



Veterans-*For*-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, July 26, 2015
Volume 6, Issue 30

This-N-That

We received on average 200 plus news feeds a day and I do my best to read each one, post the most important one's to the website and links to several social media outlets as well.

As some of you know when the Supreme Court passed it's ruling on Gay Marriage, within hours the White House was lit up with the Gay Pride Colors, but when we had five of our military gunned down in Chattanooga Tennessee by a Muslim Terrorist, it too the outcry of the American People demanding the President lower the flag to half staff in their memory.

None of us should have had to make those calls, send those E-Mails or faxes demanding this happen, it should have been done immediately without hesitation, pause or question.

Then instead of telling our military to carry their side arms both on and off duty, they were instructed to not wear their uniforms!

Makes me truly wonder is this how our country deals with terrorism, cowers and hides?

Then President Obama attended the VFW national Convention to speak about Veteran Benefits and funding and one lone Veteran had the guts to stand tall with his sign demanding answers on Benghazi and the Americans we lost there.

What happened was in my opinion so terribly wrong. His fellow Veterans, members of the VFW wrestled this man to the ground to take his sign away from him and prevent him from doing what ALL Americans should be doing, burning up the phone lines and bombing the E-Mail accounts of all 535 members of Congress demanding answers as well and those responsible being held fully accountable.

I do have to say thank you to Senator Patty Murray(D-WA) for pulling her bill to rescind the ban on fertility treatments for women Veterans when Senator Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) attached an amendment which would have made Women Veterans part of a political football game and dragging them into something that does not respect their service, and provide medical care and treatment as needed.

Although she pulled the bill until the amendment is removed, it still hurts all our Women Veterans, and you should be aware of who is really responsible for it being pulled and it's not because of Senator Murray!

Since the Veterans Choice Act, we've heard from so many who applauded the arrival of the card and access to services only until they needed them and were told they didn't qualify.

We'd really like to hear from all those who received their card and chose to use it only to be denied. Please write to me and tell me your story about not being able to use the card or obtain services. Your name and other information is not needed and no personal information will be shared with anyone.

We're still asking for people to write cards and letters to be included in goodie boxes being shipped out weekly to our troops on foreign soil.

The program is called OPERATION MAIL CALL.

We're still looking for those who want to send cards and letters to our troops, not spectacular, just words of encouragement, thanks and appreciation, something to put a smile on their faces, even if only for a few seconds.

More information and a link to where you can send cards and letters to be included in each weeks shipments are further down in this newsletter.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Volunteers nationwide, we wish you and your family good health!

Respectfully,
Jim Davis
Founder & CEO
Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org

Hill Warned Not to Act on Aging of IU Claimants

Representatives of The American Legion and Disabled American Veterans have warned lawmakers to reject calls to impose an age ceiling or other new cost control on VA compensation payments to veterans whose service-connected disabilities leave them unemployable. An age ceiling is perhaps the most tempting cost-control option discussed in a new Government Accountability Office report that examines weaknesses and inefficiencies in the way the Department of Veterans Affairs administers Individual Unemployability (IU) benefits for 318,000 recipients. For more details, see [this Military Advantage blog post](#).

CalVet, Habitat for Humanity Present 26 Santa Clarita Veterans with Keys to New Homes

Santa Clarita – On Saturday, the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) and Habitat for Humanity, San Fernando / Santa Clarita Valleys (SF/SCV) hold a public ceremony where 26 Veterans and their families will be presented with keys to their new homes.

"Saturday's wonderful key presentation ceremony is for our 26 Veterans and their families who worked very hard to help build their new homes. Each Veteran is taking on a new responsibility with the purchase of a new home in this beautiful new community providing a modern place to live as well as services unique to our Veterans' needs," said Debbie Endsley, CalVet's Acting Secretary.

"Homeownership is a vital resource that can be leveraged along with wraparound services to move today's Veterans into the middle class, creating tomorrow's civic leaders," said Donna E. Deutchman, Chief Executive Officer, Habitat for Humanity, SF/SDV.

The CalVet REN (Residential Enriched Neighborhood) Program offers permanent, affordable home ownership with manageable loan payments and family enrichment services to California Veterans and their families. CalVet, in partnership with Homes for Families, continues working with Habitat for Humanity, SF/SCV on three Veterans housing projects.

The CalVet REN projects include 12 homes in Sylmar, 50 homes in Palmdale, and 78 homes in Santa Clarita. The key ceremony event begins at 10:00 a.m. at 21550 Center Pointe Parkway, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. The event is free and open to the public.

Simulator Helps Veterans with PTSD

Job interviews can be challenging for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). But, research at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine has found that a virtual-reality interview simulator significantly increases a military veteran's chances of landing a job. "Job Interview Training with Molly Porter" is a computer program

that stars an actress who reads carefully crafted questions and responses. Veterans who used the computer program were almost twice as likely to get job offers as those veterans who did not use the program. The software program is available from the developer SIMmersion on the [Job Interview Training website](#). An abstract of the study is available on the [Psychiatric Services Journal website](#).

VFC's OPERATION MAIL CALL



Operation Mail Call needs your help! We need cards and letters to send to our troops currently serving on foreign soil.

Doesn't have to be anything special, just words of support and thanking them for their service!

For more information visit: <http://veterans-for-change.org/4727-operation-mail-call>

VA May Shut Down Some Hospitals

The Department of Veterans Affairs may have to shut down some hospitals in August if Congress does not address a \$2.5 billion shortfall for the current budget year. The agency is also considering furloughs, hiring freezes and other steps to close a funding gap for the budget year that ends Sept. 30. VA said it wants authority to use up to \$3 billion from the new Veterans Choice program to close the budget gap, with as much as \$500 million going to treat hepatitis C. The new Choice program makes it easier for veterans to receive federally paid medical care from local doctors. The following related documents that were sent to Congress are available here: Signed letter to Congress at www.va.gov/budget/docs/signed_letters_to_congress.pdf, Putting Veterans First: Legislative Request at www.va.gov/budget/docs/plan_cover_table_of_contents.pdf, Draft Legislation at www.va.gov/budget/docs/draft_legislation.pdf, Choice Act Obligations at www.va.gov/budget/docs/hepatitis_c_treatment_summary.pptx, Care in Community Overview at www.va.gov/budget/docs/va_care_in_the_community_overview.pptx, and Hepatitis C Treatment Summary at www.va.gov/budget/docs/choice_act_obligations.xlsx.

Vets Don't Need 20% Down with the VA Loan Benefit

Don't waste this great benefit. Rates are near historic lows but they will rise this year and you don't have to pay PMI or have a large down payment. Plus you can get financing up to \$417,000. [Use your VA Loan Benefit today.](#)

Government Accountability Office (GAO) Reports

Behavioral Health: Options for Low-Income Adults to Receive Treatment in Selected States.
<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-449>

Defense Logistics: Improved Data and Information Sharing Could Aid in DOD's Management of Ammunition Categorized for Disposal. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-538>

Military Personnel: DOD Is Expanding Combat Service Opportunities for Women, but Should Monitor Long-Term Integration Progress. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-589>

Medicare Program: Additional Actions Needed to Improve Eligibility Verification of Providers and Suppliers. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-448>

Critical Infrastructure Protection: DHS Action Needed to Verify Some Chemical Facility Information and Manage Compliance Process. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-614>

Army Corps of Engineers: Efforts to Assess the Impact of Extreme Weather Events. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-660>

Combating Terrorism: State Should Evaluate Its Countering Violent Extremism Program and Set Time Frames for Addressing Evaluation Recommendations. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-684>

Veterans Affairs Contracting: Improved Oversight Needed for Certain Contractual Arrangements, by Michele Mackin, director, acquisition and sourcing management, before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-770T>

Critical Infrastructure Protection: Preliminary Observations on DHS Efforts to Address Electromagnetic Threats to the Electric Grid, by Christopher P. Currie, director, homeland security and justice, before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-692T>

Medicare Program: Additional Actions Needed to Improve Eligibility Verification of Providers and Suppliers, by Seto J. Bagdoyan, director, forensic audits and investigative service, before the Senate Special Committee on Aging. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-762T>

Low-Income Housing Tax Credit: Joint IRS-HUD Administration Could Help Address Weaknesses in Oversight. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-330>

IRS Examination Selection: Internal Controls for Exempt Organization Selection Should Be Strengthened. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-514>

Regenerative Medicine: Federal Investment, Information Sharing, and Challenges in an Evolving Field. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-553>

Defense Infrastructure: Improvements in DOD Reporting and Cybersecurity Implementation Needed to Enhance Utility Resilience Planning. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-749>

IRS Examination Selection: IRS Should Strengthen Internal Controls for Exempt Organization Selection, by Jay McTigue, director, strategic issues, before the Subcommittee on Oversight, House Committee on Ways and Means. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-753T>

Tips for Service Members Who Rent

Here are several expert tips for would-be renters: (1) visit your base housing services office (HSO) so they can make sure they are going to sign a lease that is legal and contains a military clause; (2) never put any money down or sign anything with sight unseen; (3) be aware that pictures can be deceiving on the Internet; (4) drive by the property at night to see how it looks; (5) if you begin to have difficulty negotiating with the landlord about deposits and damages, visit your HSO; (6) do not rush into a home. All Soldiers are authorized 10 nights of temporary lodging expense between each duty station to stay in a hotel while they find suitable housing; (7) immediately after moving into a rental home, make a very detailed checklist of everything that is wrong with the house and take date-stamped photographs.

New ID Cards for Veterans

Congress has approved the creation of a veterans' identification card, making it easier for veterans to prove military service without having to produce a military service record or some other valuable document. Both House votes and the Senate vote were unanimous. The bill now heads to the White House where President Obama is expected to sign it. This means veterans will no longer have to routinely prove military status by providing a DD-214, which often contains personal information that could be subject to identity theft.

Veterans fought for us; we continue to fight for our veterans!

6 Reasons Not to Borrow From Your TSP or 401K

Should you borrow from your retirement plan? Here are several reasons not to: (1) borrowing could reduce what you are saving — some plans forbid contributions while the loan is being paid back; (2) if the markets go up, you could miss out on the growth your loaned money might have earned; (3) If the markets go down, that low interest rate you are paying yourself may not look all that bad; (4) job loss requires payback, usually within sixty days after you leave your employer; (5) research shows borrowing is habit-forming; and (6) it often does not fix the core issue — 46 percent of respondents to one survey took out a loan to pay off other debts.

VFC Website Update

In April 2015 we went through a major upgrade in our web site software and the transition was fairly smooth with a few kinks which most have been corrected. But in the process we did end up losing about 4,000 documents off the site due to corruption, not to panic though we are in the process now of re-installing them and most if not all plus an added 1,000+ more will be added at the same time.

If you've not visited our website, maybe you should visit today! Since going on-line on 10/28/12 we have been averaging between 2,800 and 5,000 visitors per day and have had **2,277,689** visitors to date.

Visit today and subscribe, it's 100% **FREE** of charge to all! Just be sure to use a valid E-Mail address so the system can send you an authentication E-Mail. Becoming a subscriber will show you all the various forum's, added libraries, and more.

We have the largest One-Stop-Shop Veterans website available that is user friendly, offers a host of information on many topics, Several forums, Frequently Asked Questions and Answers, a massive Documents Library with more than 11,000 documents, various VA and DoD forms.

www.veterans-for-change.org

- Documents Library with over **140** different libraries and over **11,987+** documents
- FAQ's (**1,567** on-line now)
- Forums (with Licensed Mental Health Worker Moderator)
- Job Postings and Job Fairs (Updated 07/24/15 –**NEW** Listings)
- Memorial Pages (**Updated 04/19/14**)
- News (Updated almost daily, **5,040** articles on-line)
- Web Links (**1,582** Active Links)(**Updated 06/23/15**)

The documents library has many different categories and contains more than 50 million pages of information and forms.

There are forums for all Eras of service and one just for Women Veterans, which is locked to use by women only. Another for Men Veterans which is also locked to men only.

In the documents and forums we provide information pertaining to women and the ability speak freely in the forums to other women about the same issues and problems you face.

The Memorial Pages are open, and if you have a loved one or a buddy you've lost and would like for them to be added to our Memorial Pages, please send a photo, First and Last Name, Rank, Branch of Service, DOB and DOD, and allow us 2-3 days to install on the proper page. (Send to: Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org)

You also have the ability to comment and rate all NEWS articles which would be very helpful for us so we know the types of information you'd like to see on our website.

DeCA Value Brands

Since the emergence of the Commissary Value Brands' signature orange label in December, the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) has increased the savings program to almost 500 items in 54 categories. On average, Commissary Value Brands save patrons about 20 percent when compared to the store brand and private label items found in commercial retail stores. Some products approach as much as 50 percent savings. Shoppers can visit DeCA's website at commissaries.com or visit the agency's Facebook website at www.facebook.com/YourCommissary to identify value deals before they visit the store. Commissary patrons have many options for saving with Commissary Value Brands, biweekly promotions, and other special sales that offer targeted discounts.



Are you seeking employment? Been looking forever and not found the right job?

Well Veterans-For-Change is working very hard to bring you more information on Job Fairs and Job Postings available across the country.

For a couple of weeks now we did a separate posting of jobs available, and now we've made a library on the Veterans-For-Change web site just for that purpose.

Click on the link below, and find all the jobs available, Job Fairs coming up, locations, details, etc.

<http://veterans-for-change.org/documents-library/category/167-job-fairs-job-postings>

If you have a job position open, and are willing to hire a Veteran, please send an E-Mail to: JIM.DAVIS@VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE.ORG there is never any fee involved, this is a 100% free service in order to help thousands of Veterans nationwide to gain full time employment.

Will be updated 07/24/15 by 6pm PST

Links to other Stories

- 1) [Attempts to get homeless Veterans off the streets don't always work](#)
- 2) [Blood donation gives soldier new life](#)
- 3) [Buffalo Wild Wings buys Corona for dead soldier; puts fresh lime in it each day](#)
- 4) [Can The Agent Orange Act Help Veterans Exposed To Mustard Gas?](#)

- 5) **Does VA 'Choice Card' really give Veterans much choice?**
- 6) *Donald Trump Launches Hotline for Veterans, Calls for American Flag to be at Half-Staff For Tennessee Shooting Victims*
- 7) *Housing for homeless, disabled Vets on the way*
- 8) *Many Vietnam Veterans have PTSD 40 years after war's end*
- 9) *More than 150 headstones for Veterans' graves plundered to build cemetery worker's carport floor*
- 10) **More VA Lies, Fakery and Fraud Equals More Homeless Veterans**
- 11) *New Mexico City Finds A Home For All Its Homeless Veterans*
- 12) *Next generation of prosthetics restore capabilities and even a sense of touch*
- 13) *Obama Defends VA at Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention*
- 14) *One-Third VHA Backlog Consists Of Dead Veterans*
- 15) **Problems Keep Piling Up For Veterans Affairs Department**
- 16) *PTSD Veteran: I'm not crazy*
- 17) *Republicans Use Veterans Bill To Attack Planned Parenthood*
- 18) *RIVERSIDE: City wants to house all homeless Veterans*
- 19) *SAMMC continues to be the only DoD Level I Trauma Center*
- 20) *SF's Homeless Population Is Older, Sicker, and Getting Forced Into New Neighborhoods*
- 21) *Some Veterans fear new health care alliance may not help fast enough*
- 22) *The caregiver network*
- 23) *Tiny device could save lives on battlefield*
- 24) *VA Works to Get Homeless Veterans Off Street*
- 25) **Veteran protester gets Benghazi sign torn out of his hands at Obama speech**
- 26) *Veterans Affairs Defrauds 34,000 Combat Veterans*
- 27) *Veterans Health Records Falsification Is Illegal*
- 28) *Veterans sound off on Trump*
- 29) *Veterans' Disability Claims End Up In Shred Bins; VA Office Downplays Incident: Report*
- 30) *Volunteers canvass Central Florida for homeless Vets*

You can help Veterans-For-Change by reading the articles posted, and comment at the bottom and rank the article. If you don't have an account, sign-up today, it's **FREE**. Your comments and rankings help us to better determine the type of information you'd like most to see.

Check us out today: www.veterans-for-change.org

Free License Plates for Combat Vets in Illinois

Illinois combat veterans returning from active duty will qualify for free Illinois license plates under legislation signed by Gov. Bruce Rauner. The new law takes effect in January 2017 and will waive the fees for one year after the veteran returns to Illinois. The law requires veterans to provide documentation to the Illinois Secretary of State proving they received hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay in the 12 months prior to their application for new plates.

Sailors Can Get Profile Sheets via E-Mail

The Navy Advancement Center (NAC) has announced a new service that allows Sailors to request to receive profile sheet updates via email. Sailors can log onto the Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) home page and select Navy Advancement Center under the Career Management drop-down tab, then click on My Advancement to access the Advancement Profile Sheet link. At the top of the profile sheet, there is a block to enter an email address. Once entered, push the button Register for Email Notification. Users can also easily opt out of the automatic notifications at any time. Once registered, candidates will receive an email every time an updated advancement sheet profile is generated due to a change in advancement status. For all of the latest updates concerning Navy advancement, visit [NAC's Facebook page](#).



America's Veterans United

Is an advocacy group on Yahoo Groups developed to fight for the benefits, care, facilities, caring and compassionate fully licensed medical professionals, updated and properly operated VA Medical Facilities.

Are you sick and tired of the "business as usual" attitude, or the "delay, deny, until they die" attitude?

Are you able to give 30-60 minutes of your time per month to help develop and send letters to all 535 members of Congress each month in an attempt to force Congress into getting off their seats and actually doing something for Veterans vs. their usual lip service?

And are you sick and tired of all the other organizations who say they are fighting for you, but have shown decades of really not doing much for you?

Then join us, we do more than use membership numbers to fight, we actually have you working with us in the fight. Take control of your health and medical care and help us fight for you.

If interested, check out our page on Yahoo Groups:

https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Americas_Veterans_United/info

If you're not a member of any Yahoo Group, and not familiar with the system but want to join in the fight, you can do so via E-Mail as well:

americas_veterans_united-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

One really good thing about America's Veterans United, it won't cost you one thin dime, no membership dues, no postage costs, just your time and your computer.

Help us to help you and your fellow Veterans in the fight!

To Contact your Members of Congress

To Call your Representative:	202-225-2305
To call your Senator:	202-224-3841 or 202-224-3553
To call different members of Congress:	202-224-3121
Toll FREE Number:	866-272-6622

~ We Proudly Support Our Military Personnel & Families ~

Employment and Training Services

If you are a veteran looking for assistance in transitioning into civilian life, finding a job or getting the training needed to get a job, then you need to learn more about the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) program. [The following is a summary of what you need to know about this program.](#)

Pizza for Patriots

On July 4, 2015, many deployed servicemembers in Afghanistan were able to enjoy some pizza courtesy of an organization called Pizza 4 Patriots and contributors across the U.S. The organization fulfilled its goal of sending more than 4,500 pizzas or more than 34,000 slices to distribute throughout Afghanistan. Most of the troops the organization serves are stationed at Forward Operating Bases in active war zones, and have been only eating packaged MRE's (Meals Ready-to-Eat) for several months at time. The organization supports not only servicemembers deployed across the globe but also wounded warriors. For more information, visit the Pizza 4 Patriots website at pizzas4patriots.com.

If you received this Newsletter as a forward or as a Courtesy Copy and would like to continue to receive this FREE weekly newsletter, click on link below:

<https://app.expressemailmarketing.com/survey.aspx?sfid=121170>

Complete all information, and select the appropriate box at the bottom of the form. You will then receive an automated authentication E-Mail, follow the instructions and you will then be added to the weekly distribution list.

Or if you prefer you can sign up to the Yahoo Groups VFC-News page and receive our weekly newsletter by sending an E-Mail to: VFC-News-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Our mailing list is never sold, traded or shared with anyone ever, and is held in the strictest of confidence.

Veterans-For-Change Newsletter is a once weekly publication deadline for submission is 5:00 PM PST on Thursday!



If our country is worth dying for in time of war let us resolve that it is truly worth living for in time of peace.

~Hamilton Fish~

Veterans-For-Change, Inc.

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today
www.veterans-for-change.org

Serving those who served!

Please pass to all your Veteran friends and family!

Distribution	
Express Mail:	14,428
Face Book Pages:	2,923
Yahoo:	95
Twitter:	33
Linked-In:	19,110,160
Other Social Media:	6,382
Courtesy Copies:	3,500
	19,137,521