



# Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

*A Voice of the Veterans*

Week Ending Sunday, October 02, 2016  
Volume 7, Issue 36

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

In last weeks newsletter one of the hot issues I spoke of were that the VA now covers sex reassignment counseling and surgery.

I still don't know why or how they felt this was so important being it is an elective surgery and in no way, shape, fashion or form is it any way related to being service connected.

When it comes to costs involved it's astronomical with the highest cost being from female to male at a whopping \$214,000.00:

One Year Mandatory Counseling & 2 Letters	\$ 5,000.00
Hormone Therapy for One Year	\$ 2,400.00
Transition Surgery	\$ 207,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 214,400.00
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If you were to take these wasted costs and put it where it truly belongs, providing benefits to Veterans who have been waiting and waiting this would easily cover eight Veterans for one year if they were to receive \$24,000.00 annually.

Or it would easily provide for twenty-six mini homes for homeless Veterans.

I still haven't found out yet if there are any "shared" costs, but at this point I sure don't see any, but still doesn't matter as I still strongly feel this is something the VA should not be covering and/or allowing.

I have no problem with anyone wanting sex reassignment surgery, but what makes them feel this is a cost that should be covered by the Veterans Affairs, and Taxpayers nationwide?

To me this is another form of theft from those who have problems, need the medical care and the benefits they have earned are due, and our government is failing on massive levels.

Ever since 2014 when all the VA Scandals began to break into mainstream media we keep hearing more and more about so many other issues most of us have known but thanks to CNN and a couple of other sources they were brought to public light.

It didn't really help much, other than it made civilians more aware of the horrors Veteran deal with in their daily lives.

Now we discover that many of our fallen Veterans remains were sitting in the VA Hospital morgue for several months at an Illinois VA Medical Center.

The VA Director of that facility claims families had not come forward to collect their relative. To me this is just inexcusable and the director should be terminated.

It begs the question, what did their facility staff do to contact family? Or did they?

Chances are they took absolutely no action and just figured family would think something was wrong and go on a journey of seek and find.

It should not be up to the family, it should be the VA's responsibility to locate and notify, after all they were charged with their care and this to me also means even after life.

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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### ***Opinion: VA Rigged for Failure***

U.S. Rep. Jeff Miller, the chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, recently shared his views and opinion on the impact unions and the VA leadership are having on the Veterans Affairs system. [Read the full article on Military.com.](#)

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### ***H.R. 3216, the Veterans Emergency Treatment Act***

DAV testified in February before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health to improve VA emergency care in accordance with National Resolution 240. We urged the statutory requirements of the Emergency Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) to be applied to emergency care furnished by the VA to, among other things, provide access to emergency care for pregnant women veterans, and to recognize emergency behavioral conditions. EMTALA is a federal law that requires anyone coming to an emergency department to be screened, stabilized and treated.

On Tuesday, September 27, the House of Representatives will be considering H.R. 3216, the Veterans Emergency Treatment (VET) Act, which would apply the requirements of EMTALA to every enrolled veteran to be afforded the highest level of emergency care at every emergency-capable VA medical facility.

Please use the prepared e-mail or draft your own message to request that your Representative vote to pass H.R. 3216.

Thank you for all you do for ill and injured veterans and their families.

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



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### ***VA enrolled patients can get free flu shots at the VA and at Walgreens***

Whenever Fall approaches (in fact it arrived last week) we are told to get the latest flu shot. The VA orders 2,000,000 doses of flu vaccine every year to give to its patients (and employees) at their hospitals and clinics.

But don't have to travel to the VA if you don't want to. Enrolled veterans can also get a free flu shot at your local Walgreens. This program runs through March 31st 2017.

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### ***New Private Debt Collection Program to Begin Next Spring; IRS to Contract with Four Agencies; Taxpayer Rights Protected***

WASHINGTON - The Internal Revenue Service announced today that it plans to begin private collection of certain overdue federal tax debts next spring and has selected four contractors to implement the new program.

The new program, authorized under a federal law enacted by Congress last December, enables these designated contractors to collect, on the government's behalf, outstanding inactive tax receivables. As a condition of receiving a contract, these agencies must respect taxpayer rights including, among other things, abiding by the consumer protection provisions of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. The IRS has selected the following contractors to carry out this program:

- CBE Group 1309 Technology Pkwy Cedar Falls, IA 50613
- Conserve 200 CrossKeys Office park Fairport, NY 14450
- Performant 333 N Canyons Pkwy Livermore, CA 94551
- Pioneer 325 Daniel Zenker Dr Horseheads, NY 14845

These private collection agencies will work on accounts where taxpayers owe money, but the IRS is no longer actively working their accounts. Several factors contribute to the IRS assigning these accounts to private collection agencies, including older, overdue tax accounts or lack of resources preventing the IRS from working the cases.

The IRS will give each taxpayer and their representative written notice that their account is being transferred to a private collection agency. The agency will then send a second, separate letter to the taxpayer and their representative confirming this transfer.

Private collection agencies will be able to identify themselves as contractors of the IRS collecting taxes. Employees of these collection agencies must follow the provisions of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and must be courteous and respect taxpayer rights.

The IRS will do everything it can to help taxpayers avoid confusion and understand their rights and tax responsibilities, particularly in light of continual phone scams where callers impersonate IRS agents and request immediate payment.

Private collection agencies will not ask for payment on a prepaid debit card. Taxpayers will be informed about electronic payment options for taxpayers on IRS.gov/Pay Your Tax Bill. Payment by check should be payable to the U.S. Treasury and sent directly to IRS, not the private collection agency.

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### ***H.R. 3216 Passed by House***

Thank you for your quick response to the action alert on H.R. 3216, the Veterans Emergency Treatment Act.

Thousands of emails were sent by DAV grassroots advocates and we are pleased to inform you the House passed the measure, which has now been sent to the Senate for consideration.

We will continue to work on the enactment of H.R. 3216 to ensure the statutory requirements of the Emergency Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) are applied to emergency care furnished by the VA to, among other things, provide access to emergency care for pregnant women veterans, and to recognize emergency behavioral conditions. EMTALA is a federal law that requires anyone coming to an emergency department to be screened, stabilized and treated.

Again, thank you for all you do for ill and injured veterans and their families.

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### ***House Passes VA Accountability Bill***

The House of Representatives recently passed the VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act of 2016, a bipartisan bill that would reform the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs appeals process and reduce wait time for veterans' claims. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) said more than 450,000 veterans are awaiting claim appeals decisions and 80,000 veterans have appeals that are older than five years. By 2027, that will grow to more than two million if the process is not modernized. The legislation is currently awaiting a vote in the Senate.

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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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### ***Secretary Imbasciani Issues Statement on Death of Roger Brautigan***

Sacramento – California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) Secretary Vito Imbasciani MD, today issued the following statement regarding the death of former CalVet Acting Secretary, Major General Roger Brautigan, U.S. Army, Retired:

“I am deeply saddened to learn of the death of former Acting Secretary Roger Brautigan, an exemplary military leader and a defining presence at CalVet, who dedicated his career to our nation’s military and Veterans. His legacy includes opening our California Veterans Homes in Lancaster, Ventura and West Los Angeles. We are grateful for his service to our veterans, the State of California, and our nation.”

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Brautigan as Acting Secretary of CalVet in May, and he served until the end of 2010. He previously served as Undersecretary from 2004 to 2009.

Prior to retiring from military service, Brautigan served in a variety of active and reserve command and staff positions in the United States, Vietnam and Germany. His last Army assignment before retiring from military service was as commanding general and chief of staff, I Corps at Fort Lewis in Washington state. During his Army career, he earned the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star Medal.

He is survived by his wife, Arvie, daughter Julie, and grandsons Ty and Max.

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### ***Navy Gold Star Mother's Day***

Since 1936, the last Sunday in September has been designated as Gold Star Mother's Day to recognize and honor those who have lost a child while serving the country in the United States Armed Forces. In 2009, the observance was renamed to Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day. The Navy Gold Star Program honors Gold Star families throughout the year by hosting events which pay tribute to their lost loved ones, providing resources and opportunities to connect with one another. For more information on the Navy Gold Star Program, visit the Navy Gold Star Program Information and Resource [website](#) or call 1-888-509-8759. Follow the Navy Gold Star Program on [Facebook](#).

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### ***Military Drug Take Back Program offers safe drug disposal***

Excess prescription and over-the-counter drugs can pose a serious risk in your home. The Military Health System (MHS) is helping the military community fight back against the dangers of unneeded, unused and expired drugs by offering Drug Take Back at military pharmacies in the U.S.

“Proper disposal of unneeded, unused and expired drugs lowers the risk of misuse and environmental contamination,” said Dr. George Jones, chief of Pharmacy Operations at the DHA. “The MHS Drug Take Back program accepts both prescription and over-the-counter drugs, so this is the time to clean out your medicine cabinet.”

Military pharmacies in the U.S. offer two Drug Take Back options. Most pharmacies have fixed containers in place where you can drop off your excess drugs. Others offer envelopes you can take home, fill with your drugs, and then mail in. Some have both. You can't dispose of illegal drugs at MHS Drug Take Back locations.

Check to see if your local military pharmacy offers drug takeback at [www.tricare.mil/mtf](http://www.tricare.mil/mtf).

“Holding onto drugs past their useful life is a bad idea,” said Jones. “It could be a child accidentally ingesting an over-the-counter sleep aid, or an addict finding expired pain killers. Don't take the risk of having these drugs in your home once you don't need them anymore.”

For more information on the Military Health System's Drug Take Back efforts, visit the [Drug Take Back Spotlight](#).

Source: TREA

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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***

Delegated Leasing Authority: Review of Selected Leases and Information on GSA's Changes to Delegation Procedures. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-716R>

Foreign Assistance: Selected Agencies' Monitoring and Evaluation Policies Generally Address Leading Practices. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-861R>

International Trade: Government Procurement Agreements Contain Similar Provisions, but Market Access Commitments Vary. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-727>

Electronic Health Information: HHS Needs to Strengthen Security and Privacy Guidance and Oversight. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-771>

International Mail: Information on Designated Postal Operators and Universal Service in Selected Countries. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-813R>

Waste Management: DOD Has Generally Addressed Legislative Requirements on the Use of Burn Pits but Needs to Fully Assess Health Effects. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-781>

Office of Personnel Management: Actions Are Needed to Help Ensure the Completeness of Political Conversion Data and Adherence to Policy. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-859>

Information Security: VA Needs to Improve Controls over Selected High-Impact Systems.

[http://www.gao.gov/restricted/restricted\\_reports](http://www.gao.gov/restricted/restricted_reports)

Information Security: FDA Needs to Rectify Control Weaknesses That Place Industry and Public Health Data at Risk. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-513>

Information Technology: Agencies Need to Improve Their Application Inventories to Achieve Additional Savings. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-511>

NIH Biomedical Research: Agencies Involved in the Indirect Cost Rate-Setting Process Need to Improve Controls. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-616>

Medicaid Fee-For-Service: State Resources Vary for Helping Beneficiaries Find Providers. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-809>

Payment Services: Federal Reserve's Competition with Other Providers Benefits Customers, but Additional Reviews Could Increase Assurance of Cost Accuracy. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-614>

Border Security: CBP Programs to Prevent High Risk Travelers from Boarding U.S.-Bound Flights. [http://www.gao.gov/restricted/restricted\\_reports](http://www.gao.gov/restricted/restricted_reports)

Federal Research Grants: Opportunities Remain for Agencies to Streamline Administrative Requirements. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-890T>

Federal Workforce: Lessons Learned for Engaging Millennials and Other Age Groups. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-880T>

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### ***Express Scripts Pharmacy Network Changing for TRICARE Beneficiaries***

Express Scripts, Inc. (ESI) today announced upcoming changes to the retail pharmacy network it manages on behalf of TRICARE. On Dec. 1, 2016, Walgreens pharmacy locations will join the network. CVS pharmacies, including those in Target stores, will leave the network on the same day. The new network will have more than 57,000 locations nationwide, and ensures TRICARE beneficiaries have timely access to retail pharmacies in their community.

ESI is the TRICARE pharmacy contractor, responsible for developing the pharmacy network. ESI reached a new network agreement with Walgreens, which will replace CVS pharmacy in the TRICARE network. This change is intended to provide better value and maintain convenient access for beneficiaries. The addition of Walgreens into the network means that 98 percent of TRICARE beneficiaries will still have a network pharmacy within 5 miles of their home. Find a network pharmacy at [ESI's Website](#).

If beneficiaries chose to fill a prescription at CVS after Dec. 1, it will be a non-network pharmacy. This means they will have to pay the full cost of the medication upfront, and file for partial reimbursement.

ESI and TRICARE are working to notify all beneficiaries of this change, and ensure that people currently using CVS have time to switch to another network pharmacy. ESI is doing additional outreach to patients filling



specialty drugs at CVS pharmacies to ensure they can move their prescription with no gap in their prescription coverage.

Please visit the [ESI's website](#) for more information on this change.

Source: NAUS

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### ***Surge in Email, Phishing and Malware Schemes***

The IRS saw an approximate 400 percent surge in phishing and malware incidents in the 2016 tax season. Scam emails are designed to trick taxpayers into thinking these are official communications from the IRS or others in the tax industry, including tax software companies. These phishing schemes can ask taxpayers about a wide range of topics. Emails can seek information related to refunds, filing status, confirming personal information, ordering transcripts and verifying PIN information.

Variations of these scams can be seen via text messages, and the communications are being reported in every section of the country.

When people click on these email links, they are taken to sites designed to imitate an official-looking website, such as IRS.gov. The sites ask for Social Security numbers and other personal information, which could be used to help file false tax returns. The sites also may carry malware, which can infect people's computers and allow criminals to access your files or track your keystrokes to gain information.

For more details, see:

- IR-2016-28, Consumers Warned of New Surge in IRS Email Schemes during 2016 Tax Season; Tax Industry Also Targeted
- IR-2016-15, Phishing Remains on the IRS “Dirty Dozen” List of Tax Scams for the 2016 Filing Season



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***Nurse Advice Line serves as important tool for suicide prevention***

A panicked wife made a call and said that her active-duty military husband had a gun to his head and was threatening suicide. The nurse on the line calmly went through an established procedure to try and save a life. “The first thing we did was get as much information as we could and calm the wife,” said Regina Julian, chief of Primary Care, Access and Patient Experience at the Defense Health Agency and the Nurse Advice Line, a 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week, toll-free number for Military Health System beneficiaries. “Then the nurse told the wife, ‘Put him on the phone, and I’ll talk to him about the medical problems he’s having, while you get the gun when he puts it down. When he does that, unload the gun and throw the bullets as far away as you can, while I message first responders.’”

Julian said the nurse was able to talk to the service member and find out he had back problems from carrying heavy packs during multiple deployments. The combination of pain and the medications to treat that pain were making him depressed and unable to cope with life, making him feel he was at the end of his rope. The nurse lent a sympathetic ear, while the wife unloaded the gun and first responders arrived. “It was incredible. The nurse just kept her composure, we are so pleased we had a resource to provide this active-duty member and his wife because we were able to save a life through the Nurse Advice Line,” said Julian.

The calm actions were a result of the training all nurses get at the Nurse Advice Line. When beneficiaries call 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273), option 1, they are connected with a professional who has been trained to use a clinically proven process to work through issues and find the best solution. According to Julian, the nurse line receives up to nine suicide threats a day.

U.S. Public Health Service Capt. Christopher Hunter is the Department of Defense’s program manager for Behavioral Health in Primary Care and a clinical psychologist. He said there are a variety of issues that can lead people to want to kill themselves. But the factors that might increase suicide risk can affect people differently, based on other coping measures and support systems they might have, for example family and community support.

“Even when we know someone is at high risk, we don’t really have a good way of predicting who in that group of high-risk individuals will try to kill themselves,” said Hunter. “Our best path is to make sure people are aware there are a variety of avenues where they can get support.”

A key to raising that awareness is to stay on message.

“The more ways we let people know they aren’t alone and there is help for them in variety of ways, the more likely they are to use those services,” he said.

The Nurse Advice Line is one tool the military offers to help prevent suicide. It’s a first step that needs to be followed up with physical and mental health treatments. “It’s one avenue that helps us identify and protect those at risk so we can get them the help they need,” said Hunter.

Other numbers military families can call when experiencing emotional distress or thoughts of suicide are:

- The Military Crisis Line (visit the [Military Crisis Line Chat](#) or call 800-273-TALK to talk with a crisis counselor)
- The DCoE Outreach Center (visit [Real Warriors Live Chat](#) or call 866-966-1020 to talk with a health resource consultant)
- [Military OneSource](#) (call 800-342-9647 for one-on-one counseling)

Julian stressed it is important to seek professional assistance if any member of the family is experiencing the following feelings or behaviors:

- Thinking about hurting or killing himself or herself

- Talking or writing about death, dying or suicide
- Unable to sleep or oversleeping
- Withdrawing from friends, family or society
- Increasing alcohol or drug use
- Engaging in reckless or risky behavior
- Experiencing excessive rage, anger or desire for revenge
- Having feelings of anxiety, agitation or hopelessness
- Reliving past stressful experiences
- Experiencing dramatic changes in mood

“There are people out there in crisis, and you never know who they’re going to call,” said Julian. “We want to make sure we’re one more source they can turn to.”

Source: TREA



### ***New VA Clinic Near Plano, Texas***

The new [Plano, Texas VA Outpatient Clinic](#) opened recently for patient care, implementing aspects of whole health in its construction and design, and is the first VA clinic to assign full time health coaches to each Patient Aligned Care Team. The state-of-the-art clinic is approximately 10,000 square feet and provides integrated holistic primary care, mental health, telemedicine, laboratory and x-ray services in an environment designed for healing. Alternative therapies such as acupuncture, clinical massage and a women's clinic enriches physical healing and supports the whole health pathway to help Veterans reach their overall health goals. The VA North Texas Health Care System serves more than 119,000 patients each year.

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### ***Military Divorce***

A service member's military retired pay can be a valuable asset in a divorce, legal separation or dissolution of marriage. In 1982 Congress passed the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act, which allows state courts to treat disposable retired pay either as property solely of the member, or as property of the member and his spouse in accordance with the laws of the state court.

Contrary to popular belief, there is no "magic formula" contained in the act to determine the appropriate division of retired pay. A state court can divide retired pay in any way it chooses (subject to the laws of that state). All 50 states treat military pension as marital or community property.

Source: NAUS

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### ***VA, Chrysler Team Up to Fight Vet Homelessness***

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is partnering with Chrysler Liquidating Trust to provide funds to support VA efforts to end veteran homelessness. The partnership is part of the MyVA Strategic Partnership Initiative, which works with external organizations to improve the delivery and access of care for Veterans. Since the launch of the MyVA, the largest transformation in the history of VA, the Department has entered into new collaborations with dozens of external organizations to combat issues of homelessness, suicide and Veteran unemployment. For more information about VA's Homeless Programs, visit the VA Ending Veteran Homelessness [webpage](#). Information about MyVA transformation efforts are available on the [MyVA Transformation Update webpage](#).

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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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### ***Identity Theft Scams***

The IRS has issued several consumer warnings about the fraudulent use of the IRS name or logo by scammers trying to gain access to consumers' financial information in order to steal their identity and assets. Scammers will use the regular mail, telephone, fax or email to set up their victims. When identity theft takes place over the Internet (email), it is called phishing.

The IRS does not initiate taxpayer communications through email. Unsolicited email claiming to be from the IRS, or from an IRS-related component such as EFTPS, should be reported to the IRS at [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov). Additionally, clicking on attachments to or links within an unsolicited email claiming to come from the IRS may download a malicious computer virus onto your computer.

Taxes. Security. Together Learn more about how the IRS, representatives of the software industry, tax preparation firms, payroll and tax financial product processors and state tax administrators are working together to combat identity theft and refund fraud.

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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 **3,013,147** 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: **6,019**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than 3,444, Added 1 New Links (Updated: **09/19/16**)

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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### *VA Expands Suicide Prevention Efforts*

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has been undertaking new measures to prevent suicide among all veterans. These include expanding the [Veterans Crisis Line](#), using predictive analytics to identify those at risk and intervene early, expanding [telemental health services](#), providing free [mobile apps](#) to help veterans and their families, and leveraging [VA Vet Centers](#) and readjustment counselors. VA is also conducting proactive outreach to Veterans needing care, and through channels including [Make the Connection](#). For more information, visit the [VA Suicide Prevention webpage](#).



<https://twitter.com/Veterans4Change>

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### ***Beware of Fake IRS Tax Bill Notices***

The Internal Revenue Service and its Security Summit partners are warning taxpayers and tax professionals of fake IRS tax bills related to the Affordable Care Act.

The IRS has received numerous reports of scammers sending a fraudulent version of a notice- labeled CP2000 - for tax year 2015. The issue has been reported to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration for investigation.

This scam may arrive by email, as an attachment, or by mail. It has many signs of being a fake:

- The CP2000 notices appear to be issued from an Austin, Texas, address;
- The letter says the issue is related to the Affordable Care Act and requests information regarding 2014 coverage;
- The payment voucher lists the letter number as 105C;
- Requests checks made out to I.R.S. and sent to the “Austin Processing Center” at a post office box.

IRS impersonation scams take many forms: threatening phone calls, phishing emails and demanding letters. Learn more at Reporting Phishing and Online Scams. The IRS does not initiate unsolicited email contact or contact by social media.

An authentic CP2000 notice is used when income reported from third-party sources such as an employer does not match the income reported on the tax return. Unlike the fake, it provides extensive instructions to taxpayers about what to do if they agree or disagree that additional tax is owed. A real notice requests that checks be made out to “United States Treasury.”

The IRS and its Security Summit partners – the state tax agencies and the private-sector tax industry – are conducting a campaign to raise awareness among taxpayer and tax professionals about increasing their security and becoming familiar with various tax-related scams.

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

1) [\*Congress Won't Let Veterans Access Medical Marijuana After All\*](#)

- 2) *VA Secretary: 'I don't think Veterans should be used for political reasons'*
- 3) *Horrifying Disrespect: Bodies of Deceased Veterans Left to Rot Hospital Morgue For Months*
- 4) *Phoenix VA hospital gets new boss with troubled past*
- 5) *Suicide prevention: How to recognize the warning signs*
- 6) *American Legion Posts to Help Dallas Area Veterans*
- 7) *San Diego VA Doctor Patients' Best Friend*
- 8) *VIP treatment at McGuire VA Medical Center gets results for Veterans*
- 9) *State of Women Veterans: How Vet Centers can make a difference*
- 10) *Veterans Preventive Health Coverage Fairness Act*
- 11) *Five Ways to Help Your Disability Claim Now*

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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### ***New National Army Museum***

The ceremony and groundbreaking of the new National Army Museum was recently held at Fort Belvoir. The museum will be free-of-charge to visitors, and is expected to open in 2019. Plans for the 185,000-square-foot facility include more than 15,000 pieces of art, 30,000 artifacts, documents and images. In the museum, Army weapons, uniforms, equipment, and letters written by Soldiers at war will help visitors better connect with their Army. The museum will also be a virtual museum without walls having connectivity with all of the Army museums. For more information, visit the [Military.com website](#) and the [National Museum of the United States Army website](#).

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## ***Veterans Connect with Communities***

Thousands of veterans across the U.S. are connecting with their communities and enriching their own lives in the process — the nonprofit organization The Mission Continues empowers veterans who are adjusting to life at home to find purpose through community impact. The organization deploys veterans on new missions in their communities so that their actions will inspire future generations to serve. For more information, visit The Mission Continues [website](#) and follow The Mission Continues on [Facebook](#).

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### ***Newly Married Couples Should Report Marriage to Marketplace***

If you're recently married, you probably have a list of things to do. There's one other thing you should add to that list: a health insurance review. This is particularly important if you enrolled in coverage through a Health Insurance Marketplace and you receive premium assistance in the form of advance payments of the premium tax credit.

When you apply for assistance to help pay the premiums for health coverage through the Marketplace, the Marketplace will estimate the amount of the premium tax credit that you may be able to claim for the tax year using information you provide. This information includes details about your family composition and your projected household income.

It is important for you to report life changes – known as changes in circumstances – to your Marketplace to get the proper type and amount of financial assistance and to avoid getting too much or too little in advance. Reporting changes in circumstances will allow the Marketplace to adjust your advance credit payments. This adjustment will help you avoid getting a smaller refund or owing money that you did not expect to owe on your federal tax return.

To report changes and to adjust the amount of your advance payments of the premium tax credit you must contact your [Health Insurance Marketplace](#). Be sure to report all changes directly to that Marketplace because they can affect both your coverage and your final credit when you file your federal tax return.

Other changes you should report to the Marketplace include:

- Birth or adoption
- Marriage or divorce
- Moving to a different address
- Increases or decreases in your household income

These changes may also open the door for the Marketplace [special enrollment period](#) that permits health care plan changes. In most cases, the special enrollment period for Marketplace coverage is open for 60 days from the date of the life event.

The [Premium Tax Credit Change Estimator](#) can help you estimate how your premium tax credit will change if your income or family size changes during the year. This estimator tool does not report changes in circumstances to your Marketplace. Because these tools provide only an estimate, you should not rely upon them as an accurate calculation of the information you will report on your tax return. You should use these estimators only as a guide to assist you in making decisions regarding your tax situation.

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## *Employment Support for Florida Vets*

Military.com and Veterans Florida have announced that they have joined forces to provide employment tools and resources for veterans and transitioning military members who want to live in Florida. [Veterans Florida](#) is a non-profit organization funded by the State of Florida to help promote the state as a great place to live for veterans and for those leaving the military. Military.com and its parent company Monster Worldwide Inc. will power a [Veteran Talent Portal](#) on the Veterans Florida website that features Military.com's award winning [Military Skills Translator](#), and [Transition Center](#).

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## *Still Time To Use Your VA Loan This Year*

Fall is a great time to take advantage of your VA Loan. Use your VA Loan now and you can lock in a great rate and most likely close before the holidays. Qualified borrowers can pay as little as \$0 down with no PMI payments, plus they can get financing up to \$417,000. [Use your VA Loan Benefit today](#).

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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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## *FourBlock Helps Veterans with Transition*

Four Block Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that equips veterans to advance their careers. Its semester-long, university-accredited career readiness program provides professional development, career exploration, and networking. FourBlock has expanded its locations to twelve cities nationwide, and has also teamed up with Coca-Cola, Facebook, GE, and Google to host and teach classes in various cities. The support

of these new partners, alongside that of existing partners PwC, Columbia University, Amazon, JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, and UPS, will provide greater industry learning and career opportunities to FourBlock veterans. To learn more about FourBlock, visit their [website](#).

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### ***Grants for Restoration Memorials***

The 100 Cities/100 Memorials grant program offers matching funds of up to \$2,000 for projects to restore World War I monuments and memorials in local communities throughout the United States. The 100 Cities/100 Memorials grant application deadline is July 15, 2017. The Pritzker Military Museum & Library plans to publish a coffee table book to showcase the 100 chosen memorials and monuments by 2018. To learn how to raise funds locally and apply for grants, visit the United States World War I Centennial Commission [website](#).

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### ***Dive Instruction for Vets on GI Bill***

Veterans have the option of using their Post-9/11 GI Bill to cover costs for courses such as dive instructor certification. One organization that offers such courses for veterans is Ocean Deep, a veteran-owned business. For more details, link to the [Ocean Deep website](#). Diving can help with conditions such as PTSD. For more on PTSD, visit the [Military.com PTSD section](#). For guides on military education benefits and programs, including the current GI Bill, finding schools, and tuition assistance, visit the [Military.com Education section](#).

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### ***VFW to Host Virtual Career Fair for Vets***

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) are teaming up on October 5, 2016, to provide career-seeking service members, veterans and their spouses the opportunity to connect with job openings being offered by some of the top names in the hospitality industry. The VFW Virtual Career Fair will run from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. EDT, and will feature available opportunities with BJ's Restaurants, Ecolab, Hyatt, Sodexo and Sysco, all companies with a history of commitment to hiring America's service members and veterans. For more details and to register, see this [Military Advantage blog post](#), and for other job fairs around the nation, visit the [Upcoming Job Fairs section](#).

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### ***Stopgap Spending Measure Passed by Congress***

Congress passed and the President signed, a stopgap spending measure (H.R. 5325) that avoids a government shutdown when the fiscal year ends today. This measure provides full year of funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs and military construction projects, and extending current funding levels for the rest of the government through December 9. Lawmakers return for legislative business after the election, with the House gaveling in on Monday, November 14, and the Senate the following day.

The spending measure also includes provisions that allow VA to provide fertility services or cover the cost of adoption for veterans with service-connected infertility issues. "We are exceptionally pleased that Congress

has passed this legislation granting veterans struggling with service-connected infertility the reproductive medical coverage they require to help them restore their lives and build their families--it is simply the right thing to do," said Garry Augustine, DAV Executive Director, Washington Headquarters.



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

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today

[www.Veterans-For-Change.org](http://www.Veterans-For-Change.org)

*Serving those who served!*

***Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends and Family***

Distribution	
Express Mail	144,592
Boston	74,153
Courtesy Copies	3,500
Department of VA	12,006
DoD	16,711
Face Book Pages	3,324
Google	15,599
Los Angeles	132,020
Microsoft	3,426
National Guard	2477
New York	149,136
Other Social Media	32,402
San Francisco	75,402
Twitter	34
US House of Reps & Staff	830
US Senators & Staff	99
University of So. California	4,604
US Air Force	13,772
US Army	39,854
US Marines	23,249
US Navy	16,422
Veterans	19,069,518
Washington DC	137,774

Yahoo	134
	19,971,038

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