



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

*A Voice of the Veterans*

*Week Ending Sunday, September 18, 2016*  
Volume 7, Issue 35

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

Seems the wheels at the VA are spinning out of control again with even more expensive artwork being purchased or commissioned to be done.

This time it's in Palo Alto California where:

- \$483,000 for "Aggregate," a rock sculpture that is part of a \$1.3 million courtyard at the new Mental Health Center.
- \$330,750 for a white, half-arc sculpture that is near the Mental Health Center.
- \$305,000 for a green sculpture with letter cutouts in an exterior lobby.
- \$365,745 for a stainless steel and aluminum sculpture at the Aquatic Center.
- \$285,000 for a holographic colored glass façade adorning a parking structure that translates quotes from Abraham Lincoln and Eleanor Roosevelt into Morse Code.
- At least \$115,000 on consulting for the art installations.

With just these number totaling \$1,884,495 this alone could have provided benefits to forty-seven Veterans in the amount of \$2,000 per month for twenty years!

Or it could have provided mini homes for 235 Veterans in need of an interim home till they're able to get back on their own feet, or permanent homes for Veterans who are physically unable to work.

Seriously what is going through Secretary McDonalds head when he sees these numbers? What is Congress thinking by not stopping the wasteful spending going on left and right?

Where are the Nationally Chartered Veteran Service Organizations trying to prevent this and seeking better care and treatment of our Veterans?

Then recently Obama has vetoed a pay raise of 1.5% to active duty military while signing off on a 6% pay raise for Government employees.

If this isn't a slap in your face, what is?

While Veterans-For-Change can't stop it, we still continue to fight to change things for all our Veterans. But, we cannot do it alone and why we continually ask you to become involved too.

We always publish the phone numbers which you can use to call your elected officials in DC, but you can also go to their websites and send a message to them there as well.

Yes you might get the standard boiler plate reply, but it at least puts you on record as having let them know what is right and what is wrong.

Please, take advantage of those sources; help us to help you and all Veterans.

If we keep putting pressure on them, WE can all help force change!

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

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

[Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org](mailto:Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org)

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### ***Commission Defends Integrating VA and Outside Docs***

Commission on Care leaders defended their tough diagnosis and 18-point treatment plan for what ails the VA healthcare system, including their controversial push to let veterans begin to choose their own primary care doctors from new, integrated networks of VA and private-sector physicians. Answering critics who say they went too far or not far enough in proposing to transform the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) over the next 20 years, Commission Chair Nancy Schlichting, chief executive officer of the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, and vice chair Dr. Delos "Toby" Cosgrove, CEO of worldwide Cleveland Clinic hospitals, warned the House Veterans Affairs Committee on Wednesday that VHA is rife with weaknesses.

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### ***Military-Veterans Advocacy Opposes VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act***

A measure sponsored by Congressman Jeff Miller (R-FL) would have the unintended consequence of making appeals more difficult for the veterans. said Cdr. John Wells (USN, Ret.), who heads Military-Veterans Advocacy (MVA), a Louisiana-based non-profit.

Miller has offered HR 5620 as the VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act of 2016. While MVA recognizes the need for serious reforms at the Veterans Administration, this bill will complicate the appeal process and make legal counsel more difficult for veterans to acquire.

Under current law, veterans are only eligible for private counsel, in a paid status, after being denied by the VA Regional Office. Most veterans remain unrepresented until the Regional Office denies their claim. Section 9 of Cong. Miller's bill removes the "duty to assist" prior to any appeal, complicating private counsel's ability to obtain documents relevant to the case.

"This will increase the expenses for the veteran as he or she tries to obtain documents from private or governmental sources," Wells said. "Since the VA system, unlike all other federal adjudication systems, does not have discovery, the veteran is denied the ability to obtain records. The Freedom of Information/Privacy Act process takes months or years, and often results in heavily redacted documents or no response at all.

"Worse, this bill requires veterans to choose when they file the appeal whether they want to submit additional evidence or to request a hearing. This decision is often made before the veteran seeks legal counsel, and there is no way to change the initial selection."

Despite the flaws in this bill, Wells strongly advocates for reforms.

"The appeals system is in chaos," he said. "Most of the problems, however, are systemic. This legislation won't fix it. Section 9 in its current form merely makes it easier for the VA to deny appeals. While it may help to reduce the backlog, it is at the expense of the veteran's rights to due process.

"We need to bring the VA system in line with other federal adjudication systems, such as the Merit Systems Protection Board, EEOC and Social Security. Electronic filings, preliminary conferences and scheduling orders will streamline the process without handicapping the veteran," Wells said.

Wells also noted that the "Veterans Law Judges" at the Board of Veterans Appeals are not certified Administrative Law Judges and that currently over half of the cases that are appealed from the Board are remanded because of technical errors.

"The Secretary is required by law to certify these so-called Veterans Law Judges," Wells noted. "It has become a rubber stamp that merely rewards incompetence."

Wells sent a letter to all Members of Congress today asking that HR 5620 be rejected in its current form.

Commander J. B. Wells U. S. Navy (Retired)  
Attorney at Law  
Executive Director  
Military-Veterans Advocacy



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***Congress Returns to Try and Do What It Couldn't Do for the Past 11 Months***

Now that August is over, along with Congress' annual August recess, they have a massive amount of work to try and get done in the 17 days they will be in session before they once again recess to run for re-election.

The biggest item facing them is to pass legislation to keep the federal government running after Sept. 30, which is the end of the 2016 fiscal year. Both parties have pledged that there will be no shutdown of the government this year, but no agreement on what to do has been reached.

Unless Congress can agree on all 12 spending measures before the end of this month, which no one believes will happen, they must pass a "continuing resolution" or "CR," which will keep the government open for a specified length of time with funding at the same levels as FY2016. The purpose of the CR is to give them more time to come up with a final spending bill(s) for FY2017.

Some members of the Republican majority in the House of Representatives have said they'll agree to a three-month CR, which would keep the government open through the end of the year, during which time Congress would presumably be able to agree on full funding for the rest of the 2017 fiscal year. However a significant minority of the Republican caucus wants a six-month CR, giving the next Congress the power to determine what spending will be for the rest of FY2017.

On the Senate side, the Democratic minority have said they will only agree to a three-month CR. Although Republicans control the majorities in both the House and the Senate, Senate rules give great power to all Senators, regardless of whether they belong to the majority or minority party. And without the agreement of the Democrats, no CR can move through the Senate.

The second item thought by many to be must-pass legislation is funding to fight the Zika virus. However that, too, is caught up in election year politics and if it does not pass by the end of September, you can bet it will be a campaign issue.

As far as defense bills go, the Defense Appropriations bill is in the same boat as the rest of the funding bills for the federal government and some observers believe it must pass first before Congress can pass the Defense Authorization (NDAA) bill. What is not known is whether the Republican majorities want to try to push through the authorization bill and risk a presidential veto, or if they also want to hold off on it until after the election. The most controversial parts of the legislation have not been resolved despite meetings by congressional staff members during the summer and the President has threatened to veto the measure if it contains the funding mechanism that is in the House bill.

TREA has given Congress our positions on the measures in the NDAA and we continue to closely monitor what is happening.

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### ***Study Looks at Cannabis Treatment for PTSD***

Stars and Stripes reports that a new study, which is about to begin accepting participants, will assess the safety and efficacy of four types of smoked marijuana to manage chronic, treatment-resistant post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms. In the first phase, 76 participants will smoke randomly assigned types of marijuana, including a placebo strain, from a pipe for three weeks. They will then abstain from smoking for two weeks. The second phase is a repeat of the first. Afterward, participants will follow up with the researchers for six months. The study should run about two years. Those interested in participating in the study in the Phoenix area can email [arizona@marjuanasites.org](mailto:arizona@marjuanasites.org).

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## ***Disability Appeals Reform Legislation***

The Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, the Honorable Jeff Miller, introduced H.R. 5620, the VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act of 2016. This legislation could significantly improve the ability of veterans to receive more timely and accurate decisions on their claims, and appeals of denied claims, for earned benefits.

This bill contains a new processing framework that would make positive and fundamental changes in the way VA adjudicates benefits. This legislation would create multiple options for veterans to redress benefits decisions. Under this legislation, for example, as long as a veteran continuously pursued redress within one year of the most recent decision, the veteran would be able to preserve the earliest effective filing date. This legislation also would allow veterans to present new evidence and obtain hearings before the Board of Veterans' Appeals or the Veterans Benefits Administration if they so desired.

Over the past few years, the number of appeals awaiting decisions has risen dramatically - to almost 450,000 - and the time for an appeal decision ranges between three and five years, a delay that is simply unacceptable. If faithfully implemented and if fully funded by Congress in the years ahead, H.R. 5620 would enable veterans to get more timely and accurate decisions on their claims and appeals.

Please use the prepared electronic letter to urge your Representative to cosponsor H.R. 5620 and to urge the House Leadership to bring this bill to the floor of the House for a vote before the end of the 114th Congress.

As always, we appreciate your support for DAV and your grassroots activism and participation in DAV CAN. Your advocacy helps make DAV a highly influential and persuasive organization in Washington.

Click the link [HERE](#) and send your message!

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### **To Contact your Members of Congress**

**To Call your Representative: 202-225-2305**

**To call your Senator: 202-224-3841 or 202-224-3553**

**To call different members of Congress: 202-224-3121**

**Toll FREE Number: 866-272-6622**

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### ***Will There be a COLA Next Year? Not Much, if Any***

It's not looking good for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2017. We won't know for sure until October 18th but so far, it would only amount to .23 percent.

The COLA is determined by a formula each year that is based on the measure for inflation used by the Department of Labor. In 2014 retirees got a 1.5 percent COLA, in 2015 it was 1.7 percent, and this year it was

0 percent. Since the price of oil has fallen this year, and that makes up a significant part of the formula that determines the inflation rate, chances of a healthy COLA don't look good.

This is in spite of the increases in the cost of Medicare for many seniors, as well as other increases for things that don't outweigh the drop in oil prices.

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### ***Medical Care for Service Dogs***

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that it is piloting a program to implement veterinary health benefits for mobility service dogs approved for veterans with a chronic impairment that substantially limits mobility associated with mental health disorders. To be eligible for the veterinary health benefit, the service dog must be trained by an organization accredited by Assistance Dogs International in accordance with VA regulations. The VA veterinary service benefit includes comprehensive wellness and sick care for the service dogs, including annual visits for preventive care, maintenance care, immunizations, dental cleanings, screenings, urgent/emergent care and prescription medications. For more information on service dogs, visit the VA Guide and Service Dogs [webpage](#).

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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.

Our men and women in uniform often go months without hugging their children, walking through the park with a significant other or enjoying Mom's home-cooked Sunday dinners.

Ask them where they'd go if they had a free plane ticket anywhere in the world, and the overwhelming majority would say, "home."

Of course, we can't replace the hugs, the love or the secret family chili recipe – but with your help, we can provide them a connection to their fellow Americans who are grateful for their service.

Now, we're hoping you'll take your support to the next level by sending more cards and letters. Hand made cards by your children, or class mates are a terrific means of putting smiles on their faces even if only for a moment.

Cards and Letters of encouragement to help boost moral and let them know we sincerely appreciate the job they are doing and look forward to they day they are all brought home. Your card or letter will show your appreciation and help thousands more American heroes feel connected to the people they love and the country they serve.

Please help us to make a powerful expression of how much their fellow Americans care about them.

Thank you so much for all you're doing to show our service men and women they are appreciated missed and loved.

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>

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### ***Government Accountability Reports***

Bulk Fuel: Actions Needed to Improve DOD's Fuel Consumption Budget Data.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-644>

Generic Drugs Under Medicare: Part D Generic Drug Prices Declined Overall, but Some Had Extraordinary Price Increases. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-706>

Homeland Security: DHS's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives Program Consolidation Proposal Could Better Consider Benefits and Limitations. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-603>

Digital Service Programs: Assessing Results and Coordinating with Chief Information Officers Can Improve Delivery of Federal Projects. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-602>

Federal Air Marshal Service: Additional Actions Needed to Ensure Air Marshals' Mission Readiness.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-764>

Highway Bridges: Linking Funding to Conditions May Help Demonstrate Impact of Federal Investment.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-779>

Nuclear Weapons: NNSA Should Evaluate the Role of the Enhanced Surveillance Program in Assessing the Condition of the U.S. Nuclear Stockpile. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-549>

Social Security: Improvements to Claims Process Could Help People Make Better Informed Decisions about Retirement Benefits. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-786>

U.S. Customs and Border Protection: Review of the Pay Assignment Continuity Plan.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-825R>

Health Care: Results of Recent Undercover Testing for Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Coverage, and Review of Market Concentration in the Private Insurance Markets.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-882T>

Social Security: Providing More Information During Claims Process Would Help Individuals Making Decisions About Retirement Benefits. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-865T>

Immigrant Investor Program: Progress Made to Detect and Prevent Fraud, but Additional Actions Could Further Agency Efforts. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-828>

Tax Debt Collection: IRS Needs to Define Field Program Objectives and Assess Risks in Case Selection.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-787>

Federal Chief Information Security Officers: Opportunities Exist to Improve Roles and Address Challenges to Authority. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-686>

Federal Employees' Compensation Act: DOD Access to DOL Data Is Generally Sufficient, but Monitoring Timelines Could Help Return-to-Work Efforts. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-793>

Fire Grants: FEMA Could Enhance Program Administration and Performance Assessment.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-744>

Information Technology Reform: Agencies Need to Increase Their Use of Incremental Development Practices.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-469>

Long-Term Care Workforce: Better Information Needed on Nursing Assistants, Home Health Aides, and Other Direct Care Workers. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-718>

Supplemental Security Income: SSA Provides Benefits to Multiple Recipient Households but Needs System Changes to Improve Claims Management. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-674>

VA IT Management: Organization Is Largely Centralized; Additional Actions Could Improve Human Capital Practices and Systems Development Processes. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-403>

Veterans Affairs Contracting: Improvements in Policies and Processes Could Yield Cost Savings and Efficiency.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-810>

Intellectual Property: Patent Office Has Opportunities to Further Improve Application Review and Patent Quality. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-883T>

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### ***Special Forces Monument to be Rededicated***

America's Response Monument, the nation's first publicly accessible monument dedicated to U.S. Special Forces, will be re-dedicated overlooking the National 9/11 Memorial area in Liberty Park in New York City on Sept. 13. The statue was commissioned by an anonymous group of Wall Street bankers who lost friends in the



9/11 attacks. The sculpture honors the servicemen and women of America's Special Forces response to 9/11, including those who fought in the early days of Operation Enduring Freedom. Embedded in the statue's base is a piece of steel from the World Trade Center. For more information on the monument, visit the [Wikipedia website](#).

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## ***September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month***

The following is a press release from the Defense Health Agency:

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month is a national observance during the month of September, but suicide prevention is a priority for the Department of Defense (DoD) every day of the year. Suicide is a pressing public health issue. Suicide rates have increased alarmingly in the U.S. over the past two decades. The Defense Health Agency (DHA) will lead in preventing suicide through three lines of action: fostering research, translating clinical knowledge to the field and informing policy.

### **Research**

The evidence base for suicide prevention remains thin. Research efforts such as the “Study to Assess Risk and Resilience in service members Longitudinal Project” (STARRS-LP) and protocols under the cognizance of the Military Suicide Research Consortium are producing slow but hard-won gains in the science of suicidology.

### **Knowledge Translation**

Interventions such as brief suicide-focused cognitive behavioral therapy have been shown to reduce suicidal thinking and suicide attempts in treated groups. There is some evidence that these interventions, based on registry data in Northern Europe, may even have reduced suicides—a very high bar to prove as suicide is a low base-rate event. The Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury will lead in promulgating practices such as this throughout the Military Health System.

### **Policy**

We can inform policy changes. As recommended by the DoD-VA Clinical Practice Guidelines for Assessment and Management of Patients at Risk for Suicide, we can consider ways to restrict access to lethal means that service members and veterans could use to take their own lives. This includes safer prescribing and dispensing of medications to prevent intentional overdoses and restriction of access to firearms and ammunition. In addition, other efforts of means restriction – such as construction of suicide barriers on bridges, reducing access to pesticides, and the detoxification of natural gas supplies – showed immediate and lasting reductions in suicide in populations where these practices were implemented.

Efforts to stop suicide don't end once a servicemember transitions out of the military; recently a 76-year-old Navy veteran committed suicide in the parking lot of the Northport Veterans Affairs Medical Center where he was allegedly denied care.

Peter A. Kaisen, 76, of Islip, shot and killed himself outside, where he had been a patient. His body was reportedly found in a car in the parking lot.

While more investigation needs to take place, if the facts hold up this is only the latest in a series of events that have led to the unnecessary deaths of veterans.



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### ***President Responds to Care Commission***

Consistent with the Veterans Choice Accountability Act of 2014, President Barack Obama recently sent to Congress his formal response to the Commission on Care. The President said "a sacred covenant exists between Veterans and this nation: servicemen and servicewomen take an oath to protect our country, and in turn, our nation pledges to take care of them when they leave the service. The Commission's work to evaluate the Veterans Affairs health care system is important in ensuring we keep our promise to our Veterans." The President's letter to Congress is available on the [White House website](#). The final report by the Commission on Care is available [online](#). Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald statement on the final report is available on the [VA website](#).

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### ***Return of the Blue Angels***

The U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, recently returned to the skies with six jets at the Cleveland National Air Show. The squadron completed training in August to reintegrate Opposing Solo Cmdr. Frank Weisser into the flight demonstration. The mission of the Blue Angels is to showcase the pride and professionalism of the United States Navy and Marine Corps by inspiring a culture of excellence and service to country through flight demonstrations and community outreach. For more information, contact Blue Angels Public Affairs at (850) 452-3955, visit the Blue Angels [website](#), and follow the U.S. Navy Blue Angels on [Facebook](#).

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### **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**

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## *VA State of Women Veterans Campaign*

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is partnering with Women Veterans Interactive (WVI) to launch a State of Women Veterans' social media campaign. The goal of the campaign is to raise awareness of women veterans' military and societal contributions and provide an avenue for informing women veterans about the VA benefits they have earned. The campaign will conclude over the Veterans Day weekend and will be recognized and featured during a WVI- sponsored event in November. For more information or to join in the conversation, follow [@DeptVetAffairs](#) on Twitter, like the Department of Veterans Affairs [Facebook page](#) and use the hashtag #StateofWomenVets.

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### *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 **2,989,361** 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](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)

- Documents Library with over 15,616 documents on-line (Updated: **08/02/16**)
- FAQ’s with more than 1,600 FAQ’s and answers (Updated: **02/20/16**)
- Multiple Forums
- Job Postings (Updated: **09/15/16**)
- Memorial Pages (Updated: **01/02/16**)
- News (Articles On-Line: **5,995**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than 3,443, Added 1 New Links (Updated: **08/22/16**)

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

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## ***DoD's New Electronic Health Record Rollout Delayed***

The Pentagon announced last week that the rollout of its new electronic health record system will be delayed because of newly-discovered technical problems.

The system, known as MHS Genesis, encountered problems integrating its commercial software with the old system DoD has been using for patient data. As a result, instead of introducing the system at a few hospitals and clinics in early December, it will be delayed for an undetermined amount of time, perhaps only a few months.

The program has a five-year cost ceiling of 4.6 billion, which DoD believes will not increase because of the delay. In addition, at this point it is believed there will be no delay in the overall schedule for a final rollout to all DoD medical facilities.

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<https://twitter.com/Veterans4Change>

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## ***Important Legislation to Extend Existing VA Services***

The House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 5985, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2016, a bill that if enacted would extend a number of crucial statutory authorities that govern VA health and benefits programs. These authorities support the delivery of family caregiver services for service-disabled veterans, authorize VA to provide nursing home care to service-connected veterans, provide important programs for women veterans, underwrite VA's homeless assistance efforts, extend several VA benefits programs, and continue a number of other programs that are important to DAV (Disabled American Veterans) and its supporters.

Many of these authorities expire as early as September 30, 2016. Should these authorities lapse, VA may suspend their operations and thereby deny veterans a number of vital services.

Please write your Senators today using the prepared letter, or by drafting your own message, urging them to cosponsor and vote for final passage of this important legislation at the earliest possible date.

As always, DAV appreciates your grassroots activism and participation in the Commander's Action Network. Your advocacy makes DAV a more effective organization in protecting and advancing the rights and benefits of veterans.

Click [HERE](#) and send your message!

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### ***Links to Other Stories***

- 1) [\*Acupuncturists help Veterans cope with pain, stress\*](#)
- 2) [\*Here's why military Veterans are marching on the Colorado Street Bridge for three days\*](#)
- 3) [\*House approves bill to make it easier to fire at VA\*](#)
- 4) [\*Inside the drive to collect DNA from 1M Veterans and revolutionize medicine\*](#)
- 5) [\*Lomira home to help homeless Veterans — not homeless sex offenders\*](#)
- 6) [\*Palo Alto: Veterans Affairs spending on artwork blasted\*](#)
- 7) [\*Patriot PAWS helping Veterans in need\*](#)
- 8) [\*Times editorial: Keep Veterans health-care funds where they belong\*](#)

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](http://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](mailto:Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org)

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***Suicide Prevention Month PSA: There is Hope***

September is Suicide Prevention Month, and TAPS has released a video offering advice and immediate access to the Veterans Crisis Line to all service members, veterans and family members battling with suicidal thoughts. To see the video, follow [this link](#). You can also download the [Suicide Prevention Month Toolkit](#), Read the [Suicide Prevention Factsheet](#). If you are in crisis, or you know a veteran who is, call VA's Veterans Crisis Line toll-free at 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1; [chat online](#) or text to 838255 — even if the veteran is not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care.

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### ***CalVet Seeks Events for Our Veterans Day Online Calendar***

In keeping with our mission of serving our California Veterans and their families, the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) is compiling a list of the 2016 Veterans Day events taking place throughout our State.

To submit your Veterans Day or other event for consideration on CalVet's calendar, please send the following information to [PAO.CalVet@calvet.ca.gov](mailto:PAO.CalVet@calvet.ca.gov):

1. Event date
2. Name or type of event
3. Event start and end times
4. Name of sponsoring organization
5. Venue name
6. Venue address
7. Contact person plus phone number or e-mail address
8. Cost of admission, if any
9. Anticipated attendance
10. If pre-registration is required, please provide a link and the registration deadline.

Please indicate whether the event is in Northern California or in Southern California.

To view our CalVet calendar online, go to <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/home/Calendar>.

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

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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>

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### ***Sentinels of Freedom Provides Scholarships to Vets***

Sentinels of Freedom is a non-profit foundation that provides 2-4 year, multi-faceted scholarships to severely wounded post-9/11 veterans who pursue higher education after transitioning from the military. The SOF program includes financial support for housing, mentoring for personal, academic and professional success, and employment networking upon completion of a degree. For more details, visit the Sentinels of Freedom [website](#).

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### ***Guitars for Vets***

Guitars For Vets (G4V) is a nonprofit organization that teaches guitar to veterans who are referred by doctors. The veterans gather each week for a few hours of guitar lessons. The program, opened to qualified vets, gives the participants free lessons and guitars. Once a veteran is referred to the free program, he or she is given a loaner acoustic guitar to use in the sessions that they can take home to use for practice. If they keep with it for 12 weeks, the national G4V program sends the veteran a new guitar that is theirs to keep. For more information and to find a chapter near you, visit the Guitars for Vets [website](#).

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### ***Eliminate 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](#).

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### ***Reader Comments***

Hey,

Just wanted to say thank you for your hard work on this newsletter and for the info.

Just to let you know; I used the ID website and received a military Veteran's ID card. Went to Lowes and the first purchase paid for the card! Very much appreciated!

I have been going around in circles with the VA since 2005 and this newsletter has been the beacon of hope that keeps me fighting for my benefits- Thanks- keep up the GREAT work!

Garth

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

Riverside County, CA

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