

Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, August 21, 2022

Volume 13, Issue 33



This-N-That

Good afternoon Jim,

It's been a slow news week but, hopefully this coming week will be much better.

We often encourage women to get their annual mammograms done, this time we'd like to remind all our men to be tested for testicular cancer, prostate cancer and anal cancer.

If there are signs of cancer, catching it in the early stages will make all the difference in the world. And we want all of you to be around for a long time to come!

We're still looking for stories from all our Veterans regarding care received at any of the VA Medical Centers nationwide. Good, bad, indifferent doesn't matter all help in our endeavor.

This week we've added one new item to the TAKE ACTION section, so when you reach that section, please try to complete as many as possible. We need to clear the decks on those items.

Please do visit 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!

Kindest regards,
Jim Davis
Founder
Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org

PS: If you like what we're doing, have found the newsletter and website useful, please help us keep the site, newsletter and phone/fax lines operational so we can continue to provide in my humble opinion the best there is to offer Veterans. Click here to contribute what you can, please keep in mind this cannot be used as a tax deduction, it's merely a contribution in support. Contribute

Are you ready for hurricane season?

Here's how to be prepared and proactive in planning for and responding to all hazards.

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.

We are offering free lifetime memberships to widows/widowers of Veterans who died of service connected diseases? Please contact Robin Barr for more information.

Click HERE and help a Veteran.

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

VA supports Veterans with type 2 diabetes

"My energy levels have gone way up, my pain levels have gone down, and I am able to focus much better. I've also lost weight, and never have any issues with hunger."

Read More



As you strive to find balance in your life, practice finding it in your body as well.

Read More



Veterans who served in Afghanistan may be experiencing a range of challenging emotions as we embark on the one-year anniversary of the U.S. withdrawal from the country. Check out the links below for resources available to Veterans who served in Afghanistan.

LEARN MORE

North Carolina Hiking Expedition Offers Challenge for Veterans

No Barriers Warriors hosts challenging hikes in the North Carolina mountains to help Veterans with mental health conditions redefine their identity, purpose and community as they face past and present challenges.

LEARN MORE



Veterans Leather Competition Now Accepting Submissions

Are you a Veteran artist and leather crafter? The Veterans Celebrating Autumn Leather Crafting Competition is accepting competition submissions now through Sept. 22.

READ MORE

Free Entrepreneurship Boot Camp for Veterans, Spouses

Disabled American Veterans' next Patriot Boot Camp will be held October 20-22. This intensive training program helps Veterans and the military community (including spouses) pursue their dreams of founding a venture.

LEARN MORE

Veterans and Military Students Find Resources, Connect on Campus

Through a network of more than 1,500 on-campus chapters in all 50 states and three countries representing more than 750,000 student Veterans, Student Veterans of America assists Veterans and military students by connecting them with a community of dedicated chapter leaders.

LEARN MORE

Hope For The Warriors Addressing Needs of Post-9/11 Veterans, Families

Founded by military families in 2006, Hope For The Warriors is a national nonprofit that provides free comprehensive support programs to post-9/11 service members, Veterans, military spouses and family members, and families of the fallen.

READ MORE



CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE VFC WEBSITE

Update Your Address and Contact Information Online

Are you moving, currently receiving benefits or prescriptions, or enrolled in VA health care and want to know how to change your address? You can update your personal contact information anytime, anywhere through VA.gov. Log in or create a free VA.gov account today!

UPDATE

Live Whole Health #133: Finding Balance

As a health coach, a common concern I hear is that "my life isn't balanced." People refer to a poor "work-life balance," finding themselves spending more time doing chores than going fishing, noticing that they can't figure out the "right mix" of exercise to relaxation, and so on.

Read More

Veteran Owen Rogers, 76, finds strength through sports and music

Following the recent passing of his wife Gwendolyn of 55 years, Army Veteran Owen Rogers Jr. felt like life was over and he was having difficulties coping. "My wife was it. She was everything. She was the force behind me. I met her in May of 1965 at the Royal Peacock in Atlanta. September of 1966, we got married," said the 76-year-old Rogers.

Read More

What to Expect if You Need to File a TRICARE Pharmacy Claim

When you use the TRICARE Pharmacy Program benefit, you may wonder if you must file claims for reimbursement for prescription drugs. Here's an overview of when and how to successfully file pharmacy claims.

Read More

Links to Other Stories

- 1) Overseas military retirees' postal privileges still in limbo
- 2) 'They used Agent Orange everywhere': PACT Act opens door for Vets in need of long overdue care
- 3) How a new Army cyber general got George Patton's stars
- 4) GoFundMe scammer who used story of homeless Vet gets 5 years
- 5) Indiana Veteran gunned down in cemetery after confronting speeders; children witness the killing
- 6) Veterans are healed and nourished by Meat Therapy, Boot Campaign and more

Learn How TRICARE's Extended Care Health Option Works for Families With Special Needs

Are you aware of the Extended Care Health Option (ECHO)? This TRICARE option is available for eligible active duty family members with special needs. To learn more about this program, check out the Extended Care Health Option Fact Sheet.

Read More

5 Health Care Checkups for Your Child Before School Starts

As you begin to shop for new notebooks, pencils, binders, and clothes, don't forget your child's school-related health checklist. Now is the time to schedule appointments and beat the rush.

Read More

Be Prepared with Back-to-School Immunizations

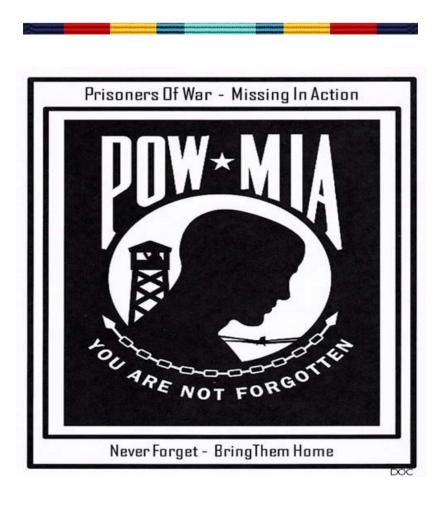
Air Force Lt. Gen. Robert Miller, surgeon general of the Air Force and a pediatrician, encourages parents to get their kids immunized before heading back to school in the fall.

Watch Video

Tips for Military Parents Planning PCS Moves with Children

There are things that service members can do to prepare for a permanent change of station move that can make for a smoother transition for the children.

Read More



For Sexually Transmitted Infections, Young People are at Higher Risk

Every year, thousands of service members are diagnosed with at least one sexually transmitted infection. Topping the list of the most common are chlamydia, gonorrhea, and genital herpes, military health data shows.

Read More

Make Sure Your Child Takes the Right TRICARE Plan to College

Your child's TRICARE coverage will stay with them in college if enrolled full-time and meeting eligibility requirements.

Read More

VA is Ready to Implement Veterans Toxic Exposure Act

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) issued a statement after the signing into law of a comprehensive veteran's toxic exposure bill (S.3373) known as the PACT Act. The statement claims that the VA is ready to implement the PACT Act and deliver for toxic-exposed Veterans and their survivors. If you think you might be eligible for PACT Act benefits, here's what you need to know:

- You can apply for PACT Act-related benefits now by filing a claim at the VA.
- As President Biden announced at the bill signing, "we are making all 23 presumptive conditions in the PACT Act eligible for benefits effective August 10."
- You can learn more about the PACT Act by visiting VA.gov/PACT or calling 1-800-MyVA411.

The FRA-supported act establishes a presumption of service connection for 23 respiratory illnesses and cancers related to the smoke from burn pits. Further, the new law also provides new benefits for veterans who faced radiation exposure during deployments throughout the Cold War, adds hypertension and monoclonal gammopathy to the list of illnesses linked to Agent Orange exposure in the Vietnam War, expands the timeline for Gulf War medical claims and requires new medical exams for all veterans with toxic exposure claims. Veterans who served in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Guam during the Vietnam War era would be covered under the same Agent Orange presumptive policies as those who served in Vietnam itself.

HVAC Subcommittee Reviews EHRM Progress

The House Veterans Affairs (HVAC) Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization program. Subcommittee Chairman Frank Mrvan noted that this is the 10th hearing in this session of Congress on this issue. He claimed employee training is substandard, management is ineffective, and the system does not work well when it works at all.

The House and Senate passed the "Electronic Health Record Transparency Act" (H.R.4591), which requires the Department Veterans Affairs (VA) to submit to Congress quarterly reports that evaluate the performance of EHR, and it was signed into law in June. The FRA wants to ensure adequate funding for Department of Defense (DoD) and the VA health care resource sharing in delivering seamless, cost-effective, quality services to personnel wounded in combat and other veterans and their families. Some members of Congress have expressed concern about the cost and length of time to fully implement. The cost and the long time for implementation notwithstanding, FRA believes there is a tremendous opportunity with the two departments using the same EHR.



Veteran Business Acceleration Act Introduced

Reps. Byron Donalds (Fla.) and Young Kim (Calif.) have introduced the "Post-9/11 Veteran Business Acceleration Act", (H.R.8660) that amends the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program to establish a joint pilot program between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) to allow eligible individuals to receive financial assistance for business operations instead of educational aid. This bill will ensure veterans receive every opportunity to succeed at home. The Post-9/11 Veteran Business Acceleration Act will give veterans the flexibility to direct their own path toward business ownership or higher education.

Afghanistan Withdrawal One Year later

This week marks the one-year anniversary of the fall of Afghanistan. For Americans watching at home, they saw chaos and confusion. For the many veterans that served in Afghanistan it was a dreadful sight. And for the 13 service members who lost their lives at Hamid Karzai International Airport, it was the final sacrifice. Congress posthumously voted to provide the Congressional Gold Medal, in commemoration to the servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan during the evacuation of U.S. citizens and Afghan allies at Hamid Karzai International Airport. The Biden administration has made no comment on the anniversary.

Honoring our PACT Act Becomes Law

VFW National Commander Tim Borland attended the White House bill signing ceremony as President Biden signed into law S.3373, Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, known as the PACT Act. Borland commented after the event, "Too many of our brothers and sisters have succumbed to illnesses connected to toxic exposure. That is why this bill has been the VFW's number one priority for the past few years, and we weren't going to give up until it was passed." Also in attendance were staff members from the VFW Washington Office and fellow veteran advocates. Read more about the PACT Act or locate an accredited VFW service officer near you. Watch the bill signing.

Press Conference on Afghan Allies

VFW Associate Legislative Director Brittany Dymond spoke at a press conference urging Congress to pass newly introduced bipartisan legislation that would provide support for nationals of Afghanistan who were evacuated. The Afghan Adjustment Act would secure a means of recourse for these Afghan nationals to stay in the United States long term. "Thousands of VFW members worked side by side with Afghan allies during their deployments overseas. But now it's time we help those same comrades in arms as they seek new lives in our great nation," said Dymond.



Reproductive Health Survey

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs released a survey to better understand veterans and their reproductive health needs. The goal of the study is to gain awareness of barriers, challenges, and improvements to VA's reproductive health services. The survey takes less than two minutes. Take the survey.



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 08/20/22)

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 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
- 38) HR 855, VETS Safe Travel Act
- 39) HR 3368, the Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Island bill
- 40) H.R. 2521, Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Affairs Act of 2021
- 41) H.R. 1273, the Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act

- 42) H.R. 2968, the Military and Veteran Student Loan Relief Act
- 43) H.R. 845, the VA Billing Accountability Act
- 44) Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Bill Introduced in House
- 45) HR 303 and S 1147 The Retired Pay Restoration Act
- 46) Ask Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipt Reform HR-1282
- 47) HR 1656 TREAT PTSD Act
- 48) S. 1664, the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Processing Claims Improvement
- 49) Please Support H.R. 3452 Veterans Preventative Health Coverage Fairness Act
- 50) HR 2192, The Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2021
- 51) HR 5026, The Panama Canal Zone Veterans Act of 2021
- 52) HR 3368, HR 5026, HR 2269, S 657 are all Toxic Exposure Bills that need special attention and more pressure to get passed!
- 53) H.R. 4627, Veterans' Culturally Competent Care Act of 2021
- 54) S. 2172, Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness
- 55) H.R. 4571, the SERVICE Act of 2021
- 56) H.R. 4732, Protect Individual Unemployability Benefit for All Disabled
- 57) S. 1937, the Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Act of 2021
- 58) S. 2283 and H.R. 5073—the Crisis Hotline REACH for Veterans Act
- 59) HR 852 and S 221, United States Israel PTSD Collaborative Research Act
- 60) Ask Congress to Preserve Arlington National Cemetery
- 61) HR 4949 and S 692, the Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021
- 62) HR 2963, the VOW to Hire Heroes Extension Act of 2021
- 63) S 1970, The Clean Water for Military Families Act
- 64) Support S. 1198/H.R. 2819—the Solid Start Act of 2021
- 65) H.R. 3402/S. 976—Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
- 66) HR 3537 and S 1813, Accelerating Access to Critical

Therapies for ALS Act

- 67) S. 2386/H.R. 4575, the Veteran Peer Specialist Act
- 68) H.R. 5721—the VIPER Act
- 69) H.R. 5607, Justice for ALS Veterans Act
- 70) HR 2601 and S 1188, SFC Heath Robinson Burn Pit Transparency Act
- 71) S. 3017, Veterans Dental Care Eligibility Expansion and Enhancement Act
- 72) HR 1361 and S 444, AUTO for Veterans Act
- 73) H.R. 4880 and S. 2720, the Veterans' Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act
- 74) HR 2800, the WINGMAN Act
- 75) H.R. 5944, Veterans Administration Backlog Accountability Act of 2021
- 76) HR 3400, VA Emergency Transportation Act
- 77) HR 2992, TBI and PTSD Law Enforcement Training Act
- 78) HR 6260, the Casualty Assistance Reform Act of 2021
- 79) H.R. 5819, Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act
- 80) HR 3596, the Lawrence J. Hackett, Jr. Vietnam Veterans Agent Orange Fairness Act
- 81) H.R. 2327 to Remove Delimiting Dates for Survivors and Dependents' Educational Assistance
- 82) S. 2513/H.R. 4772, Improved VA Clothing Allowance Benefit for Disabled Veterans
- 83) S. 3293, the Post 9-11 Veterans Mental Health Care Act of 2021
- 84) HR 6402 and S 1725, will grant a Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated
- 85) HR 6659 and S 3541, the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Acts
- 86) H.R. 6543, Restore Veterans Compensation Act
- 87) H.R. 3967, Honoring Our PACT Act Going to House Floor for a Vote
- 88) H.R. 2916/S. 1467, the VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act

of 2021

- 89) S. 3483, Justice for ALS Veterans Act
- 90) H.R. 6273 and S.3397, the VA Zero Suicide Demonstration Project Act of 2021
- 91) HR 7050, Ernest Peltz Accrued Veterans Benefits Act
- 92) S. 3851/H.R. 7089, the Veterans Exposed to Toxic PFAS Act
- 93) S. 3854/H.R. 6823, the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act
- 94) HR 4601 and S 2405, Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act
- 95) S. 3304/H.R. 5754, the Patient Advocate Tracker Act
- 96) Please Support H.R. 7369, VENTURE Act
- 97) Please support of HR 7524, the ACES Act
- 98) HR 7589, Remove Copays Act
- 99) Support Concurrent Receipt Bills
- 100) S. 3025 and H.R. 5666, the Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act of 2021 to Improve the Claims Process for MST Survivors
- 101) Support S. 4156, the VA Workforce Improvement, Support, and Expansion (WISE)
- 102) Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options (MAMMO) for Veterans
- 103) They must pass the Honoring our PACT Act NOW
- 104) HR 7048, Protect Lifesaving Anesthesia Care for Veterans Act of 2022
- 105) HR 1476, PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program Act
- 106) S. 4223 and H.R. 7846, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2022
- 107) HR 7158, Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act
- 108) H.R. 3950, the Veterans Medical Legal Partnerships Act
- 109) HR 7158 and S 2852 Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act
- 110) Honoring our PACT Act
- 111) S. 4308—Veterans Marriage Recognition Act of 2022
- 112) HR 6647 will make certain improvements relating to the eligibility



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We hope you will join us on this new site.

VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE

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AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY

Office of Inspector General

1) VA Disability Benefits: Compensation Program Could Be Strengthened by Consistently Following Leading Reform Practices

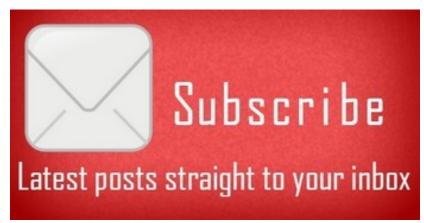


- 1) Consumer Protection Issues Food Safety Warning for EZ Noble Sushi EZ Noble Sushi is voluntarily recalling the products, which contained unlabeled allergens
- 2) Covidien, LLC (Medtronic) Recalls Palindrome and Mahurkar Hemodialysis Catheters Due to Catheter Hub Defect
- 3) FDA alerts patients, caregivers, and health care providers of cross-compatibility issues with autoinjector devices that are optional for use with glatiramer acetate injection
- 4) FDA Approves First Cell-Based Gene Therapy to Treat Adult and Pediatric Patients with Beta-thalassemia Who Require Regular Blood Transfusions
- 5) FDA Drug Shortages
- 6) FDA Finalizes Historic Rule Enabling Access to Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids for Millions of Americans
- 7) FDA Roundup: August 16, 2022
- 8) FDA Roundup: August 19, 2022
- 9) FDA Warns Manufacturer for Marketing Illegal Flavored Nicotine Gummies
- 10) Fifth Season Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Dairy and Eggs in Crunchy Sesame Salad Kit
- 11) Lyons Magnus Expands Voluntary Recall to Include Additional Nutritional and Beverage Products Due to the Potential for Microbial Contamination
- 12) Medtronic Recalls Cobalt XT, Cobalt and Crome ICDs and CRT-Ds for Risk that Devices May Issue a Short Circuit Alert and Deliver Reduced Energy Shock During High Voltage Therapy
- 13) The Gluten Free Bar Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Cashew in The GFB 1.2oz Dark Chocolate Coconut Bites
- 14) Tips to Stay Safe in the Sun: From Sunscreen to Sunglasses
- 15) Update: Certain Philips Respironics Ventilators, BiPAP Machines, and CPAP Machines Recalled Due to Potential Health Risks: FDA Safety Communication



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The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one burial update and two 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 Pfc. David N. Owens, 27, of Green Hills, North Carolina, was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion,12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 22, 1944, when his unit was engaged in battle with German forces near Hürtgen, Germany. He was declared killed in action on Nov. 23, 1945. Owens will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, on a date yet to be determined. Read about Owens.

Army Sgt. Charles Garrigus, 24, was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 1, 1950, during battle with enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the war, his remains could not be recovered and there is no evidence that he was a prisoner of war. Interment services are pending. Read about Garrigus.

Army Cpl. Tommie T. Hanks, 27, was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. On Nov. 26, 1950, he was reported missing in action while his unit was attempting to withdraw from east Ch'ongch'on River near Anju, North Korea. Following the war, his remains could not be recovered and there is no evidence that he was a prisoner of war. Interment services are pending. Read about Hanks.



Veterans-For-Change Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today

www.Veterans-For-Change.org

Serving those who served!

Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends and Family!

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