



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, November 14, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 46



This-N-That

Good evening Jim,

This issue we'd like to remind everyone to get their annual check-ups, annual visual and dental check-ups, breast cancer screening and colonoscopy to check for prostate cancer.

No one needs last minute health issue surprises and hope that all will do their best to take care of their health! We want each one of you around for a long, long time!

This week the newsletter is jam packed full of information, so we hope you will take advantage and read through it all over the next few days.

Are you suffering from depression? Further down in this

newsletter is a link that will take you to services being provided and are available.

We encourage you to check is out, one never knows and assistance is just around the corner.

I'd like to remind everyone to please, help us to help you by taking action on each and every item every week in the **TAKE ACTION** section of the newsletter. We've added two more bills to the list.

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.

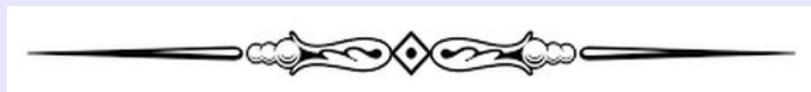
On behalf of our Volunteers nationwide and myself, we wish you and your family good health!

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org



VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Chairman's Remarks

We continue to hear from veterans who have not filed a claim for benefits for service in Guam, Thailand, Panama, and other

places. They tell us that they are told by the VA or the VSO that they are not eligible and will not be approved. Please do not listen to that. We have litigation and legislation ongoing for a number of these types of exposures and, as with the Blue Water Navy, we are trying to change the law.

We still get complaints saying “what about the Carriers?” As we have repeatedly said, we have litigation ongoing to try to extend the demarcation line to include Yankee Station. The presumption is location based and does not discriminate against any ship type. We have carriers that are covered and destroyers that are not. It depends on where you are located.

Our Guam/American Samoa bill (HR 3368) will also affect a number of ships outside of the territorial sea line but who called into one of those islands. Ships passing through the Panama Canal may also be covered by HR 5026. So it would be helpful for all of you to chime in and support our various bills of the week. Help your brother and sister veterans as well as yourself.

I made a presentation to several hundred veterans near the Villages in Central Florida. Unfortunately, there was a technical glitch and we were unable to show the power point slides. Nevertheless, the audience was interested and we received quite a bit of positive feedback. A special thanks to Brian Moyer for setting this up.

We also scheduled a Zoom meeting with Tom Murphy, the Acting Under Secretary of Benefits. The 30 minute meeting ran for 50 minutes and there was a lot of positive give and take on both sides. Initially we discussed the possibility of streamlining Blue Water Navy claims. I indicated that we were dissatisfied with the rate of adjudication but that we had some ideas that

might help. Tom was receptive and interested in our ideas and he is going to review them.

We are also trying to arrange for a demonstration of the Ship Locator tool. We have some concerns on that issue. MVA™ has purchased a professional navigation program and we are currently evaluating it. Some of the issues we discussed are dead reckoning between fixes and advance and transfer. More to follow.

We are still trying to arrange for a meeting with the VA personnel who are working with the Navy to verify the positions of submarines. As many submarines called into Guam and American Samoa, passage of HR 3368 or a victory in our court case will help to simplify this problem. So, send emails via the MVA bill of the week and call your Member of Congress and Senators. A number of submarines passed through the Panama Canal Zone and HR 5026 would cover them as well.

I asked Tom Murphy if he had reviewed the 150+ pages of shipping documents proving that 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D were shipped to Panama. He has seen them and the review of our rulemaking request concerning Panama is ongoing. He is also working with DOD on our Okinawa rulemaking request. The situation with Phu Quoc island is also ongoing. I suspect the Courts will resolve that matter before the VA does.

We also discussed mail delays. Tom was aware of the problem and they have obtained new contractors. Hopefully that problem will improve.

We need to continue our push through litigation, legislation, and education. You can best help us by joining Military-

Veterans Advocacy ® or renewing your membership. This is Early Bird time for 2022 and the first 750 to join or renew will receive a special Princess Susie challenge coin. Only 750 have been made and when they are gone, they are gone. So, join now to obtain this rare and valuable challenge coin and become the beneficiary of “Princess Power.”

The annual meeting is scheduled for November 13 at a time to be determined. Anyone who is interested in attending email Robin Barr at Robin.Barr@madvocacy.org and copy Mike Kvintus at Mike.Kvintus@madvocacy.org.

Your board continues to work hard for you. We appreciate your continued support. God bless!

John B. Wells
CDR USN (ret)
Chairman



Senate NDAA Expected to Move Forward

The Senate is expected to consider floor amendments and pass its version of the FY2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) next week. Several of these amendments are supported by FRA. These amendments include:

- Sen. Jon Tester's (Mont.) amendment with the provisions of the "Major Richard Star Act" (S.344), which would expand concurrent receipt to include Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) beneficiaries who are medically retired with less than 20 years of service;
- Sen. Rob Portman's (Ohio) amendment with provisions of the "Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act" (S.1669) that would authorize the retention of the full final month's retired pay by the surviving spouse for the month in which the member was alive for at least 24 hours;
- Sen. Lankford's (Okla.) amendment repealing the 180-day delay for retirees applying for Defense Department civilian positions GS-13 and below; and
- Sen. Richard Blumenthal's (Conn.) amendment that would require a joint report from DoD and the VA to designate the next national cemetery that affords full military honors as Arlington National Cemetery reaches capacity and directs DoD to not change ANC eligibility until after the report is submitted.

The House recently passed its version of the FY2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Once both chambers pass their version of the NDAA, a conference committee will be appointed to resolve the differences and create a final bill. This bill will be voted on by each chamber and if approved, will be sent to the president to be signed into law or be vetoed. We strongly urge everyone to use the FRA [Action Center](#) to weigh in on these Senate amendments.



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. Click [HERE](#) and help a Veteran.

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



Cancer screenings save lives: Schedule your VA screening today

Regular preventive screenings can catch cancer at an earlier stage before you notice symptoms, improving the chances that treatment will be successful. VA recommends routine screenings for four cancers: lung, colon and rectal (colorectal), breast and cervical.

When scheduling a screening, remember to be persistent, ask about all your options and if you miss a VA call, please call back.

[Read More](#)



VA doctor perform revolutionary "awake" hand surgeries

Salisbury VA surgeon Dr. Jeffrey Baker performed the first ever "awake" carpal tunnel surgery at the Charlotte VA Health Care Center. On his opening day, he performed five "awake" surgeries.

At 10-15 minutes per procedure, Baker can help a lot of Veterans.

"We're going to do whatever we can to improve access to care, whether that's streamlining a procedure or bringing the care to another facility like we're doing in Charlotte," said Salisbury VA director Joseph Vaughn.

[Read More](#)



VA community partnerships help Veterans find justice in California

Palo Alto VA social workers are working with community partners like Bay Area Legal Aid to identify Veterans with civil legal problems and medical issues to provide free legal aid and health coverage.

The partnership "plays a role in the Veteran's pursuit of whole-health recovery as it increases their access to a much-needed resource," said Lori Buelna, supervising social worker at VA Palo Alto.

[Read More](#)



What can you do to reduce your risk of breast cancer?

Breast cancer is the second most common cancer in women and can also affect men. There are things you can do to help lower your risk for breast cancer like reducing alcohol intake, maintaining a healthy weight and getting enough exercise. For mothers, breast feeding, if you are able, also reduces your risk.

A VA dietitian can help you find ways to adopt healthy habits like establishing a healthy meal plan or exercise routine.

[Read More](#)



Depression

Depression is a common but serious disorder — one that typically requires some treatment to manage. The good news is that even the most severe cases of depression are treatable. Coming out of National Depression Awareness Month, VA wants to remind Veterans that resources are available year-round.

[Read More](#)



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**

The advertisement features two men, one with his arm around the other's shoulder, set against a light background. The text is in a clean, sans-serif font. The logo includes a blue star and red dots.

House Passes Infrastructure Bill

The House approved a bipartisan infrastructure bill (Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (H.R.3684) that includes the following provisions:

- Providing \$110 billion to repair highways, bridges, and roads;
- Authorizing \$39 billion to expand public transit, improve access for people with disabilities, buy low emission buses, and reduce the public transit repair backlog;
- Providing \$7.5 billion for electric vehicle charging stations and \$5 billion for electric and hybrid school buses;
- Protecting the electric grid against power outages and making the grid more environmentally friendly (\$65 billion); and
- Spending \$25 billion to improve airports.

The bill now goes to President Biden to be signed into law. A larger infrastructure proposal, the "Build Back Better Act" (H.R.5376) stalled in the House when proponents refused to provide a cost estimate of the bill. This bill could still be called for a vote in the House.



Families and Friends

As a family member or friend of a Veteran with mental health challenges, you can play an important role in providing support for their recovery. Letting a Veteran know you're there for them can help start a conversation. Explore robust resources from VA specifically for Veterans' families and friends.

[Read More](#)



Finding Direction Despite Difficulties

Alcohol use, stress, a major combat injury, and depression led Marcus to ask for help after serving in the Marine Corps. Through therapies and treatments, he learned that his experiences, no matter how bad they were, could help him become a better person. With help from VA, Marcus learned how to improve his home life, work life, and relationships with his family and friends.

[Read More](#)



Reach.gov Launch

Life has its challenges. You don't have to face them alone. That's true whether it's a more common, everyday matter, or something more complicated. Reach.gov is a website designed for Veterans who want to proactively seek support and resources.

[Read More](#)



Substance Use Disorder – Naloxone

Overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S. Using opioids, whether prescribed or illegally, comes with a significant risk of overdose. It's important for Veterans and their family members and caregivers to know what to do in an emergency. Learn about the signs of overdose and about the medication naloxone. Knowing how to use this medication could save a life.

[Read More](#)



Evidence-Based Therapy

Evidence-based therapies (EBTs) have been shown to improve a variety of mental health conditions and overall well-being. These treatments are tailored to each Veteran's needs, priorities, values, preferences, and goals for therapy. Work with your VA provider to choose the treatment options that work best for you. To learn more about EBTs offered at VA and the mental health conditions they are used to treat, explore the information below.

[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**



The Independence Call Line

A one stop call center that provides support to Veterans and Afghans impacted by the recent withdrawal from Afghanistan

Loyal Source, and the Independence Fund, recently announced the launch of the Independence Line - a call center designed to assist the tens of thousands of U.S. Veterans, Afghans, and their friends and family navigate the issues with the Afghanistan withdrawal.

The call center is staffed by highly trained and qualified case managers and clinicians to provide assistance to both Afghans in the United States who served shoulder to shoulder with U.S. Service Members and U.S. Veterans who may have difficulty in these trying times. Staff members aid incoming requests for assistance related to housing, food, mental health, health care, clothing, legal assistance, and a host of other issues. The call center is a free service that conducts comprehensive assessments and works with case managers to find the best, quickest services - with no one being turned away.

“We greatly value our relationships with our Afghan brothers and sisters that fought alongside our Veterans during the two decades of war efforts. For that reason, we are grateful to provide this service for Veterans, Afghans and their family members – we recognize that they will continue to need support and we are here for them for as long as it takes” said Sarah Verardo CEO of The Independence Fund.

The toll-free number for The Independence Line is 1-855-341-5456 and can take calls right away. Open from 8 a.m. to 12 a.m., seven days a week.



Ad Council and VA Work to Reduce Veteran Suicides

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Ad Council recently launched a new national campaign called "Don't Wait, Reach Out" that includes Public Service Announcements (PSA) to encourage veterans to reach out for help before their challenges become overwhelming. The announcement noted that suicide is preventable, and the veteran's suicide rate was 52 percent higher than non-veteran adults in 2019.

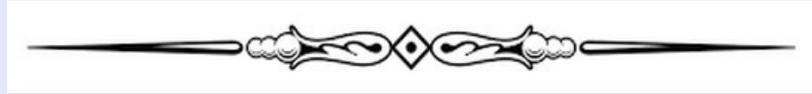
The PSA's will direct veterans to VA.gov/Reach, a website that makes it easier for veterans to find guidance and support services from across the full breadth of the VA's offerings. The user-friendly experience invites veterans to identify the specific life challenges they may be struggling with - like trouble sleeping, or financial stress - then serves up the appropriate resources for their unique needs. The FRA supports improvements to VA and Defense suicide prevention programs to reduce the rate of suicide among veterans and active-duty service members.



Military Sexual Trauma (MST)

MST can be a very difficult life experience, but recovery is possible. VA has a range of services available to meet MST survivors where they are at in their recovery.

[Read More](#)



Telehealth improves heart care for Veterans

Heart failure is one of the leading causes of hospitalizations nationwide.

VA provides care to Veterans with heart failure through its specialized heart failure clinics, pharmacists, and the Remote Patient Monitoring – Home Telehealth (RPM–HT) program. Veterans enrolled in RPM–HT can receive remote monitoring technologies to track their weight, blood pressure and heart rate daily.

[Read More](#)



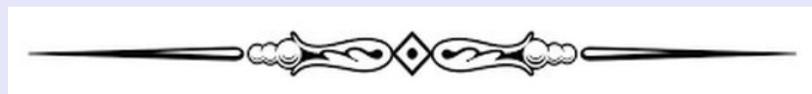
From cleaning bathrooms to running a National Cemetery

Before Navy Veteran Victor Vasquez became the director of Santa Fe and Fort Bayard National Cemeteries in New Mexico, he was cleaning bathrooms and emptying trash cans at a VA clinic.

It all started when he lost his job as a software project manager. He turned to the Compensated Work Therapy Program at the El Paso VA for readjustment help.

"I was going through a lot of turmoil," said Vasquez. "It's a great program. It changed my life and led me to where I am today."

[Read More](#)



Links to Other Stories

- 1) [Shoot down this new military entitlement](#)
- 2) [Pennsylvania man gets 1 day in prison for stealing brother's VA benefits](#)
- 3) [VA medical chief of staff urges Veterans to take advantage of care they've earned](#)
- 4) [VA rejects cannabis research as Veterans plead for medical pot](#)
- 5) [Four Years After Benefit Launched, Veterans for Life Save with ShopMyExchange \(dot\) com](#)
- 6) [Austin forces cancellation of Veteran's Day parade, Gov. Abbott, others respond to 'slap in the face'](#)

- 7) On Veterans Day, this Vietnam Vet wants others to know: 'You are not alone'
- 8) Why Are US Air Force Pilots Coming Down with Cancer?
- 9) 'We kept the ship running': Navy Vietnam War Veterans relive battles during reunion
- 10) 'It was an answer to a prayer': Illinois Vietnam War Vet reunites with man he saved on battlefield 50 years ago
- 11) Air Force to revoke Bronze Star recipient's retirement benefits for hot tub incident
- 12) Tricare open enrollment begins — and your costs may go up
- 13) Vets should be getting fewer disability benefits, more help in post-military life says former SECVA
- 14) Corrupt Department Head at Walter Reed Sentenced to Federal Prison for Accepting Cash, Event Tickets, and Other Gratuities from a Maryland Company That Received More Than \$25 Million in Government Business
- 15) Pharmacist Sentenced to Nearly 6 Years in Prison for Multimillion-Dollar Compounded Medicine Scam that Defrauded Health Care Plans
- 16) Ophthalmologist Pleads Guilty to Using Misbranded Medication
- 17) Kentucky Psychiatrist Pleads Guilty to Health Care Fraud Related to Referrals for Drug Testing at Greensburg, PA Lab
- 18) Creve Coeur pharmacy and owner agree to pay \$1,507,808.50 to resolve lawsuit alleging dispensing of controlled substances with no legitimate medical purpose
- 19) Grand Jury indicts former Creve Coeur pharmacy owner in kickback scheme
- 20) Pharmaceutical Companies Pay Over \$400 Million to Resolve Alleged False Claims Act Liability for Price-Fixing of Generic Drugs
- 21) Metairie Chiropractic Owner Indicted for Health Care

Fraud, Aggravated Identity Theft, and Making a False Statement

- 22) Former Office Manager Sentenced to 12 Months in Prison for Defrauding Medicaid Through a Dental Practice
- 23) Admitted She Received Over \$813,000 Through False Billing
- 24) Seven Plead Guilty to Health Care Fraud Conspiracy Involving False Billing for Children's Behavioral Health Services
- 25) Florida Man Pleads Guilty to Unlawfully Distributing Opioids at His Pain Management Clinic
- 26) Anesthesia providers and outpatient surgery centers pay more than \$28 million to resolve kickback and False Claims Act allegations
- 27) North Carolina Family Sentenced in Multimillion Dollar South Carolina Medicaid Scheme
- 28) Hertel & Brown Physical & Aquatic Therapy, Its Two Founders Aaron Hertel and Michael Brown, and 18 Employees Indicted on Fraud Charges
- 29) Three Men Admit Roles in \$50 Million Health Care Fraud and Kickback Scheme
- 30) Spokane Naturopath Agrees to Pay \$47,700 Civil Penalty for Improper Prescription of Controlled Substances
- 31) Laboratory Owner Sentenced to 82 Months in Prison for COVID-19 Kickback Scheme
- 32) Florida Man Admits Role in \$1 Million Kickback Scheme Related to Genetic Testing
- 33) Medical Device Company Arthrex to Pay \$16 Million to Resolve Kickback Allegations
- 34) Two Sentenced to Federal Prison for Health Care Fraud
- 35) Monmouth County Doctor Charged with Accepting Bribes and Kickbacks from Pharmaceutical Company in Exchange for Unlawfully Prescribing Fentanyl

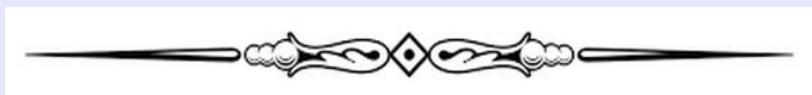
- 36) South Florida Addiction Treatment Facility Operators Convicted in \$112 Million Addiction Treatment Fraud Scheme
- 37) Dayton psychiatric hospital and owner agree to pay \$425,000 to resolve claims for unnecessary diagnostic testing
- 38) Pharmacy Owner Sentenced to 41 Months in Prison for Role in Multimillion-Dollar Illegal Kickback Scheme and Evading Taxes on Over \$33 Million of Income
- 39) Arkansas Man Charged in \$100 Million COVID-19 Health Care Fraud Scheme
- 40) Two Individuals Convicted of Defrauding Medicaid at a Doral Clinic Providing Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services
- 41) Mission Woman Sentenced to 12 Years in Federal Prison
- 42) Former Pain Management Doctor Sentenced for Illegally Dispensing Opioids, Health Care Fraud
- 43) Geisinger Community Health Services Agrees To \$18 Million Civil Settlement
- 44) Infectious Disease Clinic Agrees to Pay \$325k to Resolve Fraud Claims
- 45) Former Pharmaceutical Sales Representative Sentenced to More Than Four Years in Prison for Insurance Fraud and Aggravated Identity Theft
- 46) Two Sentenced for Embezzling Over \$777,000 from Native American Addiction & Counseling Center
- 47) Physical Therapy Provider to Pay \$4 Million to Resolve Alleged False Claims Act Violations
- 48) Kings County Man Indicted for Submitting Over \$10 Million in Fraudulent Claims for Diagnostic Sleep Tests to Medicare
- 49) Former Pittsburgh-area Doctor Pleads Guilty to Unlawfully Prescribing Opioids in Exchange for Sex, Health Care Fraud
- 50) Former Employee of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Admits Stealing HIV Medication
- 51) Mansfield Man Charged with Threatening VA Employee



White House Announces VA Actions for Toxic Exposure Presumptive Conditions

On Veterans Day, the Biden Administration announced a series of actions, that has been years in the making, that VA will take to address the health conditions veterans experience due to burn pits and other toxic exposures. VA will pilot a new model to accelerate the process to establish presumptive conditions by reviewing the available science from the National Academies, analyzing VA data, and gathering evidence from other scientific sources. VA says it already used this model when it added sinusitis, rhinitis, and asthma as presumptive conditions related to particulate matter last May. Within 90 days, VA will use the model to assess rare cancers and constrictive bronchiolitis. Over the next few months VA will use this model to consider additional presumptives. Additionally, DOD plans to accelerate the implementation of the Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record (ILER), which the VFW supported in past legislation, that tracks service members' environmental and occupational exposures. The VFW thanks VA and the Biden Administration for taking these much-needed steps to address the urgent health needs of toxic exposed veterans. We will work with VA to monitor these developments while continuing to advocate for toxic exposure legislation.

[Read more.](#)



Join the Million Veteran Program and help revolutionize VA health care

After ten years, nearly a million volunteer Veterans have joined VA scientists to change the future of health care through the Million Veteran Program.

The goal of this program is simple: get one million Veterans to agree to share their DNA and health information to help VA understand nearly any kind of health condition affecting any Veteran. To learn more and enroll today, visit mvp.va.gov.

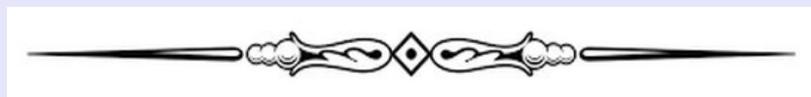
[Read More](#)



Conditions for Disability Claims Expand

VA is now processing [disability claims](#) for chronic asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis (to include rhinosinusitis). Veterans who served in Southwest Asia after Aug. 2, 1990, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria, or Djibouti after Sept. 19, 2001, may now be eligible for disability compensation.

[Read More](#)



Are you eligible to file for benefits based on presumptive exposure?

Were you exposed to hazardous materials while serving in the military, such as from Agent Orange or burn pits? Did you serve in Vietnam, Thailand or Southwest Asia? If so, you may be eligible to file for service-connected benefits based on presumptive exposure.

[Read More](#)



#VeteranOfTheDay Air Force Veteran Joe F. Daniel Jr.

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Air Force Veteran Joe F. Daniel Jr., who served as a weapons systems officer during Vietnam and received a Silver Star.

[Read More](#)



Nurse practitioners – a unique program for expanding care for Veterans

Twenty-eight new nurse residency programs were added in academic year 2021-2022 in response to one of America's critical health care occupation shortages.

[Read More](#)



Study: Smoking increases risk of death for Veterans with COVID-19

COPD is a group of respiratory diseases that limit airflow and make it hard to breathe. It's usually linked to an abnormal inflammatory response in the lungs to noxious particles or gases, such as cigarette smoke.

[Read More](#)



Suicide Prevention Resources for Military and Veterans

Military & Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255, Press 1
Text 838255, 24/7

Vets 4 Warriors

855-838-8255

InTransition

1-800-424-7877

Office of Warrior Care Policy

warriorcare.dodlive.mil/

Military One Source

1-800-342-9647

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors [TAPS]

1-800-959-8277



VFW Advocates for Toxic Exposure Legislation

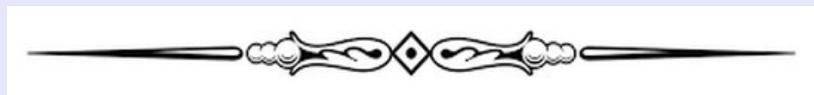
VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Kristina Keenan joined activists Jon Stewart and John Feal at a press conference and a series of meetings with senators and staff to discuss [S. 3003](#), the COST of War Act. Comprehensive toxic exposure reform is the VFW's top legislative priority and our advocacy efforts are aimed at passing significant legislation in this Congress. [Watch the press conference.](#)



Borne the Battle #263: Marine Veteran Kelly Murphy, Winner of Tough as Nails Season One, Model for Ariat International

When Marine Corps Veteran Kelly Murphy began an Instagram account to document his workouts, he never dreamed that it would lead him to becoming the winner of CBS' "Tough as Nails" competition show. He left the set \$200,000 dollars richer and the owner of a brand-new Ford F-150.

[Read More](#)



Creative arts therapy festival winners announced at Chicago VA

The pandemic didn't stop Veterans from submitting visual art and creative writing to the annual Lovell Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Learn more, including who won.

[Read More](#)



Veterans vote, volunteer more than their civilian peers: survey

Report shows more Vets Volunteer than their peers. The communities tend to focus on the "issues" Vets have and not their contributions. "When we need somebody to lead, what this report shows us is that the data points to these vets," she said. "This is who you ask to step up, because they are more willing, they're more prepared, their experience and their whole being points them towards service."

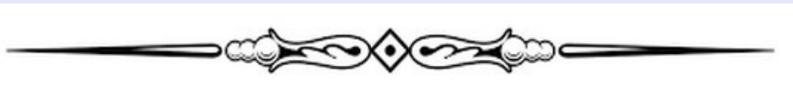
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Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service (DACOWITS) News

Get the Recruitment & Retention, Employment & Integration, Well Being & Treatment, Servicewomen in the News, Women Veterans, and Upcoming Events DACOWITS news from October 2021.

[Read More](#)



MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHIEF OF STAFF

First, I'd like to apologize for not writing anything last month. I had too many personal things going on. Anyway, I want to talk about one thing that I feel makes our organization different than most. One of the main things we have going for us is RESPECT. Respect is very important to us, not only wanting to be respected but giving respect. The first and the most important thing is we need to respect the offices of the President, Members of Congress, the Secretary of VA, and our fellow Members. For the first three, we don't have to like the person in those offices but we need to respect the office they fill. So, on all of our Facebook pages you will see that one of the rules is Respect and that is why our Association is able to get things done.

Mike Yates

Chief of Staff

Military-Veterans Advocacy ®



Tomb of the Unknown Flower Laying Event

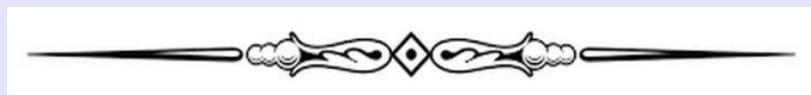
The VFW Washington Office participated in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Centennial Commemoration Public Flower Ceremony by laying flowers and handing out VFW Buddy Poppies to other visitors. This two-day event is the first time in nearly 100 years that the public was able to approach the tomb to lay flowers and pay their respects. "It felt incredibly special to walk where so few have walked and be able to honor the sacrifice of our unknown and missing service members in this way. Ahead of Veterans Day and as we have recently closed a significant chapter with our withdrawal from Afghanistan, I felt especially grateful to have this rare opportunity to reflect on service," stated VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Emily DeVito.



Live Whole Health #96: Turning off the autopilot

How much of your life is on autopilot? According to a study of people who were asked to keep daily diaries, up to 45% reported that their activities were habits they performed almost daily and usually in the same location. In other words, almost half of their lives occurred without them thinking about it.

[Read More](#)



Study: Smoking increases risk of death for Veterans with COVID-19

COPD is a group of respiratory diseases that limit airflow and make it hard to breathe. It's usually linked to an abnormal inflammatory response in the lungs to noxious particles or gases, such as cigarette smoke.

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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 11/13/21)

Please note, we've added 2 new items to the TAKE ACTION list.

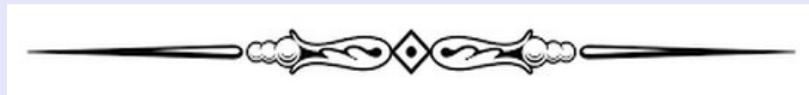
1. [HR 1014 - Furnish Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy \(HBOT\) to a Veteran who has a Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\) or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTS\)](#)
2. [HR 109 will establish an advisory committee on the implementation by the DVA of an electronic health record](#)
3. [Concurrent Receipt Legislation 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
48. H.R. 2968, the Military and Veteran Student Loan Relief Act
49. H.R. 845, the VA Billing Accountability Act
50. Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Bill Introduced in House
51. S. 1031, Legislation Requiring a Study to Look at Disparities in VA Claims
52. Action Alert: Tell Congress to Support the COST of War Act and the Honoring our PACT Act!
53. HR 303 and S 1147 The Retired Pay Restoration Act
54. Ask Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipt Reform HR-1282
55. HR 1656 TREAT PTSD Act
56. S. 1664, the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Processing Claims Improvement
57. H.R. 2724 — VA Peer Support Enhancement for MST Survivors Act
58. Please Support H.R. 3452 —Veterans Preventative Health Coverage Fairness Act
59. HR 2192, The Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2021
60. HR 5026, The Panama Canal Zone Veterans Act of 2021
61. HR 3368, HR 5026, HR 2269, S 657 are all Toxic Exposure Bills that need special attention and more pressure to get passed!
62. H.R. 4627, Veterans' Culturally Competent Care Act of 2021
63. S. 2172, Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

64. H.R. 4571, the SERVICE Act of 2021
65. S. 796, Protecting Moms Who Served Act
66. H.R. 4732, Protect Individual Unemployability Benefit for All Disabled
67. S. 1937, the Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Act of 2021
68. S. 2283 and H.R. 5073—the Crisis Hotline REACH for Veterans Act
69. HR 852 and S 221, United States - Israel PTSD Collaborative Research Act
70. Ask Congress to Preserve Arlington National Cemetery
71. HR 4949 and S 692, the Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021
72. HR 2963, the VOW to Hire Heroes Extension Act of 2021
73. S 1970, The Clean Water for Military Families Act
74. Support S. 1198/H.R. 2819—the Solid Start Act of 2021
75. H.R. 3402/S. 976—Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
76. HR 3537 and S 1813, Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act
77. S. 2386/H.R. 4575, the Veteran Peer Specialist Act
78. H.R. 5721—the VIPER Act



House Subcommittee Hearing on Food Insecurity

The House Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations held a hearing to examine the issue of food insecurity among service members and veterans. In testimony submitted for the record, VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Brittany Dymond stated, “While it is not lost on us that working-age veterans are 7.4 percent more likely to reside in homes experiencing food insecurity, we want to take this opportunity to discuss the unconscionable issue of food scarcity within the active duty ranks.” Approximately 160,000 enlisted active duty troops and their families experience food insecurity, which negatively affects military readiness as well as recruitment and retention of our all-volunteer force. [Read the testimony.](#)



VA woman Veteran author: Navy Veteran Dianna Good Sky

Author and Navy Veteran Dianna Good Sky wrote "Warrior Spirit Rising, a Native American Spiritual Journey" about love, faith, and forgiveness. This month's author is Navy Veteran Dianna Good Sky. She took an early retirement from the Navy in 1995, after serving 15 years. She wrote "Warrior Spirit Rising, a Native American Spiritual Journey," as part of her personal healing journey through PTSD from military sexual trauma.

[Read More](#)



DAV state commander connects Veterans with VA telehealth

VA is privileged to share the remarkable work of Air Force Veteran Ann Schermer, the state commander of the Disabled American Veterans of Oklahoma. She connects disabled Veterans with benefits, VA telehealth and other resources.

[Read More](#)



Every day is Veterans Day at VA

As we celebrate Veterans Day this week, there is no better time to reaffirm what our mission means to us here at VA. With over 9 million Veterans counting on us for quality health care, we start every day with a commitment to making life better for the men and women who protect our freedom [...]

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Statement from VA Secretary Denis McDonough on the passing of former VA Administrator Max Cleland

A statement from VA Secretary Denis McDonough on the passing of former senator from Georgia and then "Veterans Administration" administrator Max Cleland.

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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



House Committee Advances Several Veterans Bills

Ahead of Veterans Day, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs passed 18 bills. This legislation includes five VFW-supported bills — [H.R. 3944](#), [H.R. 2916](#), [H.R. 5029](#), [H.R. 1596](#), [H.R. 3730](#) — that would ensure equal benefits for Guard and Reserve members, expand VA's research capabilities, increase access to mental health services for veteran families, study inequities faced by LGBTQ veterans, and establish a VA Advisory Committee on Pacific Areas. [Read more.](#)



#VeteranOfTheDay Comanche Code Talkers

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay honors the Comanche Code Talkers who served as communication specialists during World War II battles in Europe.

[Read More](#)



Meet ROSA: Robot guides brain surgery at Houston VA

Houston VA surgeons successfully complete VA's first use of ROSA, a minimally invasive robotic device, on an Army Veteran from Oklahoma.

[Read More](#)



Veterans Legacy Memorial

The Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) is the nation's first digital platform dedicated entirely to the memory of more than 4.3 million Veterans interred in VA's national cemeteries.

Interactive features allow family, friends, and others to preserve their Veteran's legacy by posting tributes (comments), upload images, share their Veteran's military service timeline and achievements, biographical information, historical documents and more.

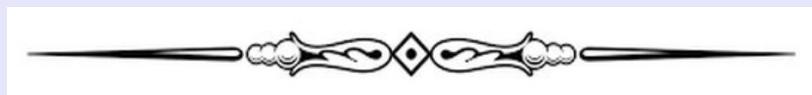
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2021 VHA Shark Tank Competition winners revealed at iEX

10 Promising Practices have emerged as the next cohort for the VHA Innovation Ecosystem Diffusion of Excellence Shark Tank Competition.

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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

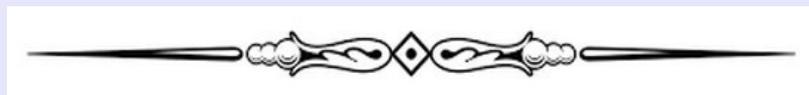


LEGISLATION

HR 2911, the MVA™ supported VA Transparency & Trust Act of 2021, has passed Congress and is headed to the President's desk. The bipartisan bill introduced by Mike Bost of Illinois, directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan for obligating and expending Coronavirus pandemic funding.

The MVA™ supported S 1872, the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act, has passed the United States Senate. This bill will award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Ranger Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

S 544, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate one week each year as "Buddy Check Week" for the purpose of outreach and education concerning peer wellness checks for veterans, has passed the U. S. Senate. The bill introduced by Senator Hassan of New Hampshire and Senator Ernst of Iowa, was supported by Military-Veterans Advocacy®. It now goes to the House of Representatives.



Veteran Job Seekers: VR&E and Microsoft are hosting a federal Virtual Career Fair

In honor of Veterans Day, VA's Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) Service is excited to announce our federal virtual career fair for all Veteran job seekers will be hosted on Friday, Nov. 19, from 12 – 3 p.m. ET.

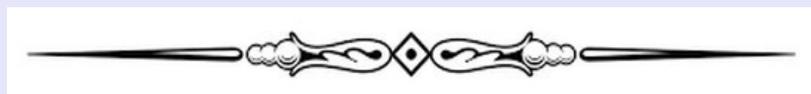
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Live Whole Health #96: Turning off the autopilot

How much of your life is on autopilot? According to a study of people who were asked to keep daily diaries, up to 45% reported that their activities were habits they performed almost daily and usually in the same location. In other words, almost half of their lives occurred without them thinking about it.

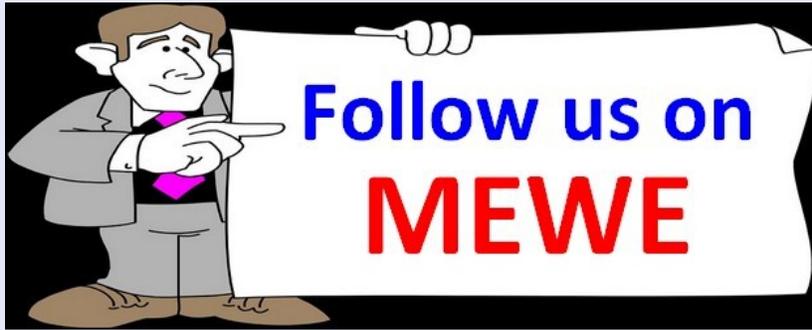
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30 Years after Desert Storm, Military Medicine Evolving 'Phenomenally'

Tactical Combat Casualty Care improved and totally transformed combat casualty care, pre-hospital, said retired Army Col. (Dr.) Leopoldo "Lee" Cancio, who served in the conflict. "It served as a foundation for everything that we now teach medics and general medical officers, physician assistants, etc., for the pre-hospital environment."

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We hope you will join us on this new site.

[VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE](#)

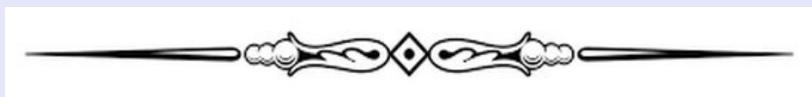
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Medical Advances Since Gulf War Boil Down to Increased Lives Saved

The evolution of Tactical Casualty Care resulted in the development of improved hemorrhage control techniques and even early versions of telemedicine, allowing for medical consultations by physicians far from the point of care.

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Since Gulf War, Advanced Prosthetic Technology Saves Lives, Careers

Since the first Gulf War ended in early 1991, military medicine and battlefield care has made enormous strides, including the development of modern-day prosthetic limbs.

[Read More](#)



From Prosthetic Legs to Cranial Implants: How the MHS is Using 3D Tech

Technology for 3D printing is transforming the Military Health System (MHS).

Advances in prosthetics are helping wounded warriors take on activities like ice hockey, rock climbing, and CrossFit.

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Since 9/11, These 8 Military Medical Advancements are Saving Lives

Since 9/11, the level of medical care for service members, retirees, and their families continues to improve and change.

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Office of Inspector General

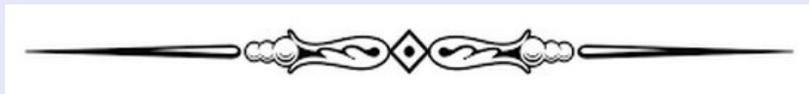
1) [Social Security Administration: Actions Needed by SSA to Ensure Disability Medical Consultants Are Properly Screened and Trained](#)



MHS Genesis: A New Era of Electronic Health Record Keeping

The new system provides secure technology to manage health information and will provide access across the Military Health System.

[Read More](#)



MHS GENESIS Patient Portal Expands New Features

"People can look up pretty much anything that they want" such as knee pain or diabetes," said Air Force Lt. Col. John DaLomba. But the portal's "best feature, in my opinion, is the secure messaging."

[Read More](#)



Researchers home in on biochemical link between brain injury, Alzheimer's disease

Importantly, the investigators went on to identify two FDA-approved medications that could obstruct the dangerous process. They say these drugs could suggest new directions in TBI and Alzheimer's research and treatment.

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Yes, You Can Still Get Old Medical Records after MHS GENESIS Transition

As all Defense Health Agency-managed military medical treatment facilities implement MHS GENESIS as the standard electronic health record, beneficiaries and their providers will not lose access to their old records.

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- 1) Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: November 5, 2021
- 2) Clinical Trial Design for Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
- 3) FDA Drug Shortages
- 4) FDA Works to Strengthen Food Safety Protections as Consumers Increasingly Order Foods Online
- 5) Aligned Medical Solutions Doing Business as Windstone Medical Packaging, Inc. Recalls Custom Convenience Kits Due to Cardinal Health Monoject Flush Prefilled Syringe (0.9% Sodium Chloride) Plunger Defect
- 6) Out of an Abundance of Caution MaryRuth's Announces Voluntary Recall of Two Lots of Its Liquid Probiotic for Infants Because of the Potential for Contamination with Pseudomonas aeruginosa
- 7) Ellume Recalls COVID-19 Home Test for Potential False Positive SARS-CoV-2 Test Results
- 8) Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: November 12, 2021
- 9) FDA Provides Update on Recall of Certain Philips Respironics Breathing Assistance Machines



USSVI CONVENTION

This year's United States Submarine (USSVI) National

Convention was held August 28 - September 5, 2021 at the Orlando, FL Rosen Shingle Creek Resort. There were over 525 attendees at this year's convention.

The United States Submarine Veterans (USSVI) is one of the largest and most exciting gatherings of submarine veterans in the U.S. This event offers attendees the environment, setting, and unique opportunity to meet with fellow submariner, exchange ideas, reminisce, and keep up to date on important information.

USSVI Creed: "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."

During the convention there were four informative and interesting keynote speakers. Holland Club Breakfast Captain John Byron, US Navy (ret), Men's Luncheon - Captain James Harvey, US Navy (ret), Women's Luncheon - Lt Julie Seiffert (COMSUBGRU10), and the Awards Banquet - Captain Mike Hewitt, US Navy (ret).

In addition to the above meetings, there was the Welcome Aboard party, Charitable Foundation, Base Officers meeting, Commander's meeting, and Tolling of the Boats. The Tolling of the Boats was dedicated to the Submariners on Eternal Patrol of the sixty-five submarines that have been lost between 1915 and 1968.

Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc. ® was lucky to have the opportunity to attend this event. Many important connections

were made and we were able to connect with other veterans while there.

Richard Elliott
Director of Research
Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc. ®



MHS Genesis: Call to Action for Staff

Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune's Commander and Director Captain Reginald Ewing III gives a call to action for staff to be ready and proactive throughout the rollout of MHS Genesis.

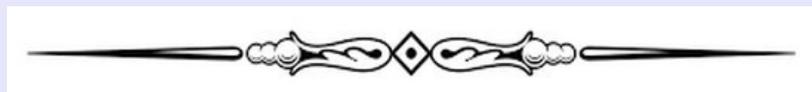
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Airman Explains New Electronic Health Record System

A spotlight on the pharmacy section and the impact of the new MHS Genesis Patient Portal.

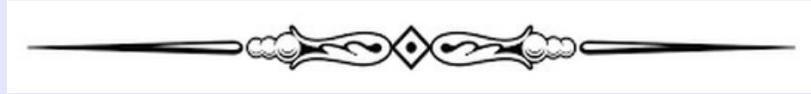
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DHA Spearheads Effort for Working Dog Research Collaboration

Military Working Dogs provide a critical force protection capability and are an important force multiplier for the combatant commander.

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Canine Blood Transfusions Can Save Wounded Military Working Dogs

The military has expanded medical support available for the canine teammates who may suffer catastrophic injuries and need blood infusions.

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How DHA Plans to Boost Battlefield Care for Military Working Dogs

In the last two decades, more than 4,000 MWDs dogs have suffered combat injuries. Creating a comprehensive MWD trauma registry is a key next step to improving their combat casualty care.

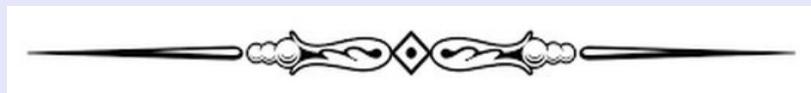
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Filtering out COVID-19: New technology being tested by DoD, with VA help, to battle the virus

Now, scientists at the Department of Defense, VA, and partner institutions are testing a new technology to treat COVID-19. It's called the Seraph 100 blood filter. The treatment uses a novel approach to filter out viral particles and harmful molecules from the bloodstream of COVID-19 patients.

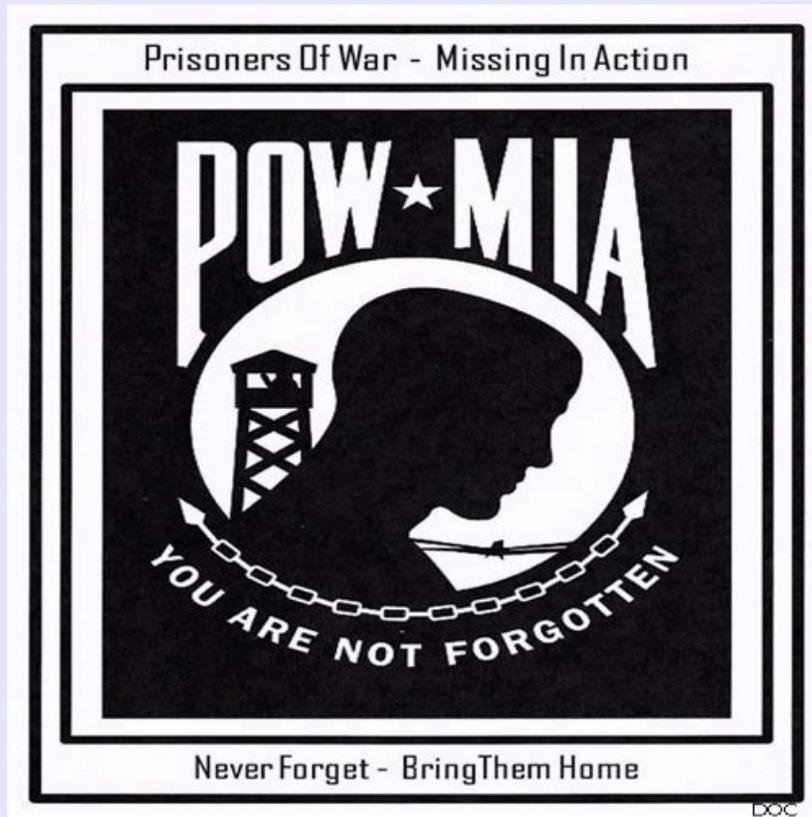
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Veterans Day extra special for new U.S. citizens

Veterans Day 2021 will be extra special for 12 military members, who will celebrate it as U.S. citizens for the first time following a ceremony Nov. 9 at U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services headquarters in Maryland. The service members were from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps, hailing from 10 different countries.

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#VeteranOfTheDay Marine Veteran Alfred M. Wilson

On the Marine Corps birthday, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Marine Veteran Alfred M. Wilson, a Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient.

[Read More](#)



Women on Guard – Protecting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

This year, Sgt. 1st Class Chelsea Porterfield became only the 5th woman to guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. She was also the first woman Sergeant of the Guard. Learn more about the guard and Porterfield.

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America250: Marine Corps Veteran Frederick C. Branch

This week's America250 salute is Marine Corps Veteran Frederick C. Branch, who was the first African American officer in the Marine Corps.

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Together We Served launches new 'Veteran Finder' app for Veterans Day

Together We Served offers Veterans the opportunity to find and connect with people they served with using its new FREE 'Veteran Finder' App.

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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.



CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE VFC NEWSLETTER!



VA creates older Veterans' social connections programs

Social isolation continues to be a challenge in the wake of COVID-19, especially for older Veterans. To lessen the risk factors, VA created the VA Connection Plans program.

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How the Blue Water Navy Association got Started

A true Sea story By Mike Yates (2015)

I must tell you this True Sea Story that I heard while I was in Washington DC. This is how the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Agent Orange Act got started.

Now, so the person who this is about won't kill me, I won't use a Little old Lady, I'll use Princess instead. I'd like to stay on her good side.

Now this is a True Sea Story. Back a few years ago there was this Princess whose Prince was suffering from a disease that is associated with Agent Orange exposure. The Prince who had served the country in their Navy, filed a claim with the VA to receive benefits and was denied. Luckily, he was able to file a claim under the Boots on the Ground rules and received his benefits.

This upset the Princess because she realized that there were others that served their country in the Navy but were not getting benefits from the VA. She knew this wasn't right and decided to do something about it so she started a crusade to make things right. Every time her Congressperson was near her at a function, she would ask them, "What about these Blue Water Navy Veterans? Why are they not covered." She did this so many times that the Congress person decided they had to do something about it, so the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Agent Orange Act was born.

The Princess decided she needed others to help her, so she ASKED, well actually Strong-Armed others such as Military-Veterans Advocacy® into the crusade. Now this Princess has not given up, in fact she is well known in the Kingdom of Capitol Hill and some fear her, while most respect her.

The people that the Princess recruited into the crusade have great respect for her.

I have to say for always dealing with the Members of the Kingdom of Capitol Hill, us Blue Water Navy Veterans owe her

so much that none of us will ever be able to repay her for all the hard work she has done.

The only thing I can say is Thank You Susie for all that do for all of us Veterans, you are a very special person.



Army Air Corps Veteran recounts World War II flights in B-29 Superfortress

James Sturgell, Army Air Corps Veteran, recalls his B-29 Superfortress landing on Iwo Jima about six times. "If we hadn't, I wouldn't have made it home."

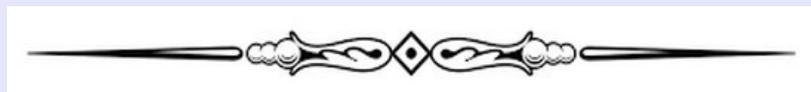
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Unhoused to Housed: Veteran says to "Give VA a try. It works."

"Being homeless is like going to hell and back," said Warren Miller, an Army Veteran who experienced homelessness for many years until connecting with staff at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System's West Los Angeles campus. This is the story of how Miller went from unhoused to housed, thanks to a new and unique collaboration.

[Read More](#)



#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Louis Levi Oakes

During Native American Heritage Month, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Louis Levi Oakes, a Code Talker during World War II.

[Read More](#)



Army Veteran and VA employee on 'What Veterans Day means to me'

Army Veteran reflects on Veterans Day as a reminder of his responsibility as a Soldier. Enlistment Oath still hangs on his home office wall.

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VA doctor composes special song for Veterans Day

Dr. Mary Rorro will perform special song "Thank You Veterans!" on Veterans Day in the Princeton University Chapel. A Veteran, 96, wrote the arrangement.

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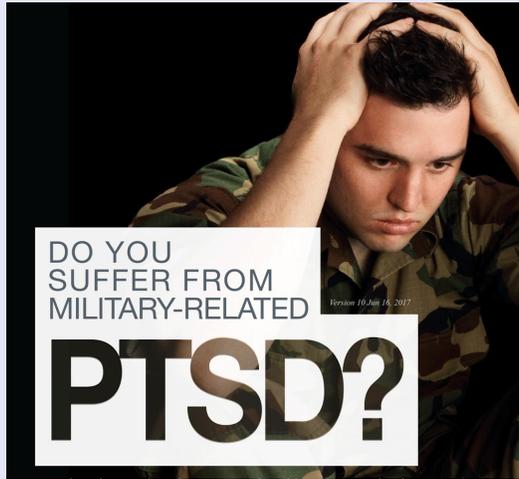


Face of InnoVAtion: Misoor Goueli

Face of InnoVAtion is a regular series from the VHA Innovation Ecosystem (VHA IE) focusing on VA employees who are working to change and save Veteran lives through innovation. This month meet Misoor Goueli, MD, MBA, staff physician at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center (CVAMC) and medical director of the CVAMC Simulation Lab. VHA Innovation [...]

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



BLUE WATER NAVY ASSOCIATION

As you know in 2019 Military-Veterans Advocacy ® won a Big Victory for Blue Water Navy Veterans when it won the Procopio Case. Now we are getting ready to face another major case when on December 9th, 2021, it goes back to the Federal Appeals Court for another case that may allow even more Blue Water Navy Veteran benefits. We have always said we need to take one step at a time.

As you may also know we have a Deck Log project going on. We have had to place it on hold for a while due to some changes we have to make. We are in the process of changing the way we provide the deck logs. More information will be coming out soon.

Mike Yates

Director, Blue Water Navy™

Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc. ®



Veterans Day is a call to action for all Americans

Veterans Day should be a call to action for all Americans to serve those who have served, said VA Secretary Denis McDonough.

"For most Americans listening today, it can mean something as simple as reaching out to the Vets in their lives and lending a hand," said McDonough. "At VA, it means providing Veterans with world-class health care; with the benefits they have earned and so rightly deserve."

On this day, everyone is challenged to renew their commitment to serving Veterans and serving them well.

[Read More](#)



Meet ROSA: Robot guides brain surgery at Houston VA

ROSA, a robot surgical assistant, has joined the Houston VA team and is helping doctors detect sources of seizures in patients with epilepsy. This week, Houston VA surgeons successfully completed VA's first use of ROSA during surgery on an Army Veteran from Oklahoma.

"We are committed to adopting ROSA and other cutting-edge technologies that are at the forefront of surgical treatments for epilepsy, movement disorders and intracranial tumors," said Dr. Pitchaiah Mandava, chief of neurology at the Houston VA.

[Read More](#)



Aquatic therapy helps Veterans with physical or mental challenges

For Veterans looking to overcome physical or cognitive challenges, ask your VA health care provider about trying aquatic therapy. Veterans are referred to participate in aquatic therapy for a variety of reasons that include chronic pain, obesity, metabolic pathologies, depression, PTSD and neurological disorders and conditions.

"My health care providers recommended the aquatic therapy program," said Navy Veteran Mary Sue Mistler. "Not only does the program provide physical benefits, but it is great for people with neurological conditions like me, as well."

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BECAUSE *of the* BRAVE**

Honoring those who served



Happy 102 birthday to WWII Veteran and VA patient

On March 24, 1939, William Turner raised his hand to become a U.S. Marine and would spend the next six years traveling the world. He was one of 16 million members of the greatest generation who wore a uniform during World War II.

On October 26, Turner celebrated his 102nd birthday surrounded by family, friends, North Texas VA staff and officials from Garland, Texas. The highlight of the day for Turner was virtually seeing his two grandsons who are currently serving in the U.S. Air Force. "I'm so proud of them both for serving our country," said Turner.

[Read More](#)



New 'Veteran Finder' App Launches for Veterans Day

Together We Served is proud to offer all Veterans the opportunity to find and connect with the people they served with using the new, easy-to-use 'Veteran Finder' Mobile App. Download for FREE on all Android and Apple phones.

[Read More](#)



Joseph James Clark: Native Hero

Navy Veteran Joseph James "Jocko" Clark was the first Native American to graduate from the Naval Academy. He served during both World Wars and the Korean War.

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Tax & Credit Information



- 1) [Taxpayer Bill of Rights: The ten rights of every taxpayer](#)
- 2) [Excise tax filers should give e-file a try](#)
- 3) [Financial safety: The often forgotten piece of disaster preparedness](#)
- 4) [Security Summit warns tax pros to be wary of pandemic-related email schemes](#)
- 5) [Treasury, IRS provide gross receipts safe harbor for employers claiming the Employee Retention Credit](#)
- 6) [IRS provides relief for certain employers claiming the Work Opportunity Tax Credit](#)
- 7) [Common questions about the advance child tax credit payments](#)
- 8) [What taxpayers need to know about making 2021 estimated tax payments](#)
- 9) [Tax security tip: Get an IP PIN to help stop identity thieves](#)

- 10) IRS: Families now receiving August Child Tax Credit payments; still time for low-income families to sign up
- 11) Here's how taxpayers can rebuild records after a natural disaster
- 12) Interest rates remain the same for the fourth quarter, 2021
- 13) Taxpayer can protect themselves from scammers by knowing how the IRS communicates
- 14) IRS accepting applicants for the Compliance Assurance Process for 2022
- 15) Take charge of your Child Tax Credit payments: How to use the IRS update portal to sign up for direct deposit, change accounts or stop all payments
- 16) Retirement and taxes: Understanding IRAs
- 17) Here's how tax pros can help clients battle unemployment related identity theft
- 18) Security Summit warns tax pros to watch for tell-tale signs of identity theft
- 19) Tax pros: Beware of pandemic-related email schemes
- 20) Low-income families still have time to sign up for advance child tax credit payments
- 21) September is National Preparedness Month; IRS urges taxpayers to prepare for natural disasters



AGENT ORANGE SURVIVORS OF GUAM™

Hafa Adai! Recently, I had a very big surprise from Congressman Michael San Nicolas's office calling me at 8:30 AM to express the Congressman's deepest appreciation for being notified about our case going to be heard in the Court of Appeals. The Congressman's staff member expressed his deepest respect and admiration for what the Agent Orange

Survivors of Guam™ and Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc. ® have accomplished for Guam's veterans and the people of Guam. Then we went out to American Legion Post 347 at The Villages and did our presentations. We had veterans from Guam, Blue Water Navy, Thailand, Okinawa, and Panama present. Every seat in the house was filled and there were attendees standing in the back of the hall. I estimate we had 250 to 300 people present. We also had Investigative Reporter Christopher Heath from WFTV Channel 9 Orlando on site conducting interviews with Frank Ross, John Wells and I. We got repeated rounds of applause for the information we delivered which is accurate and irrefutable information. Tom Walden was also present and was handling questions for the Blue Water Navy veterans that are still getting jerked around by the VA. We had to replenish our business cards that were set up for the taking several times. I personally had VSO's approach me wanting to speak with me about Guam Veterans and the lack of information that is out there! Of course my response was "You need to come on board and join Agent Orange Survivor's of Guam! Just like Julius Caesar, "We came! We saw! We Conquered! Si Yu ma'ase!

<https://www.wftv.com/news/years-after-vietnam-war-some-vets-still-denied-benefits-agent-orange-exposure/2b932e27-279a-4879-b56e-6310e62a8c8c/>

Brian Moyer
Agent Orange Survivors of Guam™ - Founder
Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc. ®



VETERANS OF PANAMA CANAL ZONE

IN THE NEWS...If you want to help contact Congress about the Panama bill, let's meet on Zoom on Thursdays to be part of the solution!

Three sponsors for H.R. 5026, Panama Canal Zone Veterans Act of 2021 so far. We still have a lot of work to do! If you google H.R. 5026 (117) you can see who has signed on so far. We have 2 Republicans and 2 Democrats! Rep. Mari Salazar (R-FL-271); Rep. Al. Lawson, Jr. (D-FL-5); Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1); and our originator Rep. Marie Newman (D-IL-3).

Please come to my Zoom meeting on Thursday nights if you would like to be part of the "call committee" or "writing committee" to help push the Panama Canal Zone Veterans Act of 2021 through congress and get signed by the President. Let's get it done!

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82535953131>... - Meeting ID: 825 3595 3131 Passcode: 0y9jvZ

FUNDRAISING...Attn Federal Employees! The MVA is proud to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign. Be the Face of Change – our CFC number is 59905. Thank you for your generosity! MARKETPLACE – new items just added. Please take a look [here: https://military-veterans-advocacy.square.site/](https://military-veterans-advocacy.square.site/) If you missed the T-shirt sale, there will be some in the Marketplace soon. How about a mask with the MVA logo? What a great conversation starter for those who are still masked up. Myself included!

Donna Tornoe
Director, Veterans of Panama Canal Zone
Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc. ®



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Veterans celebrate first Veterans Day as citizens

Veterans Day 2021 will be extra special for 12 military members who will celebrate it as U.S. citizens for the first time following a ceremony Nov. 9 at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services headquarters in Maryland.

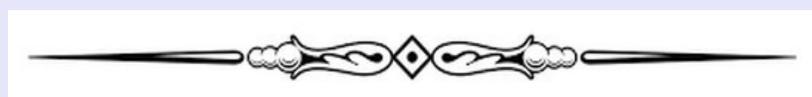
[Read More](#)



Marine Corps Veteran Kelly Murphy, Winner of 'Tough as Nails'

In this week's episode of Borne the Battle, we're joined by Marine Corps Veteran and reality television star Kelly "Murph" Murphy, winner of the first season of the CBS series Tough As Nails. Join us as Murphy talks about making the transition from soldier to civilian, the difference between managers and leaders, surprisingly becoming a clothing model and why you should never pass up an opportunity.

[Read More](#)



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced four burial updates and three new identifications 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 Cpl. Kenneth R. Foreman, 19, of Mount Orab, Ohio, was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, after a fighting withdrawal near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. He will be buried on Dec. 2,

2021, in his hometown. [Read about Foreman.](#)

Army Pfc. Juan F. Gutierrez, 26, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, was a member of 200th Coast Artillery Regiment, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December 1941. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of Corregidor Island in 1942. Gutierrez was among those captured and held at the Cabanatuan POW Camp, where he reportedly died on Nov. 19, 1942, and was buried. His remains were initially misidentified. He will be buried on Dec. 7, 2021, in Oakland, California. [Read about Gutierrez.](#)

Army Pvt. Archie V. Fleeman, 19, of Bell, California, was assigned to Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 11, 1944, after his unit was part of the Hürtgen Forest offensive, near Hürtgen, Germany. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Fleeman will be buried in Oklahoma City. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Fleeman.](#)

Army Cpl. Charles E. Lee, 18, Cincinnati, was assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 20, 1950, after his unit was forced to retreat from the vicinity of Taejon, South Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Lee will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Lee.](#)

Army Pvt. Edward M. Ryan, 33, was assigned to Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 105th Infantry Regiment, 27th Infantry Division, which occupied defensive positions along the northwest coast of Saipan. He was

reported killed in action on July 7, 1944. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Ryan.](#)

Army Pfc. Jimmy Rowland, 19, was assigned to Heavy Mortar Company, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 16, 1950, while fighting North Korean forces along the Kum River north of Taejon, South Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Rowland.](#)

Army Pfc. Jack E. Lilley, 19, was assigned to Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 20, 1950, after his unit was forced to retreat from the vicinity of Taejon, South Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Lilley.](#)



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Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends and Family!



Please do not reply to this E-Mail, this is an unattended E-Mail address, please send all correspondence to:

Jim.Davis@Veterans-for-change.org

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