

Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, August 16, 2020

Volume 11, Issue 29



This-N-That

Good evening Jim,

I know this current pandemic, Corona Virus has many going insane, and all have different reasons, but I'd say half of the U.S. population knows keeping social distance and using masks which most if not all retailers are requiring believes this is the right thing to do.

The other half don't believe they need to worry it won't affect them, or find excuses not to wear a mask, or keeping 6 feet from the person ahead of you.

Well I can tell you when it was first announced,
Casino's in Las Vegas ignored the warnings and a
personal friend of mine for more than 20 years was
infected, and within 24 hours was rushed to the
hospital where his was allowed to drop him off but not
allowed to enter.

For two nearly three months her only communication was with nursing staff and his doctor. After the first week they put him in a coma and on a breathing machine and gave little to no hope and told her to be prepared.

A week later they took him off the drugs to bring him to an alert status, which was a good sign as he was a bit combative, and they put him back in a coma for another week. This time they remove him from the ventilator before he was brought to, and he was still able to breath on his own.

Finally three months later they announced he'd been cured and would go home, but with all the effects he has a visiting nurse daily as well as a physical therapist.

The second person I've known my entire life, he was my "uncle" (adopted of course) and a fellow Marine who served with my dad. I just found out two weeks ago he passed away from the corona virus.

Bill was the kind of single guy who normally stayed home except to run small errands, so we're not sure where he was infected, could have been the grocery store, farmers market, no one knows, but he didn't stand a chance after being infected as he was also a Vietnam Vet and dealing with his own health issues due to AO exposure.

The rules and guidelines didn't come out till about two months ago and had they come out earlier, both might have been fine.

So when I tell you please wear masks, please keep social distancing, I am more than dead serious! Me personally I have a compromised immune system from Chemo treatments and radiation treatments, I can't and won't take any risks, no matter how many try to convince me it's a waste of time.

Please be safe, please practice the guidelines, don't let your friends of family wake up to your passing!

In the last six months I am pleased to announce that three Homeless Veteran Apartment complexes have been completed and now open for operation. One in Santa Ana, one in Placentia CA, and a third in Boise, ID. Now granted this doesn't resolve the entire problem, but it's a damn good start!

We just have a few VA Medical Centers with more than enough "excess" property where they could either build mini apartment facilities or do the ground work to install mini homes, either would be suitable to house Homeless Veterans.

Now, my question to everyone. If you call your Rep and both Senators, do you ever mention to them the Homeless Veteran situation? You need to, even if you don't think your member(s) listen. They have to record each call in a call log and those logs are maintained with all the other call logs with Reps and Senators!

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

Arlington National Cemetery Releases New Education Program

Arlington National Cemetery announced the release of

its new education program, which has resources for elementary, middle and high school students, as well as for lifelong learners. This program aims to showcase the diverse history of the United States by honoring the sacrifices and lives of those buried at Arlington, to support remembrance of past military conflicts, and to encourage personal connections to America's diverse history. The program currently has three modules — the African American Experience, the Spanish American War, and Exploring Arlington, with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier coming soon. This program also includes curated readings and walking tours with the option of virtually exploring the cemetery.

Learn more.

Behind on Vaccines? Get Back on Track with TRICARE

This summer, a COVID-19 vaccine is on the minds of many people. While the world waits for a vaccine, it's a good time to make sure you and your family members are on track with other important vaccines. You can review the vaccine schedule from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to make sure you're on track. TRICARE covers age-appropriate

doses of vaccines, as recommended by the CDC.

To learn more, read the article.



DOD Offers Expanded Child Care Service

The Department of Defense is providing an additional way for military parents to find child care solutions for hourly care. Military OneSource will expand its offerings through a national online service that enables families to find, hire, and pay for care. Families will have access to a free monthly subscription service with a secure, searchable network of care providers.

Learn more.

Complete the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

All Veterans who served in eligible locations should include their information in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pits Registry. Participation in the registry is very important as it will allow VA to track burn pit exposure and draw inferences regarding associated adverse health effects. Exposure to burn pits may be associated with respiratory conditions such as asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD). Recently, VA stated that Veterans with underlying respiratory conditions may be at greater risk for developing complications related to COVID-19. Service members and Veterans who have already signed up for the registry should make sure that their contact information, phone number, address, and email are upto-date.



1. Widow of Navy SEAL

tells

story of grief, acceptance 2. Parkinson's disease risk in Louisiana linked to use of two herbicides and a pesticide: study 3. Disabled Army Veteran committed for shooting 2 in Florida **ER** 4. Exclusive oneonone

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with
  U.S
  Secretary
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  Veterans
  Affairs,
  Robert
  Wilkie
5. VA
  clears
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  schools
  to
  keep
  enrolling
  GI
  Bill
  students
6. Waco:
  Veterans
  organization
  seeks
  crucial
  volunteer
7. Air
  Force
  tech
  sergeant
  awarded
  for
  saving
  drowning
  woman
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in Turkey 8. Decades after World War ΙΙ, DoD struggles to clear unexploded ordnance at Navy and Air Forces bases on Guam 9. **VA** Exec Steered \$5 Million Contract to Friend for **Services** Agency 'Could

Not Use': IG 10. Why an Unemployed Veteran Memorized the US Constitution 11. Feds to cover more ailments linked to Agent Orange nearly 50 years after end of Vietnam War 12. A Marine Veteran is altering

his 'Scout Sniper' tattoo following public outcry 13. Nearly 600 online retailers hit with credit cardstealing malware protect yourself now 14. The VA Is Seeking Input on **Updating** Eligibility Rules for Bad Paper

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Discharges
15. Army's
   'Captain
   America'
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   by
   suicide
   after
   nearly
   a
   dozen
   combat
   tours
16. Bill
   Would
   Allow
   Family
   of
   Murdered
   Army
   Lieutenant
   to
   Receive
   Military
   Benefits
17. Happy
   98th
   birthday
   to
   one
   of
   America's
   first
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female Marine Corps Veterans 18. Korean War Veteran's widow receives new roof for Whittier home 19. The military's privileged position above the political fray is at risk 20. Black disabled Veteran sentenced to spend 60 months

in prison for medical marijuana 21. Going Back to School? Here's the 2020 GI Bill Rates 22. Veterans should be counted in census 23. San Diego doc bought Jaguar, jewelry with illgotten gains, gets prison

for \$784K in **Tricare** fraud 24. An update on contract talks between VA, **AFGE** 25. **VA** Medical Center back open for business, officials say 26. Homeless Veteran delivers his own baby in the car he and

his wife are living in 27. Airmen used military planes to smuggle gun parts 28. Investigators: Texas couple defrauded Army out of millions 29. Big Leak Reveals Iran **Targeting** US **Military** With Super Speedy Google Account

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Hacks
30. 'This
    is
    not
    a
    hoax':
    Local
    Covenant
    health
    experts
    debunk
    COVID-
    19
    misconceptions
31. VA
    Secretary
    says
    he
    can't
    help
    K2
    Veterans
    without
    legislation,
    but
    Veterans
    counter
    he
    can
32. VA
    opposes
    efforts
    to
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reinstate 48hour review process for claims 33. Women Veteran **Affairs Deputy** Lindsey Sin **Publishes** Op-Ed in Sacramento Bee **About** Sexual **Assault** and Harassment in the Military 34. New Veterans Village in **Placentia** gives

homeless Vets community, housing, financial, health assistance 35. Pesticides speed the spread of deadly waterborne pathogens 36. Promotion packet photos are out. Name and sex could be next 37. Air Force Academy Senior **Faces** up to

15 Years in Drug Court-Martial 38. "Walking Marine" walks to Washington, D.C. to raise awareness of Veteran suicide rates 39. New KanVet site helps Veterans find careers in Kansas 40. Mississippi **Veterans Affairs** steps in

after federal VA failed Veteran 41. Former Navy **SEAL David** Pruett dives in as Garfield County Veterans **Services** Officer 42. Car cruise held to raise awareness about Veteran suicide 43. Plan to boost housing improvement grants

for disabled Veterans poised to become law 44. Women Veterans rally for change in military sex harassment response after Vanessa Guillen killing 45. Veteran picks up mission to honor Vietnam War Veteran killed in action

46. Rx Refills **During** the **Pandemic** 47. How VA Helps Veteran business owners 48. Borne the **Battle** #207: Marine Recon Veteran Alex Calfree, Co-Founder of **OpLign** 49. U.S. Department of Veterans **Affairs Police** Officer Indicted for

Unauthorized Leads and Ohleg Searches and **Tampering** With Records 50. It's time for VA to consider a new motto 51. Congress Wants the Pentagon to Expand Coverage for Troops' **Eating** Disorder **Treatments** 52. Marine Veteran accused

of

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53. Apartments

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Veterans Toxic Exposure Bill

Introduced

Exposure to toxins, whether herbicides or fumes of chemicals from a burn pit, has long been an issue facing certain service members both at home and abroad. Years of research has produced reports of the debilitating health problems and, in some cases, deaths attributed to exposure to these toxins.

Sen. Thom Tillis (N.C.) recently introduced a comprehensive bill to cover all possible toxicants developed by the TEAM (Toxic Exposure in the American Military) Coalition, which includes FRA, that would address every aspect of this issue. The Toxic Exposure in the American Military Act (TEAM Act S.4393), which would expand access to preventative and diagnostic services for Veterans who were exposed to toxins and also establishes an independent scientific commission tasked with researching the health effects of such toxic exposure and then reporting its findings to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Congress. Below is a summary of the provisions of the TEAM Act:

- Provides consultation and testing through the VA for eligible Veterans exposed to toxic substances;
- Requires the VA to respond to new scientific evidence regarding diseases associated with toxic exposure within an established timeframe;

- Establishes a scientific commission to research the health effects of toxic exposure in Veterans and report the commission's findings to the VA and Congress;
- Ensures the VA enters into agreements with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct scientific studies regarding the association between diseases and exposure to toxic substances during military service;
- Develops a portal for Veterans to access the Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record;
- Expands training on toxic exposure issues for VA health care and benefits personnel; and
- Requires the VA to develop a questionnaire for primary care appointments to help them determine whether or not a Veteran may have been exposed to toxic substances during their service.

The TEAM Act seeks to standardize and provide fair treatment of service members who were exposed to toxicants. The bill is schedule for markup in September, please use the **Action Center** to ask your Senators to support this important legislation.

SVAC Passes legislation

The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee held a hearing to consider several legislative proposals

dealing with issues such as mental health, toxic exposure, caring for women and Native American Veterans, helping Veteran-owned small business, among others.

Among the bipartisan bills that were passed, are the FRA-supported Deborah Sampson Act (S.514), which is a comprehensive bill that would assist females who are separating from military service with an emphasis placed on women who suffered service-related sexual trauma; females who are at risk of becoming homeless, and the Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act, which is similar to an amendment in the must-pass FY2021 NDAA, that is listed on the FRA Action Center. Everyone is encouraged to contact their Senators and weigh in on these and several other issues.



Below are links to all currently active pre-written E-Mails to many pieces of legislation. We ask that you go to each one, and send the pre-written E-Mails, and to also call your Reps or Senators and ask for their

support on a weekly basis!

You don't need to be Active Duty or a Veteran, in fact we ask all Veteran friends to also help! (**Updated 08/14/20**)

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1. Support
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2. NDAA

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DoD reiterates FDA warning on using some hand sanitizers

With the increased use of hand sanitizers, the Safety Office at Fort Jackson, South Carolina is urging the

community to ...

Read More

Inalienable Rights

Our rights; of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness, are guaranteed by our republic's honored constitution and enforced by our men and women in the military. Today's military will soon be tomorrow's Veterans, Be there for them today, as they are there for us. Be there for them tomorrow, as they were for us, always.

Richard G. Shuster



Follow us on MEWE! The support staff at MEWE is responsive, open to suggestions and works very hard to protect your personal information.

We hope you will join us on this new site.

VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE

HOMELESS HEROES PROGRAM OF VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE

AMVETS GROUP

VETERANS SOCIAL GROUP

{USAVET} SUPPORTING GOD & ALL WHO SERVED OUR GREAT NATION

AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY

"History is not there for you to like or dislike. It is there for you to learn from it. And if it offends you, even better. Because then you are less likely to repeat it. It is not yours to erase. It belongs to all of us."

Office of Inspector General

1. Social
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2. Retirement

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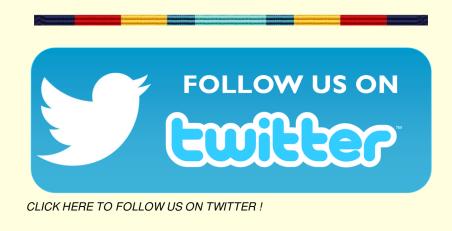
Facing

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COVID-19 patient treated at Evans

Throughout their 56 years of marriage, Joyce and

George Woffenden have endured celebrations and challenges together, but nothing prepared them for ...

Read More

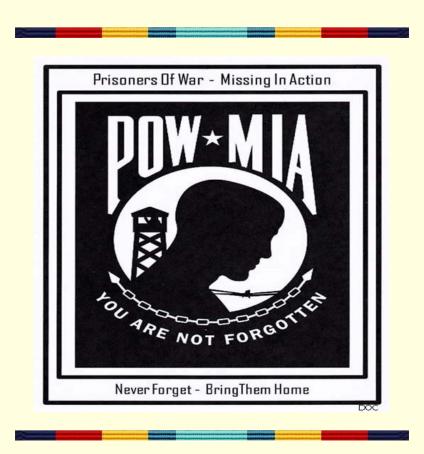
Service Secretaries and Branch Chiefs Ask Return of MTFs

Service Secretaries and Branch Chiefs of each military service have dispatched a memo to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper asking to return all military hospitals and clinics already transferred to the Defense Health Agency (DHA) and the suspension of any planned moves of personnel or resources. The military treatment facilities (MTF) transition to the DHA was required by the FY2017 NDAA (P.L. 114-328), as a result, the services have already handed over many of their facilities.

The DHA assumed management responsibilities from the services for all military hospitals and clinics, which was initiated to provide a more flexible, adaptable, effective and integrated system to manage the facilities. According to the memo, the COVID-19 outbreak has demonstrated that the reform introduced barriers, created unnecessary complexity, and increased inefficiency and costs. The memo also

requests the Department of Defense (DoD) to halt any further transfer of personnel or resources from the services to the DHA.

The DoD will continue with the transition as prescribed by the law. As part of the transition, the DoD initiated closures of some MTFs, which excludes retirees and military dependents access to MTF and made cuts to medical billets. The FRA strongly opposes the closing, restrictions and cuts to billets at MTFs, even before the COVID-19 pandemic. Everyone is urged to use the FRA Action Center to contact their legislators to halt the MTF restrictions and cutting of billets.



What Are Your TRICARE Pharmacy

Options Overseas?

Do you live overseas? Got questions about how to fill your prescriptions? If you're enrolled in a TRICARE Overseas Program plan, you have access to the same TRICARE Pharmacy Program as stateside. This means you can fill your prescriptions through military pharmacies, TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery, TRICARE retail network pharmacies, and non-network pharmacies. But there are some limits for filling prescriptions overseas.

To learn more, read the article.

Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune among the best of the best

Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune recently ranked among the highest-scoring facilities in multiple "Best of the Best" categories in the second-quarter report of ...

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Back-to-school vaccinations in the age of coronavirus

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt everyday routines, including attending school inperson, parents may have questions about their children's back-to-school vaccination requirements. The following Q/A...

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Adaptive Housing Bill Becomes Law

This week, the president signed into law VFW-supported H.R. 3504, the Ryan Kules and Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019. The new law will provide enhancements to VA's Specially Adapted Housing program by increasing the number of grants awarded, raising the dollar amount of the individual grants, and expanding the number of times qualified Veterans can use a housing grant. This change will help certain severely disabled Veterans purchase adaptive homes or upgrade existing homes to meet their specific needs for daily living activities. The VFW applauds the passage of this important bill which will greatly benefit Veterans.



Keeping History Alive

I was blessed to grow-up in Pennsylvania. I need not tell you of the wealth of this nation's history that occurred in the Commonwealth colony of Penn's Woods. I was exposed, from my earliest remembrances, by family, community and schools to the richness of our history. I was blessed with teachers who took the time to point out our local history, our state's role in the beginnings of what became the United States and mostly of the people who were part of it all. We learned about not only the well-known's, but our un-known's, as well; all the peoples of so many ethnic and religious backgrounds and their origins. We became proud of our diversity through our being united in cause and home and hope for a better future. We did not place our differences ahead of our commonalities. We built our lives on both.

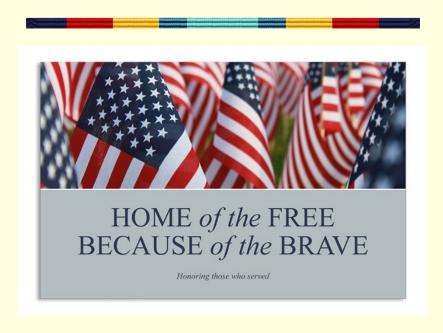
My family, paternal and maternal, has representative histories of most of the early settlers of this continent. Starting in the 1600s, continuing through the 1700's and 1800's, they came. They came hopeful, they came brave, they came humble and they came grateful. They adopted and were adopted by the new land they now called home. They built the farms, villages, towns and great cities, they established trade and commerce, they raised and loved their families, they tilled the land, they built their houses of worship, they donned the uniforms of freedom, they depended upon their faith in

an Almighty God to see them through and they were part of the development of the greatest experiment in the history of humanity, the experiment of a representative democratic-republic, a land of freedom, a land of expression, a land of liberty, and a land of justice, for all.

To have lived in the once colonial frontiers where Washington walked as a young man in the King's service during the French and Indian Wars; To have ancestors mentioned in Washington's early communications with his commanding officer; To have retraced the lawful immigration of ancestors from multiple places in what was then called Europa, to their new homes in the Middle-Atlantic and New England colonies; To follow those brave soul's paths to and through the known frontiers and beyond; To be familiar and comfortable with the lands and homesteads of those principled adventurers; To visit the hallowed burial spots of so many kin who fought in every war era from the French and Indian Wars, the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, Spanish American War, WW1, WW2, & Korea. To have experienced these things has kept their history alive in my mind and heart.

I am grateful for the teachers who helped me to learn and understand so much. I am grateful I learned to read the histories of my ancestry, I am grateful I can count my blessings for all the gifts of freedom I have, I am grateful for the sense of history that gives me perspective for today and tomorrow.

Richard G. Shuster



New Navy units join in the fight against COVID-19

In July, Navy medical providers mobilized to Texas to assist providers there with the fight against COVID-19. This latest ...

Read More

Tax & Credit Information



1. Here's

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2. Dirty

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3. Financial

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4. Joint
   Board
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   temporary
   waiver
   of
   'physical
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   education
   requirement
   for
   enrolled
   actuaries
5. Defined
   Contribution
   3rd
   Cycle
   filings
   for
  ESOPs
6. Good
   recordkeeping
   is
   an
   essential
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tax planning 7. Working Virtually: **Avoid Phishing** Scams; Part 4 of Security **Summit** tips for tax professionals 8. Using the Tax Withholding **Estimator** will help taxpayers avoid surprises next year

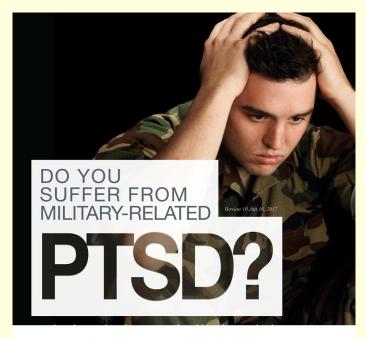
With the year more than half over, many people remain concerned about catching the respiratory virus COVID-19. The number of confirmed cases worldwide has ...

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

Respite Relief for Caregivers

VA and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation teamed with CareLinx to provide more than 40,000 hours of non-medical home care respite relief for over 1,600 family caregivers of Veterans in California, Florida, and Texas. Caregivers can apply for a qualified health care professional for 24 hours of free respite relief. CareLinx services include mobility, meals, housekeeping, exercise, bathing, toileting, medication reminders, companionship, and transportation. This partnership should help build future relationships between public and private stakeholders to support military and Veteran families.

Read more.



VA Prepares to Welcome Back Volunteers

VA announced this week plans to gradually and safely reintroduce volunteers to its health care facilities. Most

volunteer activities have been paused to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Some volunteer roles may be modified or performed virtually. Individual VA facilities will tailor the reintegration of volunteers based on the facilities' operational needs and the volunteers' abilities.

Learn more.



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one new identification and one burial update for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from WWII and the Korean War. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Charles D. Miller, 19, of Albany, Indiana, was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 6th 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, in an attempt to secure the island. Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded, while the Japanese were virtually annihilated. Miller died on the third day of battle, Nov. 22, 1943. Miller will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. The date has yet to be determined. Read about Miller.

Army Sgt. James N. Stryker, 20, was a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on May 18, 1951, when the enemy attacked his unit near Han'gye, South Korea. His remains could not be immediately recovered, but he was not officially declared dead until after the Armistice was signed July 27, 1953. Interment services are pending. Read about Stryker.



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!

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Jim.Davis@Veterans-for-change.org

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