



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, November 13, 2016
Volume 7, Issue 42

This-N-That

Happy Veterans Day to you all!

This Friday is November 11th; it was originally recognized as Armistice Day, for the end of World War I – “on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month the guns were still.”

All of us here at Veterans-For-Change hope you all have a wonderful day of celebrating and commemorating all of our country's veterans.

And to all our Marines, active and Veterans we wish you all a very Happy 241st Birthday!

I know all of you are sick and tired of same old crap going on in the VA and nothing changing, nothing improving, continual claims denials and more. So it's time for a change!

With incoming President Elect Donald Trump to take office on January 20th, 2017 we need to step up to the plate and make our recommendation and demand for a serious change in the Secretary of the VA.

For quite some time now VFC has worked with Commander John Wells (USN Ret.) who is not only an attorney, but a very staunch fighter for Veterans.

Down a little further is John's outline of what he plans to do for all our Veteran should he be nominated for the position of Secretary of the VA. So I am asking you to please take a couple of minutes to read it, and to help us support him by sending a letter to the address provided to Donald Trumps transition team.

We truly need to get someone in that office who will listen to all our Veterans, and get the job done without a lot of fanfare and publicity, and I personally and very strongly recommend Commander Wells!

So please, help us to make change we all want to see!

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

Happy National Family Caregivers Month!

November is National Family Caregivers Month and VA thanks, celebrates, and honors each and every family Caregiver of a Veteran! One way VA celebrates family Caregivers is through VA's Caregiver Support Line (CSL). The CSL is only a toll free call away at 1-855-260-3274. The calls are answered by licensed social workers who can provide family Caregivers with resources, support, or simply just someone to talk to. The CSL also provides educational calls for family Caregivers on a variety of topics. If you're interested in participating in one of the CSL Education calls or just learning more about the calls, please contact your local Caregiver Support Coordinator. You can find your Caregiver Support Coordinator by using the zip code locator tool at www.caregiver.va.gov

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

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

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

11-11-11 Program Helps Veterans

Through [Military Outreach USA's 11-11-11 Program](#), we can extend a hand to veterans who are transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing. Program participants — local schools, houses of worship, businesses and volunteer and community groups — ask people to donate 11 personal care or household cleaning items. Then, at 11 a.m. on the 11th day of the 11th month, Military Outreach or one of its partners picks up these items at a designated collection point and takes them to the nearest VA medical center or community-based outpatient clinic. When these items are needed, VA caseworkers will distribute them to veterans approved for permanent housing. For more information, visit the Military Outreach [website](#), e-mail Military Outreach at info@militaryoutreachusa.org or read the [VA Vantage Point Blog](#).



Commander John Wells for Secretary of the VA

Thank you for your confidence. Yes I would like to head the VA. I will give you all three guesses which regulation gets rescinded by sundown on Day #1, But here are the main issues I would address.

Vision

- A nation that upholds President Lincoln's promise "To care for him [and her] who have borne the battle and for his [her] widow[er] and orphan."
- A nation where the rights of all veterans of the armed forces are protected.
- A nation where veterans receive their earned benefits without delay.

Mission

- Restructure the culture at the Department of Veterans Affairs to make it "veteran friendly" with an emphasis on service rather than bureaucracy.
- Emphasize outreach to veterans to ensure they are aware of their rights and benefits.
- Working in concert with the National Academy of Sciences become proactive in the identification of diseases and disabilities unique to or connected with military service.
- Work with Congress to ensure that funding is available to compensate and treat veterans who suffer disease or disability due to military service.

Specific Focus

- Exempt service connected mandatory benefits from the offset provisions of PAYGO (Pay as You Go Act of 2010).
- In concert with the Veterans Service Organizations conduct a baseline review of Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations to streamline the benefits program.
- Establish a Merit Systems Protection Board unit consisting of attorneys with MSPB litigation experience at the General Counsel's Office to manage employment termination decisions.
- Promulgate a disciplinary policy with consistent and specific guidelines for punishment.
- Establish a center of excellence to research effects of toxic exposure on vets and descendants. Investigate all issues concerning toxic exposure and contract as necessary for expert assistance. Retain on a permanent basis the Committee to Review the Health Effects in Vietnam Veterans of Exposure to Herbicides and expand its mandate to include all toxic exposures including but not limited to Gulf War disease and Burn Pit exposure.
- De-emphasize the use of standard forms within the VA and emphasize personal contact between the VA staff and the veterans they serve.
- Assign Ombudsmen, who are veterans, to each Regional Office.
- Revise job descriptions for VA raters to require military medical experience.

- Require that the VA maintain a centralized database at an existing facility to identify health trends among veterans and their descendants and refer them as appropriate to the National Academy of Sciences for further study.
- Immediately extend the presumption of Agent Orange exposure to veterans of the Blue Water Navy, Guam, Johnston Island, Panama and Korea during the time Agent Orange was present.
- Appoint a Chairperson of the Board of Veterans Appeals acceptable to the Veterans Service Organizations, the VA and the Congress. The BVA has been without a Chairperson for 5 years.
- Decertify Veterans Law Judges with an excessive controllable remand rate.
- Require all Veterans Law Judges to be Administrative Law Judges.
- Incorporate pre-hearing conferences and scheduling orders in consonance with the practice in the federal administrative adjudication system.
- • On an interim basis, contract with retired Military Judges, after training in VA law, to hold regional hearings on veterans appeals until the 450,000 person backlog is eliminated.
- • Reconstitute and expand the VA Inspector General program.
- • Adopt the Industry Standard “Epic” medical records program for both VA and DOD.
- • Digitalize all records and phase out the centralized mailing system in favor of a digitalized intake system which can be accessed by VSOs and veterans law practitioners.

You can help to get Commander Wells into the Secretary of the VA seat by sending a message to Donald Trumps Transitional Team:

Donald J. Trump Transitional Team
1717 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20006



Advance Care Planning

Advance Care Planning is the process of clarifying your values and your preferences for future health care, and identifying who you would like to speak for you if you are no longer able to make decisions for yourself. There are many Advance Care Planning resources for veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Geriatrics and Extended Care webpage has an entire section on [Advance Care Planning](#) with links to the VA Advance Directive form, and [podcasts](#) for you to listen to on advance care planning, choosing a Health Care Agent, how to be a Health Care Agent, and setting health care goals. Look at the [Values Worksheet](#) for information to talk about with your VA social worker. If you are facing a serious illness, you can also review [Setting Health Care Goals: A Guide for People with Health Problems](#). Also, read the [VA Vantage Point Blog](#).

Veterans Day 2016: These restaurants will thank veterans with free offers and deals

As in past years, many restaurants will be offering free or discounted meals to veterans and active military personnel on Nov. 11 for Veterans Day.

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar

For the ninth consecutive year, Applebee's will offer free meals to veterans and active military members. Seven items will be on the menu including fiesta lime chicken, double crunch shrimp and burgers. Proof of military service is required.

Arooga's Grille House & Sports Bar

Free meals will be offered all day for veterans at the chain's Pennsylvania locations. Vets can pick one complimentary item from a preset menu that will include Crab Pretzel, Buffalo Pretzel, Arooga's Chopped Salad, Blackened Chicken Caesar Salad, Buffalo Chicken Flatbread, Wagyu Cheeseburger, Wagyu Grilled Dog, BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich, Grilled Cheese and Creamy Tomato Basil Soup, Spicy Italian Wrap or Sub, Original Boli and boneless wings (10) tossed in choice of more than 30 sauces. The offer is for dine-in only and drinks are not included. Guests must provide proof of military service.

Chipotle Mexican Grill

The chain is promoting a military appreciation buy-one-get-one free discount good for a small burrito, bowl or salad from 3 p.m.-close. Offer is extended to all veterans, military and military spouses with proof of service.

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store

Veterans can order a complimentary slice of Double Chocolate Fudge Coca-Cola Cake dessert. Diners also can make donations to Operation Homefront.

Denny's

All active, inactive, and retired military personnel at all participating Denny's restaurants will receive a free Build Your Own Grand Slam breakfast 5 a.m.- noon. Diners must show ID to receive the offer.

Flinchy's

The Lower Allen Twp. restaurant will give 50 percent off the food portion of checks to veterans, active duty military personnel and first responders.

Friendly's

Friendly's is treating veterans and active military, with a valid military ID or honorable discharge card, to a free Big-Two-Do breakfast (choice of two slices of French toast, two buttermilk pancakes or two slices of toast; two strips of crispy bacon or two sausage links and two made-to-order farm fresh eggs), or All American Burger (fries and a beverage) during lunch or dinner on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

LongHorn Steakhouse

Free appetizer or dessert (no purchase required, no restrictions) to anyone showing proof of military service. In addition, the restaurants will offer 10 percent off for guests that dine with veterans on Nov. 11.

Olive Garden

Olive Garden restaurants will offer a free entrée from a special menu to active-duty military and military veterans. The special menu features six of Olive Garden's most popular items. Entrées are served with unlimited homemade soup or famous house salad and warm, garlic breadsticks.

Red Lobster Seafood Restaurants

Veterans, active duty military and reservists, can get a free appetizer or dessert with a valid military ID on Nov. 10 and 11. Appetizers include sweet chili shrimp, mozzarella cheesesticks, Parrot Isle Jumbo Coconut Shrimp, seafood-stuffed mushrooms, lobster and langostino pizza and shrimp cocktail. Desserts - Warm chocolate chip lava cookie, New York-style cheesecake, warm apple crostada, chocolate wave, brownie overboard and key lime pie.

Red Robin Gourmet Burgers

The chain will have free Tavern Double Burgers with Bottomless Steak Fries for veterans and active duty service members on Nov. 11.

Wayback Burgers

Free classic cheeseburgers available at participating restaurants to all active and former military personnel. A purchase of a side or drink is required. Guests also must dine-in in uniform or show proof of military service.

Turkey Hill

Turkey Hill stores in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana are honoring America's heroes by welcoming active, inactive, and retired military personnel to stop by for a free 16-ounce coffee or cappuccino. Vets also can receive a free car wash at those stores with car wash services.

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

VA launches nationwide study on the health of Vietnam Era Veterans

Researchers to invite 43,000 Vietnam-era Veterans to Participate

VA researchers are embarking on a new nationwide study to comprehensively evaluate the current health and overall well-being of Vietnam era Veterans as they age. This month, VA will begin recruiting participants for the Vietnam Era Health Retrospective Observational Study (VE-HEROeS).

“Through VE-HEROeS, VA will be able to answer questions about the long-term health consequences of Vietnam War service, provide VA clinicians with evidence to explain health conditions, and anticipate future needs for VA health care and services,” said Dr. Victoria Davey, VA Office of Research and Development staff member, senior researcher for Post Deployment Health Services, and principal investigator on this study.

Study Participant Selection

VE-HEROeS researchers will invite approximately 43,000 Vietnam-era Veterans, including Veterans who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War and Veterans who served elsewhere during the war, to participate in this study by completing a questionnaire. Researchers will also invite a comparison group of approximately 11,000 members of the general population to participate and complete a similar questionnaire.

Researchers will begin mailing invitations to selected Veterans on November 2, and to invited members of the general population on November 10.

VA is scientifically selecting a sample of individuals for this study. These individuals will represent others with similar characteristics, so researchers cannot accept volunteers. All individuals who are selected for this study are encouraged to participate.

Survey Topics:

This study includes a questionnaire for everyone and medical records review for a smaller group of participants. The VE-HEROeS questionnaire includes the following topics:

- General health, including neurological conditions, cancer, hypertension, and mental health
- Experiences with aging, including memory and reasoning
- Lifestyle, including tobacco use and health care use
- Military service experience, including combat experience, chemical or other exposures, or no military service for participants from the general U.S. population

Researchers will look closely at neurologic conditions and hepatitis C infection as a part of this study. Researchers will also describe the health of a population of Vietnam Veterans who served only in the Blue Water Navy and will ask Veterans about health conditions among their descendants that may have been inherited.

Vietnam Veterans have significantly contributed to the study development and planning by serving on the Steering Committee. Learn more about VE-HEROeS at <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/epidemiology/studies/heroes/index.asp>.

Alaska Sea Services Scholarships

The Alaska Sea Services Scholarships program awards up to six \$1,000 scholarships annually for undergraduate education to dependents of Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard personnel who legally claim Alaska as their state of residence. The application deadline is March 1, 2017. Applicants must be legal residents of Alaska and a child or spouse of an active duty, reserve or retired servicemember. Acceptance at an accredited college or university for full-time undergraduate study toward a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree is required. For more information, visit the Navy League [website](#). Interested students and families may contact Ms. Jeanne Ellinport at (703) 528-1775/ (800) 356-5760 or Dr. Cheral Cook at (850) 452-3671 (DSN 459 3671).

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>

During First Year, 38,000 Californians Apply for Veteran Driver License Program

Sacramento – Veterans Day 2016 marks the first anniversary since the State of California started offering Veterans the opportunity to place a printed VETERAN designation on a California driver license or identification (ID) card. So far, 38,000 California Veterans began the process of adding the distinguished marking to a driver license or ID card, which can be used as a simple and official way to confirm military service.

During the first year of this successful program, more than 38,000 Veterans visited a County Veteran Service Office (CVSO), where they obtained the Veteran Status Verification form needed to apply for the special designation. Veterans then visit a Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) field office with the form to add the VETERAN designation to obtain a license or ID. The DMV processed and issued more than 31,000 licenses and ID cards to Veterans, as Veterans usually wait until renewal time before adding the new designation.

The driver license and ID program partners include the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), CVSOs, and DMV. The program honors the military service of our Veterans. As part of the program, more than 7,400 Veterans who visited a CVSO also learned about and filed new benefit claims. Additionally, a VETERAN designation often means a business can easily confirm Veteran status when offering discounts on holidays such as Veterans Day.

To obtain the VETERAN designation, follow these three easy steps:

STEP 1 – Find your military discharge certificate (DD214). If you need assistance obtaining your military records, then contact a CVSO. To find a local CVSO, call 844-737-8838 or visit www.calvet.ca.gov.

STEP 2 – Take your DD214 and government identification to a CVSO and obtain your completed and stamped Veteran Status Verification Form.

STEP 3 – Visit www.dmv.ca.gov or call DMV at 800-777-0133 for an appointment. Then bring your Veteran Status Verification Form to a DMV field office. Complete your application, pay any fees including the \$5 fee to add the Veteran Designation.

For more details and to download our informational poster, please visit [CalVet's website](#).

Government Accountability Reports

DOD Commissaries and Exchanges: Plan and Additional Information Needed on Cost Savings and Metrics for DOD Efforts to Achieve Budget Neutrality. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-38>

Independent Auditor's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures: Fiscal Year 2016 Excise Tax Distributions to the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and the Highway Trust Fund. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-157R>

Navy Shipbuilding: Need to Document Rationale for the Use of Fixed-Price Incentive Contracts and Study Effectiveness of Added Incentives. http://www.gao.gov/restricted/restricted_reports

Financial Audit: Bureau of the Fiscal Service's Fiscal Years 2016 and 2015 Schedules of Federal Debt. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-104>

Financial Audit: IRS's Fiscal Years 2016 and 2015 Financial Statements.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-140>

Financial Audit: Office of Financial Stability (Troubled Asset Relief Program) Fiscal Years 2016 and 2015 Financial Statements. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-125R>

Financial Institutions: Penalty and Settlement Payments for Mortgage-Related Violations in Selected Cases.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-11R>

New GAO Transition App Allows Users to See Changes Needed Across Federal Government.

http://www.gao.gov/press/transition_app_2016.htm



“Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet” events and special web page offer resources to link veterans with employers

LOS ANGELES – This Veterans Day, the Director of California’s Employment Development Department (EDD) encourages all employers to honor the men and women who have served and sacrificed to preserve the freedoms we enjoy – by hiring them.

Speaking at an “Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet” job and resource fair today in Woodland Hills, EDD Director Patrick W. Henning, Jr. praised all of the employers participating in the event and valuing the skills and attributes veterans bring to a job. He called on other California employers to follow their lead, and to visit EDD’s new Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet web page for a special Veterans Day collection of new data and information, employer success stories, and veteran services designed to help connect employers in need of good workers with qualified veterans. EDD also held an Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet event in San Diego today.

“Veterans have served our country with honor, now it’s our turn to honor them and the valuable skills they bring back from their military career – skills that can greatly benefit California employers,” EDD Director Henning said at the job fair. “It is a privilege to hold these events and to assist veterans throughout the year in finding new career opportunities.”

“Every year, 25,000 veterans come home to California and reintegrate into civilian life,” said Dr. Vito Imbasciani, Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), who was also at the Woodland Hills job fair. “Events such as this ease the transition from combat to community by connecting veterans with employers that recognize the value of military experience.”

California is home to 1.8 million veterans, more than any other state, and the EDD has a long history of success in helping veterans of all ages find jobs and training. However, young veterans, many who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, are in significant need, said EDD’s Henning. The unemployment rate for veterans under age 35 in California is 10.3 percent – far higher than the 6.8 percent jobless rate for non-veterans in their age group.

According to the most recent data, 856,000 veterans are employed in California. Business sectors where veterans have found employment applying their valued military skills and experience include professional and business services, educational and health services, public administration, wholesale and retail trade, transportation and utilities, manufacturing, and construction.

EDD’s new [Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet](#) web page lists the attributes veterans bring to a job including:

- Self-directed discipline, working under high pressure conditions, collaborating within a team environment, and developing strategic plans to complete assigned tasks. The U.S. Department of Labor has found that the skills acquired by veterans typically meet or exceed the requirements of the civilian workforce.
- Experience in meeting deadlines, giving and following directions, and providing leadership. In fact, the top civilian jobs currently held by veterans in California are management occupations with a mean average wage of \$129,884.
- Extensive education. Roughly one out of every three veterans in California have a bachelor’s degree or higher – 4.4% more than the share for non-veterans.
- Specialized advanced training in information technology, logistics, medical, mechanical and security fields. Veterans have experience developing computer networks, analyzing transportation routes for goods, and drawing blueprints and operating heavy machinery in construction-related jobs.

In addition, the feature web page highlights services available for both employers and veterans including:

- [“CalJOBSSM”](#) – California’s online resource to help job seekers and employers navigate the state’s workforce services, with directions on how employers can access a specialized CalJOBSSM link making the résumés of 160,000 veterans available to employers within seconds.
- “Heroes at Work” – presents success stories of employers who have hired qualified veterans and recognized the benefits veterans bring to the workplace.
- “Veteran’s Day 2016: Heroes at Work” – a special report with veteran employment data.
- “California Veteran” – A Smart Hire that lists veterans’ enhanced training, education, and skills that include teamwork and leadership.

- A list of services for both employers and employees available at America's Job Center of CaliforniaSM locations throughout the state. Veteran representatives at these offices help veterans find jobs and training, and assist employers in finding and preparing veterans for jobs.

The Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet job and resource fairs are sponsored under the Governor's multi-agency veterans' initiative that integrates veterans services through EDD, CalVet, California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, California Department of Industrial Relations' Division of Apprenticeship Standards, and California Community Colleges.



\$0 Rx & Copays with a TRICARE Supplement

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](#).

Blue Water Navy Agent Orange Update

I have received word from the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee that the VA has struck back to try to derail House Concurrent Resolution 161/Senate Concurrent Resolution 51. These non binding resolutions would express the sense of the Congress that the original Agent Orange Act of 1991 intended that those veterans serving in the bays harbors and territorial seas would be covered by afforded the presumption of exposure to the dioxin.

VA has argued that the adoption of this resolution should be costed at \$1.1 billion, the same as HR 969/S681 since it could force them to change their policy or could result in a court forcing them to change their policy. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is considering the VA position and may assent to the VA argument.

Our sponsors, Senator Grassley and Congresswoman Stefanik are going to address this development with the CBO and I will be meeting with them and the Committee staff this week and next. I also have meeting with the Speaker, Majority Leader and Whip's staff on this issue and intent to bring it to the attention of the President-Elect's staff to try to circumvent this latest VA attack .

CMDR. (Ret.) John Wells

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

The Library of Congress' Veterans History Project

The Veterans History Project (VHP) of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

The Project is primarily an oral history program that collects and preserves the firsthand interviews of America's wartime veterans. VHP relies on volunteers, both individuals and organizations, throughout the nation to contribute veterans' stories to VHP. In addition to audio- and video-recorded interviews, VHP accepts memoirs and collections of original photographs, letters, diaries, maps and other historical documents from World War I through current conflicts. See more at [What We Collect](#) and [About the Project](#).

The Project collects first-hand accounts of U.S. Veterans from the following wars:

World War, 1914-1918
World War, 1939-1945
Cold War
Korean War, 1950-1953
Vietnam War, 1961-1975
Grenada--History--American Invasion, 1983
Panama--History--American Invasion, 1989
Operation Restore Hope, 1992-1993
Persian Gulf War, 1991
United Nations Operation in Somalia
Haiti--History--American intervention, 1994-1995
Operation Allied Force, 1999
Peacekeeping forces--Bosnia and Hercegovina
Operation Joint Guardian, 1999-
War on Terrorism, 2001-2009
Afghan War, 2001-
Iraq War, 2003-2011

In addition, those U.S. citizen civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts (such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, etc.) are also invited to share their valuable stories.

How did the Veterans History Project start?

The United States Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000. The authorizing legislation ([Public Law 106-380](#)), sponsored by Representatives Ron Kind, Amo Houghton, and Steny Hoyer in the U.S. House of

Representatives and Senators Max Cleland and Chuck Hagel in the U.S. Senate, received unanimous support and was signed into law by President William Jefferson Clinton on October 27, 2000.

For more information about the project and how you or a veteran you know can participate go to:
<http://www.loc.gov/vets/vets-questions.html#background>

DC Area Warrior Care Event

The Air Force Wounded Warrior Program, in coordination with the 11th Wing, Joint Base Andrews, District of Washington, will host a Warrior CARE event Nov. 13-18. Warrior CARE events are holistic wellness events for seriously wounded, ill and injured military members, veterans and their caregivers, which provide focused and personalized service through caregiver support training, recovering airman mentorship training and employment and career readiness guidance. They also offer adaptive and rehabilitative sports events along with music and art therapy. To complete a CARE event application, visit the [AFW2 website](#). Applications are available on the "CARE Events" tab under the "About AFW2" header.

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 **3,085,466** 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 15,739 documents on-line (Updated: **11/09/16**)
- 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: **10/10/16**)
- News (Articles On-Line: **6,113**)
- 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

Investor Literacy for Veterans

In order to protect yourself, your family and your financial future, it is good to be informed about where your money is going when you invest. The Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) [Investor.gov website](#) helps people invest wisely and avoid fraud. The main SEC website at www.sec.gov offers comprehensive information about companies and advisors, as well as the latest information relevant to the regulated securities industry. Also, the [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau \(CFPB\)](#) offers assistance and guidance to servicemembers and the public on a variety of financial issues. For more information, read the [VA Vantage Point Blog](#).

PBS Hosts Programs for Veterans Day

The Public Broadcasting Service is debuting a new program this week that is related to Veterans Day. Military Medicine: Beyond the Battlefield is a one-hour documentary from NJTV for WNET that tells the stories of the men and women who are at the forefront of the medical frontier winning victories for military personnel and civilians. The program premieres Wednesday, November 9 at 10 p.m. Eastern Time and is hosted by ABC News correspondent Bob Woodruff. For more information, visit the PBS [website](#).



<https://twitter.com/Veterans4Change>

Review for California Guardsmen Bonuses

Defense Secretary Ash Carter ordered that procedures be streamlined so California National Guardsmen who received bonuses as a result of error or through the criminal behavior of others can seek relief. Carter ordered the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to suspend all efforts to collect reimbursement from the affected California National Guard members. A team will assess the problem and put in place a streamlined, centralized process "that ensures the rapid resolution of these cases," Carter said. The deadline for this

process to be in place is Jan. 1. "The objective will be to complete the decision-making process on all cases as soon as possible — and no later than July 1, 2017." For the latest developments in this story, [see this Military.com article](#) and read Secretary Carter's statement on the [U.S. Army website](#).

Sweetheart Deal Drives Commissary Product Mix

After completing a \$1.5 million study of commissaries in 2015, Boston Consulting Group (BCG) landed several no-bid contracts from Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) to implement the study's vision of commercial-like stores that will maintain patron savings but use variable pricing and in-store brands to generate first-time profits and slash taxpayer funding. [Read the full article on Military Advantage blog](#).

Links to Other Stories

- 1) [Depression symptoms can increase with concussion](#)
- 2) [One-Third of Veterans' Calls to VA Suicide Hotline Go Unanswered](#)
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Increased Numbers of Veterans Signing up for VA Healthcare

The percentage of disabled post-9/11 vets with health insurance through the VA has increased 11 percent over the last few years, despite the department's well-publicized management problems and the 2014 patient wait-times scandal, according to a new survey.

Seventy-one percent of injured Iraq and Afghanistan veterans said they had VA health care coverage in 2016, compared to 66 percent in 2015, and 59 percent in 2014, the [latest survey from the Wounded Warrior Project found](#). Of those respondents, or "alumni" as the WWP calls them, 68 percent used VA health care as their primary health care provider.

The percentage of alumni with two or more types of health care insurance is also growing, jumping from 45 percent in 2015 to 48 percent in 2016. The **2014 Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act** expanded health insurance options for many vets, allowing them to use private health care providers in cases where VA could not meet their needs.

Source: NAUS



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

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<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 and E-Mail to: Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org

VA Selects New Financial Management Service

The VA has selected the Department of Agriculture (USDA) as its federal shared service provider to deliver a modern financial management solution that will replace the existing system and improve financial transparency and processing across the Department.

In making this selection, VA also leveraged best practices and lessons learned from Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Government Accountability Office (GAO), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and others.

Partnering with USDA allows VA to utilize an established and proven IT solution to better serve its financial management needs. This partnership demonstrates VA's commitment to work with other agency partners to reduce duplication and redundancy across the government, while also improving both the quality and agility of administrative services.

Source: NAUS



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