



# Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

*A Voice of the Veterans*

Week Ending Sunday, August 12, 2018

Volume 9, Issue 32



## This-N-That

This week has had a lot going on from all sides, most of which is in the **Links to Other Stories** and with **Blue Water Navy!**

And as we have been asking for a couple of weeks now, we still need everyone's assistance with the Blue Water Navy Veterans who are seeking benefits and medical care for over five decades.

HR 299 passed in the House 382 to Zero, but when it went to the Senate Committee, as usual the Veterans Affairs Senior Staff chose to lie through their teeth claiming insufficient evidence when there are more than five decades of evidence they simply want to ignore to prevent having to pay our more benefits and treat more Veterans.

Just below is a link to the petition started by the Blue Water Navy team and we're asking everyone, Active Duty, Veteran and Civilian alike to please click on the link and go sign this petition today. Then if you would please share it with your family and friends.

And you can share one of many ways. You can forward your copy of the newsletter in an e-Mail to your family and friends, copy and paste that particular section into an E-Mail and send out to family and friends and ask they all please sign the petition, then if they'd be so kind as to forward on to their family and friends in their address book.

As of this morning 98,000 signatures are needed.

In addition there is a request to make phone calls to the Senate Committee staff, and we'd like all of our readers to please make those calls as well.

With all the high heat temperatures, and a ton of fires out of control, we caution everyone to keep hydrated, do the best you can to remain cool, and in the Links to Other Articles there is an article that might be of serious interest to many.

Orange County California Veterans have been fighting for over 20 years for a National Cemetery for Veterans to be developed.

A high powered Land Developer bought the former MCAS El Toro Marine Base with intentions of developing places for high end residences, business and shopping centers. And his first move was to open a public park.

It ended up in a heavy battle against the EPA

as MCAS El Toro was the most heavily contaminated base in the country. and many of us who were in on the ground floor to expose it know full well within a few more years there will be clusters of Cancers breaking out along with many of the other illnesses Veterans who served on that base have experienced.

But there is still some glimmer of hope that soon the Veterans of Orange County will see a National Cemetery being developed.

Those who live in Orange County are encourage to contact the Irvine City Council and push on them constantly to keep the promises they made.

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](mailto:Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org)



## **BWN Needs Your Help!**

The United States government, through its agency the Veterans Affairs, has a DUTY to TREAT medical problems associated with military service; COMPENSATE veterans (or their families) for early death or disability associated with their service; and MONITOR and DOCUMENT the effects of government policy and MISTAKES that created a higher health risk. For 50 years, VA has FAILED to monitor and document the effects of Agent Orange on military members that served in the "Blue Water Navy" during Vietnam. Congress is attempting to "fix" this dereliction of duty - and VA Officials oppose the change. We the people support treatment and compensation for

these medical issues; and believe monitoring and documenting these issues should be the responsibility of VA, not the individual veterans.

Please sign, share on your page, copy and paste web link into an e-mail and send out to your entire e-mail address book and ask all your friends and family to sign, and forward on to their entire e-mail address book too!

You don't have to be active duty military, or a veteran, civilians can sign too. 98,000 signatures are needed

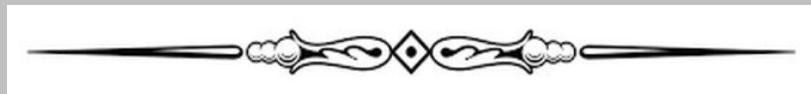
Click [HERE](#)



# Bring Your TRICARE Benefit Questions to August 23 Webinar

Have questions about your TRICARE benefit? Here's your chance to get some answers. In case you missed last month's "Ask TRICARE" webinar, join TRICARE for a second session on Thursday, Aug. 23, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET. Don't miss this unique opportunity to ask questions directly to TRICARE experts. Bring your questions and register today!

Read the full article [here](#).





## **VA Rips 'Blue Water' Agent Orange Bill**

VA officials strongly oppose the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act (HR 299), which would extend [Agent Orange disability benefits](#) and health care to between 70,000 and 90,000 veterans who served aboard ships in territorial waters off Vietnam during the war. Read this week's [Update](#) to learn why the VA opposes giving health care and compensation to thousands of "blue water" Vietnam veterans.



## ***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 **2,900** hits per day, and downloads average **1,950** per day with a total **4,269,624** 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](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)

- Documents Library with over 16,468 documents on-line (Updated: **07/30/18**)
- 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 (**Counselor Needed**)
- 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: 01/11/18)
- News (Articles On-Line: 7,587)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than 3,660, Added 6 New Links (Updated: 07/14/18)

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



# Purple Heart Vets to Get Post 9/11 GI Bill

If you received a Purple Heart Medal for active duty service on or after Sept. 11, 2001, but did not qualify for full Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits because you did not have enough time in service, you now qualify for the full education benefit. A provision of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, known as the 'Forever GI Bill,' extends education benefits to this group of Purple Heart recipients effective Aug. 1. To qualify for the full benefit, you must have received a Purple Heart on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and have been discharged or released honorably. For more information, read the [VA Vantage Point Blog](#), call 1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf Federal number is 711) or visit the [GI Bill website](#).



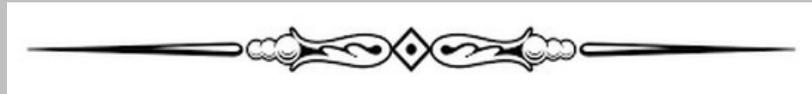
# **FY2019 passes Senate and is sent to the President on August 1st**

Last week the Senate passed next year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and sent it to the President for his signature. The House had passed the Act the week before August 1st is the earliest that Congress has been able to pass the NDAA since 1978!! The bill is named the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act. After its passage Senator McCain (R-AZ) issued a statement saying: " I am particularly humbled that my colleagues chose to designate legislation of such importance in my name. This year's NDAA represents an important opportunity to implement an effective approach to confront a growing array of threats around the world and I look forward to the president quickly signing it into law."

The bill passed 87-10. The final form included a 2.6% pay raise for the active duty. During conference the proposal to abolish the

grandfathering of TRICARE co-pays, enrollment fees and deductibles for retirees under the age of 65 was removed. So grandfathering remains. (Please note this proposal would have only effected retirees under the age of 65. It did not affect TFL.) The proposed test of TRICARE Advantage was also removed from the final test. So, on the whole, it was a good result.

Source: TREA



## August's Featured Song

### Back to Blue Jeans Again

By

**LT Bobby Ross**

LT Bobby Ross - The Voice of America  
Previous Featured Songs

We are living in trying times. Our nation seems to be dividing more and more each day. American [hunters](#) and [fishermen](#) make up a large part of my 30 year old LRRP Network. It is my duty to make my AFOA a stunning example of how Veterans and [autistic folks](#) can work together to keep our American farms safe and secure, and support those who believe in our 2nd Amendment. For those of you interested, please feel free to contact me at this E-Mail Address: [ltbobbyr3@gmail.com](mailto:ltbobbyr3@gmail.com)



# August Healthy Living Tips: 3 Ways to Protect Your Health Through Preventive Care

August is Preventive Health Month -- an ideal time to address your health. Preventive health helps you to identify and address health issues before they worsen. TRICARE covers many preventive health care services with no out-of-pocket costs to you. How you get preventive care depends on who you are and your TRICARE program option.

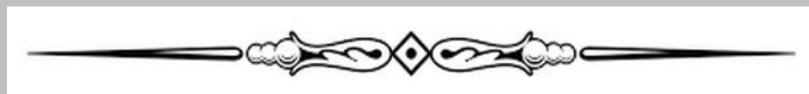
Read the full article [here](#).





## 8 Need-to-Know Tips on Military Transition

The transition to civilian life is a challenge. Thankfully, those who have gone before are willing to share some lessons learned to hopefully make it easier for others. [Read the 8 Hard-earned Tips to Military Transition](#), offered by veteran John Buckley.



# USSF - New Military Branch Proposal

The U.S. Air Force's former top civilian said more resources should be dedicated to the space mission, but argued that creating a new military branch known as "Space Force" is not the answer. "My very short response is no. I do not believe that we should have a separate Space Force," Deborah Lee James, the 23rd Air Force secretary, said during a panel 30 JUL at the Brookings Institution, a think tank in Washington, D.C. "And I come down to the fundamental issue of why I think this is so." She said the Air Force has faced criticism over its management of the space mission, due to inadequate funding, a slow acquisition process and gaps in the personnel promotion and management systems. But, "Space Force is not your answer," James said.

During her tenure, in the final three years of the Obama administration, the service pumped roughly \$5.5 billion into the overall space mission. That figure has ballooned over the

last two budget cycles, with the Air Force expected to spend roughly \$40 billion over the next five years, officials have recently said. James, who serves on various boards of directors, including those of Textron and the Atlantic Council, said she understands President Donald Trump's push to make the space mission a priority. But she said she also fears the up to 30,000 airmen and civilians who work on Air Force space missions "will get totally lost in the bureaucracy" of a new military branch. Instead, another combatant command solely focused on space would better serve the mission, she said. "

A military service trains, organizes and equips -- it doesn't war fight," she explained.

"Combatant commands do the war fight. "I would support a full-up, unified command, so it would be the equivalent of a [Strategic Command]," she continued. "I would certainly support that going forward to focus solely on space ... that would really be the ticket for solving that everyone is mostly focused on." James' comments come ahead of a highly

anticipated report from Deputy Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan's office, which is expected to give more detail on the Pentagon's approach to setting up a new military branch. The report, originally mandated under the fiscal 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, is anticipated to be delivered to lawmakers as early as this week.

Following Trump's surprise call for a separate "Space Force" in front of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Gen. Joseph Dunford last month, officials have been weighing how best to proceed with forming the proposed sixth military branch. It is unclear whether the existing military services are involved in the process. "The president's statement to the National Space Council adds emphasis to the Air Force position -- space is a warfighting domain and the entire national security space enterprise must continue to enhance lethality, resilience and agility to meet the challenge posed by potential adversaries," Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson and Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein stated in a letter to airmen

days after Trump's comments. "We look forward to working with Department of Defense leaders, Congress, and our national security partners to move forward on this planning effort." James said she has faith in both Goldfein and Wilson's effort to prioritize the space mission in the service.



**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](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)**





## TRICARE Emergency Support in California

There are emergency procedures in place due to wildfires in California. A list of the counties affected is on the [TRICARE website](#). 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's at that pharmacy's discretion to help you.



# Forever GI Bill expands VA educational benefits

## 15 provisions enhance benefits for Veterans

**WASHINGTON** — Effective Aug. 1, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) implemented 15 more provisions of the [Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017](#), also referred to as the Forever GI Bill.

These provisions, in addition to the 13 implemented since the law was signed less than a year ago, will have an immediate and positive impact on Veterans and their families using VA benefits to pursue their educational goals.

“We are excited to get the word out about implementation of the provisions,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “From the day the Forever GI Bill was signed into law, VA, in collaboration with Veterans service

organizations, state approving agencies and school certifying officials, has taken an expansive approach to ensure earned benefits are provided to Veterans in a timely, high-quality and efficient way.”

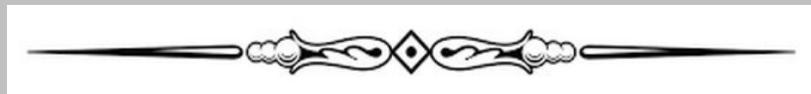
Some of the provisions that began Aug. 1 include:

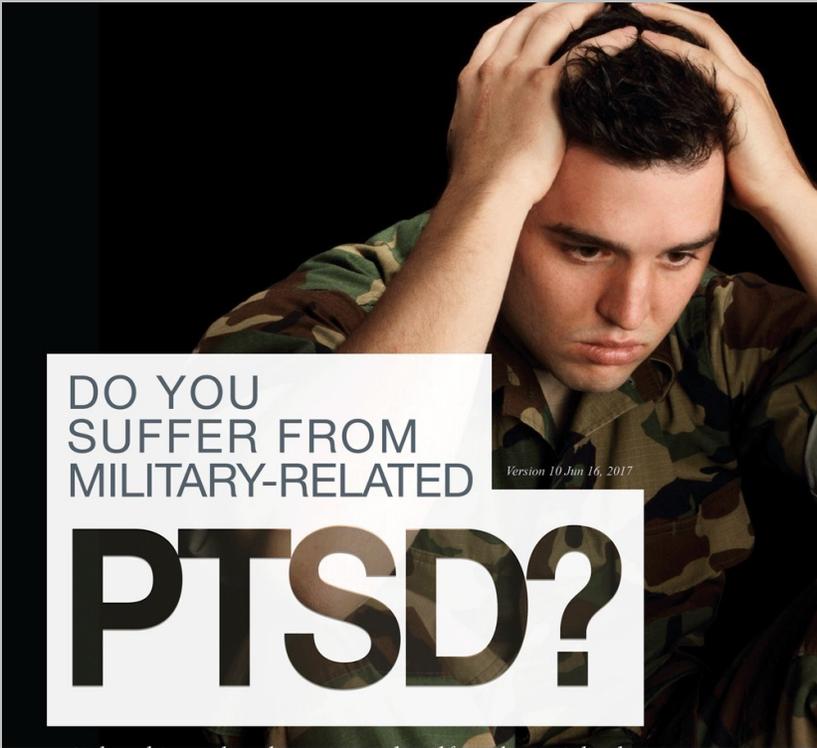
- Recipients of a Purple Heart awarded on or after Sept. 11, 2001, are now eligible for full Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for up to 36 months, if not already entitled.
  - Military and Veteran families who have lost a family member can now reallocate transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.
  - Additional Guard and Reserve service now counts toward Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility.
  - Post-9/11 GI Bill students may now receive monthly housing allowance for any days they are not on active duty, rather than having to wait until the next month; and
  - Expansion of the [Yellow Ribbon Program](#), which makes additional funds available for GI Bill students, now covers more students.
- More provisions are scheduled related to

science, technology, engineering and math benefit extensions; increased benefit levels; a pilot program for high-technology training geared toward “upskilling” Veterans to enter the workforce quickly; and another expansion of the Yellow Ribbon Program, which will be implemented by Aug. 1, 2022.

For more information, visit the [Forever GI Bill – Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act page](#).

Visit the Education and Training [webpage](#) for more information. For questions about GI Bill benefits, call the Education Call Center at 888-442-4551 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (CST) Monday through Friday. Join the conversation via [Facebook](#) or follow Veterans Benefits Administration on [Twitter](#).





DO YOU  
SUFFER FROM  
MILITARY-RELATED

Version 10 Jun 16, 2017

**PTSD?**

**Veterans Crisis Line:  
1-800-273-8255 & Press 1  
Ntl Call Center for Homeless Vets  
1-877-424-3838**



**'Forever GI Bill' Expansion  
Goes Into Effect**

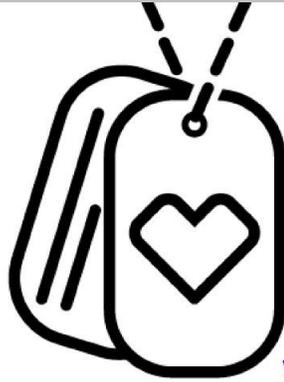
New VA Secretary Robert Wilkie has announced that the new provisions of the Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017, better known as the "Forever GI Bill," are now in effect. The VA said 15 new provisions of the GI Bill went into effect Aug. 1, in addition to 13 that were already in place. For more details, see this [article](#).



## **Korean & Cold War POW/MIA Families Meet**

The VFW Washington Office joined the Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs this week at their annual meeting in Arlington, Va. This year's atmosphere was supercharged with hope after last week's return of 55 cases of American remains from the Korean War. The remains are now at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency identification lab in Hawaii where they are being anatomically arranged and sampled for DNA sequencing. There are approximately 7,690 unaccounted-for Americans lost on the Korean Peninsula, with an estimated 5,300 being north of the DMZ. Cold War losses in the vicinity number 111. American-led recovery teams have not operated in North Korea since 2005 due to security reasons, but the possibility they could resume is being met with the full support of the families and the VFW, who will ensure any increase in mission requirements is met with a corresponding increase in mission funding.





**Our values  
match yours.**



[www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)



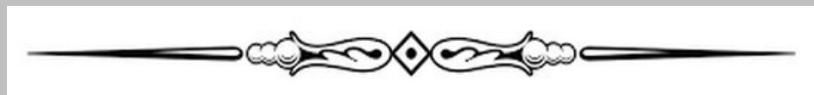
## **AAFES 'Back-to-School 101' Sweepstakes**

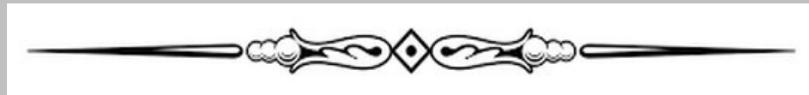
The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is giving away \$12,500 in gift cards in the Unilever Back to School 101 sweepstakes. Patrons can enter the sweepstakes at [ShopMyExchange.com](http://ShopMyExchange.com) from now to Aug. 30, 2018. Prizes include 25 \$500 Exchange gift cards. No purchase is necessary to enter or win. Entrants need not be present to win.



## **Purple Hearts Reunited**

Tuesday was National Purple Heart Day, and fittingly the VFW was proud to help unite retired Army Staff Sgt. Mike Jeffrey with his Purple Heart in a ceremony in Washington, D.C. VFW National Veterans Service Assistant Director and Purple Heart recipient Brad Hazell had the honor of assisting in the presentation of the medal to Mike, a member of VFW Post 10281 in Vine Grove, Ky., who was a Cavalry Scout assigned to the 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, when he was wounded in October 2006 during combat operations in Iraq. His original medal was engraved with the wrong name, so he turned it in but never received a corrected version until the event, which was hosted by [Purple Hearts Reunited INC](#). Seven other medals were presented that day to the families of veterans from World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Pinning the Purple Heart on Mike was his younger brother Army Sgt. 1st Class Joe Jeffrey.





## **New Radiation Exposure Compensation Act**

Legislation has been introduced that would expand the [Radiation Exposure Compensation Act](#). The current law has distributed more than \$2 billion to residents within Nevada, Utah and Arizona who suffer from radiation-related illnesses, but will end payments by 2022. The last year for people to apply for coverage is 2020. The proposed amendment would extend RECA by 19 years and offer up to \$150,000 in medical coverage to residents of Guam, Idaho, New Mexico and the Navajo Nation.



## **S. 3089, DAV-Supported COLA Increase Bill**

Senator Johnny Isakson (GA), Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, introduced S. 3089-the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2018.

This bill would authorize a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for veterans in receipt of compensation and pension, and for survivors of veterans who died from service-incurred disabilities and are in receipt of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). The bill would provide an increase by the same percentage as Social Security, effective December 1, 2018.

Receipt of annual COLA increments aids injured and ill veterans, their families, and their survivors to help maintain the value of their VA benefits against inflation. Without COLAs, these individuals, who sacrificed their own health and their family life for the good of our nation, may not be able to maintain a quality of life in their elder years.

DAV strongly supports S. 3089 as it is in accord with DAV Resolution 031. Earlier this year we asked for your support of H.R. 4958- the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2018 in the House of Representatives. H.R. 4958 was passed by the House on May 21, 2018. We are now seeking your support of S. 3089.

Take Action Today! Please use the prepared electronic letter or draft your own to urge your Senators to support and cosponsor S. 3089.

As always, we appreciate your support for DAV and your grassroots activism in participating in DAV CAN. Your advocacy helps make DAV a

highly influential and effective organization in Washington. Thank you for all you do for America's veterans and their families.

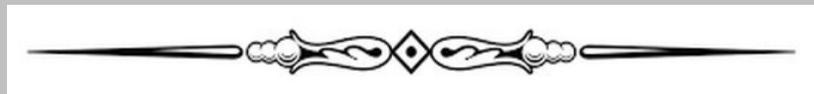
## Take Action



# TRICARE Tips on Preparing for Travel

When traveling, be aware of the bugs and insects that you may encounter along your way. Here are several tips: (1) talk with your doctor about any vaccines that you need.

[TRICARE covers age-appropriate vaccines](#); (2) know your TRICARE benefit, which you can use while travelling. Keep in mind your rules for getting [urgent care](#) depend on your plan; (3) carry with you emergency telephone numbers. Contact the [Military Health System \(MHS\) Nurse Advice Line](#) for help 24/7; (4) get routine care covered by your benefit before you leave on your trip, and fill any prescriptions you may need; (5) keep you and your family safe from insect-transmitted diseases and parasites by reading these [prevention tips](#).



## New GI Bill educational Benefits go into effect

On August 1st 2018 15 new improvements in the Harry W. Colmery Educational Act of 2017 (known as the Forever GI Bill) went into effect.

The new Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie released a statement saying: "We are excited to get the word out about implementation of the provisions. From the day the Forever GI Bill was signed into law, VA, in collaboration with Veterans service organizations, state approving agencies and school certifying officials, has taken an expansive approach to ensure earned benefits are provided to Veterans in a timely, high-quality and efficient way."

The new improvements include:"

Recipients of a Purple Heart awarded on or after Sept. 11, 2001, are now eligible for full Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for up to 36 months, if not already entitled.

Military and Veteran families who have lost a family member can now reallocate transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

Additional Guard and Reserve service now counts toward Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility.

Post-9/11 GI Bill students may now receive monthly housing allowance for any days they are not on active duty, rather than having to wait until the next month; and

Expansion of the [Yellow Ribbon Program](#), which makes additional funds available for GI Bill students, now covers more students. "

To get more details and/or see the additional improvements going into effect in the future go to:

["Forever GI Bill - Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act](#) page. or the Education and Training [webpage](#) for more information. For questions about GI Bill benefits, call the Education Call Center at 888-442-4551 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (CST) Monday through Friday. Join the conversation via [Facebook](#) or follow Veterans Benefits Administration on [Twitter](#)."

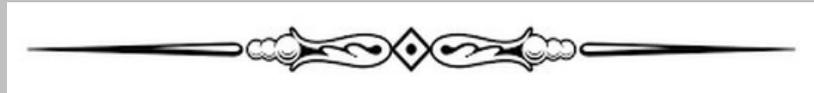
Source: TREA



# Using Your TRICARE Benefit with Other Health Insurance

Do you have employer-sponsored health insurance? Any health insurance you have in addition to TRICARE is known by TRICARE as "other health insurance," or OHI. TRICARE supplements are not OHI. If you have OHI, it becomes your primary insurance and pays any claims before TRICARE does. Learn more about how TRICARE works with OHI to make the most of your benefit.

Read the full article [here](#).



## **Emergency Prescription Procedures in parts of California**

Due to wildfire, emergency prescription procedures have been extended until August 20, 2018 in parts of California. For more information, visit:

**[TRICARE Disaster Alerts](#)**



## **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



## **VA Resources for Veteran Caregivers**

There are many Department of Veterans Affairs resources available to veteran caregivers such as peer support mentoring, a monthly stipend for those caring for Post-9/11 veterans, and programs that emphasize the importance of self-care to caregivers. For more information, read the [VA Vantage Point Blog](#), visit the VA Caregiver Support [website](#) or call VA's Caregiver Support Line at 1-855-260-3274.



## **TRICARE teaches about bugs**

**TRICARE** likes to keep us healthy with education as well as treatment. Last week their focus was on bugs and bug borne diseases. Below is their page on mosquitoes. At the end of the article we have placed their hyperlink to hear their latest podcast on Bug Week Travel Checklist; mosquitoes; and Lyme Disease and past podcasts. If you are planning to do some camping this month hope this information will make it more enjoyable.

### **BUG OFF, MOSQUITOES!**

You may know that mosquitoes carry disease.

But did you know that [disease epidemics from mosquito-borne viruses are on the rise](#)?

Protect yourself against mosquitoes, and know how TRICARE covers you if you suffer more than the usual itchy bite this summer.

Mosquitoes are flying insects known for their irritating bites. While most mosquitoes simply cause itchy bites, if infected, they can spread disease. Some common ones include:

**Malaria.** If traveling to Central America, South America, East or West Africa, or South Asia, talk to your doctor about medications to prevent malaria and understand your options. If symptoms arise, a doctor can diagnose [malaria](#) with a blood test.

**Yellow fever.** There is currently a [yellow fever](#) outbreak in Brazil. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that if you haven't received the yellow fever vaccine, postpone travel to Brazil. If you must travel to South America or Africa, where yellow fever is most common, consider getting [vaccinated](#). TRICARE [covers yellow](#)

[fever vaccine or other vaccines](#) required for overseas travel for active duty family members traveling with their sponsor on official travel or permanent change of station orders.

**Zika.** While it doesn't usually require hospitalization, the CDC warns that the [Zika virus](#) presents additional risk for pregnant women. If you're pregnant, consider postponing travel to areas where the virus is active, like parts of South America, Central America, and the Caribbean. Check the [world map of areas with risk of Zika](#) for the latest information.

**West Nile virus.** Last year, the West Nile virus affected [more than 2,000 Americans and caused over 120 deaths](#). But not all cases are severe. Within the U.S., [West Nile is most common in](#) Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Mississippi, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota.

Mosquitoes can spread dangerous diseases no matter where you are. Here are some ways that you can prevent mosquito bites and reduce your chances of getting sick:

Wear long sleeves and pants when exploring outdoors, especially at night.

Use an [insect repellent](#) registered with the Environmental Protection Agency and reapply frequently when outdoors.

Sleep in an air-conditioned or well-screened room.

Take command of your health this summer and stay alert in the fight against mosquito-borne disease. For more on bugs, check out [Bug Week](#) at the Military Health System. For more on your benefits and what TRICARE covers, check out the TRICARE website

Visit the TRICARE Media Center for this and previous podcasts at [www.tricare.mil/podcasts](http://www.tricare.mil/podcasts).

Source: TREA



[Links to Other Stories](#)

1. [A Contractor Knowingly Sold US Troops Defective Earplugs For Years. Now They're Paying For It](#)
2. [A toxic town, a search for answers](#)
3. [Advocates decry closing of Veterans Affairs outpatient program in Amherst](#)
4. [Agent Blue - Arsenic-Laced Rainbow](#)
5. [AMNESIA: IT Updates For GI Bill System To Cost \\$70 Million](#)
6. [Are You Eligible For Additional Payment for Asbestos Related Illnesses?](#)
7. [Army Veteran and NYC police detective shares her experience fighting breast cancer](#)
8. [Army Veteran Shot And Killed By Police After Defending Family From Naked Intruder](#)
9. [Cardiologist Gets 20 Months In Prison For Billing Veterans Affairs For Hundreds Of Bogus Medical Procedures](#)
10. [Cardiologist Will Do 20 Months for Ripping off VA on Medical Procedures](#)
11. [Commentary: Strides made on VA reforms, but there's more work to do](#)
12. [Common painkillers could triple harmful side effects in dementia](#)
13. [Eye Conditions and the VA](#)

14. Federal Jury Convicts Former VA Field Examiner and OPM Investigator Kenneth Richard Devore of Fraud
15. Florida Man Pleads Guilty to Accepting \$2.5 Million in Bribes and Kickbacks
16. Forever GI Bill expands VA educational benefits
17. From Dow's 'Dioxin Lawyer' to Trump's Choice to Run Superfund
18. Heat-related health dangers for older adults soar during the summer
19. Leominster Woman Pleads Guilty to Stealing Social Security and Veterans Benefits
20. New Research Says Cannabis Is Extremely Effective Against Depression And PTSD
21. New Survey Results Shows Unhappy Tricare Users
22. New therapies help Veterans with PTSD who can't sleep
23. New VA secretary promises Veterans better customer service and more medical options
24. New VA secretary warns Trump's signature program could collapse without fix

25. New VA Secretary Wilkie Puts 'Forever GI Bill' Expansion Into Effect
26. Newport group enters fray over cross-shaped war memorial
27. Put down that chow hall slop — celebrity's burger chain is bringing flavor on base
28. Report: The Army Is Embracing Drug Waivers To Help Fill Its Ranks
29. The Doctors Are In... Or Are They? Why VA Cannot Hire Enough Physicians
30. The Head Of The Marine Corps' Premier Fighting Force Is Taking His Talents West
31. The Opposite Of Your Job: Former VA Employee Defrauds Disabled Veteran Of \$680,000
32. The Shadow Rulers of the VA
33. The VA Hospital In DC Was Reportedly Using Rusty Surgical Tools And Water Full Of Bacteria
34. US military to get biggest pay raise in 9 years
35. VA attempts to torpedo expanding Agent Orange benefits to thousands
36. VA officials push back on Congress' blue water Navy benefits fix

37. [VA releases health care benefit application for Spanish-speaking Veterans](#)
38. [VA staff plea: End 'incompetence' and fix worsening conditions at DC hospital](#)
39. [VA: 'Facts are much different' on viral photo of Veteran on ground at Murfreesboro hospital](#)
40. [VA: Science Doesn't Support Agent Orange Claims from 'Blue Water' Vets](#)
41. [Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act](#)
42. [Veterans exposed to battlefield burn pits press VA for care and compensation](#)
43. [Vets rarely get college credit for military training. Here's how Congress is trying to fix that](#)
44. [VetSuccess on Campus](#)
45. [West Virginia gets grant to train Veterans in agriculture](#)
46. [Will Orange County Veterans finally get a local cemetery?](#)

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](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)

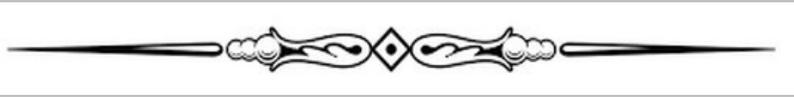


## **VA Assistance for Long Term Care**

Finding the best long-term care approach can be a challenge. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care offers sick and disabled veterans options regarding the setting of their care and the types of care they receive. Long-term care services include: (1) nursing and medical care; (2) physical therapy; (3) help with daily tasks, like bathing, dressing and making meals; (4) comfort care and help with managing pain and (5) support for caregivers. To access these services, Veterans must be enrolled in VA health care, and VA must determine a specific service is necessary. Learn more and explore VA health care on the [VA website](#).



*[CLICK HERE TO JOIN US ON TWITTER](#)*



# Navy Funding Education Applications Through September

The Navy College Virtual Education Center (NCVEC) is funding WebTA and NCPACE DL applications through 30 September. Sailors can submit WebTA and NCPACE DL applications as early as 120 days, but they must be command approved at least 14 days prior to the start of the institution's published term start date. For more information, visit the Navy College [Website](#) or call the Navy College Virtual Education Center (NCVEC) toll-free at 1-877-838-1659; DSN 492-4684. Also, the United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) provides apprenticeship programs that result in journeyman-level certificates of completion. For more information, visit the USMAP [website](#).



# Help is on the way for high drug prices

**We live in a golden era for American medicine**, senior health leaders from across the Trump Administration point out. Incredible new medicines and technologies improve and extend our lives. Yet all Americans at some point will face the burden of paying high prices for prescription drugs, say HHS Secretary Alex Azar, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, and CMS Administrator Seema Verma.

**President Trump has a message** for these Americans: Help is on the way. “One of my greatest priorities is to reduce the price of prescription drugs,” the President said earlier this year. In May, he unveiled his blueprint for achieving just that.

**The “American Patients First”** blueprint has a few important principles to guide the Administration’s plan of action:

- Encouraging innovation, such as by streamlining the approval process for over-the-counter drugs
- Promoting real price competition, including by advancing “biosimilars” and generics where appropriate
- Addressing foreign freeloading, including the practice of subsidizing countries that use socialized healthcare to offload costs on Americans

Help is on the way for Americans facing high drug prices.

The plan: [See President Trump’s “American Patients First” blueprint](#)



**\* RED ALERT \***

**Everyone Call The Senate Committee  
On Veterans Affairs Members Ask  
Them To Support and Vote to pass  
HR 299 Blue Water Navy  
Vietnam Veterans Act Of 2018 to the  
Full Senate for a Vote!**

**Jon Tester (D - MT)202-224-2644-Tony  
Murray, Patty (WA)202-224-2621-Ryan  
Sanders, Bernie (VT)202-224-5141-Matt  
Brown, Sherrod (OH)202-224-2315-Anna  
Blumenthal, Richard (CT)202-224-2823-Ethan  
Hirono, Mazie (HI)202-224-6361-Adam  
Manchin, Joe (WV)202-224-3954-Emily**

**Please Ask everyone to Make The  
Calls and Share this with  
Everyone!**

**Thank You Michael F Kvintus  
Sr. BWNVVA  
National Vice Commander**





## TRICARE Young Adult

If you are worried about your health care coverage as a military dependent, [TRICARE Young Adult](#) (TYA) may give you the coverage you need. TYA is an option for unmarried, young adult dependents who have aged out of regular TRICARE coverage at age 21, or up to age 23 if enrolled in college. The TYA benefit includes either TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select coverage worldwide. The sponsor's status and the dependent's geographic location determine eligibility to purchase [TYA Prime](#) or [TYA Select](#). TYA coverage includes medical and pharmacy benefits, but excludes dental coverage. For more information, download the [TRICARE Young Adult Fact Sheet](#).



## **Office of Inspector General**

1. [Additional Practices Could Help Components Better Develop Operational Requirements](#)
2. [CBP Is Evaluating Designs and Locations for Border Barriers but Is Proceeding Without](#)

## Key Information

3. Department of Veterans Affairs: Actions Needed to Address Employee Misconduct Process and Ensure Accountability
4. DOD Needs to Improve Funding Process for Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Programs
5. Drug Discount Program: Characteristics of Hospitals Participating and Not Participating in the 340B Program
6. Drug Discount Program: Improvements Needed in Federal Oversight of Compliance at 340B Contract Pharmacies
7. Medicaid Managed Care: Improvements Needed to Better Oversee Payment Risks
8. Medicare: Actions Needed to Better Manage Fraud Risks
9. Medicare: Small and Rural Practices' Experiences in Previous Programs and Expected Performance in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System
10. Medicare: Status of HHS's Implementation of Required Prior Authorization Medical Reviews and Provider Education for Chiropractic Services
11. VA Construction: Management of Minor

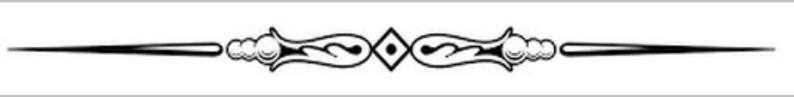
## Construction and Non-Recurring Maintenance Programs Could Be Improved

### 12. VA Disability Benefits: Some Progress, but Further Steps Needed to Improve Appeals Reform Planning



## Cars for Veterans

Over the past five years, Progressive's [Keys to Progress®](#) program has donated more than 500 cars to veterans in need. Veterans interested in receiving a 2018 donation must receive the appropriate forms from a non-profit or a VA staff person, as well as meet [certain criteria](#). From there, they can submit the application to the Keys to Progress program themselves or through a family member or lawyer. Those who receive donations will get a refurbished car, a full tank of gas, car insurance payments made for six months, and other assistance based on where they live. For more information, read the VA [VAntage Point Blog](#) and visit the Progressive [website](#).



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



## **Photography from World War I**

The WWI Centennial News Podcast recently focused on the use of photography in WW1. Corine Reis, a French public historian, spoke with host Theo Mayer about her WW1 photography blog, *Waldo Pierce Goes to War*. Later in the show, the discussion digs into the importance of photography to military operations and personal photography among soldiers in WW1 Tech, and examined the word 'snapshot.' Visit the WWI Centennial Commission [website](#) to read a transcript of the Podcast.



## **An update on Judge Brett Kavanaugh**

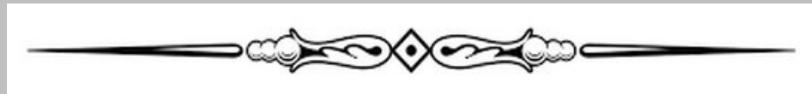
**Senate leaders plan to hold a vote** on President Trump's nominee for the Supreme Court, Judge Brett Kavanaugh, by early fall. Meanwhile, a diverse group of legal scholars, editorial boards, and public figures have called for his swift confirmation.

**“Judge Kavanaugh has an exemplary record** that suggests he will help to restore the Supreme Court to its proper, more modest role in American politics and society,” The Wall Street Journal's editors write. His 300-some decisions on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia “reflect a great allegiance to the words of the Constitution,” the Chicago Tribune adds.

**Most important, he receives rave reviews** from those who know him best: his former students and fellow members of the legal

community. “I’m a [liberal feminist lawyer](#),” Lisa Blatt writes. “Sometimes a superstar is just a superstar.”

[What to know about President Trump’s Supreme Court nominee](#)



1. FDA updates on valsartan recalls
2. G & C Raw, LLC Recalls Pat's Cat Turkey, and Ground Lamb Pet Food, because of Possible Listeria Monocytogenes Health Risk
3. Product Quest Manufacturing LLC Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of CVS Health 12 Hour Sinus Relief Nasal Mist Due to Microbiological Contamination
4. Qiagen Sciences LLC. Recalls the AmniSure ROM Test Due to Lack of Control Line - Which May Lead to Misinterpretation of Test Results
5. Risks Associated with Use of Rupture of Membranes Tests - Letter to Health Care Providers
6. Voluntary Recall of Hostess Cookies 'n Creme Brownies
7. Vyaire Medical, Inc. Recalls AirLife Resuscitation Devices Due to Manufacturing Error Preventing Oxygen Delivery
8. Zithromax, Zmax (azithromycin): FDA Warning - Increased Risk of Cancer Relapse With Long-Term Use After Donor Stem Cell Transplant



## **VA releases health care benefit application for Spanish-speaking Veterans**

WASHINGTON — Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) released the Spanish version of the application for health benefits, as part of VA's effort to simplify and improve the health care enrollment process for Veterans.

The new language version implements the VA Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans' recommendation to provide Spanish versions of the application and instructions.

“Our Veteran population is made up of an increasingly diverse group of people,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Our nation appreciates the service and sacrifice of all Veterans, including Hispanic and Latino Veterans. And it's our duty to expand the ways we communicate with all Veterans, so they're properly informed about the benefits they've

earned.”

According to the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, the number of living Veterans who identify as being Hispanic or Latino, as of Sept. 30, 2017, is nearly 1.5 million people. More than half a million Veterans already enrolled in the VA health care system self-identify as Hispanic or Latino.

The form is available at VA medical facilities and online at

[https://vaww.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-10EZ\\_Spanish.pdf](https://vaww.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-10EZ_Spanish.pdf)

Veterans can apply for VA health care benefits online at <https://www.vets.gov/health-care/apply/>; by telephone at 877-222-VETS (877-222-8387) between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. (EST) Monday through Friday; at a VA health care facility; or by completing a hard copy of the form and mailing it to Health Eligibility Center, 2957 Clairmont Road, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30329-1647.



## SURVIVAL IS FUN



## Upcoming Events

- On Saturday August 11th, there will be the [National Purple Heart Day Ceremony](#) at the home of our first President, George Washington's Mount Vernon - a great historical estate that brings in thousands of visitors each year. This event was previously hosted by the

[Military Order of the Purple Heart](#) Chapter 353, but since it has grown to a much larger event, it is in transition over to be hosted by Mount Vernon itself, with support by the MOPH Chapter 353 and others. I really hope many of you can come celebrate the oldest military award still given to U.S. military members - the [Purple Heart Medal](#), originally designed by General George Washington. I will be there to celebrate with my fellow Purple Heart recipients.

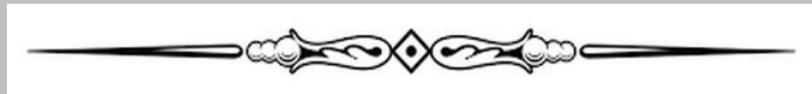
- On Wednesday August 15th, we're tentatively scheduled for the monthly Military Order of the Purple Heart, Greater Washington Chapter 353 trip to the [Walter Reed National Military Medical Center](#) (WRNMMC), Bethesda MD, to visit any combat wounded patients there.

We've been VERY lucky that there have been very few - or none - for the last several months. Let's pray that trend continues!!!

- On Thursday August 16th, Freedom and I, along with another K9 team, are scheduled to attend the Annual Knights of Columbus Chapter 10957 Golf Tournament (benefiting [K9s For Warriors](#)) at [Breton Bay Golf & Country](#)

[Club in Leonardtown, MD](#). We had a blast last year, and are looking forward to a great day at the club again this year.

- On Saturday September 22nd, we plan on attending the [Fairfax County Brew Fest](#) at [Mustang Sally Brewing Company](#) (along with one or two other K9s teams). If you like music, beer, food, and a good time, you should save the date! As soon as we get more info, I'll let you know! Hope you can come say hi!



# AAFES Offers 'Military Brat' Patch

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is offering a limited giveaway of [military brat patches](#) at [ShopMyExchange.com](#). Through Aug. 31, authorized shoppers can visit [ShopMyExchange.com](#) for a chance to receive the exclusive 2018 military brat patch, which is being released for the first time during Month of the Military Child. The number of patches is limited, and requests will be first come, first served. A new patch and design are already planned for 2019.



## MIA Update

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has released the names of five newly identified servicemen, and the burial dates of three others. Returned home for burial with full military honors are:

**Army Air Forces Flight Officer Richard W. Lane**, 21, of Beatrice, Neb., was buried yesterday in Gage, Neb. In December 1944, Lane served with the 815th Bombardment Squadron, 483rd Bombardment Group (Heavy), 15th Air Force. He was killed on Dec. 27, 1944, when the B-17G aircraft he was copiloting was shot down on a bombing mission over Austria. [Read about Lane.](#)

**Marine Corps Reserve Pvt. Emil F. Ragucci**, 19, will be buried Aug. 14 in his hometown of Philadelphia. In November 1943, Ragucci was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands. Ragucci died on the first day of the battle, Nov. 20, 1943. [Read about Ragucci.](#)

**Army Sgt. 1st Class Rufus L. Ketchum**, 38, will be buried Aug. 14 in his hometown of Superior, Wis. In late November 1950, Ketchum was a member of Medical Detachment, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 31st

Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division, deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea, when they were forced to withdraw south due to overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. Ketchum was reported missing in action on Dec. 6, 1950.

[Read about Ketchum.](#)

**Navy Seaman 2nd Class Wilbur C. Barrett** of Kansas, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which on Dec. 7, 1941, was moored at Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when it quickly capsized after sustaining multiple torpedo hits. Interment services are pending.

[Read about Barrett.](#)

**Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Martin F.**

**O'Callaghan Jr.** was a P-38 Lightning pilot with the 96th Fighter Squadron, 82nd Fighter Group. In February 1945, O'Callaghan was on a strafing mission near Maribor, Yugoslavia, now Slovenia, when his aircraft was struck by anti-aircraft fire. While attempting an emergency landing, his aircraft crashed and burst into flames. Interment services are

pending. [Read about O'Callaghan.](#)

**Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Hulen A. Leinweber**, 22, of Fort Bend County, Texas, was a P-51 Mustang pilot with the 40th Fighter Squadron, 35th Fighter Group. On June 10, 1945, while on a strafing mission in the Philippines, his aircraft reportedly was struck by anti-aircraft fire, causing the right wing to break off and his aircraft to crash. Interment services are pending. [Read about Leinweber.](#)

**Army Pfc. John A. Taylor** was a member of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, stationed in South Korea. On Aug. 11, 1950, his regiment encountered a Korean People's Army unit near the village of Haman. Taylor's company was ordered to move southwest, where they were ambushed and forced to disperse. Taylor was reported killed in action on Aug. 12, 1950, but his remains were not recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Taylor.](#)

**Army Master Sgt. Carl H. Lindquist**, 32, of



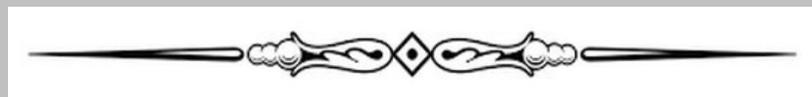
1. IRS issues guidance on small business accounting method changes under Tax Cuts and Jobs Act
2. IRS issues proposed regulations on new 20 percent deduction for passthrough businesses
3. IRS urges taxpayers to check withholding now to avoid tax surprises later; Spotlights special tools during week of Aug. 13 to help people overlooking major changes
4. July 2018 Recap
5. Tax Security 101 – Tax professionals victimized by data thefts offer hard-won security lessons to colleagues
6. Taxpayers can monitor their IRS information online
7. Taxpayers now have more time to challenge a levy
8. Tips for extension filers
9. Truckers should consider using e-file to submit Form 2290 by Aug. 31



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.



[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE VFC WEEKLY NEWSLETTER](#)



# Veterans-For-Change, Inc.

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today

[www.Veterans-For-Change.org](http://www.Veterans-For-Change.org)

Serving those who served!

**Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends  
and Family!**

©2018 Veterans-For-Change, Inc. | Menifee, CA 92584-8870

[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by  
[GoDaddy Email Marketing](#)®