veterans
- o FMP Foreign Medial Program
- o Gulf War & Desert Storm Veterans
- o Iraq Veterans
- o Korean Veterans
- o Men Veterans Forum
- o Mental Health for Veterans
- o Political Issues
- o Suggestion Box

- o The Mess Hall
- o VA Hospitals and Medical Centers
- o Veteran Affairs
- o Vietnam Veterans
- o Welcome Mat
- o Women Veterans Forum
- o WW II Veterans
- Job Postings
- Memorial Pages (Updated: 10/10/16)
- News (Articles On-Line: 6,566)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than 3,591, Added 6 New Links (Updated: 06/21/17)

If you have a submission for the memorial pages, E-Mail: Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org

National Women Veterans Summit

The 2017 National Women Veterans Summit will take place at the Hyatt Regency Downtown in Houston, Texas, Aug. 25-26, with an opening reception Aug. 24. The summit will focus on the issues important to women Veterans as well as providing training and guidance to assist women and their supporters in navigating VA resources, as well as state, local, and partner resources. Attendees will have opportunity to hear from the senior VA leaders, participate in breakout sessions focused on employment, mental health, entrepreneurship, military sexual trauma, reproductive health, culture change and more. For more information, read the VA VAntage Point Blog. Register for the Summit.



Click Here

DAV Launches Unsung Heroes Initiative to Assist Caregivers from All Service Eras

On June 20, DAV launched its "Unsung Heroes Initiative," a public awareness campaign to honor the dedication and sacrifice of veterans' family caregivers. The successful Capitol Hill event was attended by more than 100 congressional staffers, veterans and military groups and other nonprofit organizations.

During a panel discussion at the launch event, Iraq War veteran and U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth, DAV National Commander Dave Riley and his wife and caregiver Yvonne, as well as two other pre-9/11 disabled veteran-caregiver couples, shared personal stories related to the challenges and needs of caregivers. DAV released its new report, America's Unsung Heroes: Challenges and Inequities Facing Veteran Caregivers, which features results from DAV's Veteran Family Caregiver Survey.

Findings from DAV's Caregiver Survey:

- Most caregivers are female and more than three fourths are spouses; many are concerned aging will limit their abilities to perform caregiving duties.
- Over 80 percent of caregivers believe their role has limited their financial stability, friendships, family life, physical and mental health, and career.
- About 75 percent indicate that without their assistance their loved

one would be institutionalized now or in the future.

• Nearly 90 percent of respondents indicate they have no access to respite care, home health aides, educational tools for caregiving, stipends, or medical training-but most indicate such services would be helpful to them in better managing the care of their loved one.

To access the America's Unsung Heroes: Challenges and Inequities Facing Veteran Caregivers report and for more background on the inequity of federal support provided to veterans injured prior to 9/11, click here: www.unsungheroesinitiative.org/.

As part of this initiative, forty-three veterans, military and other nonprofit organizations joined DAV in writing Congress a letter urging passage of the bipartisan Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act.

To support this critical legislation (H.R. 1472/S. 591), please click here.



New Policy on Earrings, Ball Caps Female Sailors

The U.S. Navy has announced several uniform changes that are effective immediately. Women are now permitted to wear a hair bun through the rear opening of a command or Navy ball cap. Women are now authorized to wear white pearl or white synthetic pearl earrings with Dress Uniforms and round cut white diamonds or white synthetic diamonds with Dinner Dress Blue and White Jacket uniforms. Earrings must be 4 millimeter - 6 millimeter (approximately 1/8 inch - 1/4 inch) in size. Pregnant Sailors now can purchase the NWU Type III maternity uniform if the Type I version is not available. Also, Sailors assigned to the Defense Health Agency (DHA) and Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) are now authorized to wear command identification badges. Read the full story.

"We Proudly Support our Military Personnel & Families"

Review for Medically Separated Troops

Servicemembers who were medically separated between Sept. 11, 2001 and Dec. 31, 2009 with a combined disability rating of 20 percent or less and who received separation pay versus medical retirement may request a Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR). The PDBR evaluates disability cases for all the military branches and their reserve components. If applicable, military records are updated with a retroactive effective date equal to the original date of separation. After the document review is completed and a final decision is rendered, applicants are notified of the decision and provided applicable information regarding changes to their disability rating. For more information, visit the PDBR webpage.

If you received this newsletter as a courtesy or a forward from a friend or relative, you can sign up to receive in your E-mail every week.



This month please remember these women who died during July while serving our country in or during war times

Jul 1863: Frances Day, disguised as SGT Frank Mayne, CIVIL WAR

Jul 1999: USA CPT Jennifer Odom,

2 Jul 2010: USA SPC Morganne M McBeth, 19, non-combat murder,

IRAQ

2 Jul 2013: USA SPC Hilda I (Ortiz) Clayton, 22, non-combat mortar

explosion, AFGHANISTAN

4 Jul 1944: WASP Susan Parker Clarke, WW II

4 Jul 2004: USAR SPC Julie Rochelle Hickey, 20, AFGHANISTAN

5 Jul 1950: USA ANC MAJ Genevieve Smith, C-47 plane crash on

way to her new assignment

as Chief Nurse of the 8th US Army in the Korean Theater

5 Jul 2007: USA SPC Michelle R Ring, 26, IRAQ

6 Jul 2007: USN ABH2 Karen M Boado Tumbaga, 25, buried in CA

7 Jul 1944: WASP Paula Ruth Loop, WW II

8 Jul 1944: WASP Bettie Mae Scott, WW II

8 Jul 1968: USA ANC 2LT Pamela Dorothy Donovan, 26, VIETNAM

8 Jul 2008: USA ANC 2LT Holly Wimunc, 24, murdered by estranged

US marine husband in

Fayetteville, NC murdered, Fayetteville, NC

8 Jul 2012: USA SPC Erica (Alecksen) Bailey, 21, IED,

AFGHANISTAN

8 Jul 2013: USA CSM Andrea E Powell, 43, vehicle accident in SC

9 Jul 2003: USA SGT Melissa Valles, 26, non-combat gunshot, IRAQ

10 Jul 1991: USAR LT Lorraine Lawton, accident in Saudi Arabia,

DESERT STORM

10 Jul 2007: USA CPT Maria I Ortiz, 40, IRAQ

11 Jul 2004: NEARNG SFC Linda Ann Tarango-Griess, 33, IRAQ

13 Jul 2009: USN IS2 Amanda J Snell, 20, murdered, JB Myer-

Henderson Hall, DC

14 Jul 2005: NEARNG SSG Tricia L. Jameson, 34, IRAQ

16 Jul 1943: USA WAAC PVT Angela Becker, vehicle accident, Fort Riley, KS

17 Jul 2008: USAF T/SGT Jackie L Larsen, 37, natural causes, IRAQ

17 Jul 2011: USA SGT Deirdre Aguigui, 24, murdered by soldier husband at Ft Stewart, GA

17 Jul 2012: USA SPC Krystal M Fitts, 26, indirect fire,

AFGHANISTAN

18 Jul 1944: WASP Beverly Jean Moses, WW II

18 Jul 2016: USAF 1LT Anais A Tobar, 25, non-combat injury, ABU DHABI

19 Jul 2005: USA PVT Lavena L. Johnson, 19, non-combat incident gunshot and burned, IRAQ

19 Jul 2015: USA CWO3 Tania Dunbar, 40, died at a campground in NC

20 Jul 2006: USAF COL Judith (Lombeida) Backlin, 57, auto accident, buried at USAFA

22 Jul 2004: USA SGT Tatjana Reed, 34, IRAQ

23 Jul 1999: USA CPT Jennifer (Shafer) Odom, anti-drug mission, Columbia

23 Jul 2011: USA SSG Christina Joe, 32, died in vehicle accident near Rehoboth, NM

24 Jul 1944: ANC 2LT Catherine Price, C-54 crash during Normandy WWII

24 Jul 1945: USA ANC 2LT Nancy J Leo, 23, jeep accident in Paris, buried in Luxembourg

American Cemetery

24 Jul 2004: USA SGT Erin E Edwards, 24, murdered by soldier

husband, Killeen, TX

25 Jul 2008: USA SPC Seteria L. Brown, 22, AFGHANISTAN

27 Jul 1943: ANC 2LT Ruth Gardiner, C-47 plane crash near Nanek,

AK

27 Jul 1944: USA PVT Marjory L Babinetz from Bairdford, PA, RA-24

plane crash over

Stillwater, OK during a recruiting stunt

27 Jul 2013: USA SPC Caryn E Nouv, 29, IED and small arms fire,

IRAQ

30 Jul 2015: USAR SGT Blanca Riviera, 29, shot in home by husband,

El Paso, TX



Veterans-For-Change, Inc.

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today

www.Veterans-For-Change.org

Serving those who served!

Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends and Family!

Please do not reply to this E-Mail, this is an unattended E-Mail

Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org

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DoD	30,263
Face Book Pages	3,558
Google	28,910
Los Angeles	135,866
Microsoft	9,770
National Guard	4219
New York	153,490
Other Social Media	43,936
San Francisco	79,331
Twitter	43
US House of Reps & Staff	990
US Senators & Staff	109
University of So. California	5,332
US Air Force	26,382
US Army	67,531
US Marines	28,781
US Navy	38,277
Veterans	19,089,786
Washington DC	143,343
Yahoo	139
	20,126,861

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