



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, March 20, 2022

Volume 13, Issue 12



This-N-That

Good evening Jim,

I know I post an awful lot about Homelessness, Suicide, legislation, what's right and what's wrong.

Although I am a little disappointed in how West Los Angeles VAMC is handling the homeless Veteran situation, I do have to give them a little Kudo's on their latest movement.

They've constructed a mini village so-to-speak of shelters to help out our homeless Veterans, and to them I'm sure it means a great deal to have a clean, dry, warm place to call home and it's theirs and don't have to share.

But I am however, a little disappointed as they look like 12x12 repurposed storage units, I would have thought they'd have gone

the extra mile and provided them mini homes which are fully self-contained.

From all I've read so far, there was no mention of any additional actions on the part of the VA, but I will keep an eye open for any added information.

We're still in a battle with Congress and need everyone's help! We have almost 100 pieces of legislation we need Congress to pass and sent on to POTUS to sign into law, but we can't get it done without your help to push and push so please be sure to visit the "TAKE ACTION" section of the newsletter and send each one of the pre-written E-Mails to your Reps and Senators asking for their vote to passage.

I have been in communication with our webmaster in regard to the upgrade to the site, and he is still battling to get permanent 24/7 internet service as most of his work cannot be done at internet cafés which is what he's been doing since Sweden has put a heavy limit on availability.

But he does assure me he is getting as much done during the time frames he has access. So hang tight while we are sort of in limbo on a completion date.

He has done a ton of work on it, and at times has logged into the server here in the office to help us keep this system running too.

If you have not registered for an account on our website, please do so, it will give you access to thousands more documents a non-subscriber doesn't see. Please be patient with me though as each account has to be manually authenticated and approved due to the high volume of people spamming the system. It's all to protect you and the website.

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



Congress Passes Government Funding Legislation with Veteran Provisions

The House and Senate passed a government funding omnibus package that includes 12 appropriations bills for fiscal year 2022, supplemental funding to support Ukraine, and three VFW-supported provisions that would affect veterans. The first provision would increase the maximum rate of basic pay for VA nurses and physician assistants, allowing VA to offer more competitive salaries. The second provision would permit VA's National Cemetery Administration to grant individual states the ability to decide who is interred in their state veterans cemeteries and to open their application process, ensuring all National Guard and Reserve members can be buried with fellow service members. The third provision would increase funding for VET TEC from \$45 million to \$125 million to meet the high demand for the program and enable its operation through the end of the fiscal year. The bill now heads to the president for signature. [Read more.](#)



VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



Chairman's Remarks

February started with a trip to attend the Association of the United States Navy (AUSN) Legislative Awards ceremony. The honorees were Senator Roger Wicker of Mississippi and Congresswoman Elaine Luria of Virginia. As many members know, there has been tension between

Congresswoman Luria and MVA™ since the hearings on the Blue Water bill where we were snubbed. I used this ceremony as an opportunity to bury the hatchet and I believe I was successful. We cordially discussed a possible extension of the Blue Water Navy line as well as her efforts to maintain and expand the Navy.

I was also able to meet with the Staff Directors for the Democrat and Republican caucuses of the Senate Veterans Committee. The two sides worked together (unusual up in DC) to frame a phased approach to the toxic exposure issue. Although Congressman Takano's PACT Act passed the House, no one was sure it would overcome the 60 vote threshold required in the Senate. The Tester-Moran phased approach calls for 3 phases which MVA™ supports. We are asking the Senate to include a time line for rulemaking in Phase 2. Phase 3 will encompass herbicide exposure as well as radiation and burn pits.

Two weeks later Mike Kvintus and I were back in the DC area, this time in Alexandria VA, for the mid-winter meeting of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs. Many of the Directors remembered us from the Reno presentation last August

and we had a good opportunity to meet several of them socially. I discussed HR 3368 with the Guam director and Fort McClellan with the Alabama Secretary. We also had a chance to meet with folks from the Veterans Experience Office. They were interested in our input and ideas and seem to be trying hard. One of them has even signed up as an MVA™ member to learn how we help veterans. It is easy for us to criticize VA employees, and many deserve criticism, but there are also a lot of VA employees trying to do their best to help veterans and we are proud to work with them.

I ambushed, er, I mean accidentally met by happenstance, Secretary McDonough. He seemed to be a very nice man. I was impressed that he drove his personal vehicle with no security detail. The good news is that he promised to schedule a meeting with us. The bad news is that we are still waiting. So we shall see.

The day after the conference, Mike and I met with Mel Bostwick and Mike Joffre, the Washington attorneys who represent us in DC. Brian Lewis, our new Director of Litigation joined us. We completely reviewed our current litigation and discussed some possible future litigation. We owe a lot to Mel and Mike. They have been the heart and soul of our litigation efforts. If we did not have them as force multipliers, Brian, Robin Hood, and I would be hard pressed to maintain an effective litigation strategy at the present level.

This past week I had an oral argument for my law office in DC so I spent a couple of extra days with meetings on the Hill. We met with Congresswoman Luria's Legislative Director and the Congresswoman stopped by to say hi. We also had a very productive meeting with Congresswoman Marie Newman who is the sponsor of HR 5026, the Panama bill. Additionally we chatted with several other Members whom we met informally.

Although we were not allowed to testify before the joint House-Senate Veterans Affairs annual VSO hearing, we were invited to submit written testimony. Our testimony was provided in support of the March 8 hearing and can be found [here](#). We were frank and direct in our arguments, especially as they concerned the applicability of the Pay as you Go Act (PAYGO). This Act, with its offset requirement, has been the requirement that has repeatedly stymied veterans benefits. I suspect that our testimony raised some eyebrows - but then we always do that.

Our membership is increasing although renewals are running slower than I would like. We have started removing folks without current 2022 memberships from the “Members Only” Facebook pages. Hate to do that but we have to protect the memberships. Come on folks, it’s only \$25.00 per year. Robin Barr says she wants to keep busy so let’s keep those renewals coming. And don’t forget to buy a membership for your spouses as well. Widows, if your spouse died of a service connected illness you are eligible for a free lifetime “widow’s membership.”

We had a record distribution from Amazon Smile this month. Please sign up for and use this service. Remember, ½ percent of everything you spend comes to us at no cost to you. Bookmark or copy and paste the [link](#) and support us every time you shop. It costs you nothing but it really helps MVA™. Once it is set up, you have to do nothing more than to remember to sign in to Smile.Amazon.com and shop to your heart’s content. We have 252 members of this program making 90 purchases per week. Just think of the amount of money we would receive from Amazon if every member and follower signed on.

Until next month, stay steady on course.

John B. Wells
CDR USN (ret)

Chairman



What women Veteran-owned business entrepreneurs need to know

There are programs specifically geared toward positioning women Veteran-owned small businesses in level playing fields in the federal marketplace.

[Read More](#)



#OperationSong Summer Elmer

This #OperationSong spotlight is on "What I Want You to Know" by Army Veteran Summer Elmer, with help from songwriter Angela Kaset. Summer Elmer was raised in Nashville, Tennessee. Inspired by her family members who had served in the military (specifically the Army), she decided to follow the "family tradition" by enlisting.

[Read More](#)



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@madvocacy.org



Women's History Month

Two million women in the United States are veterans, comprising 10 percent of the overall veteran population. America's daughters have served and sacrificed alongside men in the fight to ensure our freedoms. The VFW and its Auxiliary salute these women for their unwavering courage, commitment, and contributions to a grateful nation.



VA and faith leaders address rural Veteran mental health crisis

VA Office of Rural Health and VA's National Chaplain Service join forces to connect rural Veterans to important mental health resources.

[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



Brain Injury Awareness Month

According to the Traumatic Brain Injury Center of Excellence, TBI has been diagnosed in more than 449,000 service members since 2000. VA has screened 1.5 million veterans for potential mild TBI in the last 14 years. The [Military Health System](#) and [VA](#) have events planned for the month of March to increase brain injury awareness and education. A Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill virtual briefing will be held by the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force on March 16. [Register now.](#)



Patience: key to treating low-risk prostate cancer

When treating low-risk prostate cancer, VA physicians may recommend active surveillance rather than treatment.

"Active surveillance is not the same as ignoring the cancer or walking away from it. It's a very engaged proactive process where you are closely monitoring the person."

[Read More](#)



Public Service Loan Forgiveness Waiver

Many individuals with outstanding federal student loans may be eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF), including eligibility from time served on active duty. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Education is offering a limited-time waiver to allow borrowers to receive credit for past periods of repayment on loans that would otherwise not qualify for PSLF. Individuals must have been working full time for a qualifying employer. This waiver is available through October 31, 2022.

[Learn more and check your eligibility.](#)



Teasing out the effects of blast exposure on mental health

Dr. Sarah Martindale, a research scientist at the W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center in Salisbury, North Carolina, and a member of VA's Mid-Atlantic MIRECC (Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center), led the study. Dr. Jared Rowland, Dr. Anna Ord, and Lakeysha Rule, all of whom are also affiliated with the Salisbury VA and the Mid-Atlantic MIRECC, co-authored the paper.

[Read More](#)



My VA Images app helps Veteran stay on the job

When a Veteran who lived far away needed a custom shoulder brace, he and his VA provider used the My VA Images app to adjust the brace for the best fit and function so the Veteran could keep working.

[Read More](#)



Links to Other Stories

- 1) [Biden calls caring for burn pit illnesses a 'sacred obligation'](#)
- 2) ['Center of the Veteran homelessness universe': VA resumes homeless count with focus on Vets in Los Angeles](#)
- 3) [Concerns over VA electronic health records mount after another system problem](#)
- 4) [DOJ Adds Employee Defendants in Illegal Opioid Distribution and Health Care Fraud Lawsuit Against Northeast Philadelphia Pharmacy](#)
- 5) [Evergreen Physician Sentenced to Federal Prison for Taking Bribes](#)
- 6) [Former Delaware Doctor Sentenced to 20 Years in Prison for Unlawfully Distributing Opioid Pills](#)
- 7) [Former Family Practitioner Sentenced to Prison for Illegally Dispensing Drugs and Health Care Fraud](#)
- 8) [From tents to tiny shelters, VA begins aggressive push in LA to end Veteran homelessness](#)
- 9) [Have TRICARE For Life Questions? Register for March 31 Webinar](#)
- 10) [New Jersey Doctor Convicted of Multimillion-Dollar Health Care Fraud](#)
- 11) [Northborough Nurse Pleads Guilty to Tampering with Liquid Morphine](#)
- 12) [Pain Clinic Owners Convicted of Unlawfully Distributing Opioids and Multimillion-Dollar Health Care Fraud](#)
- 13) [Swagelok partners with U.S. Department of Defense on new workforce program for Veterans](#)
- 14) [Texas Tech praised for Military Friendly ratings](#)
- 15) [These 17 Medical Centers Would Close Under Proposed VA Realignment](#)
- 16) [Two Florida Men Charged With \\$11 Million Medicare Fraud Scheme to Traffic in Prescriptions for Medical Equipment](#)
- 17) [VA would close 3 medical centers, restructure 100s of outpatient clinics in new plan](#)



MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHIEF OF STAFF

John Wells, Brian Lewis, and I attended the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs in Alexandria, VA from February 22 thru the 26th. This conference is represented by all 50 states and US territories. There were over several hundred in attendance and we got to meet a lot of new contacts including VA employees. Some of them joined MVA™ and some also signed up for MVA™ Amazon smile.

One thing we need to keep in mind is on our sites we conduct ourselves professionally and no political post. We have VA employees and congressional staff on our sites. John and I got to meet face to face with VA Secretary Denis McDonough. The Secretary agreed to meet with us again in April. He asked us to call his secretary and set up an appointment. I can tell you that this in itself made the trip well worth it. We have been trying to get a meeting with him to no avail. John is noted for ambushing VA under Secretary's and as usual he went into stealth mode and ambushed Under Secretary Tom Murphy. Mr. Murphy has also agreed to meet with us. We continue to get MVA out in front and everyone knows us and respects us. During the week we did meet with attorney Mel Bostwick and discussed with her our upcoming court cases and ruling making.

In closing, this trip was a success, and we need to continue to reach out in all directions. Please help us get our membership up to over 2000 so we can become a VSO.

Mike Kvintus
MVA™ Chief of Staff



Innovation Revolutionary: Giving Veterans tools to take charge of their health

Innovation revolutionary Jade Brooks continues to optimize cancer care and save lives nationwide using mobile applications to improve care.

[Read More](#)



When current events bring up past trauma, VA can help

Veterans who may be experiencing reactions in response to current events in Ukraine can connect with VA professionals to help manage those feelings.

[Read More](#)



VA WILL PROPOSE ADDING RARE CANCERS TO THE PRESUMED SERVICE-CONNECTED LIST AS RELATED TO MILITARY ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs intends to propose adding certain rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities in relation to military environmental exposure to particulate matter.

VA determined through a focused review of scientific and medical evidence there is biologic plausibility between airborne hazards, specifically particulate matter, and carcinogenesis of the respiratory tract, and that the unique circumstances of these rare cancers warrant a presumption of service connection.

Based on these findings, VA's Secretary is proposing a rule that will add presumptive service connection for several rare respiratory cancers for certain Veterans. The cancers under consideration include:

- Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx.
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea.
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea.
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung.
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung.
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung.
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

"This is the right decision. The rarity and severity of these illnesses, and the reality that these conditions present a situation where it may not be possible to develop additional evidence prompted us to take this critical action," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "We'll continue to hold ourselves accountable to Veterans to provide more care, more benefits and more services to more Veterans than ever before."

VA intends to focus its rule on the rare respiratory cancers above in Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations and other locations. VA will invite and consider public comments as part of this process.

Once rulemaking is complete, VA will conduct outreach to

impacted veterans and survivors to inform them about potential eligibility.



PTSD Bytes #5: Prolonged Exposure and treatments for PTSD

In this episode of PTSD Bytes, Dr. Carmen McLean talks about prolonged exposure and the mobile app "PE Coach."

[Read More](#)



Proposed Changes to the Disability Rating Schedule

In February, VA published in the Federal Register, proposed changes to the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD), specifically for conditions related to the respiratory, auditory, and mental disorders body systems. The proposed updates to the rating schedule for these conditions will enable VA to incorporate modern medical data and terminology to provide Veterans with more accurate and consistent decisions. Learn more about what the schedule change may mean for you.

[Learn More button](#)



Legislation

H.R.2127 - TEAM Act (117th Congress)

Sponsor: Rep. Bost, Mike [R-IL-12] (Introduced 03/23/2021)

Has changes in:

Cosponsors (1 new, 59 total)

Cosponsor: 12/20/2021: Rep. McClain, Lisa C. [R-MI-10]

S.2280 - VETS Safe Travel Act (117th Congress)

Sponsor: Sen. Young, Todd [R-IN] (Introduced 06/24/2021)

Has changes in:

Cosponsors (1 new, 7 total)

Cosponsor: 12/17/2021: Sen. Warnock, Raphael G. [D-GA]

Ruiz's two bills that were signed into law as part of this year's NDAA are:

1. H.R. 4397, the Department of Defense (DOD) Burn Pits Health Provider Training Act, which requires DOD to implement mandatory training for all medical providers working under DOD on the potential health effects of burn pits.
2. H.R. 4400, Burn Pit Registry Expansion Act, which requires DOD and VA to expand the Burn Pits Registry to include Egypt and Syria. As the co-founder of the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Burn Pits Caucus, Ruiz has been a consistent advocate for servicemembers exposed to toxic burn pits and their families.

Slotkin Provisions on PFAS, Supply Chains, Burn Pits, Pass in Bipartisan Defense Budget

Biden signs Defense Department's Budget into law with

Congresswoman's amendments on a range of issues relevant to Michigan, including PFAS contamination, supply chain vulnerabilities, and toxic burn pit exposure.

President Joe Biden signed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) into law, which will fund the Pentagon and the U.S. military for the coming year.

Susie Belanger
Director of Legislation
Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc. ®



My VA Images improves outcomes with prosthetic services

The orthopedic and prosthetic services clinic in Orlando used My VA Images to design a custom brace to treat a Veteran's paralysis.

[Read More](#)



Serving Women Veterans

Do you receive all VA benefits you're eligible for? Women Veterans often underutilize VA care and services, despite being eligible for the same benefits as male Veterans. From benefits like pension or support for small businesses, to VA health care and mental health services, [learn more about benefits available to you](#)



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 **03/19/21**)

Please note, we've added one new item 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) [H.R. 333, Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act](#)
- 6) [H.R. 344, Support the Women Veterans TRUST Act](#)
- 7) [H.R. 914, the Dental Care for Veterans Act](#)
- 8) [Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act](#)
- 9) [S. 134/H.R. 637, the Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2021](#)
- 10) [S. 437, Take Action for Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits](#)
- 11) [S. 89, Ensuring Survivors Benefits during COVID-19 Act of](#)

2021

- 12) STOP TRICARE Fee Increases
- 13) Support Bills to Expand Coverage for ChampVA and TRICARE Young Adults
- 14) Veterans Economic Recovery Act Introduced
- 15) H.R. 855, the Veterans Expedited TSA Screening (VETS) Safe Travel Act
- 16) 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.
- 17) Support Repeal of TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee
- 18) HR 1585 & S 565- Provide for the treatment of Vets who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as Radiation Exposed
- 19) Please Support S. 344, the Major Richard Star Act
- 20) Support the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act
- 21) S. 810 & H.R. 1972, the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
- 22) HR 109 Establish an Advisory Committee on Implementation by the DVA of an electronic health record
- 23) HR 2372 and S 952 will Provide for Presumption of Service Connection for certain diseases associated with exposure to toxins
- 24) Please Ask you Senator to support S.952 the Warfighters Act
- 25) Support Improving VA Homelessness Program
- 26) S. 976, Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
- 27) H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act
- 28) H.R. 912, American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans Mental Health Act
- 29) S. 976, the Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
- 30) HR 2269 and S 657 cover herbicide exposure in Thailand
- 31) Bipartisan Bill Introduced to Help Military Survivors
- 32) Legislation asks for Study of Involuntary Discharges for Women

- 33) H.R. 2436, the Veterans Burn Pit Exposure Recognition Act
- 34) H.R. 958—the Protecting Moms Who Served Act
- 35) HR 2127 and S 927, the TEAM bills Veterans Exposed to Toxic Substances
- 36) Ask your Senator to Support S.1520 Military Justice Improvement Act
- 37) Ask your member to support S.810 and H.R. 1972 The Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
- 38) 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
- 39) Ask your Senator to Support S.1520 Military Justice Improvement Act
- 40) HR 855, VETS Safe Travel Act
- 41) HR 3368, the Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Island bill
- 42) H.R. 2521, Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Affairs Act of 2021
- 43) H.R. 1273, the Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act
- 44) H.R. 2968, the Military and Veteran Student Loan Relief Act
- 45) H.R. 845, the VA Billing Accountability Act
- 46) Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Bill Introduced in House
- 47) HR 303 and S 1147 The Retired Pay Restoration Act
- 48) Ask Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipt Reform HR-1282
- 49) HR 1656 TREAT PTSD Act
- 50) S. 1664, the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Processing Claims Improvement
- 51) H.R. 2724 — VA Peer Support Enhancement for MST Survivors Act
- 52) Please Support H.R. 3452 —Veterans Preventative Health Coverage Fairness Act

- 53) HR 2192, The Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2021
- 54) HR 5026, The Panama Canal Zone Veterans Act of 2021
- 55) HR 3368, HR 5026, HR 2269, S 657 are all Toxic Exposure Bills that need special attention and more pressure to get passed!
- 56) H.R. 4627, Veterans' Culturally Competent Care Act of 2021
- 57) S. 2172, Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness
- 58) H.R. 4571, the SERVICE Act of 2021
- 59) H.R. 4732, Protect Individual Unemployability Benefit for All Disabled
- 60) S. 1937, the Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Act of 2021
- 61) S. 2283 and H.R. 5073—the Crisis Hotline REACH for Veterans Act
- 62) HR 852 and S 221, United States - Israel PTSD Collaborative Research Act
- 63) Ask Congress to Preserve Arlington National Cemetery
- 64) HR 4949 and S 692, the Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021
- 65) HR 2963, the VOW to Hire Heroes Extension Act of 2021
- 66) S 1970, The Clean Water for Military Families Act
- 67) Support S. 1198/H.R. 2819—the Solid Start Act of 2021
- 68) H.R. 3402/S. 976—Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
- 69) HR 3537 and S 1813, Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act
- 70) S. 2386/H.R. 4575, the Veteran Peer Specialist Act
- 71) H.R. 5721—the VIPER Act
- 72) H.R. 5607, Justice for ALS Veterans Act
- 73) HR 2601 and S 1188, SFC Heath Robinson Burn Pit Transparency Act
- 74) S. 3017, Veterans Dental Care Eligibility Expansion and Enhancement Act
- 75) H.R. 4794 and S. 2533, the Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options (MAMMO) for Veterans Act
- 76) HR 1361 and S 444, AUTO for Veterans Act

- 77) H.R. 4880 and S. 2720, the Veterans' Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act
- 78) HR 2800, the WINGMAN Act
- 79) H.R. 5944, Veterans Administration Backlog Accountability Act of 2021
- 80) HR 3400, VA Emergency Transportation Act
- 81) HR 2992, TBI and PTSD Law Enforcement Training Act
- 82) HR 6260, the Casualty Assistance Reform Act of 2021
- 83) H.R. 6064, VA Compensation and Pension exams for claims related to military sexual trauma
- 84) H.R. 5819, Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act
- 85) HR 3596, the Lawrence J. Hackett, Jr. Vietnam Veterans Agent Orange Fairness Act
- 86) H.R. 2327 – to Remove Delimiting Dates for Survivors and Dependents' Educational Assistance
- 87) S. 2513/H.R. 4772, Improved VA Clothing Allowance Benefit for Disabled Veterans
- 88) S. 3293, the Post 9-11 Veterans Mental Health Care Act of 2021
- 89) HR 6402 and S 1725, will grant a Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated
- 90) HR 6659 and S 3541, the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Acts
- 91) Ask your member to support S.810 and H.R. 1972 the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
- 92) H.R. 6543, Restore Veterans Compensation Act
- 93) H.R. 3967, Honoring Our PACT Act Going to House Floor for a Vote
- 94) H.R. 2916/S. 1467, the VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2021
- 95) S. 3483, Justice for ALS Veterans Act
- 96) H.R. 6273 and S.3397, the VA Zero Suicide Demonstration Project Act of 2021



Update on Toxic Exposure Legislation

Two important bills have passed one house of Congress. HR 3967, the Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins (PACT) Act of 2021 has passed the House by a vote of 256-174. S 3541 Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act has passed the Senate unanimously. The bills are not similar. HR 3967 is the better bill in that it includes herbicide issues in Guam, Johnston Island, American Samoa, Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia and radiation to include Eniwetok and Palomares. However, S 3541 probably has the best chance of being enacted.

The problem, as it always is, is the effect of the Pay As You Go Act of 2010. This law requires an offset any time new mandatory spending is added by Congress. The medical coverage of S 3541 is not considered mandatory spending. The compensation in HR 3967 is considered mandatory spending. At \$208 billion there are no offsets available to fund the bill and no waiver has been enacted. The problem is that the bill needs 60 votes to move to the floor. Without it HR 3967 will die.

Senators Tester and Moran have envisioned S 3541 as being the first step in a three-phase process to reach the same goals as the PACT bill. The idea is to cover burn pit medical costs first, then in the next two phases streamline the methodology the VA uses to add presumptive diseases and then to address compensation across the board.

So which bill do we support? All of the above. While Congress works on funding PACT, it just makes good sense for the House to pass S 3541 or its companion bill of HR 6659. It's not what anyone wants but it is better than what we are doing now. Additionally, we

need to push for HR 3368 (which is partially included in PACT), HR 2269 (which is completely included in PACT), and HR 5026 (which is not included in PACT).

Meanwhile we will continue to push MVA™ priorities via rule making and litigation. So for now, call your Senators and ask them to pass PACT and call your House Member and ask them to pass S 3541/HR 6659 and HR 3368, 2269 and 5026. Also let's remember our radiated veterans by supporting HR 1585 (Eniwetok), HR 2580/S 1151 (Palomares), and HR 1355/S 454 (K2 Uzbekistan). These three bills are included in PACT. All of these bills are also covered by our Bill of the Week program. Sign on and send an email then pick up the phone and call your Member of Congress and Senators. Support all of these bills. **We need them.**



VA physician spreads the word that patience is often key following diagnosis of low-risk prostate cancer

While active surveillance sounds like a logical approach for men with low-risk prostate cancer, especially given that prostate removal and radiotherapy can lead to urinary, bowel, and sexual dysfunction, convincing patients to buy into it can be a challenge all its own.

[Read More](#)



VetXL Women Veterans Together Q&A Chat

Join us LIVE on March 23 from 1-2 p.m. ET for a Q&A focused on women Veterans. Visit the link to learn more and participate in the discussion about women Veteran health benefits and services.

[LEARN 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



Tester-Moran Phased Approach to Toxic Exposure

Due to cost concerns with the PACT/COST bills, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee developed a phased approach to toxic exposure. The first idea was to quickly pass things that everyone agreed upon while they worked out the remainder of the issues. The first Phase is reelected in S 3541 and its companion bill

HR 6659.

Phase 1: Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act.

S 3541 has been cosponsored by every member of the SVAC and passed the Senate by unanimous consent. This bill helps stop the bleeding by providing an expansion of health care eligibility for combat veterans who served after September 11, 2001.

Specifically, the bill:

- Expands the eligibility, from five years following discharge to ten years;
- Provides a one-year open enrollment period for any Post-9/11 combat veteran who is more than 10 years from separation;
- Establishes an outreach plan to contact veterans who did not enroll during their initial period of enhanced eligibility;
- Directs VA to incorporate a clinical screening regarding a veteran's potential exposures and symptoms commonly associated with toxic substances;
- Mandates toxic exposure-related education and training for VBA & VHA personnel at VA; and
- Strengthens federal research on toxic exposures.

Although Military-Veterans Advocacy® feels that this is only a first step, it is an important first step. We look forward to its passage and to working with you on expanding its provisions.

Phase 2. Establish a new presumptive process at VA to bolster VBA's capacity to process claims.

MVA™ notes that the VA Secretary announced on August 2, 2022 a new initiative to streamline the presumptive process. We welcome this initiative and encourage Congress to build on the VA initiative. Establishing a new, transparent process through which the VA will determine future presumptive conditions will help to restore confidence in the toxic exposure coverage process.

The VA is empowered under 38 U.S.C. § 501 to issue regulations that are not encumbered by PAYGO requirements. They have successfully issued regulations to cover portions of Korea, portions of Thailand, and the C-123 aircraft among others. Under the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, an entity such as MVA™ can request the Secretary to issue regulations. Should the Secretary decline to do so, or should the regulations be inadequate, judicial review is available. The problem is that there is no timeline for the Secretary to act on these rulemaking requests.

Currently, MVA™ has outstanding rulemaking requests on herbicide exposure in Thailand, Okinawa, and the Panama Canal Zone. Although the rulemaking requests have been approved, there is no indication that the Secretary is prepared to issue the notice of proposed regulation or for that matter, to even respond to the rulemaking request. Accordingly we have asked that the following be included in Phase II,

- Response/decision to approve/disapprove rulemaking due to requester 270 days after receipt.
- Provision for one time extension with notice to requester 180 days after original due date.
- Publication of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking 180 days from response.
- Receive comments on Proposed Rule 60 days after publication.
- Publish Final Rule 180 days after comments

Inclusion of the timeline will prevent the VA from merely ignoring rulemaking requests or delegating them to a “pending” status with no action. MVA™ strongly recommends that this timeline be made applicable to all pending rulemaking.

Phase 3 Provide long-overdue benefits to toxic exposure veterans by establishing a number of new presumptives and

recognizing various populations of toxic-exposed veterans who have been ignored for far too long.

MVA™ anticipates that this phase will engender the most debate. Included will be opposition from the VA as well as a struggle to obtain offsets. Accordingly, where applicable, we have broken down this phase by existing and proposed legislation. MVA™ suggests that it might be easier to enact the separate bills currently introduced that cover toxic exposure. This would include herbicide, radiation, and burn pits. Meanwhile MVA™ will continue with rulemaking and litigation to try to enact benefits without waiting for legislation.

We must continue to push for the adaption of PACT/COST but we should not put all of our eggs in one basket. Often a flanking attack works better than a frontal assault. So, we will continue to pursue all avenues to meet our goals.



Wellness Wednesday: What you should know about life insurance

The next free seminar in the Wellness Wednesday Financial Education series, March 16, focuses on life insurance. There are two, hour-long sessions at Noon and 3 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (9 a.m. and Noon, Pacific Standard Time).

[Read More](#)



National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic, Cancer Prevention, and Late Life PTSD

In this episode of The BLUF we look at the National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic, cancer prevention and late life PTSD.

[WATCH](#)



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To call Different Members of Congress:

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BLUE WATER NAVY ASSOCIATION™

We have started doing the research on Deck Logs again. We have changed the procedures on how we do them. We are focusing on doing the work for our Due paying Members. What this means is we will NOT send any Deck Logs to Non- Due Paying Members. One other change is that we have changed the way we will handle requests from an Attorney, Veterans Service Officer, or Veterans Service Organization. For the rules on how we handle requests from an Attorney, Veterans Service Officer or Veterans Service Organization, please contact Mike Yates at [E-Mail](#) or [Robin Barr](#)

We will only provide one date of a Deck Log, one day Dead Reckoning (unless the start or end position is the day before or day after), or Combat Naval Gunfire Support File (CONGA) for dues paying Members and Widows (No Dues needed).

To make a Deck Log Request please click [HERE](#).

Mike Yates
Director, Blue Water Navy™
Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc. ®



Passion to learn. Power to heal. Health Professions Education Week

During Health Professions Education Week, VA honors the 70% of physicians who train at VA through partnerships with academic institutions.

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History of VA in 100 Objects

The History of VA in 100 Objects explores the history of the nation's efforts to honor and reward Veterans for their service by spotlighting individual objects that tell key parts of the VA story. To join the journey through VA's past, visit the 100 Objects Gallery where new entries are posted each week.

[VISIT THE GALLERY](#)



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VA Announces Plan to Reorganize

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has released a reorganization plan called AIR-Assets and Infrastructure Report, which would close three medical centers located in Northampton, Mass., Brooklyn, N.Y. and Chillicothe, Ohio, as well as several other VA facilities. The VA claims the reorganization is needed to reflect the changing needs of modern health care and to close aging offices and centers that are no longer near where large numbers of veterans live. The plan also provides for construction of dozens of new health care and community living facilities. The VA claims the reorganization will put nearly 200,000 more veterans within a 30-minute drive of mental health care.

The plan also calls for 35 VA Medical Centers in 21 states to be closed or completely rebuilt, while 14 new VA hospitals and 140 new multi-specialty outpatient clinics would be added to the system. Seven of the 17 sites listed for closure are in the Northeast. VA officials claim this reflects the fact that more of the veteran's population has moved out of that region to resettle in the Midwest and Southwest. Many lawmakers in areas with facilities slated to be closed are resisting the move. The FRA will closely monitor the impact of closures and support retention of VA facilities that have sizeable veteran populations.



Virtual hiring event to connect Veterans, others, to job opportunities with Service King

Heroes Foundation hiring event March 16. Connecting Veterans and others to employment opportunities with Service King Collision Repair.

[Read More](#)



Celebrate National Nutrition Month

"Celebrate a World of Flavors" during National Nutrition Month in March. Learn more about eating healthy, savory meals.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Office of Inspector General

1) [Emergency Relief Funds: Significant Improvements Are Needed to Ensure Transparency and Accountability for COVID-19 and Beyond](#)



VHA and VBA Director Nominees Announced

President Joe Biden has nominated Dr. Shereef Elnahal to serve as Undersecretary of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), a position that has gone without a Senate-confirmed director for five years. Elnahal served as Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Quality, Safety and Value at the VA from 2016 through 2018, during which time he co-founded the VHA Innovation Ecosystem, a program that continues to foster the spread of innovation and best practices that improve veteran.

Elnahal is a physician leader who has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of University Hospital in Newark, N.J. since 2019. Prior to this role, he served as New Jersey's 21st Health Commissioner, appointed by Governor Phil Murphy and confirmed unanimously by the New Jersey Senate. He was the first Muslim member of New Jersey's Cabinet in state history.

Ray Jefferson was also nominated by the president for Under Secretary of Benefits at the VA. He is a graduate of West Point, in 2009, and served as Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training at the Department of Labor. More recently, Jefferson has led the Jefferson Group, which is a leadership development consultancy company. Both positions require Senate confirmation.



**Earthquake preparedness: Drop, cover and hold
on**

Earthquakes and aftershocks can happen anywhere without warning and at any time of the year. All 50 states, five U.S. territories and the District of Columbia are at some risk. The info below can help you build out your earthquake preparedness kit and plans before the next one strikes.

[Read More](#)



Loan Forgiveness, National Vietnam Veterans Day, and COVID Self-Test Kits

In this episode of The BLUF, we look at student loan forgiveness for Veterans, National Vietnam Veterans Day, and how Veterans can order COVID self-test kits for free.

[WATCH](#)



- 1) [Baxter recalls SIGMA Spectrum Infusion Pumps with Master Drug Library \(Version 8\) and Spectrum IQ Infusion Systems with Dose IQ Safety Software \(Version 9\) due to the risk of not alarming for repeated upstream occlusion events](#)
- 2) [Celltrion USA Recalls Certain Celltrion DiaTrust COVID-19 Ag Rapid Tests for False Positive Test Results and Unauthorized Shelf Life](#)
- 3) [Do Not Use Certain ACON Flowflex COVID-19 Tests: FDA Safety Communication](#)
- 4) [FDA approves drug for treatment of seizures associated with rare disease in patients two years of age and older](#)
- 5) [FDA Approves First Generic of Symbicort to Treat Asthma and COPD](#)
- 6) [FDA Approves First Generic of Symbicort to Treat Asthma and COPD](#)
- 7) [FDA Drug Shortages](#)
- 8) [FDA Drug Shortages](#)
- 9) [FDA Roundup: March 15, 2022](#)
- 10) [FDA Roundup: March 18, 2022](#)
- 11) [FDA Warns Against Use of Renuvion/J-Plasma Device for Certain Aesthetic Procedures: FDA Safety Communication](#)
- 12) [FDA, Reagan-Udall Foundation to Hold Important Public Workshop to Discuss Naloxone Access](#)
- 13) [LuSys Laboratories, Inc Recalls COVID-19 Antigen Tests \(Nasal/Saliva\) and COVID-19 IgG/IgM Antibody Tests Because They Are Not Authorized, Cleared, or Approved by the FDA](#)
- 14) [Philips Respironics CPAP, BiPAP, and Ventilator Recalls: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- 15) [SD Biosensor Recalls STANDARD Q COVID-19 Ag Home Tests That Are Not Authorized, Cleared, or Approved by the FDA and May Give False Results](#)
- 16) [Through-Container Quantitative Screening of Hand Sanitizers](#)



VA Proposes No Mental Health Care Co-pay

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has proposed a new regulation to help veterans who are seeking mental health care. The draft regulation eliminates co-pay fees for veterans seeking mental health care. This includes outpatient mental health care and medications. The VA claims that this regulation would reduce the financial burden on veterans who sometime must pay multiple co-pays. The VA will also reduce co-payments for prescriptions for veterans who are considered to be at a high risk of suicide.



Borne the Battle 272: Navy Veteran Andrew Bliss, Bad Robot Entertainment

In the Navy, Andrew Bliss served as a military journalist. Today, he puts his passion for storytelling to use for Bad Robot Productions.

[Read More](#)



2022 GI Bill Summit: Q&A with VA - April 14

The 2022 GI Bill Summit will feature a Q&A with Education Service Acting Executive Director, Mary Glenn, highlighting various topics, including GI Bill modernization, enrollment verification requirements, and COVID-19 protection of monthly housing allowance benefits. Submit your GI Bill questions by March 18.

[LEARN MORE](#)



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Helping Veterans dispel myths about VA health care: Part 1

Many eligible Veterans don't get their health care through VA. This two-part blog dispels myths and helps Veterans understand the VA health care they deserve.

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Kansas City VA teams up with community partners for PIT count

Kansas City VA and community coalition did a PIT count and distributed hygiene and essentials to unhoused residents in the Kansas City metro.

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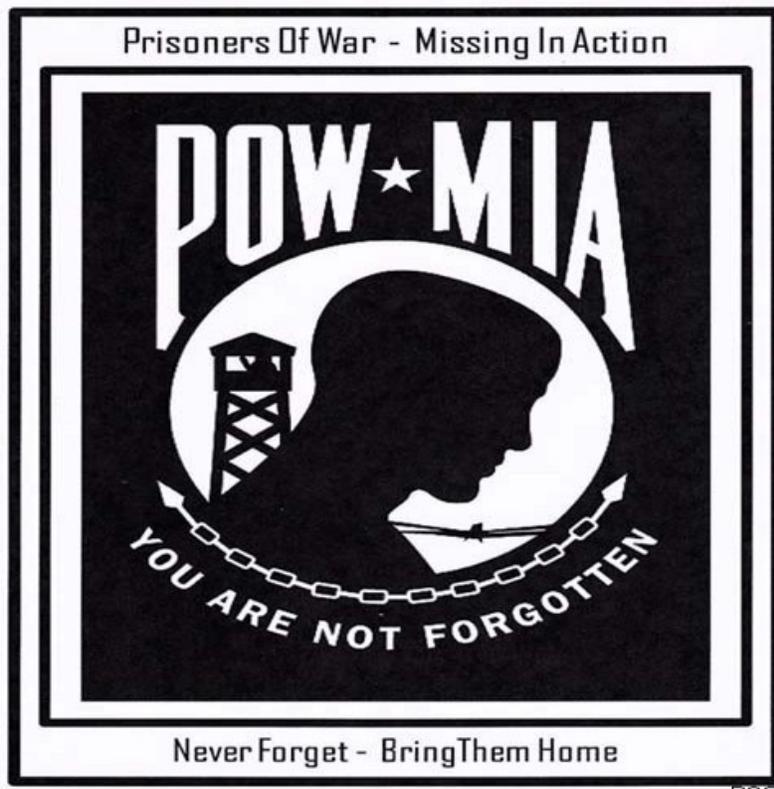


Coping When Current Events Bring Up Past Trauma

When armed conflict arises — no matter where in the world it happens — Veterans can experience a range of challenging emotions as events unfold. This can be especially true for combat Veterans who may be reminded of their own deployment experiences.

[LEARN MORE](#)





Veteran getting COVID shot surprises nurse, native of Kosovo

Nurse Shpresa Islami grew up in Kosovo and fled her country as a small girl. She had an emotional surprise while giving a COVID vaccine.

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Northport VA surgeons perform first da Vinci robotic surgery at medical center

Northport VA surgeons launch state-of-the-art robotic surgical system with urological procedure on Veteran's prostate. Some patients home the same day.

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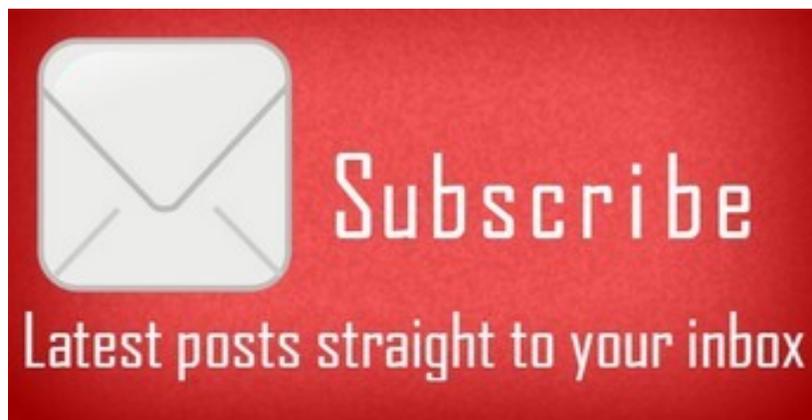
Find Your Next Job with Free Career Transition Services

Military service and the skills Veterans have acquired or enhanced through their service are precisely what employers say they need. Purepost offers free career transition services to help Veterans find their next job.

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Research roundup: E-cigs aren't safe

As substantiated in the review, a convincing body of evidence exists that confirms e-cigarettes cause lung inflammation and injury, as well as negative health effects in multiple organs. Crotty Alexander says e-cigarettes come with far more dangers than even she expected.

[Read More](#)



VA supports Marine Veteran through health issues and homelessness

Divorce, cancer, and homeless. Faced with crushing challenges, Marine Veteran is helped by new Act providing Veterans with life-changing resources.

[Read More](#)



Blue Star Families Survey: How Are You?

From Afghanistan to Ukraine, events shaping our world today are likely to bring complicated emotions to the surface for many of us. Blue Star Families is here to help and is working with their network of partners to mobilize support for Veterans. Please consider taking this short and confidential Pulse Check poll to share thoughts and let Blue Star Families know how they can best serve Veterans and their families during this challenging time. Take the Pulse Check today.

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Why I get my health care at VA: Polytrauma helps Veterans survive multiple traumas and injuries

Hear from Veterans who have survived multiple serious injuries and how VA is helping them in the Polytrauma program.

[Read More](#)



Live Whole Health #114: Tai Chi seated cloud hands

What would it feel like to touch the clouds and then gather its energy in your hands? Tai Chi is a mindful movement that pairs breathwork with a meditative movement that can be relaxing, restoring and energizing. The Tai Chi cloud hands movement form is a common postural exercise that uses dynamic movement to develop the back muscles, relax the neck and shoulders, and increase blood flow and the movement of "qi" (energy) within the body.

[Read More](#)

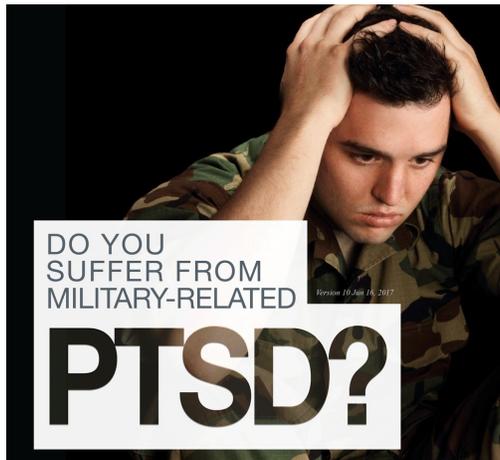


Vietnam Veteran's free guitar lessons for fellow Vets

Vietnam Veteran gives Veterans free guitar and song writing lessons. He helped some with PTSD write their songs down and record their own album.

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



Carmelita Vigil-Schimmenti: Caring is good medicine

Carmelita Vigil-Schimmenti was the first Hispanic woman to reach the rank of brigadier general.

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Center for Women Veterans Book Corner: Coast Guard Vice Admiral Sandra Stosz (Ret)

Each month, VA's Center for Women Veterans profiles a different woman Veteran author as part of its Women Veteran Authors Book Corner. This month's author is Coast Guard Veteran Vice Admiral (ret) Sandra Stosz. Stosz served on active duty from 1982-2018. In her 40-year career, she broke ice and glass as the first woman to command an icebreaker on the Great Lakes, and was the first woman to lead a U.S. armed forces service academy.

[Read More](#)



Lubbock VA celebrates first newborn of 2022

Amarillo VA's Women Veterans program celebrated their first newborn baby in 2022 during a celebration with the family at the Lubbock clinic.

[Read More](#)



Texas VA celebrates women Veterans' achievements

Texas VA holds 30th Annual Salute to Women Veterans to "Recognize them for their bravery, tenacity and achievements."

[Read More](#)



Fresh Focus episodes #55-57: Celebrating National Nutrition Month

March is National Nutrition Month and is a chance to celebrate eating healthy. National registered dietitian nutritionist day is also in March and is a chance to showcase dietitians as the food and nutrition experts. Each year we celebrate with a new theme and for 2022 the theme is "Celebrate a world of Flavors."

[Read More](#)



Fresh Focus episodes #58-60: Celebrating National Nutrition Month

March is National Nutrition Month and the VA dietitians with the Fresh Focus Podcast encourage us to "Celebrate a World of Flavors."

[Read More](#)



VA's progress on treating cancer since 2016

Every year, VA diagnoses and treats about 43,000 Veterans with new cases of cancer; VA currently treats 400,000 Veterans with cancer. Here is VA's progress on treating cancer.

[Read More](#)



Vets First Podcast S2 bonus: Learning about COVID-19 impact with Dr. Alejandro Pezzulo

In this episode of the Vets First Podcast, hosts Levi Sowers and Brandon Rea interview Dr. Alejandro Pezzulo, a pulmonologist, and assistant professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Iowa. This episode was recorded in August 2021 during the height of the pandemic's Delta wave. We think this is an interesting look into COVID-19 with a critical care provider.

[Read More](#)



Take your career to new places with VA's Travel Nurse Corps

Explore the country, and VA, as a travel nurse. Through our Travel Nurse Corps, you can join an internal pool of registered nurses (RNs) who go on temporary, short-term assignments at VA medical centers throughout the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The Travel Nurse Corps is one of many unique ways [...]

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

Army Air Forces Pfc. Edward H. Benson Jr., 22, of Roanoke, Virginia, was assigned to the 1562nd Army Air Force Base Unit on Biak Island, part of the modern-day Republic of Indonesia. On March 22, 1945, Benson and 39 other service members were killed during a Japanese air raid of Sorido Airstrip. Three individuals, including Benson, could not be identified or accounted for after the attack. He will be buried on May 14, 2022, in his hometown. [Read about Benson.](#)

Navy Water Tender 1st Class Oliver K. Burger, 26, of San Pedro, California, 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 Burger. He will be buried on Aug. 31, 2022, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in Honolulu. [Read about Burger.](#)

Army Pvt. Edward M. Ryan, 33, of New York City, was a member

of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 105th Infantry Regiment, 27th Infantry Division, which occupied defensive positions along the northwest coast of Saipan as part of a larger operation to secure the Mariana Islands. On July 7, 1944, the commanding general of the Japanese forces ordered a mass suicide charge of his remaining soldiers into the 105th's line. Ryan was killed during the attack, and posthumously awarded the Bronze Star. Following the war, his remains were declared non-recoverable. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Ryan.](#)

Army Staff Sgt. Casimir P. Lobacz, 25, was assigned to Company E, 11th Infantry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division. On Sept. 27, 1944, Lobacz's unit was part of the ground attack on Fort Driant near Metz, France. He was reported to have been killed during the first wave of the assault and his body was unable to be recovered. [Read about Lobacz.](#)

Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Newell F. Mills Jr., 21, was assigned to the 354th Fighter Squadron, 355th Fighter Group. On April 7, 1945, Mills was piloting a P-51D Mustang fighter escorting a formation of B-24 Liberator bombers to a target in Geesthacht, Germany. When the formation encountered German fighters near Bremen, he and the other escort pilots engaged the Germans. Following the mission, Mills and his wingman never returned to base or were reported as prisoners of war. The War Department issued an administrative Finding of Death on April 8, 1946. [Read about Mills.](#)





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