



Veterans-*For*-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, January 03, 2016

Volume 7, Issue 01

This-N-That

We hope that everyone brought in the New Year with a bang, but safely too! And we sincerely hope that 2016 will truly be the year for the Veterans!

As you know President Obama took \$3 billion dollars from Veterans to help fund his Syrian Refugee program, and he followed that up when he signed into law the Omnibus bill which will fund the US till September 2016.

But, do you know what all was funded specifically to meet Obama's demands on Congress?

- Allows the release of Criminal Aliens
- Fails to fund border security
- Fully funds illegal resettlement programs
- Fully funds Obama's Amnesty Plan
- Fully funds Obamacare (aka Affordable Care Act)
- Fully funds Planned Parenthood
- Fully funds Refugee programs including welfare entitlements
- Fully funds Sanctuary Cities
- Fully funds tax credits to illegal immigrants
- Will quadruple HB Visa workers

We're so far in debt now I don't see any relief in sight for at least one or more decades, and there was very little left to fund giving military a 1.3% pay raise, no funding for an increase in Social Security nor in VA benefits.

An amazing \$1.2 trillion dollars to fund all the above noted, less money for Veterans and senior citizens, then add to this those who accept separation pay from the military are not entitled to benefits until all the pay back all the involuntary separation pay.

So you can be forced out of the military, and by the way this is a "cost saving" move to bring in fresh troops at lower pay scales, and if you qualify for VA medical care and benefits, you can't draw on the benefits until they have fully recovered your separation pay.

Then we have administrative people in the VA who scammed the system and got thousands of dollars who are not only allowed to keep their jobs, but the money too!

Or we have new facilities being built with massive cost over-runs and no management or over-sight and of course no one's head rolled out the door for allowing these situations to occur.

We have Secretary McDonald, who seems to be nothing more than an over-paid figure head for the Veterans Affairs and the Obama administration and from all we can see has done nothing to improve the situations within the VA, but, has in some areas made them worse.

Sadly, WE THE PEOPLE have allowed all these issues to occur, problems to happen, and all because WE remain silent.

And still I have seen very little if anything from any of the nationally chartered Veteran service organizations. Most don't even have a legislative budget any more, not that it did any good prior to them defunding legislation budgets, some only allotted maybe \$30k if that, and to be honest they were going to accomplish anything, \$30k wouldn't do anything.

Most think that calling, faxing and E-Mailing their reps in DC goes unheard, and to that I would say, you're right, but, imagine what the difference could and would be if every single Veteran across the country did the exact same thing all at once?

Veterans make up 8-9% of the voting population, and that very same 8-9% can make or break any bid for election or re-election. So when they start spewing their garbage to garner your vote, unless they have a hard core proven record of supporting Veterans and families, ignore them, find someone else to vote for.

If WE THE PEOPLE don't take control, then those in DC will do as they always have, as they damn well please!

Further down in this newsletter I've listed many areas in which the VA needs to be changed, corrected, finished, etc. and I'm asking for anyone who has experienced any of these to please write me with your story.

We seriously want and need to know so that maybe, just maybe we might have a good chance as fixing some of the problems.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Volunteers nationwide, we wish you and your family good health and very Happy and prosperous New Year!!

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder & CEO

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org



TRICARE Fee Cuts for Autism Therapy Stir Worries

When TRICARE this month announced cuts of up to 15 percent next year in fees for applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy of children with autism, some ABA businesses, in responding to an online survey, said they would stop treating TRICARE clients. Most respondents, however, said they need more time to assess how the reduced rates would affect their services. Mary Kaye Justis, director of the TRICARE Health Plan, said she doesn't expect the fee cuts to cause a significant shift of providers for the 10,500 military children receiving ABA services. TRICARE reimbursements still will be higher than offered by most commercial health insurance plans, she said.

What to Expect at Your VA Exam

Here are some things to remember for your first Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) compensation or pension (C&P) medical examination: (1) your examiner does not decide whether or not your condition is service connected – VBA claims processors do. C&P exams are tools used by claims processors to either collect missing evidence or clarify information in your claim; (2) in some cases, claims processors may have enough evidence in hand to make a decision without the need for a C&P examination; and (3) missing a scheduled exam could adversely affect your claim.

VA Commission on Care Begins Deliberations

Public Law 113-146, the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act (VACAA) of 2014, established a "Commission on Care" to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system and make recommendations for change. The Commission is composed of membership selected coequally by the President and House and Senate leadership.

The Commission has completed its fourth meeting and has issue a statutorily required interim report. As a partner organization in the *Independent Budget*, DAV has been invited to meet with the Commission on Care staff and to submit our views on the future of VA to the Commission. In its public sessions, some members of the Commission have made statements about the advisability of moving VA from its current status as a direct provider of care to that of insurer.

Meanwhile, VA has released its plan to consolidate all community care programs into one plan for referral and payment. These existing seven programs, including the "choice" provisions from the VACAA, operate using different rules and procedures related to both eligibility and utilization. In order to consolidate these programs, VA will need authorizing legislation. Congress is considering VA's proposal at this time.

DAV is closely monitoring these events to ensure that the rights and benefits of wounded, injured and ill veterans are protected.

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

<https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/N0IP11YUbRnNd3hsnwxZ1g>

Government Accountability Office (GAO) Reports

Dodd-Frank Regulations: Impacts on Community Banks, Credit Unions and Systemically Important Institutions.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-169>

Help for Homeless Veterans

Nearly 50,000 veterans in the United States are in search of a place to sleep every night. They are homeless and have little food to eat. That's why the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has a hotline for anyone in need or at risk of being in need. The hotline number is 1(877) 4AID-VET. Learn more on the [Birmingham, Alabama VA Medical Center website](#). There is safe housing available, as well as employment opportunities and health and mental health services.

Help for Lejeune Vets and Families

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is planning to propose expanded disability compensation eligibility for veterans exposed to contaminated drinking water while assigned to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune from 1953 to 1987. VA intends to propose creation of a presumption of service connection for the following conditions: Kidney Cancer, Liver Cancer, Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, Leukemia, Multiple Myeloma, Scleroderma, Parkinson's Disease, and Aplastic Anemia /Myelodysplastic Syndromes. VA will announce when the regulations are final. For related information, visit the [VA website](#), VA's [Camp Lejeune: Past Water Contamination webpage](#), the [Camp Lejeune Family Member Program webpage](#).

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

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 **2,518,717** 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

- 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 12/26/15 **17** New Jobs and **0** New Job Fair)
- Memorial Pages (**Updated 12/30/15** added **10**)
- News (Updated almost daily, **5,419** articles on-line)
- Web Links (**1,658** Active Links)(**Updated 12/30/15** added **67** New Links)

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)

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.

Problems with the Veterans administration?

Have you personally experienced any of the following problems in the VA Healthcare system? If so we'd like to hear from you! Tell us your story!

All names will be kept confidential, just write to me and tell me your story at: JIM.DAVIS@VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE.ORG

1. VA police departments improperly enforcing disruptive behavior issue.
2. Veterans waiting list issue.
3. VA denying medical benefits and getting away with it by violating Veterans civil rights to due process.
4. VA hospitals construction problems.
5. Help with Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans act.
6. Medical malpractice issues.
7. Brain injury exams problem in Minneapolis Minnesota VA hospital. Is this happening elsewhere.
8. Suicide prevention.
9. Homeless Vets issue.
10. Choice card and being referred to outside medical care issue.

11. Spinal cord injury bathing issue in Tampa Bay Florida. Is it also happening elsewhere.
12. Whistleblower protection issue
13. VA lying issue and how to enforce current laws that are not being enforced and/or implemented new stronger laws.
14. Traumatic brain injury issue.
15. Caregiver issues.
16. Agent Orange issues.
17. Veterans housing building project.
18. Sexual trauma in the military Karen over to the VA.
19. Management payment and bonus issue.
20. Veterans medical care funding issue.
21. VA assignment of a guardian for Veterans implementation issue.
22. Criminal charges not being levied against employees who violate criminal laws.
23. Disruptive Behavior and treatment by VA Police Department.
24. Provide female Veterans with OBGYNS and other women's medical personnel.
25. Getting Veterans that are affected by illness due to chemical exposure faster medical care and Disability coverage. It took over 19 years before they even started to except their illness and many more years to cover everything that was caused by that exposure.
26. Get the VA to stop collecting separation pay before paying Disability benefits earned by Veterans and Disabled separating military personnel.

State of Emergency in MO, AL, NM, and TX for Storm Goliath

The governors of Missouri, Alabama, New Mexico, and Texas have declared a State of Emergency for all four states (the entire states) due to Storm Goliath.

Impacted Areas: All Counties in the states of Missouri, Alabama, New Mexico, and Texas.

Emergency prescription refill procedures are in place from December 28, 2015 through January 27, 2016.

Emergency Refills

To get an emergency refill, take your prescription bottle to any TRICARE retail network pharmacy. To find a network pharmacy:

- Call Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303
- Search the [network pharmacy locator](#)

If possible, visit the pharmacy where the prescription was filled.

- If you use a retail chain, you can fill your prescription at another store in that chain.
- If your provider is available, he or she may call in a new prescription to any network pharmacy.
- You can request assistance at another pharmacy, but it's at that pharmacy's discretion to help you.

Emergency prescription refill procedures are in place from December 28, 2015 through January 27, 2016.

Horses Help Veterans

Horses Spirits Healing Inc. (HSHI) in Billings, MT was established in 2014 as a 501(c)3 by the owners of the Intermountain Equestrian Center to expand their scope of equine sports and education to include Equestrian Assisted Activities and Therapy (EAAT) for returning military personnel. The organization services Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming by helping to heal vets who are suffering from psychological trauma and physical disabilities. In February 2016, the nonprofit will begin providing equine-assisted activities and therapy to veterans. All of the instructors are students or graduates of Rocky Mountain College's equestrian studies program. For more information, visit the [Horses Spirits Healing, Inc. website](#).

Remember The Fallen Women – January

- 1 Jan 2011: USAR Tamara Henderson, 25, murdered by husband in CA
- 2 Jan 2004: USA CPT Kimberly N. Hampton, 27, IRAQ
- 2 Jan 2006: USA SPC Bobbie J Gonzales, 23, drowned in Texas attempting to save her brother while home on leave from IRAQ
- 3 Jan 1966: CIVILIAN Marguerite (Higgins) Hall, journalist, VIETNAM
- 3 Jan 2005: CIVILIAN Tracy Hushin, 34, USAID, IRAQ
- 7 Jan 1991: USA SSG Tatiana Khaghani Dees, DESERT STORM
- 7 Jan 2006: AKARNG 1LT Jaime Lynn (Krausse) Campbell, 25, IRAQ
- 7 Jan 2007: USAF Sr Airman Elizabeth A Loncki, 23, IRAQ
- 7 Jan 2009: CIVILIAN Paula Loyd, 36, AFGHANISTAN, died at BAMC burns
- 9 Jan 2002: USMC SGT Jeannette L. Winters, 25, AFGHANISTAN
- 10 Jan 2006: USN ENS Elizabeth Bonn, 23, plane crash in Georgia
- 10 Jan 2012: USA SPC Brandy Fonteneaux, 28, murdered at Fort Carson, CO
- 14 Jan 2004: USA SGT Keicia M. (Coleman) Hines, 27, IRAQ
- 14 Jan 2013: USAF SSG Emily E Clayburn, 29, industrial accident, MacDill AFB, FL
- 16 Jan 2007: USN MA1 Jennifer A (Young) Valdivia, 27, non-combat incident, Bahrain
- 17 Jan 2007: CIVILIAN Andrea "Andi" Parhamovich, 28, IRAQ
- 18 Jan 2006: USA SPC Katherine Singleton, 25, suicide, Ft Bragg, NC
- 18 Jan 2011: USN OS2 Dominique Cruz, 26, overboard from USS Halsey, Gulf of Oman
- 19 Jan 1987: USA Brenda C Pott, 21, suicide, Ft Carson
- 20 Jan 1863: CIVILIAN Hannah A Ropes, 54, Typhoid Pneumonia, Washington, DC
- 20 Jan 2007: IAARNG CSM Marilyn L (Van Cannon) Gabbard, 46, IRAQ
- 21 Jan 2007: USA PFC Valerie R Gamboa, 29, murdered in Germany
- 21 Jan 1944: USA WAC PFC Regina Barszcz, disease, Fort Dix, NJ
- 23 Jan 2015: USMC CPT Elizabeth Kealey, 32, helicopter crash in CA
- 25 Jan 1945: USA ANC LT Thelma LaFave, MIA onboard C-46 plane between Pelellu Island and Leyte Island
- 25 Jan 2005: USA PFC Megan E Adelman-Tenney, 19, parachute accident, Ft Benning, GA
- 25 Jan 2008: USA SGT Tracy R Birkman, 41, IRAQ
- 26 Jan 2007: USN LT (jg) Laura J Mankey, West Hills, CA, helicopter crash in Pacific
- 27 Jan 2015: USMC/USAR Kisha Holmes, 35, suicide in Austell, GA
- 28 Jan 2007: USAR SPC Carla J Stewart, 37, IRAQ
- 29 Jan 2005: CIVILIAN Barbara (Geis) Heald, 60, DA, IRAQ
- 31 Jan 2004: USA PFC Holly Jeanne McGeogh, 19, IRAQ

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<https://twitter.com/Veterans4Change>



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 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 01/01/16

Big DoD Changes Could Be Coming for Families

When Secretary of Defense Ash Carter took over the Defense Department early this year, he said he wanted to take a hard look at military personnel issues. His "Force of the Future" plan, isn't aimed at military spouses or their kids – although they do impact them. Instead they are laser focused at making sure service members who are parents are taken care of from a personnel perspective. The Force of the Future plan is being released in stages, with some details already available.

Links to other Stories

- 1) [Close to Home – Herbicide Exposure in the Continental United States](#)
- 2) [Colorful military terms civilians may not be familiar with](#)
- 3) [Diabetes and Kidney Disease – What Blue Water Veterans Need to Know](#)
- 4) [God and the service 'go hand-in-hand': 'Secret Soldier of Benghazi' says faith mattered](#)
- 5) [House Eyes Giving Widows More Relief From SBP-DIC Offset](#)
- 6) [It looks like there are more homeless Veterans in Maine. But the numbers don't tell the whole story](#)
- 7) [NHRC sleep lab hosts insomnia workshop](#)
- 8) [Precious moment son salutes casket of father killed in Afghanistan by suicide bomber](#)
- 9) [Proud 'jarhead' refuses to remove US Marine cap for driver's license photo — it's 'religious' attire](#)
- 10) [Rampant privacy violations at VA hospitals](#)
- 11) [Texas city plans to house all homeless Veterans by 2016](#)
- 12) [The science behind the flu vaccine](#)
- 13) [US Attorney declines prosecution of former VA execs](#)
- 14) [Veterans Affairs Wrongly Denied 50 TBI Cases](#)
- 15) [Vets Who Accept Separation Pay Can't Receive VA Compensation](#)
- 16) [Why 80% of Gulf War VA Cases are Denied](#)

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

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

VA Offers Burn Pit Registry

Last year, Congress ordered the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to set up the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry. So far, almost 50,000 veterans have signed up. If you feel like you are sick as a result of deployment, you can sign on to the registry. The burn pit registry helps researchers to study the health effects of burn pits and other airborne hazards and is one of several research projects currently underway at VA. For more information and to sign up, visit the [VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry webpage](#) and the [VA Burn Pits webpage](#).

Save on Costs Left Behind 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 [TRICARE Insurance Supplement Plan](#).

~ We Proudly Support Our Military Personnel & Families ~

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.

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

Applying for Healthcare Benefits

Veterans can establish eligibility for healthcare benefits by submitting VA Form 10-10EZ online at www.1010ez.med.va.gov, [downloading it](#) and returning it to any VA Medical Center or Clinic, or by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM (Eastern Time). Applicants for Long Term Care benefits, including community nursing home care, domiciliary care, adult day health care, geriatric evaluation, and respite care may also need to complete [VA Form 10-10EC](#), Application for Extended Care Services. For more information, visit the [VA website](#).

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



America is another name for opportunity. Our whole history appears like a last effort of divine providence on behalf of the human race.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson~

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!

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Express Mail:	14,448
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Courtesy Copies:	3,500
Dept of VA	11,290
DoD	3,694
Face Book Pages:	3,080
Los Angeles	96,981
New York	106,991
Other Social Media:	14,281
San Francisco	54,486
Twitter:	27
U.S. House of Reps & Staff	780
U.S. Senators & Staff	47
University of So. CA	1,393
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