



# Veterans-*For*-Change Newsletter

*A Voice of the Veterans*

**Week Ending Sunday, February 07, 2016**

**Volume 7, Issue 06**

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

Recently the FACT Act passed the house by a majority of Republican Votes, yet sits in the Senate under serious scrutiny and rightfully so.

The bill would help all Veterans who suffer from various illnesses mainly mesothelioma from Asbestos contamination, Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois and other Democrats said it was a giveaway to companies fighting lawsuits over the dangerous building material, which causes lung damage and cancer.

The asbestos industry is using this bill to avoid compensating its victims who are seeking justice in court." And those in the industry who are not in current lawsuits are fighting it as well to avoid payouts.

10-15,000 die annually from asbestos related illnesses making this big business to avoid at all costs.

The bill would provide the companies a database of the trust claims and victims to use in their defense in court. The Government Accountability Office found the changes could give industry defense attorneys a legal advantage.

Durbin said the bill also would enable companies to drag out civil lawsuits, a criticism also made by the Veterans groups.

And the White House has said it would veto the bill if it passes the Senate.

In my opinion it would seem the bill in it's original form would have benefited the asbestos industry and not it's victims. And how any member of Congress could draft such a bill leads me to think it was drafted because someone got their pockets lined and not for defense of victims and providing compensation to the victims and families, but to keep profits in the pockets of those in the industry.

The Department of Veterans Affairs made use of undercover agents and covert surveillance strategies against one Veteran with multiple sclerosis in a malingering sting. The Veteran was convicted of wrongfully receiving \$1.5 million in compensation for claiming his condition was more severe than VA later found following its spy scheme.

Why does the door not swing both ways when it comes to sophisticated VA senior executives who commit fraud or knowingly violate laws?

While I admit there is fraud committed by a small percentage of Veterans to obtain benefits that pendulum swings both ways, however, with VA employee's the percentage might be the same, but the dollar amounts are much more massive, yet VA employees are never charged and brought to justice, merely slapped on the hands and allowed to return to work and compound that with they're even allowed to keep what they scammed!

My advice to all Veterans when filing claims for benefits, or increases in benefits, please, document your case carefully, keep all records only providing copies as needed never originals, and be justified in your claims. With these new tactics being used on Veterans, you just never know who is watching you and what might happen.

The majority of our readers are Veterans, and most if not all of you have served on foreign soil at one point in your career and I'm sure that when it came time for mail call you witnessed one or more fellow soldiers in your unit whose names were never called.

Operation Mail Call is designed to address that problem and a little more!

Betty Hidalgo who is the director of VFC's Operation Mail Call Program does her level best to bring a little joy to all those on foreign soil by sending them care packages which she is working all the time to fill them with a little bit of home with cards, letters, baked goods, candies, and sometimes little gag gifts, anything she can find to bring a little joy to their daily lives where they are.

Where we need help most are cards and letters and with Valentine's Day coming up very quickly, and it being another holiday they're away from home, we need your help in this area, letting them know all those here at home appreciate them, and support them.

A little further down in this newsletter there is a web link which will take you to the information on where you can send cards and letters which will be included in many of the boxes that go out weekly.

We'd appreciate anything you can do to help us bring a little joy to them, maybe even put a smile on their faces even if only for a few moments.

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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### ***TRICARE Changes OTC Medication Coverage***

Effective Feb. 1, 2016, TRICARE is making some changes to its over-the-counter (OTC) drug coverage. Beneficiaries must pay the [usual generic copays](#) for covered OTC drugs. OTC drug coverage will still require a prescription from their doctor except for Levonorgestrel (the emergency contraceptive used to prevent pregnancy). Feb. 1 also brings a change to which drugs are available under the OTC benefit. Visit the [TRICARE Pharmacy](#) page for more information on the TRICARE pharmacy benefit. If you have questions about whether or not one of your drugs is covered, you can always call the TRICARE pharmacy contractor, Express Scripts, at 1-877-363-1303.

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### ***VA E-Claim System Costs Alarm Congress***

The cost of VA's electronic claims network, called the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS), is \$1 billion so far and soon will reach \$1.3 billion, VA conceded last week to the House Veterans Affairs Committee. That's more than double VA's original estimate of \$580 million for VBMS in 2009. Costs are continuing to grow too because, by design, VBMS gets a software upgrade every three months. And apart from quarterly upgrades, VA plans for major innovations to the VBMS starting in 2018.

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### ***Study: Toxic Exposures Caused Gulf War Illnesses***

New research shows that exposure to pesticides and other toxins caused Gulf War Illness among the 700,000 U.S. troops who fought in the first Gulf War. Researchers concluded that exposure to pesticides and ingestion of pyridostigmine bromide (PB) (prophylactic pills intended to protect troops against the effects of possible nerve gas) are "causally associated with GWI and the neurological dysfunction in Gulf War veterans." The research team also cites multiple studies showing a link between veterans' neurological problems and exposure to the nerve-gas agents sarin and cyclosarin, as well as to oil well fire emissions. A report of the study is available in the journal [Cortex](#).

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## **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!

Operation Mail Call has successfully moved into it's new location:

For more information visit: <http://veterans-for-change.org/5439-operation-mail-call-2>

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### ***Win a 7-Eleven Franchise***

A national contest organized by 7-Eleven, 'Operation: Take Command,' is taking applications from military men and women who have been honorably discharged. To qualify, veterans must be 21 years or older, be a U.S. resident, must have excellent credit and at least three years of leadership experience in retail or restaurants. The grand prize is winning a 7-Eleven franchise without having to pay the franchise fee, an amount that typically ranges up to \$190,000. Veterans must enter the contest before February 26, 2016. For more information and to enter, visit the [Operation: Take Command website](#). 7-Eleven will select the final 7 contestants and the public will be allowed to pick the final 3 via votes on [the 7-Eleven Facebook page](#).

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### ***Navy Evaluates Ratings to Avoid Discrimination***

Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus recently directed a review of the Navy's rating names to ensure they were representative of all Sailors and did not discriminate based on gender. The Navy will look specifically at ratings that referenced "man" in the title, which encompasses more than 20 Navy jobs. As the Navy moves toward the full integration of women serving in all job fields, the service will review its ratings for gender-neutral titles, accurate descriptions of their work, and alignment with civilian related jobs. A report detailing proposed courses of action is due to SECNAV by April 1.

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### ***FTC Files Suit Against DeVry University***

In the Federal Government's latest move to crack down on what it sees as problems with private universities, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) today announced that it has filed suit against the operators of DeVry University. In its suit the FTC alleged that DeVry's advertisements deceived consumers about the likelihood that students would find jobs in their fields of study, and would earn more than those graduating with bachelor's degrees from other colleges or universities.

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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 **2,568,221** 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 02/01/16 **32** New Jobs and **0** New Job Fair)
- Memorial Pages (**Updated 01/02/16** added **17**)
- News (Updated almost daily, **5,494** articles on-line)
- Web Links (**3,427** Active Links)(**Updated 02/01/16** added **36** 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](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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### ***Veteran Burial Honors***

It is critical for family members who want military funeral honors to tell the funeral director, who can make the request for them. The honors are not automatic. The family should have access to the veteran's discharge papers (DD Form 214). Department of Defense (DoD) policy is to provide a minimum of a two-person uniformed detail, and one servicemember must represent the veteran's branch of service. The core elements include playing taps, folding the American flag and presenting the flag to the family. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) also offers other benefits, such as headstones. For more information, visit the [VA National Cemetery Administration website](#).

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### ***VA Caregiver Support Line Celebrates 5 Years!***

The Caregiver Support Line has been providing support to Caregivers for five years! Over 220,000 callers have reached out to the CSL since it's opening in February 2011.

Staffed by licensed social workers, the Support Line is available to provide supportive counseling, education on topics related to caregiving, and help to connect Caregivers to local supports and services to assist them in their caregiving role, including a referral to a local Caregiver Support Coordinator located at every VA medical center nationwide. To further support Caregivers, the Caregiver Support Line also facilitates telephone education presentations several times each month for Caregivers, with a focus on self-care.

Are you caring for a Veteran loved one? Call us today at 1-855-260-3274 to learn more about ways VA may be able to support you in your caregiving journey!



With VA's Caregiver Support Line assistance is just a quick phone call away. Whether you're in need of immediate assistance or have questions about what services you may be eligible for, the caring licensed professionals who answer the support line can:

- Tell you about the assistance available from VA.
- Help you access services.
- Connect you with the Caregiver Support Coordinator at a VA Medical Center near you.
- Just listen, if that's what you need right now.

If you're just getting started with VA, calling the Caregiver Support Line is a great first step to take to learn more about the support that's available to you.

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## *IRS Issues Nine Out of 10 Refunds in Less than 21 Days*

### **IRS YouTube Videos**

*When Will I Get My Refund:* [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

*Welcome to Free File:* [English](#)

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service today reminded taxpayers that it issues 90 percent of refunds in less than 21 days. The best way to check the status of a refund is online through the "[Where's My Refund?](#)" tool at IRS.gov or via the [IRS2Go phone app](#).

"As February approaches, more and more taxpayers want to know when they can expect their refunds," said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. "There aren't any secret tricks to checking on the status of a refund. Using IRS.gov is the best way for taxpayers to get the latest information."

Many taxpayers are eager to know precisely when their money will be arriving, but checking "Where's My Refund" more than once a day will not produce new information. The status of refunds is refreshed only once a day, generally overnight.

"Where's My Refund?" has the most up to date information available about your refund. Taxpayers should use this tool rather than calling.

Taxpayers can use "Where's My Refund?" to start checking on the status of their return within 24 hours after IRS has received an e-filed return or four weeks after receipt of a mailed paper return. "Where's My Refund?" has a tracker that displays progress through three stages: (1) Return Received, (2) Refund Approved and (3) Refund Sent.

The IRS2Go phone app is another fast and safe tool taxpayers can use to check the status of a refund. In addition, users can use the app to find free tax preparation help, make a payment, watch the IRS YouTube channel, get the latest IRS news, and subscribe to filing season updates and tax tips. The app is free for Android devices from the Google Play Store or from the Apple App Store for Apple devices.

Users of both the IRS2Go app and "Where's my Refund" tools must have information from their current, pending tax return to access their refund information.

The IRS reminded taxpayers there's no advantage to calling about refunds. IRS representatives can only research the status of your refund in limited situations: if it has been 21 days or more since you filed electronically, more than six weeks since you mailed your paper return, or "Where's My Refund?" directs you to contact us. If the IRS needs more information to process your tax return, we will contact you by mail.

The IRS continues to strongly encourage the use of e-file and direct deposit as the fastest and safest way to file an accurate return and receive a tax refund. More than four out of five tax returns are expected to be filed electronically, with a similar proportion of refunds issued through direct deposit.

The IRS [Free File](#) program offers free brand-name software to about 100 million individuals and families with incomes of \$62,000 or less. Seventy percent of the nation's taxpayers are eligible for IRS Free File. All taxpayers regardless of income will again have access to free online fillable forms, which provide electronic versions of IRS paper forms to complete and file. Both options are available through IRS.gov.

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### ***Museum to Honor Native American Vets***

Honoring the thousands of Native Americans who served in various U.S. Military branches and better educating the public are the goals of the proposed National Native American Veterans Memorial. The project is being overseen by Kevin Gover, director of the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). The memorial will be erected by Veterans Day in 2019. A design for the memorial will be selected by a juried competition. The Memorial will be located prominently on the NMAI's grounds on the National Mall, between the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum and the U.S. Capitol. For more information, visit the Smithsonian Institute's [National Museum of the American Indian website](#).

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

Building Partner Capacity: U.S. Agencies Can Improve Monitoring of Counter-Firearms Trafficking Efforts in Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-235>

Small Business Investment Companies: Characteristics and Investment Performance of Single and Multiple Licensees. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-107>

Banking: Federal Agencies' Compliance with Section 302 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-213R>

Border Security: Actions Needed by DHS to Address Long-Standing Challenges in Planning for a Biometric Exit System. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-358T>

DATA Act: Data Standards Established, but More Complete and Timely Guidance Is Needed to Ensure Effective Implementation. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-261>

U.S. Border Communities: Ongoing DOT Efforts Could Help Address Impacts of International Freight Rail. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-274>

Army Contracting: Training and Guidance Needed to Ensure Appropriate Use of the Option to Extend Services Clause. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-262R>

Defense Infrastructure: Energy Conservation Investment Program Needs Improved Reporting, Measurement, and Guidance. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-162>

Excess Personal Property: DOD Should Further Reassess the Priorities of Its Disposal Process. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-44>

Water Infrastructure: EPA and USDA Are Helping Small Water Utilities with Asset Management; Opportunities Exist to Better Track Results. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-237>

U.S. Border Communities: Ongoing DOT Efforts Could Help Address Impacts of International Freight Rail.



## ***Service Dogs for Veterans***

Salute of Service is a local non-profit organization that helps train service dogs for veterans from any era, with any disability, free of charge. To date, 30 dogs have graduated from the program. From start to finish, the training process takes about 4 to 6 months. After that they are able to take certification tests. For more information, visit the [Salute of Service website](#) and follow Salute of Service on [Facebook](#).

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



<https://twitter.com/Veterans4Change>

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## ***U.S. Patient Restrictions Eased in Germany***

After consultations between the Horst Schmidt Kliniken in Wiesbaden and TRICARE International SOS about the recent occurrence of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in the HSK hospital in Wiesbaden, Germany, recommended restrictions for U.S. patients at the facility have been eased. TRICARE International SOS still recommends that expectant mothers or ill infants use other TRICARE network options for care on the local economy until this issue is resolved. They advise these beneficiaries to go to University Hospital Mainz, Sana Klinikum Offenbach, Uniklinik Frankfurt am Main or the Clementine Kinderhospital Frankfurt. All other U.S. patient referrals to HSK Hospital need not be affected. As always, TRICARE beneficiaries have many options of network providers to choose from in the area. For more information on MRSA, visit the [CDC MRSA website](#).

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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 02/05/16 by 10pm PST**

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Veteran Crisis Resources	
<a href="#">Veterans Crisis Line</a>	1-800-273-8255 and Press 1
<a href="#">Military Crisis Line</a>	1-800-273-TALK (8255)
<a href="#">National Call Center for Homeless Veterans</a>	1-877-4AID-VET (424.3838)
<a href="#">VA Caregiver Support Line</a>	1-855-260-3274

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### **Links to other Stories**

- 1) [ABUSE & MISUSE: The Shocking Report About What Has Been Going On Inside Louisiana Veterans Affairs Office](#)
- 2) [Blythewood Man Convicted of Massive Government Fraud](#)
- 3) [Covert Surveillance Used Against Disabled Veteran](#)
- 4) [Gulf War Syndrome Mystery Solved? Scientists Believe Exposure To Toxins Caused Veteran Illnesses](#)
- 5) [Louisiana Veterans Affairs mishandled money, lied about patients: audit](#)
- 6) [Medal of Honor to be Awarded to Navy Seal for Civilian Hostage Rescue in Afghanistan](#)
- 7) [Phila. VA chief is reinstated](#)
- 8) [Richmond Veterans Affairs Medical Center to Open Charlottesville Clinic](#)
- 9) [Study: Causes of Gulf War Illness Pinpointed](#)
- 10) [Transgenic Cotton in Costa Rica Contains Traces of Agent Orange](#)
- 11) [US Veteran's children taken away over his use of medical marijuana](#)
- 12) [VA leader vows penalty for officials accused in job scam](#)
- 13) [VA promises new punishment for embattled execs](#)
- 14) [Veterans groups oppose asbestos bill in Senate](#)

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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### **Veterans Sought in South Dakota for Medal**

More than 450 South Dakota Korean-era Conflict veterans received special honors on recently during a special ceremony in the State Capitol and in numerous other South Dakota communities. The veterans were recognized for their service during the Korean War and were presented the Korean Ambassador Peace Medal. Over 450 veterans were recognized and honored, but there are many more veterans from South Dakota that qualify for the medal. Korean War Veterans in South Dakota who served in Korea's land, air and sea from June 25, 1950, through Oct. 25, 1954, are encouraged to contact their local county or tribal Veteran's Service Officer (VSO). Locate your local VSO on the [South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs website](#).

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### **Valentines Concert in Missouri**

The [John J. Pershing VA Medical Center](#) in Poplar Bluff, Missouri has announced its Sixth Annual Valentines for Veterans concert February 19, at the Black River Coliseum in Poplar Bluff, 301 S. 5th Street. Pre-show activities will begin at 6:30 p.m., with the main show starting at 7. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. The concert is free, but guests will need a ticket to attend. Tickets are available through the medical center's Voluntary Service office, the Poplar Bluff Area Chamber of Commerce, and local Veterans Service Organizations, or by calling 573-778-4499 or 573-778-4276. Those interested in volunteering or donating to veterans through the John J. Pershing VA Medical Center may call the Voluntary Service office at 573-778-4276.



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<b><i>To Contact your Members of Congress</i></b>	
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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### ***National Veterans Art Museum***

The National Veterans Art Museum is hosting an exhibit of 58,300 dog tags, one for each member of the U.S. armed services killed in the Vietnam War. Called the 'Above and Beyond Memorial,' the exhibit will open Feb. 20 at [Harold Washington Library Center](#), 400 S. State Street, Chicago, IL 60605. At the library, a touch-panel display will allow visitors to look up a veteran's name and help them locate the dog tag that was hand-stamped with his or her name. 'Above and Beyond' is scheduled to remain on exhibit through April 2020 when it will return home to the museum. For more information, visit the [National Veterans Art Museum website](#).

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### ***VA's Polytrauma System of Care Marks One Million TBI Screenings***

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) [Polytrauma System of Care](#) (PSC) has hit the one million mark in screening Veterans for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), often regarded as one of the signature injuries of combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. TBI symptoms such as severe headaches, memory loss, reduced executive functioning, and tinnitus can range from manageable to seriously disabling, potentially limiting a Veteran's ability to work and manage daily living. Screening Veterans for TBI and helping them to deal with the condition is one of the central programs of PSC.

Started in May 2005, PSC provides comprehensive and coordinated rehabilitative care to Veterans with life-changing injuries, including TBI, limb loss, blindness, hearing loss and tinnitus, among others. PSC also assists with community re-entry needs. It is fully coordinated with the Department of Defense to ensure uninterrupted, seamless health care transition for those that served on active duty.

Over these past 10 years, many Servicemembers have returned home with injuries that would not have been survivable in previous conflicts. Today, they not only survive, they thrive, in large part due to PSC, a thoroughly Veteran-centric VA program.

"The one million mark in TBI screenings reflects VA's success in building an integrated polytrauma care program for wounded and injured Servicemembers and Veterans," said Dr. David J. Shulkin, VA Under Secretary for Health. "VA's dedicated polytrauma care teams recognize the importance of taking care of the whole person and coordinating physical, mental and rehabilitative care for Veterans suffering the most dramatic injuries of the war."

VA employees created PSC to address the need for a comprehensive multi-disciplinary system of care to help Veterans suffering with two or more injuries considered disabling physical and psychological impairments, such as blast injuries and traumatic amputations. PSC patients have sustained injuries affecting multiple body parts that result in physical, cognitive, psychological, and functional disabilities. Frequently, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) occurs in Polytrauma patients, as does Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and other mental health problems.

"The Polytrauma System of Care sets VA apart from other health care systems," said Dr. Joel Scholten, National Director, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation for VA. "PSC demonstrates VA's unique understanding of the needs of Veterans and the best way to support them in achieving well-being and their personal life goals."

VA has 110 [Polytrauma rehabilitation sites across the country](#), including 5 Polytrauma Rehabilitation Centers (comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation); 23 Polytrauma Network Sites (comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation); and 87 Polytrauma Support Clinic Teams (comprehensive outpatient rehabilitations). Services available through PCS include interdisciplinary evaluation and treatment, development of a comprehensive plan of care, case management, patient and family education and training, psychosocial support, and use of advanced rehabilitation treatments and prosthetic technologies.

For more information about the Polytrauma System of Care, visit [www.polytrauma.va.gov/](http://www.polytrauma.va.gov/). A VA blog post featuring Polytrauma System of Care may be found [here](#).

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### ***Arts Festival in Chicago***

The [Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center](#) in North Chicago, IL will hold its annual Veterans Creative Arts Festival on March 10 at the College of Lake County to highlight the artwork, creative writing and musical talents of area veterans. Veterans enrolled for care at any FHCC facility may enter in art, music, dance and writing categories. The deadline is Feb. 19. Also, all performers must attend at least a portion of two rehearsals, held from 2 to 5 p.m., every Friday Jan. 29, Feb. 12 and 19 in Building 131, Recreation Activity Room, 3001 Green Bay Road. For information, call 224-610-4201 or email [tricia.stewart@va.gov](mailto:tricia.stewart@va.gov).

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

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<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.

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### ***CalVet Withdraws GI Bill Approval for Marinello Schools of Beauty***

Sacramento – Today the California State Approving Agency for Veteran Education (CSAAVE), a division of the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), withdrew approval for 37 California educational institutions doing business as Marinello Schools of Beauty (Marinello) due to Marinello's announcement today that it will close effective immediately.

"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 Keith Boylan, Deputy Secretary, Veterans Services at CalVet. "CalVet stands ready to assist veterans through this transition period as they make decisions regarding their future education."

Eligible Title 38 beneficiaries may only use GI Bill benefits at institutions approved by CSAAVE. A list of approved institutions is available on CalVet's website at [www.calvet.ca.gov](http://www.calvet.ca.gov).

All questions regarding eligibility and payment of GI Bill benefits must be directed to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) at **1-888-GIBILL1**. GI Bill beneficiaries may also access the GI Bill Comparison Tool research approved programs, tuition/fees, housing allowance, graduation, and loan default rates through the GI Bill Website at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).

For additional information, Veterans using the GI Bill at Marinello schools should visit CalVet's website: <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/GI-Bill-Suspension-Information.aspx>

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***This month please remember these women who died during February while serving our country in or during war times***

1 Feb 1968: CIVILIAN Ruth Thompson, missionary, VIETNAM  
1 Feb 1968: CIVILIAN Carolyn Griswald, missionary, VIETNAM

1 Feb 1968: CIVILIAN Ruth Wilting, missionary, VIETNAM  
 3 Feb 2005: CIVILIAN Carmen Christina Urdaneta, 32, humanitarian, AFGHANISTAN  
 3 Feb 2005: CIVILIAN Cristin "Cristi" Gadue, 26, humanitarian, AFGHANISTAN  
 3 Feb 2005: CIVILIAN Amy Lynn (Niebling) Meeks, 29, humanitarian, AFGHANISTAN  
 4 Feb 1997: USN AW3 Wendy L Potter, airplane crash, off coast of Israel  
 5 Feb 2015: USCG PO2 Lisa Trubnikova, 31, murdered by USCG member, Bourne, MA  
 6 Feb 2015: CIVILIAN Kayla Mueller, 26, prisoner since 2013 killed in Raqqa, Syria  
 7 Feb 1944: USA ANC LT Marjorie Morrow, WW II  
 7 Feb 1944: CIVILIAN ARC Esther Richards, died at Anzio, WW II  
 7 Feb 1944: USA ANC 1LT Carrie Sheetz, WW II  
 7 Feb 1944: USA ANC LT Blanche Sigman, WW II  
 7 Feb 2007: USMC CPT Jennifer Harris, 27, IRAQ  
 7 Feb 2007: USMC CPL Jennifer Parcell, 20, IRAQ  
 9 Feb 1944: USA ANC LT LaVerne Farquar, WW II  
 9 Feb 1944: USA ANC LT Gertrude Spelboug, WW II  
 9 Feb 1971: CIVILIAN Lucinda J. Richter, American Red Cross, VIETNAM  
 9 Feb 2005: ILARNG SGT Jessica M. Housby, 23, IRAQ  
 9 Feb 2015: USAF CPT Jamie Brunette, suicide, Tampa, FL  
 9 Feb 2015: USA Amanda Weyrick, 25, drug overdose, San Antonio, TX  
 10 Feb 2010: USA PFC Adriana Alvarez, 20, gunshot wound, IRAQ  
 10 Feb 1945: USN HA1 Marilyn E Weeks, bacterial infection, Navy Hospital, Seattle, WA  
 12 Feb 2007: USN MA2 Laquita (Pate) James, 33, natural causes aboard USS Bataan, AFGHANISTAN  
 12 Feb 2009: USN IT3 Caitlin Trask, 21, died of gunshot wound by her former boyfriend in Newport News, VA  
 12 Feb 2009: USAF T/SGT Jessica Sweet, 30, leukemia, Walter Reed  
 14 Feb 2008: USA SGT Julianna Gehant, 32, murdered in Northern Illinois University  
 14 Feb 2013: USA SPC Kimberly Walker, 28, murdered by boyfriend, Colorado Springs, CO  
 15 Feb 2010: USAF MG Jeanne Holm, died from double pneumonia  
 16 Feb 1944: USA ANC Ellen Ainsworth, 24, WW II  
 16 Feb 2004: USAR PFC Nichole M. Frye, 19, IRAQ  
 16 Feb 2005: USA SPC Katrina Lani (Johnson) Bell, 32, IRAQ  
 16 Feb 2014: USMC GySgt Monica Plank, 34, hit & run driver, OH  
 17 Feb 2006: USAF SrAirman Alecia S Good, 23, plane crash near Africa  
 18 Feb 1944: WASP Marian Toevs, WW II  
 18 Feb 1966: USA ANC 2LT Carol Ann Drazba, 22, VIETNAM  
 18 Feb 1966: USA ANC 2LT Elizabeth Ann Jones, 22, VIETNAM  
 19 Feb 2009: HIARNG PFC Cwislyn K Walter, 19, non-combat vehicle accident  
 19 Feb 2010: USA SGT Winter Plummer, 27, murdered by husband at Ft Lewis, WA  
 21 Feb 2010: TNARNG CWO2 Billie J Grinder, 25, helicopter accident, IRAQ  
 22 Feb 2008: USA SPC Keisha M Morgan, 25, non-combat overdose, IRAQ  
 22 Feb 2010: USA PFC Autumn M Shannon, 32, murdered by mother, Ft Bragg, NC  
 22 Feb 2012: CIVILIAN Journalist Marie Colvin, 56, killed in crossfire, Syria  
 24 Feb 1944: ANC 2LT Elizabeth J Howren, plane crash near Gela-Vittoria, Sicily  
 25 Feb 1944: WASP Trainee Betty Pauline Stine, WW II  
 25 Feb 1991: USAR SPC Christine Mayes, 22, barracks building in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, DESERT STORM  
 25 Feb 1991: USAR SPC Beverly S Clark, 23, barracks building in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, DESERT STORM  
 25 Feb 1991: USAR SPC Adrienne L Mitchell, 20, barracks building in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, DESERT STORM  
 26 Feb 2007: MDARNG PVT May Yuen, 22, Basic Training suicide?  
 27 Feb 1991: USA SGT Cheryl (LaBeau) O'Brien, 24, DESERT STORM  
 27 Feb 2007: CIVILIAN Geraldine Marques, 31, suicide bomber, AFGHANISTAN  
 28 Feb 1991: CTARNG SPC Cindy Marie Beaudoin, 19, Kuwait, DESERT STORM  
 28 Feb 2003: USAF SSG Shelby Dawn Orelup, 22, murdered at Sheppard AFB, TX  
 28 Feb 2009: USMC Carri Leigh Goodwin, 20, suicide due to rape



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



**We need a type of patriotism that recognizes the virtues of those who are opposed to us..... The old "manifest destiny" idea ought to be modified so that each nation has the manifest destiny to do the best it can - and that without cant, without the assumption of self-righteousness and with a desire to learn to the uttermost from other nations.**

*~Francis John McConnell~*

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

Riverside County, CA

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

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