



# **Veterans-*For*-Change Newsletter**

*A Voice of the Veterans*

**Week Ending Sunday, August 30, 2015**

Volume 6, Issue 35

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## ***This-N-That***

Recently there have been numerous articles on why the VA care is substandard. Now it's being blamed on lack of staffing which numbers approximately 41,000 job positions that are vacant nationwide.

No less than one in three important jobs such as registered nurses, doctors, and certified or licensed personnel and it's being blamed on the "complex hiring procedures!"

What seems to me to be a complex hiring situation is that most VA facilities are not actively seeking licensed professionals to fill the positions and it's all based on MONEY! The directors of each facility are still wanting to protect their bonuses which Congress made sure to protect in the most recent legislation passed and signed into law.

If they don't spend the money, then their bonuses are increased and again yet another reason why there should be absolutely NO bonuses for any government job.

You don't see their civilian counterparts getting bonuses like VA directors do, but we also don't see civilian counterparts having their jobs protected like they are with VA staff.

With VA Staff, evidence needs to be documented, piled up, collected, then presented to some Judge who determines who is and is not terminated. Then if that person decides to protest, they continue to draw their salary while the termination decision is appealed, and again this could drag on forever and in some cases they are allowed to continue to work while under appeal.

Personally I believe all VA Hospital Positions, in fact all government positions should be considered a hire "At Will" so that termination is immediate, no judge involved, and no delays and the position could be filled immediately with someone who actually wants the job and not just the paycheck. By someone who is compassionate and caring, and wants to provide the best medical care their training and licensing allows them to provide and maybe someone who is willing to go the extra mile for our Veterans.

Then we have Presidential hopeful, Ben Carson who is coming out and now saying the VA should be shut down and eliminated and saving taxpayers billions of dollars.

Funny thing, almost all the nationally chartered Veteran Service Organizations are actually speaking out saying this is a huge mistake, and for once I agree.

The VA Healthcare system can be fixed, but they need the leadership with the guts to actually take the steps needed and a Congress to back that person, and a President who will sign the appropriate bill to eliminate bad staff without a judges approval.

They also need to put together a central purchasing system to make use of the serious buying power of the Government with distribution centers by region.

Billions of dollars could be saved using this kind of buying power and central distribution centers. Each VA Medical Center would have set levels of each item they need, and on a per use charge type system which most civilian hospitals already have been using for well over a decade would automatically have a purchase order sent to the distribution center and would be delivered before they were to run out.

Something I have personally been pushing with several members of Congress for a while now, along with a central claims processing computer system reducing paperwork, and being far more productive and eliminating the need for human intervention as much as possible thus reducing denials, and errors.

We're still receiving E-Mails from all over the country where wait times are not changing or improving in many locations, and we're also being told in some locations it has improved, but the areas where no improvement or has become worse outweighs the locations where improvement has been seen.

Another area we finally found out has changed dramatically and it seems for the worse is the VA Homefront program for our Homeless and "at risk" Veterans.

The program was being run from a DC office, and seems now they have "farmed out" the operations to various private charities with the exception of the main call center.

We don't have any more details yet, but as soon as they come in we will let you know how it's working or not working as it appears the case may be.

Betty, our Director of Operation Mail call is prepping more packages to go out, and we need 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!

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](mailto:Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org)

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### ***Senator Introduces Border Jobs for Veterans Act***

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D. NY) recently introduced in Congress the announced the Border Jobs for Veterans Act. The legislation would require the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security to recruit and expedite the hiring of veterans for positions as U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers. Information on this legislation is available on the U.S. Congress website at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1603>.

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### ***DoD Caregivers Program***

In such cases where severely wounded, ill or injured troops are incapable of fully managing their day-to-day affairs on their own, the military offers the option of non-medical attendants (NMAs) who serve as live-in caregivers to help these troops as they continue treatment and work to recover. Along with helping with the normal daily activities of shopping, cleaning, cooking, laundry and assisting patients with appointments, NMAs help prepare medications, ensuring proper dosage for patients and keeping them on schedule for taking their medication. They are also required to motivate patients to work on their transition plans to include such things as future employment/education goals, keep up their spirits and serve as an advocate for the Soldier with regard to medical and administrative issues. Once approved as an NMA, the caregiver receives orders allowing them to live on base with their Soldier. For more information, contact your local medical treatment facility.

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## ***Dogs Helping Veterans Cope with PTSD***

Bill Wall, a clinical social worker who had served in the military for 30 years, is one of many who advocates service dogs as part of treatment for PTSD. Wall, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, says, "You can feel a lot more safe with a dog around you... The dog has been trained to pick up on any fear or anxiety you might be feeling. They can actually smell it. The dog then does something to distract you or make you feel less anxious. When you become overloaded, the dog knows it and helps you refocus. Even before you realize you're overloaded, the dog will pick up on it. For example, if you're in a crowd of people and you begin showing subtle signs of distress, your dog will try to create a buffer zone around you. The dog is trying to give you a sense of safety."

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## ***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>

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## ***VA Revises Service Animal Rules***

The Department of Veterans Affairs 2015 has announced that it has revised its regulation regarding the presence of animals on VA property. Under the revised regulation, only dogs that are individually trained to perform work or tasks on behalf of an individual with a disability will be considered service animals. Other animals will not be permitted in VA facilities, unless expressly allowed as an exception under the regulation for activities such as animal-assisted therapy or for other reasons such as law enforcement purposes. The dogs may be restricted from certain areas on VA properties to ensure that patient care, patient safety, and infection control standards are not compromised. VA will provide training to frontline employees and ensure policies at all facilities are consistent with the new regulation.

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## ***Memorial Sculpture Unveiled in Chattanooga***

A sculpture honoring the four Marines and one Sailor who were killed in Navy Operational Support Center Chattanooga shooting on July 16 is set to be unveiled at 9 a.m., EDT, on Sept. 1 at Sculpture Fields in Montague Park in Chattanooga, TN. The abstract sculpture entitled "Five Anchors Strong" will be about 60 feet tall. Visitors to the park will be able to walk through and stand inside the sculpture. The sculpture is being created by Peter Lundberg, a sculptor from Middlebury, Vt.

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## Government Accountability Office (GAO) Reports

Vehicle Safety Inspections: Improved DOT Communication Could Better Inform State Programs.  
<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-705>

Regionally Aligned Forces: DOD Could Enhance Army Brigades' Efforts in Africa by Improving Activity Coordination and Mission-Specific Preparation. [www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-568](http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-568)

Weapon System Acquisitions: Opportunities Exist to Improve the Department of Defense's Portfolio Management  
<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-466>

VA Health Care: Actions Needed to Assess Decrease in Root Cause Analyses of Adverse Events  
<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-643>

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### Navy Updates Sexual Assault Prevention Instruction

The U.S. Navy 21st Century Sailor Office has announced the release of an updated instruction governing the Sexual Assault and Prevention Response (SAPR) program. OPNAVINST 1752.1C is the first update since 2006 and contains updates relating to safety assessment requirements, SAPR training requirements, retaliation initiatives, Reserve Component services, and availability of the Victims' Legal Counsel program. The updated instruction is available at [www.navy.mil/docs/OPNAVINST-1752-1C.pdf](http://www.navy.mil/docs/OPNAVINST-1752-1C.pdf).

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

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### TRICARE Co-Pays and Cost Shares Adding Up?

Doctor and hospital bills are expensive even when you're covered by TRICARE. Help minimize or even eliminate out-of-pocket expenses with the MBA-sponsored [TRICARE Insurance Supplement Plan](#).

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### VFC Website Update

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 **2,338,081** 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 12,900 documents, various VA and DoD forms.

**[www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)**

- Documents Library with over **140** different libraries and over **12,953+** documents (**966** total New Docs)
- FAQ's (**1,567** on-line now)
- Forums (with Licensed Mental Health Worker Moderator)
- Job Postings and Job Fairs (Updated 08/21/15 –26 **NEW** Jobs & 2 **NEW** Job Fairs)
- Memorial Pages (**Updated 04/19/14**)
- News (Updated almost daily, **5,142** articles on-line)
- Web Links (**1,586** Active Links)(**Updated 08/16/15**)

The documents library has many different categories and contains more than 55 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](mailto: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.

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## **Proposed Rulemaking for State Veteran Cemeteries Monuments and Memorials (Adopt CCR §462)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) proposes to adopt regulations described in the Notice of Public Rulemaking available on the CalVet website at the link below.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that any interested person, or his or her duly authorized representative, may submit written comments relevant to the proposed regulatory action to:

California Department of Veterans Affairs  
Northern California Veterans Cemetery  
Attention: Mark George  
11800 Gas Point Road  
Igo, CA 96047  
Telephone: 530-396-2429  
Fax: 530-396-2523

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to [mark.george@calvet.ca.gov](mailto:mark.george@calvet.ca.gov). Comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on September 11, 2015. The CalVet will only consider comments received at the CalVet offices by that time.

The Public Notice and proposed rulemaking package are also available for viewing in the California Department of Veterans Affairs lobby at 1227 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 and online with the at <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Proposed-Rulemaking.aspx>.



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.

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](mailto: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.

**To be updated by 7pm PST 08/28/15**

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### **Links to other Stories**

- 1) [Aeromedical Evacuation teams keep patients moving](#)
- 2) [An open letter to the President, Congress and Secretary Bob McDonald](#)
- 3) [Army Reserve command helps increase medical readiness](#)
- 4) [At some VA hospitals, half of critical positions unfilled](#)
- 5) [Congressmen Predict Continued Defense Budget Cuts and Government Shutdown](#)
- 6) [Connecticut ends chronic homelessness among Veterans](#)
- 7) [Don't get "computer eyes"](#)
- 8) [Entrepreneurship Programs Help Vets Transition to Private Sector](#)
- 9) [Lawyer: Bay Pines VA Health System faces scrutiny after lawsuit](#)
- 10) [Los Angeles VA was caught shredding Veterans benefits claims without processing](#)
- 11) [Make Sure You're Ready When Severe Weather Strikes](#)
- 12) [MHS Research Symposium wraps up, but knowledge gained will save lives for years to come](#)
- 13) [Military Blood Program Plans for the Future](#)
- 14) [Service members discharged for misconduct have much higher rates of homelessness, study says](#)
- 15) [TRICARE Pharmacy Rules Changing for Maintenance, Brand-name Drugs](#)
- 16) [VA Announces New Rules Regarding Service Animals in VA Facilities](#)
- 17) [VA hospital at fault in Marine Veteran's death](#)
- 18) [VA scandal fallout: federal employee groups fight over 'hit list' targeting managers](#)
- 19) [Veterans Affairs Continues to Struggle 1 in 3 Important Jobs Remain Unfilled at VA hospitals](#)
- 20) [Vets groups upset with Carson's plan to eliminate VA](#)

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](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)

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### **Army Exceptional Family Member Program**

Soldiers who have family members with special needs can turn to the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP). EFMP provides community support, housing, medical, educational and personnel services to Army families with an exceptional family member. An exceptional family member is a spouse, child or dependent parent with any physical, emotional, developmental or intellectual disorder that requires special treatment, therapy, training or counseling. Soldiers initiate enrollment in the program by contacting their nearest Army Medical Treatment Facility EFMP case coordinator. For more information, visit the Army EFMP website at [efmp.amedd.army.mil](http://efmp.amedd.army.mil) and the Military One Source website at [www.militaryonesource.mil/efmp](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/efmp).

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## ***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](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](mailto: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!

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### ***Avoid Urgent Care in Medical Emergencies***

If you are a TRICARE beneficiary and you have an emergency, make sure you go to an emergency room in order to ensure insurance coverage of cost. Use of urgent care coverage depends on your plan and, unlike emergency care, requires an official referral in order to be covered. Read more about urgent care coverage here:  
<http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/IsItCovered/UrgentCare.aspx>.

For advice, you can also call the TRICARE Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-874-2273, option 1. When calling the Nurse Advice Line, you will talk with a registered nurse who can give you healthcare advice, help you find a doctor or schedule a next-day appointment at a military hospital or clinic.

There are even pediatric nurses who can assist you and will call you back to check on your child. For more information, visit the TRICARE Emergency Care website: <http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/IsItCovered/EmergencyCare.aspx>.

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### ***Reconstructing Lost Military Records***

The blaze that ripped through the National Personnel Records Center in a St. Louis suburb shortly after midnight on July 12, 1973, consumed 16 million to 18 million official military personnel files in the days before computers kept such records safe. Few could have predicted the harm it would visit on the veterans who were denied VA benefits—some to this day—because they could not reconstruct their military service files.

Veterans whose records have been lost can fill out a specific form at the National Archives website (<http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/na-13055-info-2-reconstruct-medical-data.pdf>) that authorizes the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) to search for other types of documents that would assist the veteran with their VA healthcare access or compensation claim, or for valuable research their family member's service history.

For more information, visit the Department of Veterans Affairs website for veterans whose records were destroyed: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/NPRC1973Fire.asp>.

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### ***Communicate with Your Elected Officials***

In order to help shipmates communicate with elected officials in support of FRA-led initiatives, the Association publishes a guidebook, *Communicate with your Elected Officials*, which contains information for contacting your lawmakers by phone, mail, fax or e-mail. It also includes guidelines and suggestions for composing, addressing and sending correspondence.

Printed with the generous support of GEICO, the handbook is an adjunct to the FRA Action Center (<http://action.fra.org/action-center>) and is part of FRA's ongoing campaign to encourage citizens to be active participants in the legislative process.

To receive your free copy of *Communicate with your Elected Officials*, contact FRA at 1-800-FRA-1924 (ext. 108) or e-mail your request (and mailing address) to Victoria Duran at [VictoriaD@fra.org](mailto:VictoriaD@fra.org). Written requests may be sent to Fleet Reserve Association, Attn: Communicate, 125 N West Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2754.

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### ***VA Achieves Major Milestone in Backlog Reduction***

The Department of Veterans Affairs said on Monday that its disability claims backlog has fallen below 100,000 for the first time after reaching an historic high two years ago. Allison Hickey, the VA undersecretary for benefits, said the current backlog of 98,535 claims older than 125 days is the lowest since the agency started measuring the claims backlog in 2007. The decrease has not come at the expense of quality, Hickey said. Accuracy of disability decisions has improved from about 83 percent in 2011 to 91 percent today, she said. The gains were achieved in part through use of mandatory overtime for employees in the benefits division, a practice Hickey says officials hope to stop in September.

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### ***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 <b>FREE</b> Number:	866-272-6622

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***~ We Proudly Support Our Military Personnel & Families ~***

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### ***Relatively Unknown VA Benefits***

Here are several ancillary Department of Veterans Affairs 2015 programs some veterans may not be aware of: (1) Aid and Attendance ([www.benefits.va.gov/pension/aid\\_attendance\\_housebound.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/aid_attendance_housebound.asp)) — veterans may be eligible to receive money to cover the cost of nursing homes, assisted living programs and other long-term care options; (2) Burial Benefits ([www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial\\_benefits/index.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/index.asp)) — provides a U.S. Flag to drape over the veteran's casket, a Presidential Memorial Certificate, and a free grave stone or head marker; (3) the GI Bill ([www.military.com/education/gi-bill](http://www.military.com/education/gi-bill)) — offers up to \$2,000 to help cover the cost of certification courses or other vocational training programs.; (4) Life Insurance ([www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/)) — veterans may receive up to \$400,000 in life insurance through Veterans'



Group Life Insurance program; (5) Housing Assistance ([www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/documents/docs/foreclosure\\_avoidance\\_fact\\_sheet.PDF](http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/documents/docs/foreclosure_avoidance_fact_sheet.PDF)) – mortgage repayment assistance and additional benefits for homeless veterans. Find an American Legion service officer at [www.legion.org/serviceofficers](http://www.legion.org/serviceofficers) to assist with VA benefit claims.

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### ***AF Enlisted to Medical Degree Prep Applications***

The Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program offers active duty enlisted Airmen an opportunity to complete the preparatory coursework for admission to medical school while maintaining active duty status and full pay and benefits. For information on the application criteria, visit the myPers [Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program page](#). Applicants who meet all eligibility criteria must email an intent to apply statement to the Physician Education Branch by Oct. 2. Applicants will be notified by Oct. 23 whether or not they have been released from their career field to compete for selection. Once notified of their eligibility, Airmen must submit their application for the Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program by Dec. 4.

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### ***Legion Offers Booklet to Assist with Transition***

Now that the Department of Defense has granted veterans service organizations greater access to military installations to provide support for troops and their families, the American Legion has created a new publication as a resource for departments, districts and posts. The booklet, "Access Granted: Benefits," provides ways Legion members can gain access to military installations and connect with service members. Download "Access Granted: Assisting Troops with Transition Benefits" from the American Legion website at [www.legion.org/publications/229409/access-granted](http://www.legion.org/publications/229409/access-granted). Additional resources are available at [www.legion.org/security/resources](http://www.legion.org/security/resources).

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### ***Louisiana Launches Homegrown by Heroes Program***

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry recently announced its new Homegrown by Heroes program, which will help consumers identify a product as one that is grown in Louisiana and by a military veteran. Also, there will be marketing materials available that will help enhance the veterans' visibility to better market these products. Veterans can be gardening as a hobby or farming as a career. The distinctive logo that will be used is red, white and blue. For more information about Homegrown by Heroes, contact Jeremy Hendrix at 225-952-8155 or email [jhendrix@ldaf.la.gov](mailto:jhendrix@ldaf.la.gov).

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### ***Remember Being a Sailor in the 80s?***

Every generation has a slightly different experience of military service. For 13 things that no longer exist but you'll remember if you served in the US Navy in the 1980s, see [this Under the Radar post](#).

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### ***DoD Identifies Air Force Casualties***

The Department of Defense announced today the deaths of two airmen who were supporting Operation Freedom's Sentinel. They died of wounds suffered Aug. 26 when the vehicle they were traveling in was attacked near Camp Antonik, Afghanistan.

Killed were:

Capt. Matthew D. Roland, 27, of Lexington, Kentucky. He was assigned to the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Florida.

Staff Sgt. Forrest B. Sibley, 31, of Pensacola, Florida. He was assigned to the 21st Special Tactics Squadron, Pope Army Airfield, North Carolina.

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## **MyVA Communities**

Colleagues and Fellow Veterans,

Recently, VA announced a locally led, community-driven model called **MyVA Communities**. Secretary McDonald recognized the need for a local community-based network that brings together local stakeholders, Servicemembers, Veterans, families and service providers to improve outcomes for the Veteran community. San Diego was the inspiration with a long-standing *One VA Community Advocacy Board* that has proven to be successful for over 20 years. When the model was first developed, Connecticut VA Leaders stepped up to the plate to spark an interest in their local community and inspired local community leaders to take on the challenge.

The first Public Forum for the Connecticut Community Veterans Engagement Board was held on August 27, 2015 in New Britain, CT. This forum was open to the public and VA hopes that these forums provide an opportunity for everyone's voice to be heard and contribute to their local community.

Now over 60 sites are moving forward to connect with local community leaders to start their own community veterans' engagement boards or leverage existing groups with a similar mission. Many Veteran advocacy groups currently exist and the goal is to integrate within those groups and where any gaps exist, encourage those groups to adopt the *MyVA Community* model.

These community veterans engagement boards are Co-chaired and driven by local community leaders and include representatives from all three VA Administrations on the board membership (VBA, VHA, and NCA). Public forums are an integral part of the model to encourage open communication, transparency, all-inclusivity, education, and networking.

We hope and expect that VBA will be actively engaged in these community efforts and continue to leverage the strengths of our Veterans Economic Communities Initiative (VECI) as part of the *MyVA Community* Model.

As an individual living and working in the community, you may receive questions about *MyVA Communities*. You can visit the *MyVA Communities* webpage to view the *MyVA Community* Playbook and Toolkit, <http://www.va.gov/icbc/myVA.asp>, and send any questions via email to [MyVACommunities@va.gov](mailto:MyVACommunities@va.gov).

V/R  
Curtis L. Coy  
Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity  
Veterans Benefits Administration  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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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](mailto: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.*

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



A man who is good enough to shed his blood for the country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards.

~Theodore Roosevelt~

## ***Veterans-For-Change, Inc.***

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today  
[www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)

*Serving those who served!*

***Please pass to all your Veteran friends and family!***

<b>Distribution</b>	
Express Mail:	14,431
Face Book Pages:	2,920
Yahoo:	102
Twitter:	28
US Army	14,233
US Navy	6,781
US Marines	6,360
Dept of VA	5,616
Washington DC	38,001
New York	26,999
Los Angeles	19,261
Boston	17,568
Veterans	18,987,609
Other Social Media:	10,107
Courtesy Copies:	3,500
	<b>19,153,516</b>