



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, July 31, 2016
Volume 7, Issue 28

This-N-That

The Veterans Affairs administration spent \$20 million on expensive artwork and sculptures amidst the healthcare scandal, where thousands of Veterans died waiting to see doctors.

Then the VA goes and spends another \$670K on two art sculptures for center for BLIND Vets.

Honestly, I believe art work does make for a better healing environment, but why not go to up and coming fresh artists where their work is far cheaper? And why is artwork more important than Veterans Healthcare?

The one thing I have found over the years from countless Veterans is they love art work made by school kids! It makes them smile, even laugh and laughter in most cases is the best medicine around. So why didn't the VA go to the schools?

They could have offered an art contest with three levels of prizes, first, second and third places with a cash prize of \$500 for first, \$250 for Second and \$100 for Third and saved millions of dollars and still had art work on display.

Reaching out to the schools from elementary to high school they could have had both paper art as well as sculptures.

But instead they have placed the value on a Veterans life. While they were out buying up millions of dollars in art work, over 1,000 Veterans died waiting. With just those two numbers that comes to \$20.6 million dollars and a value of \$20,670.00 per Veteran life lost while waiting for medical care.

Then former Marine Brandon Ketchum, 33, killed himself only a few hours after being turned down at the Iowa City VA Medical Center on July 7th. He made an emergency appointment with the facility and spoke to doctors about his struggle.

When someone reaches out knowing they need help, what on earth is going through the heads of Medical care providers when they turn one of our finest away?

What ever happened to their oath “first do no harm?” Is turning away a Veteran in need doing no harm? HELL NO! To me it’s saying the usual “suck it up” and “move on!” Or in other words, go on and kill yourself, problem solved!

Totally sickening to me! As with the art work and non verbally placing a value on a Veterans life, this too is placing a ZERO value on this Veterans life.

When each of you enlisted into the military, you each wrote a blank check for an amount up to and including your life! And the VA and our Government are all taking advantage of that and cashing in on those checks by NOT providing medical care and benefits in a timely manner.

Isn’t this mass genocide of all our Veterans at the hands of the VA and our Government?

How many more lives is it going to cost before they stand tall and answer for their criminal activities?

And now there is a strong push on privatizing the VA and this is NOT the answer. The VA has the strongest buying power in the country which seriously helps keep costs down, privatizing will only drive costs sky high and making the VA have tougher guidelines on when they will authorize medical care due to high costs and budgetary constraints. Do you honestly want wait times and approvals to put you further into limbo, make you wait even longer?

If you have not checked out the VFC Website, you might want to visit today. We’re always adding a little more each week and this week we added a whole new library with 85 documents. The library is labeled Dermatology. We also have many Web Links and Documents on various issues. In addition many forums on various topics where you can post issues, questions, etc and share with those who served in the same era as you. And best of all the entire system is 100% FREE of any charge ever.

On behalf of myself and Volunteers nationwide, we wish you and your family good health!

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org

VA 'Choice' Update

The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) [Veterans Choice Program](#) (VCP) has reached a key milestone by scheduling two million appointments through the program. The network now has over 350,000 providers and facilities. VA has partnered with Congress to improve the community care experience by: (1) removing the enrollment date requirement for Choice; (2) implementing criteria of 40-mile driving distance from medical facility with primary care physician; (3) implementing the unusual or excessive burden criteria; and (4) expanding the episode of care authorization from 60 days to up to one year. For more information, read VA's [Plan to Consolidate Programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs to Improve Access to Care](#).

Appeals Court will not give Blue Water Navy day in court

Today the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit denied our appeal brought on behalf of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Association to seek judicial review of the irrational “boots on the ground” policy. The appeal dealt solely with jurisdictional issues and did not reach the merits of the case. The three Judge panel ruled that our sole remedy was via the Veteran’s Judicial Reform Act. A separate case has been brought under that law and is pending in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Although this decision is obviously a setback, Military-Veterans Advocacy and the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Association are continuing to address the issue judicially and in Congress. Finding a jurisdictional loophole in the Veterans Judicial Reform Act was always considered a long shot, but one worth taking. Although we are disappointed we are not discouraged and intend to push forward.

I have taken on a number of Blue Water cases and I am becoming concerned as I read the submissions by certain VSOs. I would recommend engaging an attorney for the appeal. Although I am not accepting new cases right now, I do suggest you contact Hill and Ponton. I work closely with them. Their number is 844-415-2025. Other fine Veterans attorneys are Chris Attig (214) 762-1448 and Katrina Eagle. (858) 549-1561

Let’s keep fighting until victory is ours.

Source: CMDR John Wells, USN (Ret)

Assess Whether Health Equity is a Priority at Your Facility using the Office of Health Equity-developed Competing on Health Equity – Organizational Assessment

One goal of the [VHA Health Equity Action Plan](#) is to strengthen and broaden leadership to address health disparities throughout the VA. Our new tool, the [Competing on Health Equity – Organization Assessment](#), can help you consider if your organization (e.g., the facility where you receive care or the section in which your work) makes health equity a priority. The Assessment was developed by Harry L. Leider, MD, MBA and was modified for OHE use under appropriate permission.

Download a copy of the [Competing on Health Equity – Organizational Assessment](#) today.

Female Veteran Suicide Prevention Act

The Female Veteran Suicide Prevention Act was recently signed into law by President Obama. It requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to identify which VA mental health care and suicide prevention programs are most effective for women Veterans and those having the highest satisfaction rates among women Veterans. The new act will require additional appropriations to implement it as written. For more information, read the VA [VAntage Point Blog](#).

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

Employment Preference for Gold Star Families

The Office of Personnel Management has issued a new guidance detailing how the parents of deceased or disabled veterans can now claim veterans' preference. A new law amends the veteran preference statute to include both parents of deceased or permanently disabled veterans instead of the previous version of the law, which extended preference only to the mother of a veteran. Veterans' preference promotes eligible veterans for civil service jobs over other applicants based on their military service. The new guidance allows the parent of a deceased or permanently disabled veteran to claim their preference if: (1) the spouse of that parent is permanently disabled or (2) the parent is unmarried or legally separated when the preference is claimed. The agency is currently updating relevant print materials and website pages to accommodate the new changes.

FREE AFFIDAVIT PRODUCES NUMEROUS STATE COURT VICTORIES

by LT(j.g.) Gregory K. Parsons U.S. Navy, PDRL

Since 1987, the individual state and commonwealth family law systems have been presumptuously using disabled veterans' disability compensation benefit awards in establishment calculations for child support. The U.S. Supreme Court held in *Rose v. Rose* 481 U.S. 619 (1987): "A state court has jurisdiction to hold a disabled veteran in contempt for failing to pay child support, even if the veteran's only means of satisfying this obligation is to utilize veterans' benefits received as compensation for a service-connected disability."

However, that wasn't all that the *Rose* decision had to say regarding this domestic relations nightmare that a large percentage of disabled vets unfortunately experience sooner or later. The good news is that after the noted 1987 deficiencies cited in that high court ruling, U.S. Congress, under the leadership of President Reagan, went to work and actively legislated to preclude disabled veterans from having to endure the consequences of the *Rose* verdict by establishing the new presidential cabinet level Department of Veterans Affairs and passing the **Veterans Judicial Review Act of 1988** (VJRA). A few years later, they repealed 38 U.S.C. § 211, engrossed § 511 in its place, and finally, oversaw the 1998 implementation of *Information Memorandum IM-98-03* entitled **Financial Support for Children from Benefits Paid by Veterans Affairs** promulgated by the Commissioner of the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) and as directed by the Secretary of Health & Human Services. And with that, *Rose v. Rose* was abrogated but only if the disabled veteran had knowledge of the active legislation.

However, because of congressional financial incentive laws, i.e. 42 U.S.C. §§ 658a & 655, the various states and commonwealths have stubbornly refused to read past the first page of the 1987 *Rose* holding. In doing so, they have also deviously, through their conspiring and abdicating state family law attorney associations, denied veterans due process in their family court hearings and proceedings. In 2014 after enduring years of contentious child support battles with the state of Texas and sensing that my federal civil rights had been ignored even though I had paid handsomely for legal representation, I began to seek answers with a small group of fellow disabled veterans also forced to abide by similar

adversarial edicts. After several years of intense reading and research, I devised the *Parsons Due Process Affidavit (PDPA)* which assures that all the veteran's civil rights are asserted before the family court.

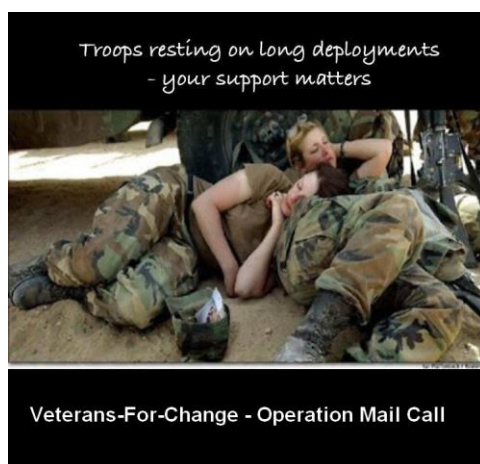
The PDPA is offered freely to all my "Disabled Vet Child Support Info" Facebook group members, established June 2015 with current membership totaling over 850, in a Microsoft WORD Template file. Recent court victories utilizing notarized PDPAs have been realized in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Florida & Illinois. Find the group and learn much more by sending a request to join at the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/VeteranChildSupportGroup/>

The online MS Word PDPA Template link is <https://1drv.ms/w/s!Am6tHjeMUbKAaskybdDDNMQ4hhA>

To hear my recent interview regarding the PDPA, go to <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/marcusechols/2016/05/28/the-child-support-hustle-show>

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 kids too!

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

Government Accountability Reports

Aviation Safety: FAA's Risk-Based Oversight for Repair Stations Could Benefit from Additional Airline Data and Performance Metrics. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-679>

Financial Management Systems: HUD Needs to Address Management and Governance Weaknesses That Jeopardize Its Modernization Efforts. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-656>

Hazardous Materials Transportation: Better Guidance and Planning Could Enhance DOT's Explosives Classification Oversight. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-715>

Management Report: Areas for Improvement in the Bureau of the Fiscal Service's Information Systems Controls. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-655R>

VA Real Property: Leasing Can Provide Flexibility to Meet Needs but VA Should Demonstrate the Benefits. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-619>

Management Report: Areas for Improvement in the Bureau of the Fiscal Service's Information Systems Controls. http://www.gao.gov/restricted/restricted_reports

Defense Space Acquisitions: Too Early to Determine If Recent Changes Will Resolve Persistent Fragmentation in Management and Oversight. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-592R>

NASA Human Space Exploration: Opportunity Nears to Reassess Launch Vehicle and Ground Systems Cost and Schedule. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-612>

Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle: Action Needed to Improve Visibility into Cost, Schedule, and Capacity to Resolve Technical Challenges. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-620>

Army Corps of Engineers: Additional Steps Needed for Review and Revision of Water Control Manuals. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-685>

Levee Safety: Army Corps and FEMA Have Made Little Progress in Carrying Out Required Activities. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-709>

Mortgage Servicing: Community Lenders Remain Active under New Rules, but CFPB Needs More Complete Plans for Reviewing Rules. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-448>

DATA ACT: Improvements Needed in Reviewing Agency Implementation Plans and Monitoring Progress. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-698>

Inland Waterways Fuel Tax: Additional Data Could Enhance IRS's Efforts to Ensure Taxpayer Compliance. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-682>

Veterans Health Administration: Personnel Data Show Losses Increased for Clinical Occupations from Fiscal Year 2011 through 2015, Driven by Voluntary Resignations and Retirements. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-666R>

A Lot to Learn on New Transgender Policy

Many military commanders might have been surprised June 30 when Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced that, effective immediately, [transgender service members](#) could be open about their preferred gender without fear of involuntary dismissal or denial of enlistment or continued service "just for being transgender," as Carter explained it. For more details, see [this Military Advantage blog post](#).

Program to Restore War Memorials

The U.S. World War I Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum and Library have announced a new program to help people across the country restore and preserve local World War I memorials. 100 Cities/100 Memorials is a fund-matching program in which groups or individuals can: (1) identify local World War I memorials; (2) put together a conservation treatment proposal for a memorial in distress; (3) submit their plan for consideration for matching grant funds; and (4) have the memorial treated by an accredited conservator, with communication help and possible matching funds. Details of the program, including guidelines and online application form, are available on the [U.S. World War I Centennial Commission website](#).



Prosthetic lab walk-through at Boston VA facility

The MyVA Advisory Committee (MVAC) took a tour of the prosthetics lab at the Jamaica Plain VA facility in Boston. Certified prosthetist Eric Lydon showed the group different types of prosthetics he has been working on, and the process they go through when using enhanced technology to meet a Veteran's needs.

After the demonstrations for the MVAC group, Lydon was nice enough to give our digital media team a walk-through of the laboratory. He gives us a brief step-by-step of how the staff in the lab would create a prosthetic for a Veteran. The process starts with a negative cast and ends with a diagnostic mold.

Commission on Care Chairwoman Discusses Veteran Health Equity and the VHA Health Equity Action Plan

The [Commission on Care](#) Chairwoman in a recent interview discusses Veteran health equity and the [VHA Health Equity Action Plan](#). The Commission released its final report on June 30, 2016. Included in the 18 recommendations is a call for the elimination of health disparities. The Commission makes the following recommendation:

Recommendation #5 – Eliminate health care disparities among veterans treated in the VHA Care System by committing adequate personnel and monetary resources to address the causes of the problem and ensuring the VHA Health Equity Action Plan is fully implemented.

- ◆ VHA work to eliminate health disparities by establishing health care equity as a strategic priority.
- ◆ VHA provide the [Office of Health Equity](#) adequate resources and level of authority to successfully build cultural and military competence among all VHA Care System providers and employees.

- VHA ensure that the [Health Equity Action Plan](#) is fully implemented with adequate staffing, resources, and support.
- VHA increase the availability, quality, and use of race, ethnicity, and language data to improve the health of minority veterans and other vulnerable veteran populations with strong surveillance systems that monitor trends in health status, patient satisfaction, and quality measures.

Visit <http://federalnewsradio.com/federal-drive/2016/07/nancy-schlichting-how-the-va-can-improve-health-care-delivery/> for the full interview with Commission on Care Chairwoman Nancy Schlichting. The discussion of VA Health Equity Action Plan begins at the 05:30 mark.

The full Commission on Care report can be downloaded at https://commissiononcare.sites.usa.gov/files/2016/07/Commission-on-Care_Final-Report_063016_FOR-WEB.pdf.

The statement by Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the Commission on Care report is available at <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2800>.

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

Navy Improves Medical Records System

The U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) recently created its new Navy Medicine Records Activity (NMRA) detachment. The NMRA ensures timely transfer of service treatment records (STRs) to the VA within 45 calendar days in support of Navy veterans filing a VA claim. Following separation or retirement, these records become a component of the veteran's health care documentation. A complete STR includes all service-provided medical and dental documentation, civilian-provided medical and dental documentation, a printed copy of the servicemember's electronic health record file, and a Service Treatment Record Certification (DD Form 2963).

Veterans-For-Change Web Site

The Veterans-For-Change website has been under construction since day one back in 2009 and every day since then. The looks pretty much stay the same, but in the background constant improvement and change is being done to make our website the most user friendly "One-Stop-Shop" website to find almost everything you might have tried to find searching the internet.

Almost a hundred people have been involved; collecting web links to documents now houses on the VFC website, collecting thousands of web links for various issues, illnesses and benefits. Creating forums for all eras of service and two forums one just for men and one just for woman where you can go question, comment, share medical and personal concerns, what ever you'd like it to be.

We also have a forum with a licensed Mental Health Worker, again where you can seek help or just ask questions.

We average 1,700 hits per day, and downloads average 1,400 per day with a total **2,886,527** visitors as of Friday.

If you subscribe you will have full access to the entire website and best of all it's **FREE** of charge! You just need a valid E-mail address so the system can send you a confirmation E-Mail. Once received, click on the link to be authorized automatically.

www.veterans-for-change.org

- ◆ Documents Library with over 15,406 documents on-line (Updated: **07/13/16**)
- ◆ FAQ's with more than 1,600 FAQ's and answers (Updated: **02/20/16**)
- ◆ Multiple Forums
- ◆ Job Postings (Updated: **07/11/16**)
- ◆ Memorial Pages (Updated: **01/02/16**)
- ◆ News (Articles On-Line: **5,892**)
- ◆ Polls
- ◆ Web Links, more than 3,440, Added 1 New Links (Updated: **07/13/16**)

If you have a submission for the memorial pages, E-Mail: Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org



Hello All

Are you a female Military Person

*Do you know of one maybe you are
a daughter, granddaughter or friend of one.*

*We the Ladies of the VFW are
looking to Honor them this coming March
2017. You do not have to belong to the VFW
and she doesn't have to be living you just
need a picture of her.*

For more Information Kit Turner cheryl_turner@yahoo.com



<https://twitter.com/Veterans4Change>

Links to Other Stories

- [*1\) 93-year old WWII Veteran shows gold medal athletic skills*](#)
- [*2\) A driven competitor, one Marine overcame setbacks to become medal-winning athlete*](#)
- [*3\) ANA Urges Support for Proposed Rule to Improve Veterans Health Care*](#)
- [*4\) Appeals Court Finds the VA Wronged Vets by Ignoring 2010 Law*](#)
- [*5\) Crowd gathers on Big Mamie for Veterans appreciation event*](#)
- [*6\) Eligible Veterans can use VA benefits at River Hospital for mental health, PTSD care*](#)

- 7) [Head of Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs says agency will study service changes for Vets](#)
- 8) [Housing for homeless Veterans opens in Snohomish County](#)
- 9) [See Lone Survivor Marcus Luttrell Live in Houston](#)
- 10) [TRICARE requires Basic Life Support training for ABA providers](#)
- 11) [VA official cites improvements at local hospital](#)
- 12) [VA spent \\$20M on art as ailing Veterans languished, report finds](#)
- 13) [VA still unclear about long-term path for records approach](#)
- 14) [Veterans Advantage and Amtrak Vacations Offer Special Military Discounts on Rail Travel to Thank Those Who Serve the Country](#)
- 15) [Veterans needed to donate blood for study of genetics and disease](#)
- 16) [Veterans question VHA privatization push](#)
- 17) [Veterans Service Officer has busy quarter](#)
- 18) [Why is the U.S. deporting Veterans?](#)

You can help VFC by reading articles posted and commenting at the bottom and rate the articles. If you don't have an account, sign up today, it's FREE. Your comments and rankings tell us what type of information you want most.

Check us out today: www.veterans-for-change.org



Are you seeking employment? Been looking and not found the right job?

Well Veterans-For-Change is working hard to bring you more information on Job Fairs and Job postings available across the country.

<http://veterans-for-change.org/documents-library/category/167-job-fairs-job-postings>

If you're an employer and have a job to post, send an E-Mail to: Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org

~We Proudly Support our Military Personnel & Families~

If you received this newsletter as a courtesy or a forward from a friend or relative, you can sign up to receive in your E-mail every week.

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



Veterans-For-Change, Inc.

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today

www.Veterans-For-Change.org

Serving those who served!

Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends and Family

Distribution	
Express Mail	144,513
Boston	71,288
Courtesy Copies	3,500
Department of VA	11,685
DoD	12,239
Face Book Pages	3,289
Google	7,764
Los Angeles	123,710
Microsoft	3,192
National Guard	753
New York	141,449
Other Social Media	26,682
San Francisco	72,357
Twitter	32
US House of Reps & Staff	829
US Senators & Staff	98
University of So. California	3,699
US Air Force	30,078
US Army	37,304
US Marines	22,221
US Navy	21,377
Veterans	19,065,723
Washington DC	138,209
Yahoo	134
	19,942,125

Please do not reply to this E-Mail, this is an unattended E-Mail address, please send all correspondence to: Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org