



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

*A Voice of the Veterans*

**Week Ending Sunday, November 22, 2015**

Volume 6, Issue 47

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

I think just about every Veteran across the country has seen, read or heard about many issues that have come out for the past few years, many through the grape vine, and more through media.

Not long ago a VA doctor who was not even trained or certified was performing nuclear medicine procedures on Veterans with cancer and placing cancer treatment beads in wrong locations, or in amounts too great and all causing more and more damage.

We also heard about the VA Director who closed his Emergency Room for "lack of use" to divert his funds to a Bio-Hazard unit for a disease we've never seen in the USA thus saving thousands of dollars every year but also causing the death of a Veteran in his own parking lot who needed emergency care, and family was told later on "you should have called first we would have directed you to a civilian ER!"

We also heard about the Veteran in the hospital who was having a heart attack and they had to call an ambulance to transport the Veteran from one side of the VA less than 500 yards to the ER who also died.

Then there were many other issues such as cross contamination from improper cleaning of instruments passing on Hep C and HIV/AIDS, and Legionnaires Disease in several VA Hospitals.

To the most recent of VA Hospitals cooking the books on appointment lists, and all these efforts were to save on their individual location budgets and to increase their BONUSES, which Congress made darn sure they were protected.

Now we have reports coming out where thousands of Veteran Affairs employees we placed on paid leave, some ranging from just a few month to others from one to three years, and no real reason for it, no monitoring as to the length of time or even stopping the pay or putting them back to work to the tune of \$700 million dollars.

To add further insult, President Obama had vowed to Veto the NDAA budget if he didn't get his \$1.2 trillion dollar cut, then "borrowed" \$1 Billion from the VA budget to fund his Syrian Refugee relocation into the USA.

All of these and much more combined tell me that there isn't a single person in Congress, let alone any Government position who is compassionate toward those who have served, sacrificing family and life to protect and defend our country, that their word means nothing what-so-ever!

I've been in relatively continual communication with a Veteran who is an activist in the Philippines who tells me that getting help for Veterans there is just as bad if not worse. Part of that are the Veteran Service Organizations who will not help, nor will they assist any Veteran who is not a member of their organization! And that's not just with financial aid, that's claims and benefits too.

Many Veterans move to the Philippines because it's a lot cheaper to live there and on what little benefits they get, that was there only choice, other wise like here in the states, would end up being homeless!

What is the solution to all these problems? To be honest part of this problem is Veterans are so discouraged from being lied to, denied, delayed that they just give up. The rest who have not given up still just don't trust anyone.

Frankly I don't blame them not one damn bit! You shouldn't have to risk family or life like you have only to come home to have to fight your own country to keep the promises they've made. You should have to fight for medical care and a mere pittance of a benefit to sustain life.

And I just don't see where any of the national organizations fulfilling their mission statements and fighting for you, yet you still pay membership dues or became an annual member.

Are the lower prices in their bar's, the weekly fish or spaghetti dinners, periodic BBQ's all worth it?

Please feel to send me your idea's and suggestions, and let me know what your idea of a solution might be!

Thank you all for your service, dedication and courage! I for one very much appreciate all you have done!

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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### ***One-Time Payment in Lieu of COLA***

On October, 15, 2015, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announced that due to low inflation this year, no cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) would be made in 2016 for Social Security beneficiaries. Since that decision would also apply to veterans receiving financial benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, DAV issued a Commander's Action Network alert on November 4, 2015, calling on our members and supporters to contact their House Members and Senators to urge them to introduce and enact legislation that would guarantee a reasonable COLA for wounded, injured, and ill veterans and their dependents and survivors.

Senator Elizabeth Warren and 18 of her colleagues have jointly introduced a bill, S. 2251, the Seniors and Veterans Emergency Benefit Act. The bill would provide veterans and others in receipt of VA financial support a one-time payment of about \$580 (calculated based on 3.9 percent of the average annual Social Security payment). This one-time payment would soften the financial blow associated with the lack of an increase through a COLA, and the payment would be tax free. Payments would be disbursed to beneficiaries beginning 120 days after enactment. Even if eligible for multiple federal benefits payments, individuals could receive only one payment under this bill.

A one-time payment is not comparable to an annual COLA, and a one-time payment becomes less valuable to more seriously disabled veterans because of their higher cost of living. However, in absence of a COLA or other viable alternative, DAV calls upon its members and supporters to contact their elected officials in Congress and urge their support, co-sponsorship and passage of S. 2251. A letter for this purpose has been prepared for your use, or you may write a personalized message to inform your House Member and Senators of your support for this bill.

Thank you for your participation in the Commander's Action Network, and for your support of DAV and our mission on behalf of wounded, injured and ill wartime veterans. Your activism makes DAV a more effective organization.

Click the link below to log in and send your message:

<https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/MHQ3KWRkZj9QnxZVqoeo5w>

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### ***TRICARE Covers Record 2M Flu Shots***

TRICARE has surpassed the two million mark on the number of flu vaccines given through retail pharmacies since the TRICARE Retail Vaccination program began in 2010. TRICARE covers two forms of the flu vaccine, the flu shot and Flu Mist. If you choose to get your flu vaccine in a retail pharmacy, you must make sure to get it from the pharmacist. Some retail pharmacies now include medical clinics, but if someone other than a pharmacist (like a nurse, doctor or physician's

assistant) administers the vaccine, TRICARE may not cover it. TRICARE also covers vaccines when you get them from your primary care doctor. Depending on your TRICARE plan, you may have to pay a copay for the office visit. Active duty service members need to follow their Service policy for getting and reporting vaccines. For more information, visit the [TRICARE Flu Resources webpage](#).

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## ***Legislative Update***

From Military-Veterans Advocacy (please go to our Facebook page and like us). Report from Capitol Hill. Military-Veterans Advocacy spent the last week in Washington advocating for veterans issues. Executive Director, Commander John B Wells, USN (retired) met with the Committee staffs for the Majority and Minority on both the House and Senate side.

This week was unusual because Congress was out of session, there were a number of court cases and everything was closed for Veterans Day. That gave me a great “veg time” which I used to wander around the various veterans monuments. I found this inspiring.

HR 969/S 681, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015 continues to be the focus of much of MVA’s work. This bill is supported by virtually every veterans organization. I am happy to report that MOAA, the American Legion, VFW, FRA, AUSN and others have consistently focused this bill in their sessions with members of the House and Senate. Their comments, as well as our on have been well received.

HR 969 has 289 co-sponsor and the Senate version S 681 has 34 co-sponsors. It is on the radar of both the House and Senate Committee Chairman. Two things are holding the bill up at this point. First the Congressional Budget Office score which is required to go over. CBO has missed two deadlines and the Committee is continuing to pressure them. The second holdup is the VA draft regulation to be issued in response to Gray v. McDonald which is supposedly over at the White House. Both of these items will directly affect the cost of the bill and the need to identify any offsets.

The Senate Committee staffs (both Democrat and Republican) have been trying to contact the VA to find the status on the regulation. So far there has been no response. Notably a planned meeting between a supporting Veterans Service Organization and Secretary McDonald was postponed until next year with little notice. One staffer told me that a “cone of silence” had descended over the VA on this issue.

Consequently I met with two other attorneys Friday morning concerning pending Da Nang harbor cases that had been disapproved by the Board of Veterans Appeals. We are all filing next week and intend to cooperate on the cases, ask the court for expedited consideration and possible consolidate cases. Accordingly, it is important that if anyone knows of a Da Nang Harbor case denied post-Gray that the veteran or his/her attorney contact me immediately. We need to coordinate these matters. Contact me via e-mail at [jwells@hillandponton.com](mailto:jwells@hillandponton.com) or instant message me.

I also met with the House Committee on HR 1769 the Toxic Exposure Research Act. They are working on fine tuning the bill. Again, the CBO is required to score the bill and there is no indication when that will happen.

We also won a Motion to Dismiss on a military religious freedom case. Based on a recent court decision, there was a strong possibility that the case would be dismissed because of a relatively obscure administrative remedy. The government agreed, however, that we had began the compliance and we were able to convince the Judge to continue the matter to allow the Service Secretary to respond.

I also had a very good oral argument on a case not connected to Military-Veterans Advocacy. I also conducted a one hour webinar on veteran’s law for the Federal Bar Association.

I will return to Washington DC on December 8. Our goal is to meet with the House leadership on HR 969 and to follow up on the post-Gray litigation.

I realize that some of you think this is an endless process. I started going to the Hill in 2010 and this version of the Bill was introduced in the autumn of 2011. I was told it takes 5-7 years to get a “new money” bill through Congress. So we are on schedule. This is not the time to give up hope. Keep the cards and letters coming to Members of Congress and the Senate as well as the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and the White House.

Commander John Wells, USN (Ret.)

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## ***Job Opening: VA Under Secretary for Benefits***

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that it is convening a commission that will make recommendations to the President for the appointment of VA's next Under Secretary for Benefits (USB). VA is required by law to convene a commission. The position announcement for Under Secretary for Benefits (USB) is on the [USAJOBS website](#). The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) provides a variety of benefits and services to service members, Veterans, and their families. For more information, visit the [Veterans Benefits Administration website](#).

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### ***Government Accountability Office (GAO) Reports***

Small Business: Action Needed to Determine Whether DOD's Comprehensive Subcontracting Plan Test Program Should Be Made Permanent. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-27>

Financial Audit: Federal Housing Finance Agency's Fiscal Years 2015 and 2014 Financial Statements. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-95R>

Financial Audit: Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection's Fiscal Years 2015 and 2014 Financial Statements. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-96R>

Financial Audit: Securities and Exchange Commission's Fiscal Years 2015 and 2014 Financial Statements. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-145R>

Performance and Accountability Report Fiscal Year 2015. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-3SP>

Screening Partnership Program: TSA Can Benefit from Improved Cost Estimates. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-19>

Military Recruiting: Army National Guard Needs to Continue Monitoring, Collect Better Data, and Assess Incentives Programs. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-36>

National Security Personnel: Committed Leadership Is Needed for Implementation of Interagency Rotation Program. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-57>

DOD Manufacturing Arsenal: Actions Needed to Identify and Sustain Critical Capabilities. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-86>

Screening Partnership Program: Improved Cost Estimates Can Enhance Program Decision Making, by Jennifer Grover, director, homeland security and justice, before the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, House Committee on Homeland Security. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-115T>

Information Security: Federal Agencies Need to Better Protect Sensitive Data, by Joel C. Willemssen, managing director, information technology, before the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, House Committee on Homeland Security. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-194T>

SEC Conflict Minerals Rule: Insights from Companies' Initial Disclosures and State and USAID Actions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo Region, by Kimberly Gianopoulos, director, international affairs and trade, before the Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade, House Committee on Financial Services. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-200T>

Information Security: Department of Education and Other Federal Agencies Need to Better Implement Controls, by Gregory C. Wilshusen, director, information security issues, before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-228T>

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency: Key Factors Drive Transition of Technologies, but Better Training and Data Dissemination Can Increase Success. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-5>

DOD Inventory of Contracted Services: Actions Needed to Help Ensure Inventory Data Are Complete and Accurate. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-46>

Federal Student Loans: Key Weaknesses Limit Education's Management of Contractors, by Melissa Emrey-Arras, director, education, workforce, and income security, before the Subcommittee on Government Operations, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training, House Committee on Education and the Workforce. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-196T>

VA Benefits: Outcome Measures and More Outreach Would Enhance the Post-9/11 On-the-Job Training and Apprenticeship Programs, by Andrew Sherrill, director, education, workforce, and income security, before the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-215T>

U.S. Secret Service: Data Analyses Could Better Inform the Domestic Field Office Structure. [http://www.gao.gov/restricted/restricted\\_reports](http://www.gao.gov/restricted/restricted_reports)

Federal Real Property: Additional Authorities and Accountability Would Enhance the Implementation of the Federal Buildings Personnel Training Act of 2010. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-39>

Bulk Fuel Pricing: DOD Needs to Take Additional Actions to Establish a More Reliable Methodology. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-78R>

Critical Infrastructure Protection: Sector-Specific Agencies Need to Better Measure Cybersecurity Progress. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-79>

Highlights of a Forum: Preparing for Climate-Related Risks: Lessons from the Private Sector. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-126SP>

Medicare Part B: Expenditures for New Drugs Concentrated among a Few Drugs, and Most Were Costly for Beneficiaries. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-12>

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### ***Didn't Know You're a Caregiver?***

A Defense Department office is on the prowl to make sure the caregivers of wounded and ill service members — including those who don't really think of themselves as caregivers — have access to the resources they offer. The Office of Warrior Care Policy has been around since 2008, integrating all the different DoD wounded warrior care programs like IDES, the adaptive sports program and caretaker support into one office.

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### ***TRICARE and Open Enrollment***

The open enrollment period for [HealthCare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) is November 1, 2015 to January 31, 2016 for 2016 coverage. Most TRICARE beneficiaries do not need to worry about open enrollment. However, for beneficiaries who are not eligible for TRICARE coverage, have lost or are losing coverage, or may qualify to purchase a TRICARE premium-based health plan ([TYA](#), [TRR](#), [TRS](#) or [CHCBP](#)) you can utilize this open enrollment period to see if there are other health coverage options that work best for you and your family. If you want to explore your local coverage options outside of TRICARE, go to [HealthCare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov). You can find out if you qualify for financial assistance and review coverage plans offered in your area without having to submit an application. Just indicate that you do not currently have coverage when using the portal. For more information, call the call [HealthCare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) toll free line at 1-800-318-2596 or TTY: 1-855-889-4324.

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### ***On-the-Job Training (OJT) and Apprenticeship Programs***

Colleagues and Fellow Veterans,

For more than a century, education, as we know it, has traditionally been in a classroom setting. Before this more modern arrangement, there was apprenticeship. Nowadays, apprentices are productive members of the workforce who have chosen to master their craft as they train on the job and in the classroom.

VA is no stranger to the apprenticeship movement. Did you know...Veterans can use their education benefits, including the Post-9/11 GI Bill, to pursue on-the-job (OJT) and apprenticeship training?

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) OJT/Apprenticeship program is a simple and effective way to attract and increase retention of well-disciplined Veterans into hard-to-fill positions and provide them with the specific skills and knowledge needed to perform their duties.

The OJT/APP program allows Veterans to learn a trade or skill through structured training and close supervision on the job rather than attending formal classroom instruction. The program is available through both, non-Federal and Federal agencies/entities.

Employers generally pay a reduced OJT/apprenticeship wage (must be at least 50% of journeyman wage). Unless the training establishment is operated by a Federal, State, or local government, periodic wage increases must be granted and by the last full month of training, the wage must be at least 85% of the wage for a fully trained employee. Veterans in an approved program can use their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefit and receive a tax-free housing stipend which is the equivalent of the Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) of an E-5 with dependents. The stipend starts at 100% and decreases by 20% every six months as wages increase. Stipend payments for other GI Bill programs are found here:

[http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/benefits\\_resources/rate\\_tables.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/benefits_resources/rate_tables.asp)

Help us get the word out, as these programs provide an excellent opportunity and benefit to Veterans and employers alike.

Veterans benefit from these programs through improved skills and competencies that meet the specific needs of the employer, incremental wage increases as their skills improve, occupation-focused education, and career advancement.

Employer benefits include increased productivity, enhanced retention, and a stable and predictable pipeline for the development of qualified workers.

Federal employers can start the OJT approval process by contacting the Education Liaison Representative (ELR) who has jurisdiction over their state. A list of ELRs with contact information can be found on VA's website at [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/education\\_resources/school\\_certifying\\_officials/elr.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/education_resources/school_certifying_officials/elr.asp).

For information and approval requirements related to non-federal OJT/APP programs, please contact your local State Approving Agency (SAA). Requirements generally entail submitting a training request form that specifically outlines the proposed program, wages, and standard workweek information, as well as the company contact name and phone number. SAA contact information can be found on VA's website at <http://www.nasaa-vetseducation.com/Contacts.aspx>.

In addition, VA and the Department of Labor have collaborated to streamline GI Bill approval for DoL registered apprenticeships, as these training programs are deemed approved for GI Bill benefits. For more information on the registration process, please contact your state representative. Contact information can be found at <http://www.doleta.gov/oa/contactlist.cfm>.

To find out more about OJT and Apprenticeship, download our Factsheet at [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/factsheets/OJT\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/factsheets/OJT_Factsheet.pdf). Also, you can search the GI Bill Comparison Tool at [www.vets.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool/](http://www.vets.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool/) to determine if your current program is approved.

V/R

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

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

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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 2,100 and 3,000 visitors per day and have had **2,456,427** 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 **14,417+** documents
- FAQ's (**1,567** on-line now) (**Updated 04/05/15**)
- Forums (**with Licensed Mental Health Worker Moderator**)
- Job Postings and Job Fairs (Updated 11/13/15 **21** New Jobs and **0** New Job Fair)
- Memorial Pages (**Updated 04/19/14**)
- News (Updated almost daily, **5,336** articles on-line)
- Web Links (**1,588** Active Links)(**Updated 10/23/15**)

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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### ***Best and Worst Cities for Veterans***

A new study by WalletHub has found the best and worst cities for veterans in 2015. Using 18 metrics, WalletHub ranked 100 cities in the United States for service member livability. Economic wellness in the results is comprised of factors like the unemployment rate, percentage of military skill-related jobs, job growth rate, housing affordability and other indicators. WalletHub used medical appointments as a proxy for assessing the overall quality of medical facilities. The results of the study are available on the [WalletHub website](#).

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### ***Fed to Provide Vets With Time Off for Medical***

President Barack Obama has signed a bill aimed at giving federal workers who are also veterans extra time off to seek medical care. The new law provides the employees with 104 hours of "Wounded Warrior leave" during their first year in the federal workforce so that they can seek medical treatment for service-connected disabilities without being forced to take unpaid leave or forego their appointments. For more information and the [text of the legislation](#), visit [Representative Stephen Lynch's website](#).

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***Follow Veterans-For-Change on Twitter***



<https://twitter.com/Veterans4Change>

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### ***Dog Tag Buddies***

The new organization Dog Tag Buddies will train rescue dogs and place them in the homes of veterans suffering with, among other casualties of war, post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. The organization is working with shelters and rescue agencies in the Billings, Montana area to help veterans find a companion or service dog. Dog Tag Buddies trainers will work one-on-one or with small groups of veterans. The services Dog Tag Buddies plans to provide are free to veterans but are not covered by the Veterans Administration. Thus, the organization's efforts will be funded by grants and donations. For more information, visit the [Dog Tag Buddies website](#).

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### ***GI Bill Comparison Tool Update***

Colleagues and Fellow Veterans,

Last week (Veterans Day), we launched our most recent version of the GI Bill Comparison Tool. We encourage you to take a look and test drive it (<https://www.vets.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool/>).

By enhancing this tool, we hope to further empower Veterans by arming them with the information they need to navigate the volume of choices.

In addition to a new look and feel, this newest update enhances several features and provides some new information.

Enhancements include a better search and print functionality, mobile/tablet compatibility, a new look to the benefits calculator, and a new school profile page.

Another upgrade is the use of Caution Flags – right now we include the schools identified by Department of Education under their Heightened Cash Monitoring program, schools that the Department of Defense has placed on probation, and schools on accreditation probation. We are working on expanding cautionary information to report other issues that might help a Veteran evaluate a particular school. To see this new feature in action, review the “Caution Flag” section on the tool.

A new feature is displaying some Veteran-specific Post-9/11 GI Bill outcome measures, with more coming in the future ([student Veteran outcome measures](#)). Newly added measures include:

- *Retention Rate* – measures full and part-time Post-9/11 GI Bill Student Veterans' attendance at the same institution from the first to the second year.
- *Graduation Rate (2-year IHLs)* – measures full and part-time Post-9/11 GI Bill Student Veterans' graduation

As always, we make all the data behind the GI Bill Comparison Tool publically available in easy to digest dashboards. Just click on “Download Data on All Schools” at the bottom of the tool to learn more.

We want GI Bill Veterans and dependents to feel they have made the best possible decision in choosing the right school.

Last week we sent out a note concerning our video, *Know Before You Go* which is now on the Comparison Tool and an updated *Choosing the Right School* guide found on the GI Bill website. We have come a long way....and we will continue to listen to you for additional features.

V/R



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

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### ***Doolittle Raiders Honored***

Lt. Col. Richard E. Cole, one of two surviving members of the Doolittle Raiders, just turned 100 years old in September. During a recent visit to the Pentagon, he received a commemorative shadowbox that contained several patches to show the history of the bomb squadrons, two clips from bombs and a flag that was flown on Sep. 7, 2015 over Southwest Asia in honor of Cole's 100th birthday. Watch Lt. Cole on the [Air Force video](#). For more information on the Doolittle Raiders, visit the [Doolittle Tokyo Raiders website](#), the [Doolittle's Tokyo Raiders Official Roster](#), and the [Doolittle Raid Launch Footage on YouTube](#).

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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 8pm PST 11/20/15***

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### ***Beware of Extortion, Scams***

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID) warns the Army community to be aware of Internet extortion and blackmail scams and report any instance where a Soldier, Army dependent, or Army civilian is or has been faced with threats involving the payment of money or other valuables. If you receive a phone call or email you believe to be an extortion attempt, take the following measures: (1) if the safety or wellbeing of someone is in imminent danger, contact local law enforcement immediately; (2) do not reply to the email, click on any links, or open any attachments; (3) report the email to the [Internet Crime Complaint Center](#); (4) file a complaint with the [Federal Trade Commission](#); (5) report the email to your email and Internet service provider; (6) move the email to your SPAM folder; (7) if contacted through social media, report the contact to the social media provider. Soldiers, Army civilians, and their family members who have been threatened with extortion should contact their installation Military Police or CID office. Individuals can also call CID at 1-844-ARMY-CID (844-276-9243).

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## **Enlisted Women in Submarines**

The Enlisted Women in Submarines (EWIS) task force wants everyone to know that the doors are being opened to enlisted women to become submariners. Eligible E-8-and-below female Sailors, from all communities and rates, can cross-rate, if rating eligible, or convert into the submarine community. Chief petty officers within the logistics, yeoman, information technology, culinary, and hospital corpsman ratings are also being offered conversion to submarines. Ohio-class guided and ballistic missile submarines are currently being integrated, one crew at a time. Integration of female crew members aboard fast-attack submarines will begin in 2016. For more information, visit the [EWIS website](#).

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## **November Is Warrior Care Month**

Active duty service members mainly receive their primary care at military hospitals and clinics. If stationed in a remote location, active duty service members may receive primary care with a civilian network provider. If you are injured on active duty, there are [additional programs and resources](#) as well as special benefits like [respite care](#) for primary caregivers of injured service members. National Guard and Reserve members who are on active duty for more than 30 days receive the same benefits as an active-duty service member. The [Extended Care Health Option](#) (ECHO) is a suite of benefits available to active-duty family members with qualifying mental or physical disabilities.

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### **Links to other Stories**

- 1) [5 Investigates: Concerns about Boston shelter for Veterans](#)
- 2) [Michelle Obama Urges Landlords To Take In Homeless Veterans](#)
- 3) [Military cardiologist wants women to be more proactive on heart health](#)
- 4) [Military Health System poised to support U.S. commitment to Global Health Security](#)
- 5) [Military-civilian partnerships ensure MHS able 'To care for him who shall have borne the battle'](#)
- 6) [National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 74th Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony To Be Broadcast Live Via Webcast, December 7, 2015](#)
- 7) [Saving the US Army](#)
- 8) [The Agent Orange Review: A government newsletter devoted to its own war crimes](#)
- 9) [US Senate Passes Bill Approving Mandatory Vaccinations For Veterans](#)
- 10) [Veterans Affairs doesn't know why more than 2,500 employees were on paid leave](#)
- 11) [Warrior Games help Soldiers compete, heal](#)

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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## **Job Interview Tips for Veterans**

To help improve your chance for a successful job interview as a candidate who is a military veteran, consider these tips: (1) conduct extensive research on the organization's culture. Know the quarterly earnings report, the backgrounds of those you are preparing to meet, and drive by the interview location beforehand; (2) reach out to other veterans who have successfully transitioned and learn from them; (3) spell terms out in civilian language; (4) translate military ranks into equivalent civilian job titles; and (5) avoid using acronyms.

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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 **FREE** Number:

866-272-6622

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

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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@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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!

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### ***Legal Guide for New York City Vets***

The New York City Veteran's Legal Guide contains information on 50 of the most common legal issues facing veterans, including: how to deal with housing problems like evictions and requesting repairs; information about various VA benefits; the basics of the Family and Medical Leave Act; and how to get an order of protection — always with clear direction on when to consult an attorney. More than 300 guides have been distributed to veterans, VA hospital staff, social workers and veterans' organizations across New York City. A second edition of the guide will be printed in 2016. The guide is available at [here](#).

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***Business Center for Veterans***

If you are a veteran hoping to get your small-business off the ground, you can use the [Veterans Business Outreach Center Program](#) (VBOC) sponsored by the Small Business Administration (SBA). VBOCs provide business training, counseling and mentoring at 15 locations throughout the country. You can also contact [Score](#), a nonprofit association of volunteer business counselors who offer free business workshops and in-person appointments. For more information, visit the [Small Business Administration website](#) and the [Score website](#).

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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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### ***GI Bill Benefits End due to Alta College Closure***

*Alta does business as Westwood College in California*

Sacramento – Effective today, the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) withdrew institutional approval for GI Benefits for Alta Colleges, Inc. (Alta), doing business as Westwood College, a move required by federal rules when an institution will close.

"CalVet takes very seriously our duty to ensure our California Veterans receive the education and training they are paying for with their earned GI Bill benefits," said CalVet's Keith Boylan, Deputy Secretary for Veterans Services. "After Alta College announced it was closing, then CalVet's withdrawal was required by federal regulation. Our swift action removes uncertainty for Veteran students and allows them to move forward in finding alternatives for continuing their educational path while protecting further loss of their GI Bill benefits."

On November 11, 2015, Alta publicly announced it was closing Westwood College. When an institution announces it will close, then federal regulation requires the California State Approving Agency for Veterans Education (CSAAVE), a unit of CalVet, to withdraw approval and preclude Alta from receiving GI Bill education benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA).

Alta operates four institutions in California, doing business as Westwood College in Anaheim, Los Angeles, Torrance, and Upland. Alta's closure means Veterans and beneficiaries using the GI Bill will not be paid by USDVA to attend any future classes.

As required by law, CalVet notified USDVA about CalVet's withdrawal of approval for Alta College. CalVet plans to contact the Veterans and beneficiaries impacted by Alta's closure so they have accurate information and are aware of their education alternatives.

For more information, please visit our CalVet web site: <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/GI-Bill-Suspension-Information.aspx>.

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### ***Three Easy Steps to Obtain "Veteran" Designation on Driver Licenses and Identification Cards***

Sacramento – Last week former service members in California began receiving their new driver licenses and identification (ID) cards with the word "Veteran" printed on it (*please see attached photo*).

The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) reminds Veterans that they must first visit a County Veteran Service Office (CVSO) and obtain a Veteran Status Verification Form before contacting a DMV to apply for the Veteran designation.

Veterans are also required to pay a one-time \$5 designation fee, in addition to any other application fees associated with a renewal, duplicate, or original driver license or ID card. The Veteran designation fee was part of the new law, also known as Assembly Bill 935.

To apply for your Veteran designation, please follow these three easy steps: **get your discharge certificate, visit any CVSO, and then visit any DMV.**

**STEP 1** – Find your military discharge certificate (DD214). If you need assistance obtaining your military records, then contact any County Veteran Service Office (CVSO) by calling 844-737-8838.

**STEP 2** – Take your discharge certificate to any County Veteran Service Office (CVSO) to obtain your Veteran Status Verification Form. To find your CVSO, call 844-737-8838 or visit [www.calvet.ca.gov](http://www.calvet.ca.gov).

**STEP 3** – Present your completed and stamped Veteran Status Verification Form and driver license application to a DMV representative at your local DMV field office. Pay your \$5 designation fee and related application fees.

Please remember, Veterans must first visit a CVSO and obtain the Veteran Status Verification Form before setting an appointment at DMV. For faster DMV service, schedule an appointment at a DMV field office by visiting [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov) or calling 800-777-0133.

For frequently asked questions, please visit [CalVet's website](http://www.calvet.ca.gov).

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### **Save on Costs Not Covered by TRICARE**

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](#).



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



**Our country is not the only thing to which we owe our allegiance. It is also owed to justice and to humanity. Patriotism consists not in waving the flag, but in striving that our country shall be righteous as well as strong.**

*~James Bryce~*

***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!***

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