



Veterans-*For*-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, May 15, 2016

Volume 7, Issue 20

This-N-That

While there are so many problems in the VA three huge issues still stand out like a sore thumb.

Delayed processing of claims and appeals and homeless Veterans.

We've been preaching and pushing for a fully computerized claims system like most insurance companies use where all the criteria is programmed in and results are spit out quickly, and when it comes to a complex claim, those would be kicked out for further human intervention.

Yet the VA continues to rely on all human handling and leaving gaping holes and far more chances for error and omissions.

If you recall when Secretary Shinseki held that office he went in and trashed several million dollars worth of programs that had only produced added costs and no results. And personally I still believe had he gained the support needed would have been able to put in place a computerized system to do the claims process properly, and efficiently.

Since Secretary McDonald has held office, there has been no emphasis on claims processing, reducing the back log, or actually assisting Veterans. And very few in Congress are even looking at computerization if they're even looking at Veterans at all except to reduce the amount of money being allocated to Veterans.

Then we come down to homeless Veterans and the VA still claims numbers are coming down, yet reports coming in from all across the country are saying there is an increase from 6.5% to as much as 14%.

Under the direction of now Secretary McDonald who somehow manages to get a little more money all the time from Congress to address the problem, we're seeing extremely little being done if anything at all.

And still more and more reports coming out where VA Facilities are no where near up to par with civilian counterparts staff, equipment, and facilities to meet the needs. But still, no action in a positive direction.

Add all this up and it still equals the VA's silent motto "Delay, Deny, until they die!"

But Congress and our President have absolutely no problem what-so-ever in asking you return to foreign soil to fight a battle, personally I don't think we should be in, and a POTUS who will not allow our military to resolve the problems, get the job done and bring our troops home.

Makes me truly wonder, how many more lives must be lost before someone pays attention? Or how much must it cost before Congress and the VA pay attention?

Operation Mail Call is still in need of your help!

We need cards and letters of encouragement for those who are serving on foreign soil. Many are single, have no family, or are not communicating with family and just need a little encouragement, and know that WE THE PEOPLE do care about them, appreciate them, and thank them for the job that 99.5% of Americans can't or won't do.

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.

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.

If you have not visited our website in the past few weeks, please check back again! We're adding more and more documents as quickly as we can. The new documents have a "NEW" label on them for about 10 days from upload.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Volunteers nationwide, we wish you and your family good health!

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

A new website from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is helping more veterans seek mental help. The Make the Connection website is attempting to help veterans, and their loved ones can see hundreds of other veterans on video telling their own personal stories. The Make the Connection website also has a resource locator tool that veterans can use to identify VA resources, as well as community resources that are in their local area. The website hopes to connect veterans with the help they need. For more information, visit the Make the Connection [website](#).

Homeless Assistance Bill Introduced

Senator Richard Blumenthal introduced S. 1885, the Veteran Housing Stability Act of 2015. This bill would expand service and assistance to include veterans who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless, and veterans with very low incomes. This expansion would also include veterans moving into transition housing, and eventually gaining permanent residential occupancy. In addition, this bill would expand the current definition of "covered veteran" to include a veteran who is enrolled in the VA homeless registry.

This legislation would require VA to implement case management oversight for veterans enrolled in the homeless registry, and participating in programs falling under the homeless veteran category.. The bill would also designate intense case management sites in three locations with the highest homeless veteran populations, and three in suburban or rural areas. It would also permanently authorize the National Center for Homelessness Among Veterans.

The bill would require VA to conduct outreach, educating housing authorities and others with resources relative to housing about the needs of veterans, and the benefits of having veterans as tenants, and to build upon community relationships. This bill would establish criteria to use in determining success or failure of the services provided, and would require related reports.

Please write your Senators today to urge their co-sponsorship and enactment of this important bill. As always, thank you for your advocacy in participating in the DAV Commander's Action Network.

Click [HERE](#) to send your message.

AF Behavioral Health Optimization Program

Air Force mental health clinics are critical to the health and readiness of beneficiaries and family members. Services include mental health assessment, education, consultation and treatment through a variety of evidence-based therapeutic exercises. This includes both individual and group therapy. The Air Force is changing primary care teams to better address behavioral health needs. The Behavioral Health Optimization Program (BHOP) is a primary care behavioral health program. Through BHOP, behavioral health personnel are integrated into primary care clinics to provide the right care. BHOP is available to all active-duty servicemembers, retirees and their family members. For more information, visit the Air Force Medical Service [website](#).

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!

If you're a school teacher, please contact me at my e-mail address at the top, our troops love to hear from the kids too!

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

Veteran Proof of Service Letter

A veteran proof of service letter serves as proof of honorable service in the uniformed services. The letter can be obtained through the upgraded eBenefits premium (free) account access. A YouTube tutorial on how to obtain this premium access is available on the VA [VAntage Point Blog](#). After upgrading to an eBenefits premium account, follow these instructions to obtain your letter: (1) Log into your account [on the eBenefits homepage](#); (2) at the top of the page under the eBenefits logo, hover your mouse over the "Manage" tab. In the dropdown that appears below it, click on "Documents and Records;" (3) in the left column on the following page, click on "VA Letters;" (4) at the bottom of the following page, click on "Veteran Proof of Service;" and (5) print.

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 **2,738,113** 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 **14,548+** documents (**Updated 05/13/16**)
- FAQ's (**1,662** on-line now) (**Updated 02/20/16**)
- Forums (**with Licensed Mental Health Worker Moderator**)
- Job Postings and Job Fairs (Check Often)
- Memorial Pages (**Updated 01/02/16** added **17**)
- News (Updated almost daily, **5,709** articles on-line)
- Polls Added **02/08/16**
- Web Links (**3,431** Active Links)(**Updated 05/05/16** added **2** 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.

2016 AF Clubs Scholarship Deadline

The deadline to apply for the 2016 Air Force Club Scholarship Program is May 20. Applicants must be club members or their eligible dependent ID card holders. They must complete an online application form, submit an essay, supply a college or university letter of acceptance or admission, and upload two letters of recommendation. The essays may be five-minute video essays or traditional 1,000-word written submissions. There will be three winners in the video essay category and three in the written essay category. The first-place award in each category is a \$5,000 scholarship; second place \$4,000; and third place \$2,500. For complete eligibility and entry requirements, visit the Air Force Clubs [webpage](#).



First Marijuana Study Approved

The Drug Enforcement Association (DEA) has approved the first-ever marijuana study for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The DEA approved this first-of-a-kind study to see if smoking marijuana can help veterans' and their PTSD. The Colorado Health Department is helping with the cost of the study and is paying more than \$2 million in grant money. Seventy-six veterans will be involved in the first round of testing next month. The veterans will smoke different strains of marijuana to see its effects on their PTSD.

Government Accountability Office (GAO) Reports

DOD Advertising: Better Coordination, Performance Measurement, and Oversight Needed to Help Meet Recruitment Goals. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-396>

Security Assistance: U.S. Government Should Strengthen End-Use Monitoring and Human Rights Vetting for Egypt. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-435>

District of Columbia: Local Budget Autonomy Amendment Act of 2012. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-663T>

Medicare Advantage: Action Needed to Ensure Appropriate Payments for Veterans and Nonveterans. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-137>

Veterans' Health Care: Proper Plan Needed to Modernize System for Paying Community Providers. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-353>

U.S. Postal Service: Continuing Financial Challenges and the Need for Postal Reform. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-651T>

Defense Technologies: DOD Is Seeking Options to Secure Future Access to Leading-Edge Microelectronics. http://www.gao.gov/restricted/restricted_reports

Revolving Funds: Additional Pricing and Performance Information for FAA and Treasury Funds Could Enhance Agency Decisions on Shared Services. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-477>

Medicaid and CHIP: Increased Funding in U.S. Territories Merits Improved Program Integrity Efforts. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-324>

Medicare Advantage: Fundamental Improvements Needed in CMS's Effort to Recover Substantial Amounts of Improper Payments. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-76>

Smartphone Data: Information and Issues Regarding Surreptitious Tracking Apps That Can Facilitate Stalking. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-317>

TRICARE Urgent Care

Under TRICARE's Urgent Care Pilot Program, you must notify your PCM when you've received urgent care. Learn more [here](#).

Source: NAUS

SASC Passes Omnibus VA Reform Bill

On Thursday the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee has unanimously passed its omnibus Veterans Affairs reform bill.

Highlights of the *Veterans First Act* include accountability reform to make it easier for the VA secretary to remove bad actors at all levels of the department, the expansion of the VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, the strengthening of the Veterans Choice Program and the establishment of a pilot program to address the delays and massive backlog in VA's disability claims appeals process.

The bill, called *Veterans First Act*, has the support of many service associations. VA Committee Chair Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga) said the \$4-billion-plus in program costs will be covered through a series of savings measures, leaving the final bill with a surplus of more than \$330 million. Official Congressional Budget Office scoring of the measure is expected out later this week.

Source: NAUS

Follow Veterans-For-Change on Twitter



<https://twitter.com/Veterans4Change>

Links to other Stories

- 1) [*A man who went undercover in a jail for 2 months discovered a disturbing truth about Veterans who are locked up*](#)
- 2) [*Chart Your Course*](#)
- 3) [*Congressional candidates say Veterans need more help, resources*](#)
- 4) [*Damning: Air Force whistleblower's Benghazi account gives sick reason 2 people were left to die*](#)
- 5) [*Former Cincinnati VA Chief Turns Whistleblower*](#)
- 6) [*Hearing Set for Marine Accused of Lying in Sexual Misconduct Case*](#)
- 7) [*Homelessness In Los Angeles Jumped 11 Percent Last Year: Report*](#)
- 8) [*House Passes Gus Bilirakis' VA, DOD Opiate Medicine Reform*](#)
- 9) [*Illinois Senate campaign targets 'war hero' Veterans record*](#)
- 10) [*Maryland Sailor Killed in Pearl Harbor Attack Identified*](#)
- 11) [*MHS partnering with Social Security Administration to improve electronic medical data sharing*](#)
- 12) [*MILITARY: State dedicates millions to help homeless Vets*](#)
- 13) [*Relief Fund Helps Veterans Misled By Private Schools*](#)
- 14) [*The 13 Most Evil US Government Human Experiments*](#)
- 15) [*Tucson VA: Navy Seal denied care and now in debt*](#)
- 16) [*VA Secretary McDonald Wants Agency To Be Run Like 'The Very Best Customer Service Organization'*](#)
- 17) [*Veterans Continue to Suffer Under Obama Administration's Care*](#)
- 18) [*Veterans facility permit denied*](#)
- 19) [*Veterans without honorable discharges may soon get health care*](#)

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

Senators Want New Caregiver Benefits Phased in

A showpiece of the Veterans First package that the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee unveiled last week is a multi-billion-dollar initiative to phase in for older generations of severely injured veterans the same robust caregiver benefits first enacted in 2010 only for the Post-9/11 generation. Though it's only part of a huge omnibus bill containing many veteran reform measures that senators previously introduced as separate bills, the plan to expand caregiver benefit coverage carries the biggest price tag. The early estimate is \$3.1 billion over its first five years

Source: NAUS



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.

Check often for Updates!

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

~ We Proudly Support Our Military Personnel & Families ~

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

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

2 May 1991: FLARNG SGT Tracey Brogdon, accident in Saudia Arabia, DESERT STORM
 2 May 2007: USA PFC Katie M (Soenksen) Rowella, 19, IED, IRAQ
 2 May 2008: USMC L/CPL Casey Lynne Casanova, 22, IED, IRAQ
 3 May 2008: USA SPC Emily Ort, found unconscious from accidental multiple prescription drug toxicity, Ft Irwin, CA
 3 May 2013: USAF CPT Victoria A Pinckney, 27, KC-135 aircraft crash, AFGHANISTAN
 3 May 2013: USA SGT Maribel M Ramos, 36, murdered in CA
 3 May 2014: USA PFC Daniela Rojas, 19, Homburg, Germany due to a non-combat related illness
 8 May 2004: USA SPC Isela Rubalcava, 25, IRAQ
 9 May 1898: Army Contract Nurse Lulu Plant, undiagnosed illness, SPANISH AMERICAN WAR
 9 May 2008: USA SPC Mary J Jaenichen, 20, non-combat, IRAQ
 9 May 2014: USA SGT Heidi L Ruh, 33, shot on base, Kosovo
 10 May 2012: USA PFC Shanon E Pirofsky, 35, died at Ft Eustis, VA
 11 May 2008: USA CPL Jessica A Ellis, 24, IED, IRAQ
 12 May 2015: USMC CPL Sara A Medina, helicopter crash in Nepal
 12 May 2015: USMC CPL Sara Medina, 23, helicopter crash, Nepal
 13 May 1945: USA PFC Alethia Fair from CA, C-47 crash, New Guinea
 13 May 1945: USA SGT Helen Kent from CA, C-47 crash, New Guinea
 13 May 1945: USA PFC Mary Landau from NY, C-47 crash, New Guinea
 13 May 1945: USA T/3 Marion McMonagle from PA, C-47 crash, New Guinea
 13 May 1945: USA SGT Belle Naimer from NY, C-47 crash, New Guinea
 13 May 1951: USN SN Doris Frances Brown, non-hostile death, KOREA
 13 May 1991: CAARNG CPT Sashai Dawn, 34, helicopter crash in Honduras
 13 May 1991: CAARNG 1LT Vicki Boyd, 30, helicopter crash in Honduras
 13 May 1991: CAARNG SSG Linda Simonds, 34, helicopter crash in Honduras
 14 May 1945: USA PFC Eleanor Hanna from PA, from injuries C-47 crash, New Guinea
 9 May 2014: USA SGT Heidi L Ruh, 33, shot on base, Kosovo
 15 May 1945: USA SGT Laura Besley from PA, from injuries C-47 crash, New Guinea
 16 May 2004: USN PO3 CT Laura A (Skinner) Alford, 21, murdered by a roommate, Virginia Beach, VA
 18 May 1944: USA ANC 2LT Eloise Richardson, 24, MIA declared dead on 19 May 1945, WW II
 18 May 2007: AKARANG Martina Ann Delp, 33, electrocuted while cutting tree in AK
 19 May 2009: USN LT Allison Oubre, 27, helicopter crash near Coronado Islands, CA
 20 May 1917: USA ANC Edith Ayers, Attica, OH, WW I
 20 May 1917: USA ANC Helen Burnett Wood, Evanston, IL, WW I
 20 May 2004: USA PFC Leslie D. Jackson, 18, IRAQ
 20 May 2009: USA SPC Crystal J Carney, 21, found dead in her home on Fort Hood, TX
 20 May 2009: USAF 1LT Roslyn L Schulte, 25, St Louis, MO, IED, AFGHANISTAN
 22 May 1943: ANC 2LT Mafaida Arney, plane crash at Peterson Army Airfield, Colorado Springs, CO
 24 May 2015: INARNG SGT April L James, 32, suicide, Evansville, IN
 25 May 2009: USN PO Debbie Russell, 44, murdered by husband after serving in Iraq
 26 May 2009: USAF SrAirman Ashton L M Goodman, 21, IED, AFGHANISTAN
 26 May 2014: USA Vanessa L (Hernandez) Alcorte, 32, murdered, Lubbock, TX
 29 May 1997: USAF CPT Amy Lynn Svoboda, 29, plane crash near Gila Bend, AZ
 30 May 1945: USA PFC Rose Brohinsky from NY, C-47 crash off Derwin Point, Africa
 30 May 1945: USA SGT Doris Cooper from IL, C-47 crash off Derwin Point, Africa
 30 May 1945: USA PFC Flossie Flannery from IN, C-47 crash off Derwin Point, Africa
 30 May 1945: USA PFC Frieda Friend from NY, C-47 crash off Derwin Point, Africa
 30 May 1945: USA PFC Mary Gollinger from CA, C-47 crash off Derwin Point, Africa
 30 May 1945: USA CPL Velma Holden from NC, C-47 crash off Derwin Point, Africa
 30 May 1945: USA PFC Odessa Hollingsworth from OK, C-47 crash off Derwin Point, Africa
 30 May 1945: USA PFC Alice King from OR, C-47 crash off Derwin Point, Africa
 30 May 1945: USA PFC Wilma Liles from TX, C-47 crash off Derwin Point, Africa
 30 May 1945: USA PFC Evelyn McBride from TX, C-47 crash off Derwin Point, Africa
 30 May 1945: USA PFC Alice McKinney from WI, C-47 crash off Derwin Point, Africa

- 30 May 1945: USA PFC Rose Puchalla from MN, C-47 crash off Derwin Point, Africa
- 30 May 1945: USA PFC Mildred Rice from MO, C-47 crash off Derwin Point, Africa
- 30 May 1945: USA PVT Pearl Roomsburg from CA, C-47 crash off Derwin Point, Africa
- 30 May 1945: USA PFC Helen Rozzelle from Washington, DC, C-47 crash off Derwin Point, Africa
- 30 May 1945: USA PFC Leona Seyfert from IL, C-47 crash off Derwin Point, Africa
- 30 May 1945: USA PFC Ruth Warlick from TX, C-47 crash off Derwin Point, Africa
- 30 May 1945: USA PFC Bonnie Williams from KS, C-47 crash off Derwin Point, Africa
- 30 May 2014: USA SGT Shaina B Schmigel, 21, paratrooper training accident, Ft Bragg, NC

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://gem.godaddy.com/signups/193302/join>

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.



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



Our great modern Republic. May those who seek the blessings of its institutions and the protection of its flag remember the obligations they impose.

~Ulysses S. Grant~

Veterans-For-Change, Inc.

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today
www.veterans-for-change.org

Serving those who served!

Please pass to all your Veteran friends and family!

Distribution	
Express Mail:	144,466
Boston	69,517
Courtesy Copies:	3,500

Dept of VA	11,752
DoD	10,116
Face Book Pages:	3,152
Google	2,346
Los Angeles	117,817
Microsoft	2,749
New York	133,310
Other Social Media:	20,833
San Francisco	66,748
Twitter:	32
U.S. House of Reps & Staff	829
U.S. Senators & Staff	95
University of So. CA	2,364
US Air Force	29,585
US Army	39,623
US Marines	21,025
US Navy	18,588
Veterans	19,049,731
Washington DC	136,383
Yahoo:	134
	19,884,695