



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, May 21, 2017

Volume 8, Issue 21

This-N-That

It's bad enough when we all know how badly most of our Veterans are treated, but when an organization like Judicial Watch reveals that prisoners detained at Gitmo are receiving far better care than our Veterans due to the Obama Administration wants to make you puke your guts up and then get even more angry!

We have Veterans living on the streets, in hospitals and at home dying and here we are providing world class care to terrorists, providing money, housing, medical care, food stamps, education and more to illegals and refugees.

And what I find even harder to understand is why WE THE PEOPLE are sitting back and taking this.

Then we hear again that there is a possibility that the VA will be taking away benefits or reducing them to those who care at home for our Veterans.

Then we hear that the Union representing VA workers has 346

employees being paid by the VA only doing union work.

Personally I strongly feel this is wrong! Using our taxpayer dollars to pay people not doing VA work but doing work for their Union.

These people should be being paid to work by the Union! Figuring each person makes \$20.00 per hour that means each one is making \$41,600.00 annually and multiplying that by the 346 employees being paid for by the VA comes to \$14,393,600.00 annually.

Imagine that \$14.3 million dollars all going to waste to pay people who aren't doing a damn thing for Veterans! And this same \$14.3 million dollars could very easily provide 173 registered nurses being paid \$40.00 per hour, \$83,200.00 annually and those people would actually be doing their jobs and helping Veterans!

Would you not prefer to have 173 nurses over 346 leaches?

This week I would like to ask all of you to take time and to write up to a page of what you are dealing with in the VA. Slow claims processing, slow appeals processing, lengthy delays in getting doctors appointments or medical care, constant denials, what ever the problem(s) is and send it to me and only sign it with your first name ONLY, city and state. And adding one line below that granting Veterans-For-Change to share the information with members of Congress.

E-Mails, last names and any information that could identify you will be redacted (removed).

We're going to strengthen our weekly fax blasts to Congress and put faces on as many issue as we can.

We feel doing this might help strengthen our requests and demands on better care, claims, etc.! But we need your help and we need it as quickly as we can get it. And all our care givers are encouraged as well.

Same would apply to anyone having problems or issues with getting medications, or if your Veteran has been assigned a fiduciary and you feel money is vanishing and unauthorized, we want to hear from you too!

Please keep in mind I may not respond to you quickly, but I will respond letting you know we've received your e-mail and it will be included in one of many fax blasts.

This will only work to your benefit helping us to put faces on all the problems and issues dealing with the VA if you send us your stories. Just please do it in no more than one full page, be brief, to the point and I promise we will get your story out!

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



**Help Blue Water Vietnam Vets Exposed to
Agent Orange**

The “Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act” has been introduced in both the House and Senate (H.R. 299 & S. 422 respectively). These proposals would clarify that service members serving off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam conflict have a presumption for filing disability claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for ailments associated with exposure to the Agent Orange herbicide. FRA believes Congress should recognize that so-called “Blue water” veterans were exposed to Agent Orange herbicide and authorize presumptive status for VA disability claims associated with this exposure.

Please use the [Action Center](#) to ask your legislators to support this important legislation.

Commission Eyes Changing Military Pay System

By year's end the Department of Defense expects to launch its 13th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC), which will assess the pros and cons of converting service members from traditional [basic pay](#) and tax-free [allowances](#) to a single, civilian-like salary system. Read the full [article](#).

Veterans' Benefits on the Chopping Block?

Two reports have come out in recent days that are troubling. The good news is that the issues involved are far from becoming law, but the bad news is that they are being discussed at all.

First, it was reported that the Republican leaders in the House of Representatives, who control House, are looking at ways to make major cuts in all government programs, perhaps even including veterans' benefits.

This has come about because of their desire to balance the federal budget in a decade, as well as boosting Pentagon spending and cutting corporate tax rates.

According to Washington, D.C., newspaper Politico, which reported this news, "The proposal, which would be part of the House Budget Committee's fiscal 2018 budget, won't specify which programs would get the ax; instead it will instruct committees to figure out what to cut to reach the savings. But among the programs most likely on the chopping block ... are food stamps, welfare, income assistance for the disabled, and perhaps even veterans benefits."

Specific details of the budget plan aren't expected to be available until sometime in June. Then, House committees would have several months to work on finding the cuts, with a final bill not produced until sometime next fall.

The Politico report quoted Congressman Tom Cole, Republican of Oklahoma and senior Budget Committee member as saying, "The Budget Committee is trying to force the entire conference and committees of jurisdiction to focus on ways to bring down this deficit."

This is obviously very disturbing news, although it's just an initial report. TREA will be working hard to stop any cuts in veterans' benefits that may be proposed and we will keep you updated as things develop.

Source: TREA

DAV's Family Caregiver Survey

In order to better understand and advocate for caregivers of all disabled veterans, DAV is conducting a survey about the role, benefits, challenges and inequities facing family caregivers of disabled veterans. This survey builds on earlier research DAV undertook in 2014 to document how family caregivers allow disabled veterans to continue living in their own homes, rather than in nursing homes or assisted living facilities.

If you are a family member, relative or friend who provides care or assistance to a disabled veteran, or you are a disabled veteran who has a family member, relative or friend who provides care and assistance to you, please participate in DAV's 2017 Family Caregiver Survey.

DAV will use this survey research as part of our continuing campaign to educate the public and policymakers about the important contributions and sacrifices made by family caregivers of disabled veterans. It will also help us advocate for legislation and federal policies that strengthen and expand programs supporting family caregivers of disabled veterans from all eras and finally eliminate inequities that currently exist in federal caregiver assistance programs.

Please click [here](#) to participate in DAV's 2017 Family Caregiver Survey.

Thank you for continuing to support the men and women who served!



Scandal Leads to Updated Sexual Misconduct Regs

The U.S. Navy recently updated regulations to make it unlawful to share an intimate image of someone without his or her permission for personal gain or to humiliate, harm, harass, intimidate, threaten, or coerce the depicted person or with reckless disregard of harm to the victim. This regulation complements Article 120c, 'Other Sexual Misconduct' of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Anyone found to have violated the new regulation could be subject to court-martial or adverse administrative actions. Anyone with knowledge of the wrongful sharing of intimate images should submit a tip to the Navy Criminal Investigation Service (NCIS) via text to 274637 or on the [NCIS website](#).



Support SBP/DIC Offset Repeal Legislation

Senator Nelson (FL) has introduced legislation (S. 339) and Congressman Joe Wilson (SC) has introduced identical legislation in the house (HR 846) that repeals the SBP/DIC offset for survivors, sometimes referred to as the "Military Widows Tax.". Please use this action center contact your legislators to ask them to support this important legislation.

[Take Action!](#)

Vets Groups Back Bill to Hasten VA Firings Despite Union Opposition

Major veterans service organizations have rallied behind proposed legislation to speed up the firing process at the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#), but a government union charges it would be a gross violation of workers' rights. "Trampling on the rights of honest, hard-working public-sector employees is not the solution to holding bad employees accountable for their actions," American Federation of Government Employees National President J. David Cox said. He said the bill would set up different standards for VA employees and other federal workers. For more details, see this [article](#).

VA Launches Veteran Appointment Request App

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has created a web-based app that allows veterans using its medical system to request or schedule certain appointments online. The Veteran Appointment Request (VAR) app is available to use at select locations and can be used with any compatible Web browser, whether on a desktop or mobile device. Currently, veterans can use VAR at 100 VA medical centers across the nation; more are coming online every few weeks. To see where VAR is available, visit the VA [website](#). Download the app on your smartphone or tablet from the [VA App Store](#).

Blue Water Navy Update

OK folks, I know everyone is impatient for results. God knows you all have waited long enough. But the realities of the situation are that it will take another couple of months before we really get a good indication of how things are going. Here is what we know.

Congressman Phil Roe, the new Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee sought me out twice to reassure me that he is going to do something for the BWN veterans. What that will be I don't know and I suspect he is not sure either. There are two important actions pending. The first is the court case which could force the coverage of the bays and harbors. (I have another case in the pipeline designed to overrule the Haas case and extend the presumption out to the territorial seas). The second is the rule making request we filed with Secretary Shulkin for Da Nang and Nha Trang Harbor. Obviously we are hoping that the Secretary will look at the totality of the circumstances and just give us coverage out to the territorial seas. Having met with both McDonald and Shulkin, I have to say I am more impressed with him. When asked at the VA/Milcon Subcommittee, Secretary Shulkin indicated he was revisiting it and was not sure that the VA position was the end of the story.

As for the court, you can hear the oral argument on the court's web site. I thought it went well but you never know. However even a remand to the VA, as happened with Gray, would be a victory. If Judge O'Malley's thoughts on the issue are made part of the decision, I think we will be in good standing. At that point I believe that Secretary Shulkin will see the handwriting on the wall.

OK so what can you do. 97 Senators out of 100 supported S Con Res 12. We need to change Corker, Lankford and Lee's mind. Contact their Washington DC office several times a week and ask for a status. Be polite.

Continue to work on HR 299. I want to bring this bill up on a rules suspension and the more co-sponsors we have, the more the

Leadership will be willing to do that.

Don't worry about Beth Murphy. She is just repeating the party line and I doubt the Secretary even saw those letters. Next week, I intend to take some action on those letters. If you have received a copy of those letters send me an email with the letter attached.

JohnLawEsq@msn.com

Thanks for those who have contributed. Every little bit helps. We have met our \$1000.00 goal and it will be matched by the anonymous donor. Might be able to shake the donor down for a little more though. We did that last year. So if you would like a tax writeoff or just want to help go to <http://www.militaryveteransadvocacy.org/content/please-contribute>

Finally please be a little patient with us. I am still trying to catch up on the in-box having been out of town for a couple of weeks. Plus I had some personal issues this past week that some of you are aware of. To top it off, my wife and I both have a bronchial infection that is sapping our strength.

So please give me a couple of months. We should know where we stand this summer. Right now there is not much we can do except wait. Taking political swipes at the President or Congress is not going to help. But you can continue to apply friendly pressure in support of HR 299, H Con Res 45 and S Con Res 12.

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

**CONTACT YOUR
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS!**

To Call your Representative:

202-225-2305

To Call your Senators:

202-224-3841 or 202-224-3553

To call Different Members of Congress:

202-224-3121

TOLL FREE: 866-272-6622

PLEASE... STOP Making Excuses!

www.veterans-for-change.org

**AF Gold Star Base Access Program
Expands**

For the first time, Gold Star Base Access ID cards were recently issued to three family members of fallen Airmen at Joint Base Andrews, Md. These cards are part of an Air Force initiative allowing Gold Star families unescorted access to Air Force installations to visit buried loved ones, attend base events and stop by Airmen and Family Readiness Centers for immediate and long-term emotional support. The Gold Star ID program is scheduled for Air Force-wide implementation beginning May 15, 2017. For more information, talk with your local [Air Force Families Forever program](#) or call 210-565-1366.



Help VA Hold Wrongdoers Accountable!

Background: For far too long, underperforming employees have been allowed to continue working at VA, simply because the processes for removal are so cumbersome. Secretary of Veterans Affairs David J. Shulkin must expeditiously remove or demote VA employees who endanger the well-being of veterans. Senator Marco Rubio has introduced the bipartisan S. 1094, Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017, with the support of VA Committee Chairmen Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) and Rep. Phil Roe, M.D. (R-Tenn.) and their ranking members, Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Tim Walz (D-Minn.). This bill will grant Secretary Shulkin the authority to swiftly terminate employees who do not deserve to work at VA.

Take Action: Contact your Senators and tell them to support S. 1094, Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017. Let them know this bill is vital to ensure VA is a strong and accountable organization.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO TAKE ACTION!

Major Overhaul of Military Pay Soon to be Studied

In the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act that Congress passed last December, they ordered the Department of Defense to begin planning the transition of the current military pay system to a civilian-like salary system. They wanted the transition to begin no later

than January 1 of next year.

However, according to military reporter Tom Philpott, DoD has responded to Congress and told them the task is so large that, in essence, they don't have the time or manpower right now to accomplish the task. Instead, they believe it should be undertaken by the upcoming Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC).

Every four years, federal law requires the President to conduct a review of military compensation, including the Department of Defense, the Coast Guard, and the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Public Health Service.

Among its objectives, DOD wants to evaluate whether military compensation is provided in the amounts and types of payments that ensure that servicemembers are adequately rewarded and that DOD budgets are efficiently and effectively spent. In addition, DOD must compete with private-sector firms and other government organizations for qualified personnel.

The next QRMC will be initiated in the next several months by President Trump and it is possible its work could last for a couple of years.

This desire by Congress to move toward a civilian salary structure for military personnel is a part of the whole movement by Congress to treat the military as a business. That's why, for instance, Congress directed that commissaries move toward operating without any government subsidy. However, while changes are being made to reduce the amount of the subsidy, DoD has informed Congress that to totally eliminate the subsidy would do away with the commissaries as a benefit.

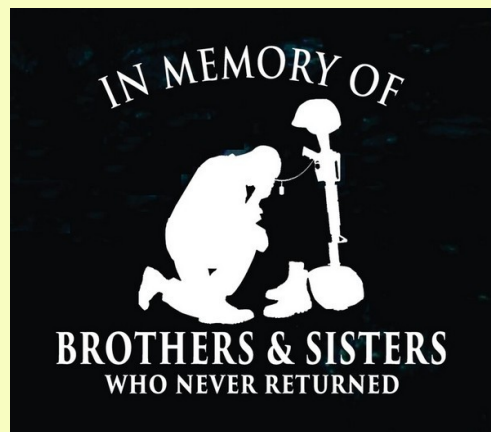
The new blended retirement system is another move in that direction by reducing the amount of the government-paid retirement and forcing servicemembers to partially pay for their own retirement through personal retirement accounts.

This is another issue TREA will keep a close eye on. As we said, it's still a ways down the road but we will update you as the situation develops.

Source: TREA

National Center for PTSD Research

Since its founding in 1989, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Center for PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) has maintained a commitment to improve the care of veterans through research into the prevention, causes, assessment and treatment of traumatic stress disorders and education. Recent findings from Center researchers include: (1) PTSD as a long-term consequence of war; (2) PTSD is associated with metabolic syndrome; and (3) PTSD is sometimes associated with lower sexual satisfaction. For more information, read the [VA Vantage Point Blog](#) and visit the National Center for PTSD [website](#).



It's Graduation Season - Some Thoughts

Colleagues and Fellow Veterans,

Graduation season is upon us! This is the time of year when thousands of Veterans using the GI Bill will close one chapter and begin another. We are proud to congratulate all students using the GI Bill to reach their educational goals. In fact, since 2009, VA has spent nearly \$75 billion and enrolled 1,752,939 students under the Post-9/11 GI Bill!

Veterans using the Post-9/11 GI Bill are earning degrees in business, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), and health-related fields. Data shows that when compared to their peers, Veterans using the Post-9/11 GI Bill represent the some of the highest achievers in postsecondary education.

If you know a graduating Veteran who used the GI Bill – or if you are graduating this season – we want to celebrate this great achievement with you! Join the conversation online and share photos of graduates in graduation attire on Facebook and Instagram, using #GIBillGrad, so the world can see tomorrow's leaders.

As well, check in with your School Certifying Official (SCO) to make sure they record your graduation for our records.

To all our graduating Veterans: We thank you for your service and we're proud of your great achievement.

Congratulations, grad!

Curtis L. Coy
Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity
Veterans Benefits Administration
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



Beneficiary Travel Funds for Veterans Seeking Specialized Treatment for MST

On March 3, Representative Jackie Walorski introduced H.R. 927, a bill that would require VA to provide beneficiary travel for veterans seeking specialized outpatient or residential treatment at another VA facility for conditions related to military sexual trauma (MST).

DAV Resolution 138 recognizes the current policy on beneficiary travel is a barrier to veterans obtaining appropriate care and calls for changes to the existing policy to improve veterans' access to specialized care for MST-related conditions.

One in five women and one in 20 men using VA health care screen positive for MST. While all VA medical centers are required to offer screening and related treatment for MST, about a third claim that staffing shortages compromise their ability to provide such care. Travel is often necessary for veterans to obtain the right type of specialized treatment in an environment veterans consider safe and appropriate to discuss sensitive issues. These perceptions are often the basis for choosing a provider and/or group of their own gender or where they feel most comfortable.

Please write your Representative today to urge co-sponsorship and enactment of H.R. 927. As always, thank you for your efforts and for participating in the Commander's Action Network.

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

Enduring Heroes Memorial Statue

Enduring Heroes, a group of Southern California Gold Star families, will dedicate a permanent tribute to local soldiers who have given their lives in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Wars on Terror on Memorial Day (Monday, May 29). Located at the corner of Colorado and Orange Grove in Defenders Park, the Enduring Heroes Memorial will feature an eight-foot bronze sculpture of a combat soldier triumphantly holding the American flag. Christopher Slatoff, noted local artist, sculpted the piece, using inspiration from the stories of the local Gold Star families.



U.S. Government Accountability Office Reports

- 1) Architect of the Capitol's Oversight of the Senate Food Service Contract.
- 2) Avian Influenza: USDA Has Taken Actions to Reduce Risks but Needs a Plan to Evaluate Its Efforts.
- 3) DOD Health: Actions Needed to Ensure Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury Are Considered in Misconduct Separations.
- 4) Employment Taxes: Timely Use of National Research Program Results Would Help IRS Improve Compliance and Tax Gap Estimates.
- 5) Homeland Security: Progress Made to Implement IT Reform, but Additional Chief Information Officer Involvement Needed.
- 6) Management Report: Improvements Are Needed to Enhance the Internal Revenue Service's Internal Control over Financial Reporting.
- 7) Management Report: Improvements Are Needed to Enhance the Internal Revenue Service's Internal Control over Financial Reporting.
- 8) Space Acquisitions: DOD Continues to Face Challenges of Delayed Delivery of Critical Space Capabilities and Fragmented Leadership.
- 9) Supplemental Security Income: SSA Could Strengthen Its Efforts to Encourage Employment for Transition-Age Youth.

Help for Addiction

Are you a veteran suffering with alcohol or drug addiction or know a veteran who is? VA can help. Visit the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Substance Use [webpage](#), and read the VA Vantage Point [Blog](#).

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

VA Opens Research Center for Post-combat Health Issues

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently opened its Center of Excellence for Research on Returning War Veterans in Texas. The new 53,000 square-foot center is a scientific and educational institution designed to conduct state-of-the-art research on mental health problems associated with combat exposure such as post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, substance, suicide and chronic pain. The Center is located on the campus of the historic [Doris Miller VA Medical Center](#) in Waco, Texas. The center staff is directly involved in increasing the understanding of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). For more information, read the VA Vantage Point [Blog](#).

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 1,000 per day with a total 3,291,378 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 16,034 documents on-line (Updated: 5/18/17)
- FAQ's with more than 1,600 FAQ's and answers
- Multiple Forums
 - o Afghanistan Veterans
 - o FMP - Foreign Medial Program
 - o Gulf War & Desert Storm Veterans
 - o Iraq Veterans
 - o Korean Veterans
 - o Men Veterans Forum
 - o Mental Health for Veterans
 - o Political Issues
 - o Suggestion Box
 - o The Mess Hall

- o VA Hospitals and Medical Centers
- o Veteran Affairs
- o Vietnam Veterans
- o Welcome Mat
- o Women Veterans Forum
- o WW II Veterans
- Job Postings
- Memorial Pages (Updated: 10/10/16)
- News (Articles On-Line: 6,453)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than 3,549, Added 1 New Links (Updated: 05/10/17)

If you have a submission for the memorial pages, E-Mail:

Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org

VA Seeks to ID Genetic Risk Factors

Researchers at the Department of Veterans Affairs have begun to use genetic data from the [VA's Million Veteran Program \(MVP\)](#) to identify genetic variants that contribute to the risk of chronic use of alcohol, tobacco, and opioids. Observations suggest that there is shared genetic risk for multiple substance use behaviors. MVP provides genetic data on a million veterans. The broad goal of this effort is to identify genetic variants contributing to sustained harmful substance use, which can provide opportunities for prevention and treatment.



Implement Regulation to Help Blue Water Vietnam Veterans Now!

FRA supports the “Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act” (H.R. 299 & S. 422) that would clarify that service members serving off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam conflict have a presumption for filing disability claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for ailments associated with exposure to the Agent Orange herbicide. Studies demonstrate that the desalinization process used on Australian and U.S. Navy ships off the coast of Vietnam magnified the exposure of the Agent Orange in the water.

The VA Secretary could help these veterans by implementing a regulation. FRA has met with the VA Secretary and we have been informed that he is reviewing the policy. Please use the Action Center to ask the VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin to implement a regulation giving these veterans a presumption for filing disability claims with the VA for ailments associated with exposure to the Agent Orange herbicide.

Take **ACTION!**



<https://twitter.com/Veterans4Change>

**TREATMENT OF VETERAN AT LOUISIANA
HOSPITAL UNACCEPTABLE, ADVOCATE
SAYS**

Military-Veterans Advocacy, a non-profit dedicated to the rights of service members and veterans, has just learned that a 77-year-old war veteran who is suffering from dementia was punched in the face by an employee at the Louisiana veterans home in Jackson, Louisiana. The victims family was not notified for days.

"This is unacceptable," said Cdr. John Wells (USN, Ret.) "MVA demands that Gov. John Bel Edwards immediately launch an investigation and assure this organizations and veterans throughout the State that they are in a safe environment."

Read the article here:

http://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/politics/article_21623fe0-3674-11e7-b3a6-5f0bcac76b25.html

"We decry the lack of supervision on behalf of the State, and we will consider taking legal action, if necessary, on behalf of the home's residents to ensure their safety," Wells said. "There is no excuse for not taking swift action. The residents of this home are our nation's heroes, and they should be treated as such."

Point of Contact

CDR John B Wells, USN (Retired)

Military-Veterans Advocacy Executive Director

Links to Other Stories

- 1) Agreement reached on stalled VA accountability bill
- 2) CHICAGO VA SERVING RAW FOOD TO VETERANS. THEN THERE'S THE MICE...
- 3) Judicial Watch Obtains Documents Revealing VA Ordered a Nationwide "Mass Purge" of Veterans MRI Imaging Orders
- 4) Secretary David Shulkin Announces Establishment of Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection and Names Peter O'Rourke as its Senior Advisor and Executive Director
- 5) Statement by VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin on introduction of S. 1094, the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017
- 6) U.S. Spends More on Medical Care for Inmates than Seniors, Veterans, Military Personnel
- 7) VA Announces Adoption of American Cancer Society Mammogram Screening Guidelines
- 8) VA Announces Short-Term Extension of Strategic Review of Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers
- 9) VA Gives Gitmo Terrorists Better Medical Care Than U.S. Veterans
- 10) VA whistle-blower's retaliation claims spur action from Congress
- 11) Veterans Affairs has 346 workers who do only union work

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

VA Online PTSD Decision Aid

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has released a new post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) treatment decision aid. The online tool will help you learn about and compare effective treatments. Try the new PTSD Decision Aid on VA's National Center for PTSD [website](#).



**Operation Stand Together Set For May 20,
2017**

The issue of toxic exposure in the military is not a new one, with Agent Orange being possibly the most well known instance. But from the burn pits of Iraq and Afghanistan to the Camp Lejeune water contamination problem, the focus on it has grown in recent years. In the last several months it has become a deafening roar. It is hitting home just as the Department of Defense is conducting testing to see just how many of more than 400 current and former military installations all over the country have contaminated water supplies.

Of 1300 Superfund sites in the US, roughly half of them are connected to the military in some way. Many of these sites were identified after decades of being occupied by our nation's military service men and women. Sadly, many of the affected veterans are seriously ill, disabled, unemployed, and dying as a result of their past exposures. The effects have caused cancers and disorders involving the following systems: neurological, autoimmune, reproductive, respiratory, hematological, musculoskeletal, and gastrointestinal.

Toxic veterans are experiencing a combination of rare disorders and diseases, rather than a single issue. In many cases, the effects of their toxic exposure have been passed on to their descendants. In spite of several efforts to enact necessary legislation that would acknowledge these problems and provide the necessary relief and assistance, more needs to be done. Each year, thousands of claims filed with the Department of Veterans Affairs are denied.

On May 20th, in Washington, DC at the Washington Monument veterans from all over the country will come together to spread awareness about this growing issue. For more, go to:

<http://www.operationstandtogether.org/>

Source: TREA

**“We Proudly Support our
Military Personnel & Families”**

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

Subscribe Here

TBI Caregiver Study Seeks Participants

Do you care for a servicemember or veteran who had a traumatic brain injury (TBI) after October 2001 while serving in the military? If so, you may be eligible to participate in a study requested by Congress. The study is currently recruiting family members, friends, or significant others who help a servicemember or veteran who had a traumatic brain injury (TBI) after October 2001 while serving in the military. If you or someone you know may be interested, call (855) 821-1469, or email caregiver.study@dvhic.org.

VA and TAPS Formalize Partnership

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the [Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors](#) (TAPS) have signed a formal Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to assist surviving military and veteran family members. The new agreement formalizes what has been a long-standing, informal working relationship in areas beyond education, including grief counseling, burial benefits and more. Under the MOA, TAPS will connect with surviving families and will begin to identify resources available to them both within the VA and through private sources. For more information, visit the VA [VAntage Point Blog](#).

ONE VOICE
CAN MAKE
ALL THE DIFFERENCE!



Veterans-For-Change, Inc.

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today

www.Veterans-For-Change.org

Serving those who served!

Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends and Family

Distribution	
Express Mail	144,811
Boston	75,130
Courtesy Copies	3,500
Department of VA	12,770
DoD	30,080
Face Book Pages	3,529
Google	28,666
Los Angeles	135,085
Microsoft	9,702
National Guard	4091
New York	152,681
Other Social Media	42,641
San Francisco	78,367
Twitter	40
US House of Reps & Staff	987
US Senators & Staff	108
University of So. California	5,209
US Air Force	26,014
US Army	66,592
US Marines	28,383
US Navy	37,746
Veterans	19,085,038
Washington DC	142,616
Yahoo	132
	20,113,918

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

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