



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, December 03, 2017

Volume 8, Issue 45



This-N-That

I have to really shake my head in wonder, how in the heck could the VA Medical Center Directors not report any disciplinary actions taken against doctors or even licensed medical staff? And in not reporting such actions taken, why are they still a director of said facilities?

Then compound matters, how is it the GAO take years to discover, research and investigate all these errors to come up with a report that in my eyes will go no where?

Then I have to ask why in the heck is the head of the GAO and the Secretary of the VA both not running to Congress demanding immediate legislation be written, presented, passed and put on President Trumps desk to be able to immediately terminate and report to the licensing board said actions and have their license's revoke permanently?

The report found that complaints against doctors were not reviewed in a timely fashion, paperwork was not properly filed and doctors who had resigned to avoid disciplinary action were allowed to go work elsewhere without facing any consequences.

So now these people are allowed to go on and practice reaping their bad medical care on others.

Seriously, how many more Veterans must die before they wake up and fix the damn system?

I realize it's the worlds largest medical healthcare system, but if civilian hospitals which are usually owned by large groups can do it, why in the hell can't the VA and our Government do the same?

Primary reason is the DoD controls the purse

strings and when their budget is written the VA is included and like any other government agency, they should be a stand alone agency with their own funding and their own budget.

Secondary reason is they still pay bonuses even with the fiasco's of the past proving beyond any doubt what-so-ever that the bonuses only made medical care an after thought for the VA Hospitals Directors and administrative staff.

For nearly eighteen years now I have asked, pleaded and begged Veterans to please, stand up, help make your voices heard and lets work together to make the VA Healthcare System a world class health care provider.

Please, put aside pride, put aside all the hammering into your heads to "shake it off", help us, and other organizations to help you get your claims approved quicker, and medical care provided by qualified, fully trained, compassionate and caring people.

When you signed your enlistment contracts, you wrote a check to the United States of America for a price up to, and including your life. And you did so without hesitation, pause or question. Now you deserve your benefits and medical care with the

same, no hesitation, pause or question!

I know you're tired, many of you sick, and many more very sick, and even more who are unable to fight any more. We truly need all those who still have fight in them, still have the need, and those who can help us fight for your fellow Veteran who can no longer fight this fight.

I have one last favor to ask this year. I'd like so ask that each of you who read this newsletter please set one table space at your Christmas dinner table for the missing soldiers. The soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Further down in this newsletter, I've inserted a piece on the Missing Man Table. So if you'd do that for me, I would truly appreciate it!

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

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org



2017 Holiday Military Shipping Deadlines

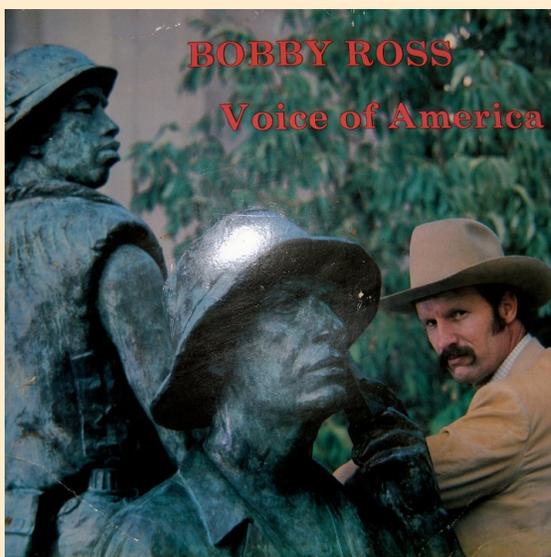
Are you ready to tackle the holiday mailing season? Getting your holiday care package overseas or to your service member far away takes a little planning. Click [here](#) to find the dates you need to know before time runs out.





Groundbreaking for WWI Memorial

Descendants of Soldiers and other veterans of World War I will soon be able to visit a national memorial in the nation's capital that commemorates the sacrifices of their great-grandfathers who fought in 'the Great War.' An array of politicians, military leaders, veterans and officials from the World War I Centennial Commission officially broke ground for the National World War I Memorial, Nov. 9, at Pershing Park in Washington, D.C. This year marks the 100th anniversary of U.S. Involvement in World War I. The World War I Centennial Commission expects the new memorial to be dedicated Nov. 11, 2018, which is the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day, marking the end of World War I. For more information, visit the World War I Centennial Commission [website](#).



30 Year Anniversary for LT Bobby Ross LRRP Network

Thirty years ago this month I had produced my "[Voice of America](#)" shortly after I had moved to Nashville in

1986. I had just graduated from the world famous [Music Department of San Francisco State University](#) singing opera. So, I put on my cowboy uniform, and moved to Music City dreaming to become a Country Music recording artist. Down the road from my University was [Silicon Valley](#), where my Dad had an office. I was on the ground floor of this 'new' stuff going on with computers and this really new thingie called "[The Internet](#)". I was the first in Nashville to have a web site in Cyberspace, and this month 30 years ago I started my LRRP Network. It is presently one of the largest on the Internet. So have fun with my newsletter and remember it is an "Interactive Adventure". All the pictures and highlighted words are capable of taking you to other locations with two little clicks of your mouse. Have a great Christmas and New Years and I look forward to being with you, again, in 2018.



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 1,200 per day with a total 3,719,876 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 16,155 documents on-line (Updated: 11/13/17)
- 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: 11/02/17)
- News (Articles On-Line: 6,946)
- Polls

- Web Links, more than 3,614, Added 2 New Links (Updated: 11/12/17)

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



Low 2017 VA Loan Rates are Still Available

There is still time to use your VA Loan benefit in 2017. Qualified borrowers can buy or refi with as little as \$0 down, and have no PMI payments with great rates and financing up to \$424,000. [Use your VA Loan Benefit today.](#)





Missing Man Table



The Missing Man Table, also known as the Fallen Comrade Table, is a place of honor, set up in military dining facilities of the U.S. armed forces and during occasions such as service branch birthday balls, in memory of fallen, missing, or imprisoned military service-members. The table serves as the focal point of ceremonial remembrance, originally growing out of US concern of the Vietnam War POW/MIA issue.

Observance

Beyond permanent displays in dining facilities, the missing man table is traditionally part of military

dining-in ceremonies and service balls. In recent years, the ceremony has been frequently performed in conjunction with Veterans Day and Memorial Day services. When presented in a dining-in or service ball, a narration given to the audience explains the symbolism of each item. The practice of the missing man table has evolved over time and is not currently governed by any US Department of Defense or service-specific guidance.

Symbolism

The listed items are considered traditional. Some commands and units may place headcovers or other items at the place setting as well.

- Table: set for one, is small, symbolizing the frailty of one isolated prisoner. The table is usually set close to, or within sight of, the entrance to the dining room. For large events of the Missing Man Table is set for six places: members of the five armed services (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard) and a sixth place setting reminiscent of the civilians who died during service alongside the armed forces or missing during armed conflict. Table is round to represent everlasting concern on the part of the survivors for their missing loved

ones.

- Tablecloth is white, symbolic of the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms.
- Single red rose in the vase, signifies the blood that many have shed in sacrifice to ensure the freedom of our beloved United States of America. This rose also reminds us of the family and friends of our missing comrades who keep the faith, while awaiting their return.
- The red ribbon (yellow ribbon for Air Force ceremonies) represents the love of our country, which inspired them to answer the nation's call.
- Slice of lemon on the bread plate: represents the bitter fate of the missing.
- Salt sprinkled on the bread plate: symbolic of the countless fallen tears of families as they wait.
- Inverted glass: represents the fact that the missing and fallen cannot partake.
- The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God. (The Bible has been removed from several displays at federal facilities due to pressure from the Military Religious Freedom Foundation)
- Lit candle: reminiscent of the light of hope which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors, to the open arms of a

grateful nation.

- Empty chair: the missing and fallen aren't present.



**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



Help for Airmen in Need

When a natural disaster or real-world event impacts the Total Force, the Air Force Personnel Center provides comprehensive support through the Air Force Personnel Accountability and Assessment System (AFPAAS). AFPAAS is a self-reporting tool that monitors the status and location of personnel and family members who may be affected by a catastrophic event. Individuals who do not have computer access to AFPAAS should contact their Unit Control Center, Command Officer Representative or Installation Personnel Readiness Office. MAJCOM offices should call AFPC's readiness cell at 800-435-9941 or DSN 665-2020 if they are unable to perform AFPAAS updates. For more information, Airmen can visit myPers and enter 'AFPAAS' in the search menu.





**Our values
match yours.**



www.veterans-for-change.org



**Support Legislation to Protect
Individual Unemployability for Disabled
Veterans**

On November 9, 2017,
Representative Maxine

Waters (CA), introduced H.R. 4369, the Protecting Benefits for Disabled Veterans Act of



2017. The bill would codify regulations on Individual Unemployability (IU) into federal law. Furthermore, H.R. 4369 would provide additional protections for IU and prohibit the VA from considering the age of the veteran or their eligibility to any retirement benefit, including Social Security, in making such determinations. The DAV supports this legislation in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 034.

In May 2017, the Administration's budget proposal contained a proposal that would have eliminated eligibility for VA's IU program for thousands of disabled veterans. If enacted, it would have terminated existing IU ratings for veterans when they reach the age of 62--the minimum retirement age for Social Security benefits--as well as cut off IU benefits for any veteran already in receipt of Social Security retirement benefits. In the face of staunch opposition from DAV and other VSOs, the Administration subsequently backed away from this measure; however, the threat remains that this proposal or something like it could resurface in the future.

As we testified to Congress earlier this year, DAV is vehemently opposed to limiting disability compensation benefits, including IU, due to a veteran's age. Many disabled veterans may not have income replacement available-especially those who have been on IU for an extended period in advance of reaching retirement age. Cutting off IU eligibility for veterans who turn 62 would compel many disabled veterans to take Social Security benefits early which significantly reduces the value of the benefit. The disabled veterans affected could thus be "doubly" penalized because they cannot work and save for retirement as do many peers of their age. Eliminating their eligibility for IU would be grossly unfair.

H.R. 4369 would place regulations for eligibility for IU directly into law and protect IU benefits from any ill-conceived cost-saving measures in the future. We are calling on all DAV members and supporters to contact their Representatives and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 4369 to protect veterans and their families now and in the future, from these harmful proposals.

Thank you for standing with us and participating in the DAV Commander's Action Network.

Click [HERE](#) and send your message!



S. 1990, the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Improvement Act of 2017



On October 19, 2017, Senator Jon Tester, Ranking Member of the Senate Committee

on Veterans' Affairs, introduced S. 1990, the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Improvement Act of 2017.

This bill would increase dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) for surviving dependents and would lower the threshold of eligibility to allow

certain survivors to receive this benefit who currently do not meet the requirements. This measure would:

- Increases DIC so that the base rate is equal to 55 percent of the rate of compensation paid to a totally disabled veteran, making it more equitable with rates provided to federal civilian employee survivors.
- Ease the 10 year rule for eligibility and replace it with a graduated scale of benefits that begins after 5 years and increases by percentage until reaching the full amount at the 10 year mark. If a veteran is rated as totally disabled for five years and dies as a result of a non-service-connected cause, a survivor would be entitled to 50 percent of total DIC benefits. This scale continues until the 10-year threshold and the maximum DIC amount is awarded.
- Reduce the age allowed for a surviving spouse to remarry and maintain their benefits from 57 to 55, consistent with other Federal survivor benefit programs.

If enacted, this bill would fulfill one of DAV's legislative goals in accordance with Resolution No. 036 that was approved by our members during our most recent National Convention. Please use the prepared e-mail or draft your own message to

request that your Senators support this important legislation.

Thank you for all you do for ill and injured veterans and their families.

Click [HERE](#) and send your message!



The Follow-On Assignment Option

Servicemembers selected for a dependent-restricted short tour for their second or later assignments can voluntarily apply to participate in the Follow-On assignment program. The Department of Defense designed the Follow-On assignment program to provide all servicemembers, officers and enlisted, with family stability, as well as to decrease permanent change of station costs. The application is a voluntary agreement with the servicemember not to use PCS allowances in exchange for advance assignment consideration of a stateside assignment, before they leave on a dependent-restricted short-tour assignment. If an servicemember chooses a follow on, the family can stay at the current stateside location or elect to move to the location of their follow-on assignment, providing it, too, is stateside. For more information, Air Force personnel can visit [myPers](#). Select 'Any' from the dropdown menu and search 'Follow-On.'



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) ["My Son Is Not a Personal Problem": How Women Veterans Are Treated as Second-Class Citizens](#)
- 2) ["My final act of service." One Marine's last mission](#)
- 3) [Autism kids club assemble kits for homeless](#)
- 4) [Complaint: VA doctor broke federal law in 2014 Senate run](#)
- 5) [Don't build fence to keep out homeless](#)
- 6) [Fargo Veteran's Affairs Offers Helping Hand to Homeless Veterans](#)
- 7) [Homeless hero sees \\$315K for his selfless act](#)

- 8) How the Appeals Process Works and Why It Can Take So Long
- 9) How to Read VA Diagnostic Code
- 10) Reps. Herrera Beutler, Roe hold roundtable on Veterans Affairs issues
- 11) Restaurant serves Thanksgiving gratitude so Veterans don't eat alone
- 12) Riverview man home from deployment gives back to homeless Veterans on Thanksgiving
- 13) Sleep Disorders – Are they Service Connectable?
- 14) Soldier takes his own life two weeks after coming home from deployment
- 15) State drug czar picked to take over Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs
- 16) Successful DoD-VA Program for Wounded, Ill, Injured Service Members Marks 10th Anniversary
- 17) Texas Tech the focus in Veterans' Affairs meeting on economic opportunity
- 18) U.S. Army Now Taking Applicants With Histories Of Mental Illness, Drug Abuse And Self-Mutilation
- 19) VA Announces Rollout and Application Process for New Veterans ID Card
- 20) VA Appoints New Members to Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education
- 21) VA doctor, barred from seeing patients, paid

\$1M despite 'no job responsibilities'

22) VA Pledges to Stop Covering Up Its Doctors' Bad Behavior

23) VA to Provide Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy to Some Veterans with Chronic PTSD

24) VA took years to review complaints against doctors in some cases, watchdog says

25) Veteran completes Army career thanks to rehab at Tampa VA

26) Veterans Affairs exploring idea of merging health system with Pentagon

27) Veterans are key as surge of states OK medical pot for PTSD

28) Volunteer chefs pitch in to feed Thanksgiving dinner to homeless

29) Women, Depression and Heart Disease

30) Young Georgia entrepreneurs win national recognition for helping homeless and 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



Veterans4Change



Informal Caregiving for Veterans

With an increasing number of Veterans requiring some form of caregiving or assistance, there is a growing need for evidence-based research that supports family and/or informal caregiver's role, such as emotional support, access to services, and in home safety. The Office of Health Service Research & Development highlights Family caregivers this month by sharing an article of research findings related to '[Enhancing Informal Caregiving for Veterans.](#)'





American Legion 2018 'Legacy' Scholarship

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship application for 2018 is now online for new and returning applicants to fill out. The Legacy Scholarship is available for children whose parents lost their lives while honorably serving on active duty on or after 9/11, as well as for children of post-9/11 veterans with a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or higher. The Legacy Scholarship is a needs-based one. The application deadline is March 1. Apply online on the American Legion [website](#).





Ashford University Runs Into Trouble with VA Again

Ashford University announced this week that it has temporarily stopped new enrollments of students who are using the GI Bill. The action by the online for-profit university is the latest development in a long-running dispute between Ashford, the VA, and state regulators. Read the full [article](#).



GAO

U.S. Government Accountability
Office Reports

- 1) Internet of Things: FCC Should Track Growth to Ensure Sufficient Spectrum Remains Available
- 2) VA Health Care: Improved Oversight Needed for Reviewing and Reporting Providers for Quality and Safety Concerns
- 3) VA Health Care: Improved Policies and Oversight Needed for Reviewing and Reporting Providers for Quality and Safety Concerns



**~We Proudly Support our
Military Personnel & Families~**



**Please remember these women who
died during December while serving
our country in or during war times**

2 Dec 2008: USN PO2 Juantissa Hill, 24, murdered
in her apartment in Alexandria, VA

3 Dec 1943: WAFS Dorothy E. Scott, WW II

3 Dec 2011: USA Kathleen (McGee) Korolevich,
30, murdered by husband upon her return from
Germany

3 Dec 2013: SCARNG Amanda Ginsburg, 25,

vehicle accident in Cayce, SC

4 Dec 2004: USA SGT Cari Ann Gasiewicz, 28,
IRAQ

4 Dec 2014: USA PFC Christina Bukovcik, 20,
murdered by husband in El Paso, TX

6 Dec 2006: USMC MAJ Megan M. McClung, 34,
IRAQ

9 Dec 1898: Army Contract Nurse Ellen May
Tower, Typhoid Fever, SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

9 Dec 1944: WASP Mary Louise Webster, WW II

10 Dec 2005: USA SGT Julia V. Atkins, 22, IRAQ

12 Dec 1985: USA SPC Christine McCleery, 21,
Gander, Newfoundland plane crash

12 Dec 1985: USA SPC Virginia Word, Gander,
Newfoundland plane crash

12 Dec 1985: USA SPC Cathleen Ziegler, Gander,
Newfoundland plane crash

12 Dec 2006: USA MAJ Gloria D Davis, 47, non-
combat gunshot, IRAQ

12 Dec 2011: USA CPT Anne M Montgomery, 25,
helicopter crash at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA

13 Dec 2004: USAR SGT Tina S. Time
(pronounced Tee-may), 22, IRAQ

14 Dec 1990: USA CWO2 Carol L. McKinney, 36,
helicopter crash near Cleveland, TX

14 Dec 2003: USA SSG Kimberly A. (Fahnestock)
Voelz, 27, IRAQ

14 Dec 2007: USMC L/CPL Maria Lauterbach, 20,
murdered by US marine at Camp Lejeune, NC

14 Dec 2008: USA PFC Moneeka Mayo, 29,
collapsed and died during a German Armed Forces

Badge for Military Proficiency march at Fort
Huachuca, AZ

17 Dec 2007: USA AGR SFC Carolyn Farrar-
Johnson, 58, murdered by her husband at Ft
Belvoir, VA

18 Dec 1918: ANC Crystal McCord, WWI

21 Dec 2011: USA SPC Mikayla A. Bragg, 21, died
in AFGHANISTAN

21 Dec 2015: USAF MAJ Andrianna M
Vorderbruggen, 36, suicide bomber,
AFGHANISTAN

22 Dec 1952: USAF AN Virginia May McClure, non-
hostile air crash, KOREA

22 Dec 1952: USAF AN Margaret Fae Perry, non-
hostile air crash, KOREA

23 Dec 2005: USAR SGT Regina Reali, 25, IRAQ

24 Dec 2005: USAR SGT Myla Maravillosa
(pronounced Mar-RA-vi-OS-a), 24, IRAQ

30 Dec 1917: ANC Lettie M Berry, WWI

31 Dec 2006: USN DCFA Sandra S (Grant) Fry, 23,
natural causes, USS Eisenhower, Arabian Sea



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.



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 address, please send all correspondence to:

Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org



Distribution

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Boston	76,581
Courtesy Copies	3,500
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DoD	30,780
Face Book Pages	3,516
Google	29,326
Los Angeles	137,804
Microsoft	9,996
National Guard	4603
New York	155,558
Other Social Media	48,637
San Francisco	80,510
Twitter	44
US House of Reps & Staff	1002
US Senators & Staff	135
University of So. California	5,772
US Air Force	27,684
US Army	70,434
US Marines	30,296
US Navy	39,860
Veterans	19,096,514
Washington DC	145,231
Yahoo	185
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