



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, June 06, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 23



This-N-That

Good afternoon Jim,

We're still working on gathering information in a couple areas of concern, and we're reaching out again for any Veterans or family members who might be able to assist with any information, or direct experiences you have encountered.

The first area of concern pertains to any Veterans who had their benefits stopped based on accusations of fraud. You might have only received

a letter from the VA informing you benefits were being stopped and maybe no reason at all, or a vague reason is offered.

We don't want anyone's personal information, and what is provided will be kept confidential.

The second area of concern pertains to any Veteran who has been awarded benefits and care for any mental health issue, and you have been assigned to someone in the VA but the distance is quite a bit and you may have asked to be seen by a private doctor or clinic that is closer to your home and were denied.

Some are being told no, and no reason offered, or you may have been told no as there was no budget money available for outside services, or any other reason they may have offered.

Again, we don't want anyone's personal information, and again, what ever is provided will be kept confidential.

Your help in either area of concern will be immensely appreciated.

I've been a little slow at prepping more new

documents to get uploaded, but I am working on that. My mail back-log for new weblinks was huge, so I did work on that a couple of weeks ago and 60+ new weblinks have been installed.

I will be contacting our webmaster this weekend to find out if we have a publish date set so I can let you know if we're going to make it this month, or if we need to push it.

We've been working very closely with Military-Veteran's Advocacy for a long time now, and they need more members in order to apply to be considered nationally recognized. They also have a rifle raffle also noted in this newsletter that the drawing date is coming up.

But do give both a thought, maybe subscribe or get a raffle ticket, or both! I know they would appreciate it as I would too!

This newsletter again is packed with all kinds of information some will help some, others will help all, and some may not pertain to you, but do take the time to review everything.

I know we're getting more information for women Veterans and this is a good sign, and hopefully

those who are using the VA Healthcare System are being treated well, getting the care needed and you're able to move forward in your life.

On the chance you are not, please do contact me and let me know what area(s) we might need to work on for you.

We're still looking for someone who knows a lot about or was trained regarding FMA. We've not needed anyone for a long time when it comes to FMA, but once again we're in need of someone who specialized in FMA services and benefits for a Veteran, ASAP. Please do contact me via E-Mail if you'd be so kind enough to assist.

If you've not visited our website, www.veterans-for-change.org or not visited in a while, please be sure to check often for updates on documents, web links, etc., we are a bit slow, but are moving as fast as we can, yet not over-loading to put more work on our Webmaster when we get to the transition into the new look.

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

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

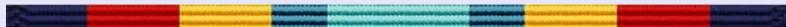
Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org



Navy Veteran: "I never wanted to talk about what happened."

After Michael Corso joined the Navy, he gained confidence in himself through his job ... and also socially. But when a friendship went terribly wrong, it changed him forever. Here's how VA helped.

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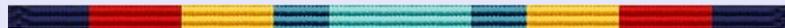
Military Veterans Advocacy



Military Veterans Advocacy is offering some free memberships for those who are struggling to get their claims through, are having financial difficulties. Annual dues are \$25.00 per year. Our organization includes special sections, Blue Water Navy, Veterans of Southeast Asia, Central Pacific Islands, Veterans of Panama Canal Zone, and Okinawa. We have gift members available which can be paid by your fellow brother or sister Veterans. Gift members are kept confidential. Go to this link and help a Veteran.

https://www.militaryVeteransadvocacy.org/.../c2/yearly_dues

You may contact Robin at
robin.barr@mvadvocacy.org



Bridge My Return: Veteran Voices in the Workplace

Bridge My Return helps Veterans find meaningful employment and talk about how Veteran voices are crucial in the workplace.

[Read More](#)



#VeteranOfTheDay Navy Veteran Susan Ahn Cuddy

During Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Navy Veteran Susan Ahn Cuddy, who served during World War II.

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Why I get my health care at VA: Army Veteran Mitchell

Army Veteran Mitchell "never knew how good VA was." At a friend's urging, he went to VA and doctors there doctors found a myelofibrosis disorder. Today, Mitchell believes "it's a good thing I'm here."

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Military-Veterans Advocacy's 3rd Annual Rifle Raffle

Military-Veterans Advocacy's 3rd annual rifle raffle continues to be a



hit, with a little over a month to go, has sold half of the 300 tickets printed, Last year we ran out of tickets prior to the drawing and this year the tickets are going fast. Our first prize this year, the Springfield M1A1 rifle is a collector's item as well as a fully functional firearm., Many of you carried that rifle in boot camp so there is a sentimental reason for the quick pace of ticket sales. Our second prize, the Smith and Wesson Model 686 7-shot revolver is also beautifully tooled and will be the envy of everyone at the range, And of course our third prize \$250. cash will always come in handy.

So please feel free to jump on our web site at <https://www.militaryveteransadvocacy.org/rifle-raffle.html> and purchase a ticket or tickets. And while you are on the website, if you are not a member please consider joining. Membership is \$25 per year.

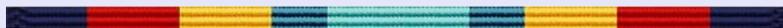
Life memberships are also available https://www.militaryveteransadvocacy.org/store/c2/early_dues. We have gift memberships for those who are having financial concerns. For more information contact robin.barr@madvocacy.org.

Drawing is June 26, you do not have to be present to win, but you must comply with all federal and

state firearms laws. Tickets are \$45 apiece! We accept Master Card, American Express and Discover.

Please help our volunteer staff continue to litigate, legislate and educate on your behalf.

Commander J. B. Wells U. S. Navy (Retired)
Attorney at Law
Chairman
Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc.

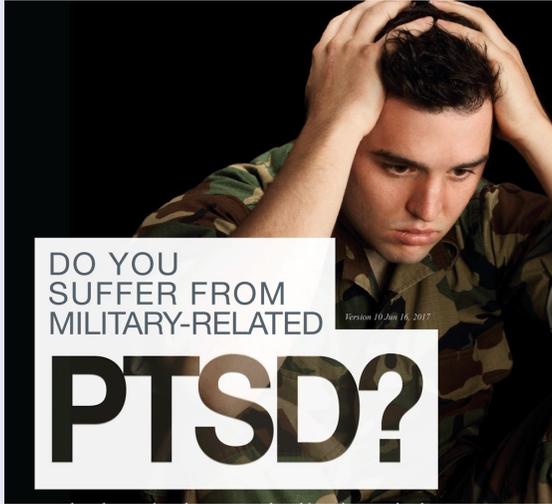


Now hiring: Medical records techs help manage patient records

VA medical records technicians ensure patient records are accurately and confidentially maintained so that Veterans can receive proper care.

[Read More](#)





DO YOU
SUFFER FROM
MILITARY-RELATED
Version 10, July 16, 2017

PTSD?

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



FY2022 Administration's Budget Provides Big Boost to VA

President Biden recently submitted his Administration's budget for FY2022 that begins Oct. 1, 2022. The budget increases defense spending by 1.6 percent. The proposal does not include any new TRICARE fee increases and allows for an active duty pay increase of 2.7 percent that keeps pace with civilian pay increases. The measure increases funding for mental health and sexual assault prevention. The proposed budget reduces Navy and Marine Corps active-duty end strength by 1,600 and 2,700, respectively. "The President's Defense Budget Request is an outline and a starting point,"

emphasizes Sen. Jack Reed (R.I.), Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The Administration has requested a 10 percent increase for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The budget provides approximately \$1.4 billion, an increase of \$350 million for the Caregiver Support Program. Through this program the Veterans Health Administration provides support to individuals who act as caregivers for severely disabled veterans. The 2022 budget supports the phased expansion of the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers to include all eligible veterans, no matter when they served. The original Caregiver Program was limited to veterans that were disabled after Sept. 11, 2001.

The budget includes \$2.2 billion in funding for veteran homelessness programs. Additionally, the budget includes \$598 million for veteran's suicide prevention outreach programs that address the risks for suicide, with the goal of intervening before a veteran reaches a point of crisis.

Congress wants to rapidly rush through the budgeting and appropriations process this summer, partly because Biden's budget is coming late, even compared to previous newly elected presidents.

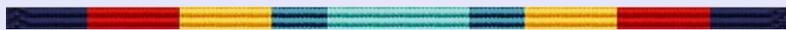
Negotiators may rely on a stopgap funding measure (Continuing Resolution) to avoid a shutdown after the Sept. 30 deadline to enact funding for the government.



Robotic pets provide comfort for hospital residents

Army Veteran Harold, 90, lives in the Community Living Center of the Salem VA. He sits in a hallway, smiling and petting the small, golden-furred robot puppy he's named Peaches.

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VA Northern Indiana celebrates Women's Health Clinic

VA Northern Indiana Health Care System recognized our Women's Health Clinic and expecting mothers with a baby shower. Local Elk's Post 155 donated \$10,500 to the Women's Health Clinic.

[Read More](#)

Know the Warning Signs

It Matters.

Sometimes, a crisis may involve thoughts of suicide. Learn to recognize these warning signs:

- Hopelessness, feeling like there's no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug abuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends

The presence of the following signs requires immediate attention:

- Thinking about hurting or killing themselves
- Looking for ways to kill themselves
- Talking about death, dying or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse

..... Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net) or text to **838255**



Harvey Milk: Honor, courage and commitment

Enshrined in the Navy Core Values Charter are honor, courage and commitment. Navy Veteran Harvey Milk upheld each of those values as he advanced gay rights.

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Secretary McDonough: On the Tulsa Massacre, we remember

Yesterday marked the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Massacre, one of the most tragic domestic terrorism instances visited upon the Black community. Today, we remember.

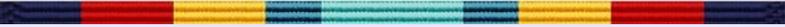
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Sharon Dunbar: Trailblazing through adversity

Veteran Sharon Dunbar served for 32 years, becoming one of the highest ranking female Asian Americans in the Air Force.

[Read More](#)



Links to Other Stories

1. New Jersey Veteran receives new 'smart home' from 9/11 charity
2. Navy Veteran walking hundreds of miles, raising awareness for Veteran mental health
3. My dad criticized the Vietnam War while he was a POW. Here's what he'd tell troops today.
4. Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) Memorial Day message
5. How the VA Is Pushing Vets into the Opioid Abyss
6. "There aren't many of us left anymore": Once stoically silent, Palo Alto World War II Veteran opens up about Normandy Invasion, other battles
7. Jackson County teen honors Veterans with Eagle Scout project
8. Marines of Lima Company remember the fallen and reunite in Nashville to halt Veteran suicides
9. VA Moves to Expedite Benefits for Post-9/11 Veterans' Asthma, Respiratory Problems
10. Colorado Army Vets Honor Civil War, WWII dead and a Buffalo Soldier
11. Ocean explorer discovers 5 sunken WWII subs,

giving closure to hundreds of families

12. Sen. Moran introduces legislation to address gaps in Veteran healthcare

13. Army Veteran volunteers for 'Nightwatch' at Eagle Field of Honor

14. The Lost 24: New Mexico's Forgotten Heroes

15. Remembering the United States Colored Troops who helped win the Civil War

16. Millions of Vets could get new benefits under toxic exposure legislation. But can it become law?

17. Connecticut town honors Veterans exposed to Agent Orange

18. 'Devastating, tragic, and deadly': VA leaders in Arkansas allowed impaired pathologist to harm hundreds of Veterans, watchdog finds

19. Physician Pleads Guilty in Medicaid Fraud Conspiracy

20. Texas Man Pleads Guilty to Receiving Kick Back Payments in Exchange for Referrals to OK Compounding

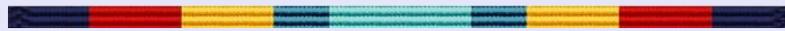
21. Manhattan U.S. Attorney Files Suit Against Eleven Skilled Nursing Facilities and Their Management Company, Owner, And A Senior Employee for Fraudulently Billing Medicare for Unnecessary Services

22. Employee of Autism Services Agency Pleads Guilty to Health Care Fraud and Identity Theft

Offenses

23. [Medical Doctor Sentenced for Drug Trafficking and Health Care Fraud Offenses](#)

24. [Jury Convicts West Virginia Doctor of Drug Distribution](#)



#VeteranOfTheDay Navy Veteran Jose Antonio Berrios

During Caribbean-American Heritage Month, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Navy Veteran Jose Antonio Berrios, who served as a boatswain mate during Vietnam.

[Read More](#)



Deafened by rare disease at 12, today a VA scientist

At the age of 12, Nicole LaMont was diagnosed with a life-threatening disease that took away her hearing. Today, she is a VA scientist. "You can do anything you want, just a little bit differently."

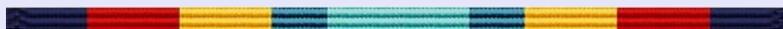
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VIDEO: VA nursing career provides flexibility, work-life balance

Working as a VA nurse was a natural career move for Jade Moore, MS, RN, acting director of workforce and leadership in our Office of Nursing Services. As a military spouse, Moore experienced numerous disruptions early in her nursing career as her husband was relocated around the world. Tired of having to start over, she decided a VA career was a perfect fit. "One of the greatest benefits is our mobility," Moore said. "I was able to move from the Atlanta VA to the Baltimore VA and... keep that seniority that will go toward my retirement." Moore recently appeared on ...

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From concept to reality: VA endeavor offers guidance, support to researchers trying to bring innovations to market

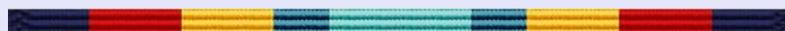
Frech launched a telemedicine program at VA in 2011 and learned, for one, that many of her patients had suffered injuries to their fingers due to bitter cold temperatures while serving in Afghanistan. She also received complaints that some patients weren't getting timely evaluation.

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**Suicide Prevention Resources
for Military and Veterans**

Military & Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255, Press 1 Text 838255, 24/7	Office of Warrior Care Policy warriorcare.dodlive.mil/
Vets 4 Warriors 855-838-8255	Military One Source 1-800-342-9647
InTransition 1-800-424-7877	Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors [TAPS] 1-800-959-8277



**Navy submarine Veteran describes life with
multiple sclerosis**

Navy Veteran Frank Helenberger was diagnosed with MS while working as a firefighter and paramedic. He describes the onset of the condition in precise detail. And how he is dealing with it today.

[Read More](#)



#VeteranOfTheDay Air Force Veteran Morgan Freeman

On his 84th birthday, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Air Force Veteran Morgan Freeman, who served from 1955 to 1959 and became an award-winning actor.

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Remembering fallen means honoring unfinished work: SecVA

Remembering the fallen means honoring the nation's unfinished work, VA Secretary Denis McDonough said at Quantico National Cemetery in Virginia May 28.

[Read More](#)



VA extending listening sessions through the week of June 14

VA has been hosting public virtual listening sessions across the country since March to hear from Veterans about their care. We are extending listening sessions through the week of June 14.

[Read More](#)



Veterans-For-Change Website

The Veterans-For-Change website has been around since 2009, We've been around since May 2006. The looks pretty much stay the same for now, but in the background our new webmaster has been working on a whole new look and feel, a facelift so-

to-speak. And we're sincerely hoping to roll out the new website sometime this coming June.

Constant improvement and change are 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, whatever you'd like it to be.

We also have a forum with for Mental Health and are currently seeking a new Licensed Mental Health Worker, where you can seek help or just ask questions.

We average **2,948** hits per day, and downloads average **4,717** per day with a total **7,421,634** visitors as of Saturday evening.

If you subscribe you will have full access to the entire website and best of all it's **FREE of**

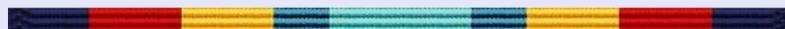
CHARGE! You just need a valid E-mail address so the system can send us a notification to approve your account. Once received, and we approve, the system will send you an E-Mail letting you know your account has been approved. Be sure to check your junk and spam folders just in case you don't receive it in your In-Box.

www.Veterans-for-change.org

- Documents Library with over **19,535** documents in 237+ Libraries, added 235 new documents on-line (Updated: 03/18/21)
- FAQ's on-line with **1,843** FAQs on 104 topics! (Updated 05/30/20 - 46 NEW)
- 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: 04/23/20) (3 Added)
- News (Articles On-Line: **10,596**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than **8,153**, Added 59 New Links (Updated: 05/26/21)

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



HVAC Member Day Includes Concurrent Receipt

The House Veterans Affairs Committee invited all members to come speak about their priorities for veterans. These events give lawmakers who do not sit on the committee an opportunity to officially request legislative actions. This hearing allowed 22 Representatives to come before the committee and make their case for legislation. Although concurrent receipt is not under the jurisdiction of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Rep. Gus Bilirakis (Fla.) discussed the urgent need to pass concurrent

receipt reform. Bilirakis introduced the "Retired Pay Restoration Act" (H.R.303) that would extend Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP) eligibility to retirees rated less than 50 percent disabled, and more recently introduced the "Major Richard Star Act" (H.R.1282) that expands concurrent receipt to include Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) beneficiaries who are medically retired with less than 20 years of service. Bilirakis noted he will soon file legislation to provide dental care to veterans with diabetes, through a four-year pilot program. He also added his voice to those calling for toxic exposure improvements.

Everyone is strongly urged to weigh in on the concurrent receipt issue by going to the [FRA Action Center](#).



Face of InnoVAtion: Robert Bankston

Face of InnoVAtion is a regular series from VHA IE focusing on VA employees who are working to change and save Veteran lives through innovation.

[Read More](#)



Two VHA Innovation Ecosystem Innovations bring new tech to Veteran care

While innovation at VA can be as simple as a toothbrush, two award-winning innovations are using new technologies to help Veterans.

[Read More](#)



How to succeed in college or grad school #1: Outside the classroom

In this first of several guest blog posts, Harvard Extension School Instructor Cynthia A. Meyersburg, Ph.D., guides student Veterans on how to prepare for and succeed when returning to an academic school. This post examines what student Vets should do outside the classroom.

[Read More](#)





Jim, 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!

Jim you don't need to be Active Duty or a Veteran, in fact we ask all Veteran friends to also help!
(Updated **06/05/21**)

Please note, we've added **1** new items to the **TAKE ACTION** list.

1. [HR 1014 - Furnish Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy \(HBOT\) to a Veteran who has a Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\) or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTS\)](#)
2. [HR 109 will establish an advisory committee on the implementation by the DVA of an electronic health record](#)
3. [Concurrent Receipt Legislation Introduced](#)
4. [Expand Concurrent Receipt](#)

5. FRA and Others asks SecDef Not to Raise TRICARE Fees
6. H.R. 333, Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act
7. H.R. 344, Support the Women Veterans TRUST Act
8. H.R. 914, the Dental Care for Veterans Act
9. Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act
10. Oppose TRICARE fee Increases
11. S. 134/H.R. 637, the Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2021
12. S. 437, Take Action for Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits
13. S. 89, Ensuring Survivors Benefits during COVID-19 Act of 2021
14. STOP TRICARE Fee Increases
15. Support Bills to Expand Coverage for ChampVA and TRICARE Young Adults
16. Veterans Economic Recovery Act Introduced
17. Support Bipartisan Bill to Expanding COVID-19 Vaccine Access for Veterans and Families
18. H.R. 855, the Veterans Expedited TSA Screening (VETS) Safe Travel Act
19. HR 1355 and S 454. These companion bills will provide health care and benefits to Veterans who were exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces at Karshi Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan.

20. Support Repeal of TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee
21. HR 1585 & S 565- Provide for the treatment of Vets who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as Radiation Exposed
22. Please Support S. 344, the Major Richard Star Act
23. Support the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act
24. S. 810 & H.R. 1972, the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
25. HR 109 Establish an Advisory Committee on Implementation by the DVA of an electronic health record
26. HR 2372 and S 952 will Provide for Presumption of Service Connection for certain diseases associated with exposure to toxins
27. Please Ask you Senator to support S.952 the Warfighters Act
28. Support Improving VA Homelessness Program
29. S. 976, Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
30. H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act
31. H.R. 912, American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans Mental Health Act
32. S. 976, the Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
33. HR 2269 and S 657 cover herbicide exposure in Thailand

34. Bipartisan Bill Introduced to Help Military Survivors
35. Legislation asks for Study of Involuntary Discharges for Women
36. H.R. 2436, the Veterans Burn Pit Exposure Recognition Act
37. H.R. 958—the Protecting Moms Who Served Act
38. HR 2127 and S 927, the TEAM bills Veterans Exposed to Toxic Substances
39. Ask your Senator to Support S.1520 Military Justice Improvement Act
40. Ask your member to support S.810 and H.R. 1972 The Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
41. Ask your member and senator to support HR 2580 and S 1151 to provide for a presumption of service connected disability for certain Veterans who served in Palomares, Spain, and for other purposes
42. "Bold New Plan" for Veterans Toxic Exposure (S. 927/H.R. 2127)
43. Ask your Senator to Support S.1520 Military Justice Improvement Act
44. HR 855, VETS Safe Travel Act
45. HR 3368, the Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Island bill

46. H.R. 2521, Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Affairs Act of 2021
47. H.R. 1273, the Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act



Amid shortage of face masks, researchers explore 3D options to guard against COVID-19, other infectious diseases

A newly published study evaluated how well the 3D masks perform, with a focus on the filter materials used to block out airborne particles and liquid contaminants. The project team found a wide range of filter efficiency in the 3D masks, including some filters that met or closely approached the criteria needed to make a typical N95. Others did not filter nearly as well when matched up against the N95.

[Read More](#)



SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

TALK:

- Killing themselves
- Feeling hopeless
- Having no reason to live
- Being a burden to others
- Feeling trapped
- Unbearable pain



BEHAVIOR:

- Increased use of alcohol or drugs
- Looking for a way to end their lives
- Withdrawing from activities
- Isolating from people
- Sleeping too much or too little
- Visiting or calling people to say goodbye
- Giving away possessions
- Aggression
- Fatigue

MOOD:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Loss of interest
- Irritability
- Humiliation/Shame
- Agitation/Anger
- Relief/Sudden Improvement



HAC-Def Discusses FY2022 Defense Budget

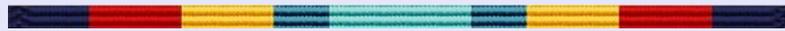
The House Appropriations, Defense Subcommittee held a hearing on the FY2022 Defense appropriations. The FRA provided a letter to the Subcommittee Chairwoman Betty McCollum (Minn.) and Ranking Member Ken Calvert (Calif.) in conjunction with the hearing. The correspondence urged the subcommittee to adequately fund the Defense Health Agency without the need to further increase TRCARE fees and to implement the Electronic Health Record (EHR). The correspondence urged HAC-Def to increase funding for military housing and Childcare Development Centers (CDC). A copy of the correspondence is available on the FRA website.



LGBT Veterans describe VA care, provide advice for others

Navy Veteran Marilu Fanning and Army Veteran Dylan Liebhart have followed different journeys through life. Different upbringings, generations and military services. Yet, the two share a passion for helping fellow Veterans receive the care they've earned. They have advice for fellow LGBT and Related Identities Veterans.

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#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Allen K. Hoe

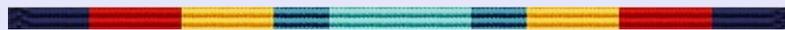
During Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Allen K. Hoe, a combat medic during the Vietnam War.

[Read More](#)



VFW & Humana Team Up with Feeding America

The VFW and Humana have teamed up with Feeding America to kick off the 2021 “Uniting to Combat Hunger” campaign. The campaign was created in 2018 to raise awareness of food insecurity that affects 1 in 8 people in America, and 1 in 4 Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans. The goal is to provide at least 1 million meals to communities in need. “The past year has been increasingly difficult for our military and veteran families, and even more desperate for those already fighting to put food on the table,” said VFW National Commander Hal Roesch. “It is unbearable to think our brave servicemen and women who have sacrificed so much already in service to their nation, would struggle to find their next meal. Together with Humana and Feeding America, I know we can make a tremendous difference in their lives, and others like them.” Learn how to [join the fight](#) against hunger in America.



Help Veteran with Toxic Exposure

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC) approved the "Comprehensive and Overdue Support for Troops (COST) of War Act." This legislation, sponsored by SVAC Chairman Jon Tester, would allow for the first time all veterans who were at risk of toxic exposure, including 3.5 million Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, to obtain immediate and lifelong access to health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)-one of the largest expansions of health care eligibility in the VA's history. The bill would provide presumptive care for 11 conditions for veterans sickened by exposure to burn pits and other toxins. It would also establish a new science-based and veteran-focused process for the establishment of new presumptive conditions and would provide benefits to thousands of toxic exposure veterans who have been long-ignored or forgotten, including Agent Orange veterans suffering from hypertension.

The still unnumbered bill now goes to the full Senate for further consideration. Please use the Action Center to ask your Senators to support this important legislation [HERE](#).



**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



**Veterans: Share what you can do now that
you're vaccinated!**

Veterans, families and caregivers – now that you're fully vaccinated, what can you safely do that you couldn't before? Post your #NowICanSafely activity on social media and tag @VeteransHealth.

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**Operation Gratitude, saying thank you to
those who serve and honoring the fallen**

While our nation takes pause to recognize those who've sacrificed their lives in service to their country on this Memorial Day 2021, Operation Gratitude and survivors of these fallen heroes know the weight of that loss is felt 365 days a year.

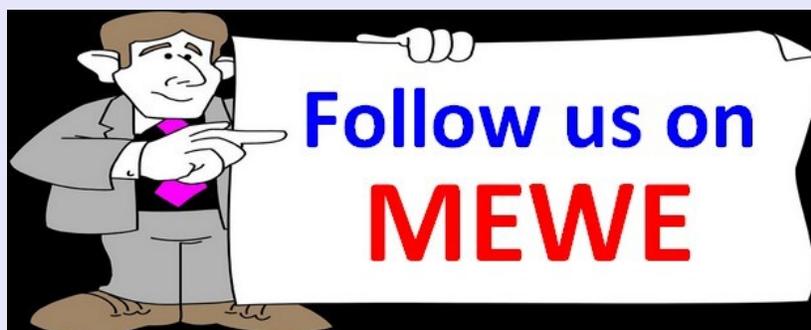
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Combat Veteran embraces Whole Health to find healing

"Whole Health is lifting me up. Before, I just kept quitting. Whole Health gives me more resources. All you have to do is ask. You think there's no one there to listen, but there is."

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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

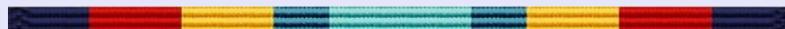
HOMELESS HEROES PROGRAM OF
VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE

AMVETS GROUP

VETERANS SOCIAL GROUP

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

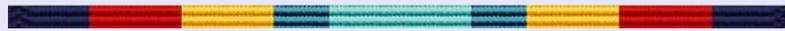
AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY



**VA Secretary Denis McDonough statement
on the retirement announcement of Duke
Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski:**

Coach K has become known by many titles over the years. National Champion. Gold Medalist. Winningest coach in NCAA history. Bane of Tar Heels everywhere. But here at VA and in the military, he has also been known as Army Capt. Krzyzewski, an artillery liaison to the infantry and graduate of West Point in 1969.

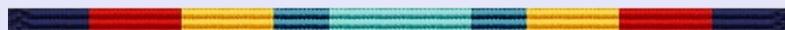
[Read More](#)



A Gold Star Mother on learning to live again

Memorial Day may come for some once a year, but for Sallie Woodard it is every day since the passing of her son, U.S. Navy Engineman Second Class Sebastian Woodard, on March 4, 2015 (Served from 2006-2015).

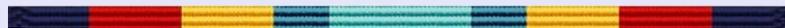
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Asking for help doesn't make you weak

Therapy does not mean we are weak. There is nothing more powerful for healing than sharing stories. It helps Veterans find the root cause of problems while finding solutions to address those challenges.

[Read More](#)



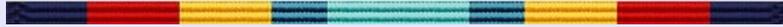
Recommendation to Consider New Presumptive Conditions

Based on recent studies related to particulate matter exposures, VA Secretary McDonough is initiating rulemaking to consider adding new presumptive regulations for respiratory conditions. The new presumptive conditions would be for veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War and/or after Sept. 11, 2001, or in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan during the Persian Gulf War. Please note, VA has NOT created new presumptive conditions, however, we encourage affected veterans to [contact their VFW Department Service Officer](#) with any questions or concerns they may have or if they may be interested in filing a claim.



Office of Inspector General

1. National Health Service Corps: Program Directs Funding to Areas with Greatest Provider Shortages
2. Social Security Administration: New Data Exchanges with Some States Provide Limited Information on Foster Care Beneficiaries
3. COVID-19: DOD Has Focused on Strategy and Oversight to Protect Military Servicemember Health



CaringBridge Helps Veterans and their loved ones stay connected during health challenges

Family and friends are an amazing source of support, but constantly sharing updates with each and every one of them is impractical. CaringBridge replaces countless texts and emails with a free, easy-to-use communications platform.

[Read More](#)



**#VeteranOfTheDay World War II War KIA,
MIA**

On this Memorial Day, today's #VeteranoftheDay is dedicated to the Americans killed in action and missing in action during World War II.

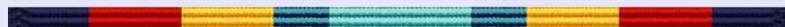
[Read More](#)



Hines VA to host PRIDE events in June, honor Special Emphasis Program's 10th year

The Edward Hines, Jr. VA will be hosting a series of virtual and in-person PRIDE events in June to mark ten years of its LGBT/A (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Allies) Special Emphasis Program (SEP).

[Read More](#)



1. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: June 1, 2021
2. Dash Xclusive Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Imperia Elita Vitaccino Coffee Due to the Presence of Undeclared Sibutramine and Fluoxetine
3. FDA Drug Shortages
4. FDA Launches Challenge to Spur Development of Affordable Traceability Tools as Part of Broader Food Safety Efforts
5. FDA's Oncology Center of Excellence Launches National Black Family Cancer Awareness Week
6. Investigation of Acute Non-viral Hepatitis Illnesses – “Real Water” Brand Alkaline Water (March 2021)
7. Nevada-Based Bottled Water Manufacturer Agrees to Stop Production for Failure to Comply with Manufacturing Requirements
8. The Kroger Co. is Voluntarily Recalling its Chicken Street Taco Kit Due to Undeclared Egg
9. Innovative Regenerative Medicine Therapies – Patient Safety Comes First
10. SARS-CoV-2 Viral Mutations: Impact on COVID-19 Tests
11. FDA In Brief: FDA provides new guidance to further enhance the security of prescription drugs in the U.S. supply chain
12. Stop New Implants of the Medtronic HVAD

System – Letter to Health Care Providers

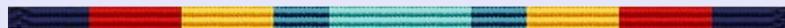
13. FDA Alerts Health Care Providers to Stop New Implants of Certain Ventricular Assist Device System

14. Sterility Issues with Medical Devices Processed at Steril Milano Facilities - Letter to Industry

15. FDA Authorizes Marketing of Diagnostic Aid for Autism Spectrum Disorder

16. FDA Approves New Drug Treatment for Chronic Weight Management, First Since 2014

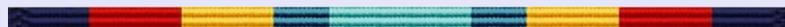
17. FDA approves drug to treat smallpox



Live Whole Health Episode #74: Improving your life with gratitude

Gratitude is a quality, attitude or expression of thankful appreciation, and it's a positive emotion that can serve a biological purpose: scientists have measured positive effects on the body and mind from a gratitude practice.

[Read More](#)



Borne the Battle #244: Army Veteran Gavin McIlvenna, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

This week's Borne the Battle features Army Veteran Gavin McIlvenna, who discusses his military career, the selection process of becoming and walking as a tomb guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, his mentors, how he found the Society of the Honor Guard, crazy guard stories, and the process of disinterring a Veteran at the tomb.

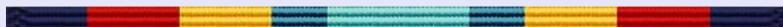
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Vietnam Veteran sold on VA health care

Not sure about VA health care? Jack Rine, a Marine Corps Veteran who was injured in Vietnam, was on the fence until he talked to a doctor at a VA facility.

[Read More](#)



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Standing Ready #5: Innovating volunteers

Volunteers have built communities of care and support and continue to meet the needs of Veterans. They are deeply rooted in our history. Hear how they have been shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic.

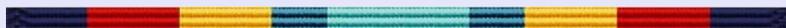
[Read More](#)



Happy birthday Harriet! 100 candles!

Harriet Daniel served with the Women's Army Corps (WAC) in WWII. She was a teletype operator in Italy from 1943 to 1945. For her wedding, her roommate sewed her wedding dress from a parachute.

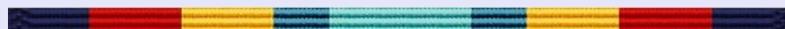
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Oklahoma Tribal Women's Summer Sessions: Murdered, Missing, Indigenous Women [June 22, 2021]

Where – Register Here: 2021 OK Tribal Women Veterans Events Multiple activities: (1) Virtual Summit - 3 Events; (2) Virtual VBA Claims Clinic-Connect with a women only team of federal and state service officers; (3) Virtual Roundtable with VA Center for Women Veterans-Talk with VA leaders, ask your questions about benefits and services. Choose one event or choose them All!! More Information will be provided, after registration. Any questions-email okwomenvets@odva.ok.gov or telephone 405-523-4020

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3 Agent Orange Presumptives Added

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced three conditions will be added to the list of those presumptively associated with exposure to Agent Orange herbicide. Those conditions are bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism. This expansion is a result of FRA-supported legislation that was added to the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L.116-283). Vietnam War era veterans and their survivors, who previously filed and were denied benefits for one of these three new presumptive conditions, will have their cases automatically reviewed **without the need to refile a claim.**



Korean and Vietnam War Veteran awarded belated honors

Army Veteran Eddie Pina received awards for service in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He was presented with ten medals for combat and distinguished service from Senator John Thune.

[Read More](#)



Tribal Women Veterans Roundtable with CWV [June 23, 2021]

Where – Register here: 2021 OK Tribal Women Veterans Events Multiple activities: (1) Virtual Summit - 3 Events; (2) Virtual VBA Claims Clinic-Connect with a women only team of federal and state service officers; (3) Virtual Roundtable with VA Center for Women Veterans-Talk with VA leaders, ask your questions about benefits and services. Choose one event or choose them All!! More Information will be provided, after registration. Any questions-email okwomenvets@odva.ok.gov or telephone 405-523-4020

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week.**



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#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Hilda I. Ortiz Clayton

During Caribbean-American Heritage Month, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Hilda I. Ortiz Clayton, who served as a photographer in Afghanistan.

[Read More](#)



#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Herbert Miyasaki

During Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Herbert Miyasaki, a World War II interpreter.

[Read More](#)



How do I apply for the WIC Program?

The WIC Program serves specific groups of women, infants, and children. To apply to be a WIC participant, you will need to apply through your state (or local agency) to set up an appointment.

[Read More](#)



Southern Arizona VA celebrates LGBT Pride year-round

In celebration of Pride Month, Southern Arizona VA is honored to create a welcoming environment for all Veterans. The VA continues to take "Pride in Serving ALL Who Served."

[Read More](#)



VA's HUD-VASH program partners with pet organizations to help Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness

During National Pet Month and beyond, VA is working with multiple pet organizations to ensure that Veterans experiencing homelessness or housing instability have the support that they need to keep their pets healthy, safe and well cared for.

[Read More](#)



What to Know About the Child and Adult Food Care Program

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides reimbursements for healthy meals and snacks to eligible children and adults who attend a participating child care center, day care home, or adult day care.

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Your actions

could save a life.

Showing you care can make a big difference to someone in crisis.

VeteransCrisisLine.net



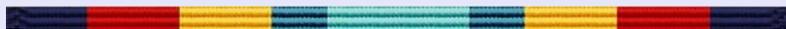
Veterans
Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1



For it's root, root, root for the Veterans! A Look at baseball's role in early VA history

Throughout the history of Veterans health care, sports have long served as a means of rehabilitation and healing. While many sports and recreational activities have been incorporated into the fabric of Veterans hospitals, one sport in early VA history stands out for its popularity and impact on Veterans – baseball.

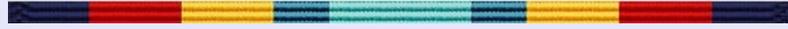
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Bhagat Singh Thind: An advocate for Indian Americans

Army Veteran Bhagat Singh Thind is an advocate for the citizenship of all Indian Americans.

[Read More](#)



VA programs aim to attract transitioning service women and health providers to its health facilities

Every VAMC has a designated women Veterans program manager to help women Veterans access VA benefits and health services.

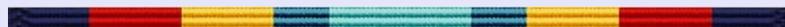
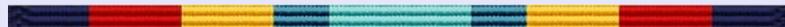
[Read More](#)



Schedule Overdue Preventive Care Services

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many people postponed or canceled annual preventive care appointments. As more and more individuals receive the COVID-19 vaccine and restrictions are lifted, veterans who are overdue for preventive care need to schedule as soon as possible. Preventive services include primary and specialty care appointments, pneumonia and shingles vaccines, and screenings such as a colonoscopy, mammogram, or pap smear.

[Read More](#)



Our Military Kids provides extracurricular grants for children of Post-9/11 combat Veterans

Our Military Kids supports military children (age 3 – 18) by providing grants up to \$300 to fund sports, arts, and other enrichment activities when their parents are deployed overseas with the National Guard or Reserve or recovering from severe injuries sustained in a post-9/11 overseas mission. Participation in these activities helps military children cope with stress and build self-confidence during an otherwise difficult time in their lives.

[Read More](#)



VA mother-daughter nurse team save a life in their neighborhood

VA nurses Linda Longshaw and her daughter, Heather Longshaw, were on their way to dinner. Frantic people flagged them down to help with a person lying on the ground. Their quick actions saved his life.

[Read More](#)



Golden Age Games – Army Veteran takes rehabilitation to another level

Army Veteran Billy Connel has proven to himself he can make big life changes in a short amount of time. "I've enjoyed preparing for the games. It has given me a goal to shoot for and I'm going for gold."

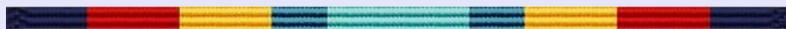
[Read More](#)



LifeWaters Adaptive Scuba takes Veteran to Georgia Aquarium

LifeWaters non-profit teaches adaptive scuba diving to those with mobility challenges and each year they take a terminally ill Veteran on a Hero Dive.

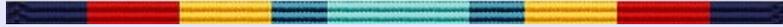
[Read More](#)



Want to quit smoking? World No Tobacco Day encourages you to live life without tobacco

World No Tobacco Day - May 31: VA urges Veterans to learn from each attempt to stop using tobacco. Those lessons can help you stop using tobacco for good.

[Read More](#)



#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Ronald Rosser

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Ronald Rosser, who served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars as a paratrooper and forward observer.

[Read More](#)



June is LGBT+ Pride Month

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and related identities (LGBT+) veterans comprise approximately one million individuals of the veteran populations. These individuals are less likely to seek health care, which could lead to long-term health issues. LGBT+ veterans are twice as likely to experience depression and suicidal ideations than heterosexual veterans. In addition to VA health care services, VA offers hormone treatment, Intimate Partner Violence reduction and treatment, and infertility or family planning. Each VA facility should have an [LGBT+ veteran care coordinator](#) and a women veterans program manager to assist.

[Read More](#)



The Patriot Purge is Underway in The US Armed Forces

By Capt Joseph R. John

On this Armed Forces Day, to protect every member of the US Armed Forces serving the Republic, we are exposing the very dangerous initiative hatched by Biden/Harris/Obama to the American Citizens, that is destroying the “Combat Effectiveness” of the US Armed Forces. The

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin hired a Radical DOD Extremist Czar, Bishop Garrison, to search for and oust Extremists from the US Armed Forces. Bishop Garrison's, official title is The Senior Advisor to The Secretary of Defense on Human Capital and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Garrison will oversee the implementation of immediate actions required to combat Patriot Extremism, as well as the development of the mid-term and long-term recommendations for the continued engagement to combat Patriot Extremism.

Garrison is a 1619 Project racist activist who believes in and provides support for the racist principles of 1619 Project, which is based on outright lies, that never actually occurred in history. He is implementing a very sinister and extremely dangerous initiative in the US Armed Forces, by force feeding Critical Race Theory into the entire US Armed Forces which is degrading the "Combat Effectiveness" and "Unit Cohesion" of the US military. The Obama screened inept woke Superintendents at West Point and the US Naval Academy have been inserting Critical Race Theory, politics, and racism into the curriculum of those Service Academies, to the detriment of "Unit Cohesion" and "Comradery" in the Long Gray Line and in The Brigade of Midshipmen.

Bishop Garrison has repeatedly stated that anyone in the US Armed Forces who supported President Donald J. Trump is a racist and must be purged from the US military. Garrison does not see Army Green, instead he only sees “race”, unlike every recruit trained in the US Army over the last 80 years who have been taught that there is only one color in the US Army, Army Green. Garrison is only searching for MAGA Red and is determined to get all of those supporters of President Trump out of the US military. That is flagrant violation of the Civil Rights of every member of the US Armed Forces, but Secretary Austin has given Garrison free range to hunt out and eliminate career opportunities for any Patriot supporter of President Trump.

Garrison has been tasked with reviewing, updating, and redefining, what “Extremism” is, but that does not include members of ANTIFA and the Marxist Black Live Matter Domestic Terrorists groups who are Extremists. They have put over 8,000 Police Officers in hospitals, torched thousands of police cruisers, destroyed and torched over \$2 billion in infrastructure in over 200 Sanctuary Cities, while being responsible for the death of over 300 Americans, over the last 17 months.

Garrison and SecDef Austin say Extremism is rampant and a major problem in the US Armed Forces, that it is sinister and dangerous, and that every effort is underway to find and oust Patriot Extremists from the US Armed Forces. Garrison is the Director of a Commission of Extremism Study which is responsible for rooting out extremist behavior within the US Armed Forces, to gain greater fidelity on the scope of the Patriot Extremists in the US Armed Forces. Garrison chairs a weekly Pentagon Countering Extremism Working Group that have been changing the US Armed Forces.

1. One of Garrison's first acts was to empower Veterans to spy on, and to report on fellow Veterans who they consider Extremists, and to report on potential contacts who are in Extremist groups.
2. Garrison is changing the method of screening and recruiting personnel into the US Armed Forces to exclude Patriot Extremists from being recruited.
3. Garrison is standardizing a screening questionnaire for every branch of the US Armed Forces to update and standardize a screening questionnaire, to solicit specific information about current or previous extremist behavior by an individual member of the US Armed Forces.

An example of purging a Patriot from the US Armed Forces is the case of Lt Col Matthew Lohmeier, who graduated from US Air Force Academy in 2006, and was a former instructor and fighter pilot for 14 years. In October 2020, he was transferred into the Space Force, and was assigned as the Commander of the 11th Space Warning Squadron at Buckley Air Force Base; the unit is tasked with detecting ballistic missile launches. He previously self-published a book titled "Irresistible Revolution: Marxism's Goal of Conquest & the Unmaking of the American Military", which claims Marxist ideologies are becoming prevalent in the US military.

In a podcast, he spoke about U.S. institutions, including universities, media and federal agencies including the military, that he said were increasingly adopting leftist practices. He said these practices -- such as diversity and inclusion training -- are the systemic causes for the divisive climate across America today. For expressing his "Freedom of Speech", Lt Col Lohmeier was relieved from his post on Friday by Lt. Gen. Stephen Whiting, the head of Space Operations Command, because of comments he made during that podcast promoting his new book.

By clicking on the below listed link you will be able

to hear a great deal more about the despicable Patriot Purge underway in the US Armed Forces.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xcUU4i3Okc>

Garrison has been directed to initiate the below listed Lines of Effort (LOE) with the help of internal and “external—non-military” Subject Matter Experts as follows:

- Line of Effort 1: Altering the Military Justice and Policy. This LOE will focus on the role of military justice and policy. It will evaluate whether seeking to amend the Uniformed Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) or amending related department policy is appropriate to address Extremism. This LOE will determine if regulations are sufficient or should be expanded to authorize it to purge and oust Extremists from the US Armed Forces.
- Line of Effort 2: Support and Oversight of Insider Threat Program. This LOE will determine how the Department should facilitate better information collection and sharing among Service Insider Threat Programs, law enforcement organizations, security organizations, and commanders and supervisors. This group will work to strengthen Insider Threat Programs and the Direct Awareness Campaign with the goal of promoting the use of the

Insider Threat programs to report concerning behaviors for both military and civilian personnel.

- Line of Effort 3: Screening Capability. This LOE will discuss the Department's pursuit of scalable and cost-effective capabilities to screen publicly available electronic information in accessions and continuous vetting for national security positions. The LOE will make recommendations on further development of such capabilities and incorporating machine learning and natural language processing into social media screening platforms. This LOE will also endeavor to develop policy to expand user activity monitoring of both Secret Internet Protocol (SIPR) and Non-Classified Internet Protocol (NIPR) systems.

- Line of Effort 4: Education and Training. This LOE will utilize the current extremist and Insider Threat training review being conducted by Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Public Relations and Office of the Under Secretary of Defense Legal Services Agency and examine existing training and make recommendations and updates to change the training material for different leadership levels and separate and discrete targeted audiences, as necessary. It will use lessons learned from the Stand Down to enhance current reviews of training

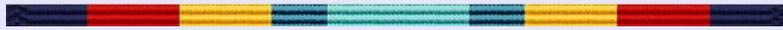
and education. This LOE will also ensure training addresses issues raised by commanders and supervisors on “gray areas” such as reading, following, and liking extremist material and content in social media forums and platforms, to target those service members who may be in extremist groups, to eliminate those Extremists.

In fact, this is a racist quest by Bishop Garrison, which was started by Obama in 2008. It is being driven forward by the Marxists, Socialists and the Biden/Harris/ Obama administration, to purge of Patriotic Americans and destroy the “Combat Effectiveness and “Unit Cohesiveness” of the US Armed Forces while eliminating any support for the founding principles that The Founding Fathers provided to their posterities in 1776, and substituting that with the racist principles of the 1619 Project.

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Joseph R. John, USNA '62

Capt USN(Ret)/Former FBI
Chairman, Combat Veterans For Congress PAC
2307 Fenton Parkway, Suite 107-184
San Diego, CA 92108



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced three burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II and Korea. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

Army Pfc. Bill F. Hobbs, 20, of South Coffeyville, Oklahoma, was a member of Heavy Mortar Company, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 30, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be

recovered. Hobbs will be buried June 26, 2021, in Coffeyville, Kansas. [Read about Hobbs.](#)

Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Leslie P.

Delles, 21, of St. Charles, Illinois, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Delles. He will be buried on Oct. 23, 2021, in Sutter Creek, California. [Read about Delles.](#)

Navy Seaman 1st Class Wilbur F. Ballance, 20,

of Paw Paw, Michigan, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Ballance. He will be buried on Dec. 3, 2021, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. [Read about Ballance.](#)



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