



Veterans-*For*-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, August 02, 2015
Volume 6, Issue 31

This-N-That

Congressman Jeff miller (R-FL) submitted the VA Accountability Act which passed the house with a vote of 256 to 170 even with widespread opposition from federal employee advocates.

This bill would make it easier to fire employees at the Veterans Affairs Department which is long over due. The bill would expand to the VA workforce the authority of the 2014. The employee could file an appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board within seven days of his or her removal.

Rep. Dan Benishek (R-MI) included an amendment in the bill which would hold VA Managers responsible for implementing recommendations from the IG for improving department operations, and would withhold performance awards (ie: Bonuses) from those who fail to do so.

However, the White House says President Obama will veto legislation that would let the Department of Veterans Affairs fire corrupt or negligent officials, in part because that change would make the VA a less pleasant place to work for federal employees.

The White House said in a [statement released late Tuesday](#) that Miller's bill would be unfair to the VA, since it would create a "disparity" between VA workers and officials at other government agencies.

Well in my opinion this is long over due, and if the staff at the various VAMC's can't perform their jobs well, can't provide the best medical care available, then it's time for replacements.

Dr. Gorton is a mental and behavior health physician at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center told a Veteran in response to a post on Face Book regarding gun control "Off yourself, please."

And the VA's response was "we're sorry!"

"Our mission is to provide the highest level of medical and mental health care, which is not reflected in the Facebook post," a VA spokesman told The Washington Times. "The post was totally inappropriate and does not convey our commitment to veterans. We are taking steps immediately to address the situation."

This would be a prime example why an immediate termination would be called for and no red tape. Had this been a civilian situation, termination would have been swift and immediate, no documentation, no judge, no hearing and no appeal!

We finally have all our document libraries back on-line on the VFC website, and so far have added an additional 489 mew documents with much more to be added soon.

We apologize for the long delay, we had no idea that the serious upgrade we implemented back in April would cause so many issues, but finally we're back on track now.

Average daily downloads has been in the mid 400's with over 250,000 downloads in the past two years.

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. We're not asking for anything special, just cards and letters to include and trust me this excites them more than the goodies we send.

And if you have children, even hand made cards from the children makes their day!

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 week's 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

34,000 Vets Lost Healthcare Eligibility

Scott Davis, a program specialist at the VA enrollment center in Atlanta, says 34,000 veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan lost their eligibility for healthcare after the VA sat on their applications until they expired. The applications were designated as pending because they lacked income information. However, combat veterans are not required to verify their income when applying for VA benefits. For more information, watch the [video from Fox News](#), and also at [this article](#). Mr. Davis' testimony before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on July 8, 2014 is available on the [House Committee on Veterans Affairs website](#). Mr. Davis filed for whistleblower protection in January, 2014.

Veterans VA Healthcare Survey

Veterans VA Healthcare Survey, please complete as much information as possible. Will help VFC to determine what is most important when communicating with members of Congress.

<https://www.justsurvey.me/56657a0c6579>

VA to Outsource Care

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is moving to outsource care nationwide for up to 180,000 veterans who have hepatitis C. VA has spent weeks developing a dramatic and controversial transition as patient loads have surged and funding has run out. Those efforts were not disclosed until records were released this week to *The Arizona Republic*. Hepatitis C is a serious blood and liver condition that is treated with expensive new drugs that are costing the government billions of dollars. The plan calls for the sickest veterans to receive top priority for treatment. For more information, read [The Arizona Republic article](#). Read more about the Veterans Choice Program at www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/ and at www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/documents/Choice-Program-Fact-Sheet-Final.pdf.

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 Chief Counterpunches Over Costs

The Veterans Choice, Access and Accountability Act of 2014, which Congress rushed to pass last summer to address a patient wait-time scandal at dozens of VA hospitals and clinics, spurred VA to broaden access to care. The result was seven million new health care appointments for veterans the past year, but also a flood of new enrollees into VA care, an accounting nightmare for health care administrators and a surprising budget shortfall, which VA officials concede they failed to forecast and which angry lawmakers realize they must repair before going on August recess. If not, VA leaders warn, VA medical facilities will shut their doors.

New Rule to Protect Vets from Predatory Lenders

The Obama administration and U.S. Department of Defense have issued a new rule to protect veterans from predatory lenders. Included in the amendment to the Military Lending Act is a new rule that says creditors may not charge an annual percentage rate of more than 36% on all consumer credit. The new rule is available [online](#).

Government Accountability Office (GAO) Reports

Defense Energy: Observations on DOD's Investments in Alternative Fuels. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-674>

Facilities Modernization: DOD Guidance and Processes Reflect Leading Practices for Capital Planning. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-489>

Mortgage Reforms: Actions Needed to Help Assess Effects of New Regulations. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-185>

Prescription Drugs: More DEA Information about Registrants' Controlled Substances Roles Could Improve Their Understanding and Help Ensure Access. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-471>

IRS 2016 Budget: IRS Is Scaling Back Activities and Using Budget Flexibilities to Absorb Funding Cuts. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-624>

Technology Assessment: Nuclear Reactors: Status and Challenges in Development and Deployment of New Commercial Concepts. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-652>

A Framework for Managing Fraud Risks in Federal Programs. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-593SP>

High-Containment Laboratories: Preliminary Observations on Federal Efforts to Address Weaknesses Exposed by Recent Safety Lapses, by Marcia Crosse, director, health care, John Neumann, director, natural resources and environment, and Timothy M. Persons, chief scientist, before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Energy and Commerce. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-792T>

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: IRS Needs to Strengthen Oversight of Tax Provisions for Individuals. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-540>

Managing for Results: Practices for Effective Agency Strategic Reviews. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-602>

Motor Carrier Safety: Additional Research Standards and Truck Drivers' Schedule Data Could Allow More Accurate Assessments of the Hours of Service Rule. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-641>

IRS Case Selection: Collection Process Is Largely Automated, but Lacks Adequate Internal Controls. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-647>

Central America: Improved Evaluation Efforts Could Enhance Agency Programs to Reduce Unaccompanied Child Migration. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-707>

International Trade: The United States and European Union Are the Two Largest Markets Covered by Key Procurement-Related Agreements. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-717>

Bureau of Land Management: Improvements Needed in Internal Controls over Mining Law Administration Program Funds. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-562>

DATA Act: Progress Made in Initial Implementation but Challenges Must be Addressed as Efforts Proceed, by Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, before the Subcommittees on Information Technology and Government Operations, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-752T>

Hurricane Sandy: An Investment Strategy Could Help the Federal Government Enhance National Resilience for Future Disasters. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-515>

Medicaid: Key Issues Facing the Program. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-677>

Nuclear Weapons Sustainment: Improvements Made to Budget Estimates, but Opportunities Exist to Further Enhance Transparency. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-536>

Federal Autism Research: Updated Information on Funding from Fiscal Years 2008 through 2012. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-583R>

Credit Rating Analysts: Views Varied on Merits of a Professional Organization, but Creating One Now Viewed as Premature. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-591>

Facial Recognition Technology: Commercial Uses, Privacy Issues, and Applicable Federal Law. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-621>

Management Report: Improvements Needed in Controls over the Processes Used to Prepare the U.S. Consolidated Financial Statements. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-630>

Medical Device Companies: Trends in Reported Net Sales and Profits Before and After Implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-635R>

Mt. Soledad Cross Saved

The Mt. Soledad Memorial Association recently purchased land from the Department of Defense in order to preserve the 43-foot Mt. Soledad cross that was erected in 1954. In the past, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Jewish War Veterans sued to have the cross removed because they believe it infringes on their constitutional rights. The Mount Soledad cross in La Jolla, Calif., is part of a larger memorial, which includes more than 3,700 plaques honoring veterans of various wars. The \$1.4 million land purchase is for the one-half acre plot of land surrounding the memorial. For more information, visit the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial website at www.soledadmemorial.com and follow the Mt. Soledad Memorial Association on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Mt-Soledad-Memorial-Association/153462551340888.

Cepeda Express

We are a billion dollar international company looking for Veterans and spouses that have an entrepreneur spirit that can lead and train. Our business addresses several trends:

1. The Health and Wellness
2. The Ageing baby boomers
3. Sports and fitness
4. Financial freedom "the time to do what you want, when you want and never have to....about the money or time."

We teach you how to have your own home family based business. A way to get healthy - physically and financially.

Starting part time, with no large investment. There is no inventory, no accounts receivables. With all the tax advantages of a big business with very little expenses and you work from home.

Many are making High 5 to 6 income figures in 6 months.- to a year.

Are you open to a conversation?

Watch the videos <http://besetfree.me/>.

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

Proposed Rulemaking for Selection Process for Private Architectural and Engineering Firms

Sacramento – Notice is hereby given that the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) proposes to adopt California Code of Regulations Title 12, Division 2, Chapter 7, Subchapter 4, amended Sections 801.1, 803, 804, and 808 concerning the terms, definitions and selection process for private architectural and engineering firms.

CalVet has not scheduled a public hearing on this proposed action. However, CalVet will hold a hearing if it receives a written request for a public hearing from any interested person, or his or her authorized representative, no later than 15 days before the close of the written comment period.

Any interested person, or his or her authorized representative, may submit written comments relevant to the proposed regulatory action to CalVet. The written comment period is now open, and it closes at 5:00 p.m. on September 18, 2015. CalVet will only consider comments received at CalVet offices by that time.

Submit written comments to:

California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet)
Facilities and Business Services Division
Attention: Deanna Beland
1227 O Street, Suite 314

Sacramento, CA 95814

The Public Notice and proposed rulemaking package are available online at <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Proposed-Rulemaking.aspx>.

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 **2,288,399** 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 **12,476+** documents (**489** New Docs)
- FAQ's (**1,567** on-line now)
- Forums (with Licensed Mental Health Worker Moderator)
- Job Postings and Job Fairs (Updated 07/31/15 –19 **NEW** Listings **1** New Job Fair)
- Memorial Pages (**Updated 04/19/14**)
- News (Updated almost daily, **5,063** 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.

On the Go With TRICARE

Whether you travel for business or pleasure, TRICARE travels with you wherever you go. You should receive all routine care and get your prescriptions filled before traveling. Be sure to pack your medication in your carry-on luggage. While traveling, TRICARE's Nurse Advice Line (NAL) at 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273) can help you decide what type of care you need. A registered nurse can answer your urgent care questions and schedule next-day appointments at military hospitals and clinics if necessary. If you need prior authorization from your [regional contractor](#) for some services, find the

contact on the TRICARE website at www.tricare.mil/ContactUs/CallUs.aspx. US Family Health plan participants should call customer service 1-800-748-7347 for care. TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) beneficiaries can call the Nurse Advice Line, they will also need to call their [TOP Regional Call Center](#) to coordinate care. For more information about your health plan, visit the TRICARE website at www.tricare.mil.



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.

Updated 07/31/15 – 19 New jobs, 1 New Job fair

Links to other Stories

- 1) [A Bipartisan Plan to Make Washington Less Fireproof](#)
- 2) [Augusta VA supervisor accused of ordering falsified records](#)
- 3) [Candidate to head St. Louis VA hospital withdraws from consideration](#)
- 4) [Detroit VA Hospital 'Like A Third World Country' Claim Protesting Workers](#)
- 5) [Homeless Veterans buried with honors](#)
- 6) [House Leaning Toward VA 'Choice' Vote, but With Strings](#)
- 7) [Hundreds rally for VA health care reform at Hopkinton State Fair Grounds](#)
- 8) [Lawmaker pushes simple fix to complex VA care problem](#)
- 9) [Organizations team up to tackle homelessness](#)
- 10) [Questions remain about man's death in Murfreesboro VA parking lot](#)
- 11) [Roby bill would give VA new takeover authority](#)
- 12) [Texas Congressman Releases Own Data on VA Wait Times](#)
- 13) [The VA is an unnecessary bureaucracy](#)
- 14) [Thompson's bill to aid Veterans passes](#)
- 15) [Training flight medics](#)
- 16) [U.S. Senate candidate David Jolly introduces Veterans health care legislation](#)

- 17) [VA Employee Faces Criminal Charges in Connection With Cooking the Books](#)
- 18) [VA Hospital manager ordered jailed](#)**
- 19) [VA Kept Veterans Waiting More Than 100 Days For Care](#)**
- 20) [VA spin vs. health care reality](#)
- 21) [VA union submits report alleging dysfunction by agency superiors](#)
- 22) [Veterans Benefits Scandal: Whistleblower Alleges 34,000 Healthcare Application Backlog In Atlanta VA Center Was 'Intentional'](#)**
- 23) [Why Are Veterans Denied Access To Their VocRehab Records?](#)

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

House Passes VA Accountability Act

The House on Wednesday passed a bill that would make it easier to fire employees at the Veterans Affairs Department.

Despite a veto threat from the White House and widespread opposition from federal employee advocates, lawmakers approved in a 256-170 vote the [2015 VA Accountability Act](#), which would give the VA secretary much more flexibility to demote and fire corrupt or poor-performing employees, not just top officials.

The bill essentially would expand to the entire VA workforce the authority of the 2014 Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act, which made it [easier to get rid of senior executives](#) engaged in wrongdoing at the department.

Under H.R. 1994, the employee could file an appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board within seven days of his or her removal. MSPB would have to rule within 45 days of the appeal filing. The legislation also would limit the amount of time an employee can be on paid administrative leave to 14 days in a one-year period.

Due process for most of the federal workforce now requires that agencies notify employees within 30 days of an adverse action (including removal), and provide them with seven days to respond and an opportunity to defend themselves.

The bill also would extend the probationary period for new VA employees from one year to 18 months, and allow the secretary to extend that even further.

An amendment included in the bill offered by Rep. Dan Benishek (R-MI) would hold VA managers individually responsible for implementing recommendations from the inspector general on improving department operations, and would withhold performance awards from those who fail to do so.

Source: NAUS

Vets Pictures Sought in Indiana

A central Indiana man is on a mission to have a picture of every Hoosier hero killed in the Vietnam War. There are about 1,500 Hoosiers named in an online memorial called [The Wall of Faces](#). However, about 65 veterans still do not have a picture. David Hine has created a [Facebook page](#) in an attempt to locate the missing pictures. A list of veterans whose pictures are sought is available on the [Fox59.com website](#). If you have a picture of one of the veterans whose picture is not yet on The Wall of Faces, or know someone who does, contact Hine at mrdavidhine@att.net. For more information, visit the Wall of Faces webpage at www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/.



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@yahogroups.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 ~

Casting Call for American Military Families

Does your military family need a helping hand? Do you know a military family who needs support? Leftfield Entertainment, the production company who brought you Pawn Stars, American Restoration and Counting Cars, is casting a new "major broadcast network" show that's "dedicated to thanking American Military families across the country

for their service, while showcasing the brotherhood that makes our armed forces the finest in the world." For more details, see [this Under the Radar post](#).

Get the Guide: Your VA Loan Benefit Explained

Understanding your earned benefits can be confusing. Let this [free VA Loan Guide](#) help walk you through questions, requirements, advantages and more.

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!



"A lie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right, and evil doesn't become good, just because it's accepted by a majority."

~author unknown~

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:	14,429
Face Book Pages:	2,923
Yahoo:	99
Twitter:	33
Linked-In:	19,113,558
Other Social Media:	7,293
Courtesy Copies:	3,500
	19,141,835