



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, July, 02, 2017

Volume 8, Issue 27

This-N-That

This weekend we celebrate Independence Day, July 4th. I want to thank all those who have and are serving today for your Service and to wish all of you a very happy weekend.

For many you will be having terrific family BBQ's and other will be going to the beach with friends, and others will be going out to many of the night clubs for events there. We want all of you around for a very long time to come, so please be safe and if going out drinking get a designated driver so everyone comes home safe and sound.

For so long now the VA has been telling us the numbers of homeless Veterans was on the decline and continually touting a number of 40,000 nationwide. Just so not true at all and why they offer up such a small non-factual number is beyond me.

Los Angeles, one of the worst places in the country to deal with Homeless Veterans is screaming a sharp increase and still the West Los Angeles VA hospital with tons of land to use, vacant buildings, and buildings and land still being leased out to civilian companies against a court order from a

couple of years ago still goes on and all the while our Veterans are the ones who are suffering.

Nationwide the numbers we're getting total out to still hovering around 1.2 million homeless Veterans! This is an absolute disgrace! This should not be how we treat those who signed a BLANK check for an amount up to and including their lives to serve our Country.

And now the Sec. VA is saying under used and non used buildings will be closed down, possibly destroyed when most if not all could be renovated and turned into house for Veterans and end up saving the VA billions of dollars being dished out to organizations who haven't shown one true good sign they are helping our Homeless Heroes!

Further down I have left the information on how to call President Trumps VA Hotline. Not only should you use it to call and tell your story, issue, etc., but please also use it to demand none of the VA buildings be closed or destroyed, but turned into housing for our homeless Veterans! And ask that all civilian businesses on VA land be removed and those buildings also turned into housing for our Veterans.

Most know politicians will make promises just to garner your vote at election time, some will fulfill those promises, but are notorious for failing to follow-up and/or support their own promise. And I am once again asking all to please send off the letter demanding SBP/DIC offset be removed.

We continue to receive more stories and have been blast faxing to all members of Congress since seven weeks ago Sunday non-stop.

It's not too late, so if you'd like to share your story and help put faces on the problems that you face in your everyday life in dealing with the VA, please send them on to my e-mail address.

Only rules are no last names, no social security numbers, no phone numbers, only first name, city and state. All other information would be redacted and isn't needed so we can insure the protections of everyone.

On behalf of our Volunteers nationwide and myself, we wish you and your family good health and Happy 4th of July!

Respectfully,
Jim Davis
Founder
Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org

Arlington National Cemetery Plans to Expand

The Army Times is reporting in the June 15, 2017 issue that Arlington National Cemetery will move forward with plans to expand the cemetery by more than 50,000 spaces that will extend the life of the cemetery from 2041 to until 2050. These additional burial sites will provide expansion from lands from the original Navy Annex complex and other adjacent areas at the cemetery. A December 2016 survey of FRA members reveals that 92 percent support immediate expansion of the Cemetery and 67 percent want to reserve a set amount of space for Medal of Honor recipients and/or active duty deaths.





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!](#)

VA Secretary Formalizes Expansion of Emergency Mental Health Care to Former Service Members With Other-Than-Honorable Discharges Secretary Announced Plans to Expand Coverage in March

WASHINGTON — Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today released finalized plans that lay the framework for providing emergency mental health coverage to former service members with other-than-honorable (OTH) administrative discharges.

This is the first time a VA Secretary has implemented an initiative specifically focused on this group of former service members who are in mental health distress.

“Suicide prevention is my top clinical priority,” said Secretary Shulkin, also a physician. “We want these former service members to know there is someplace they can turn if they are facing a mental health emergency — whether it means urgent care at a VA emergency department, a Vet Center

or through the Veterans Crisis Line.”

Effective July 5, all Veterans Health Administration (VHA) medical centers will be prepared to offer emergency stabilization care for former service members who present at the facility with an emergent mental health need. Under this initiative, former service members with an OTH administrative discharge may receive care for their mental health emergency for an initial period of up to 90 days, which can include inpatient, residential or outpatient care.

During this time, VHA and the Veterans Benefits Administration will work together to determine if the mental health condition is a result of a service-related injury, making the service member eligible for ongoing coverage for that condition.

Since Secretary Shulkin announced his intent in March to expand VA mental health coverage to service members with OTH administrative discharges, VA has worked with key internal and external stakeholders, including members of Congress, Veterans Service Organizations and community partners on the issue.

Veterans in crisis should call the Veterans Crisis Line at 800-273-8255 (press 1), or text 838255.



Veterans: Career Exploration & Planning JULY 10th, 2017 12:00 pm Mountain

WEBINAR LINK: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/njlg4anxnjps&eom>

Where: VFW Post #1 Denver, CO AND Farmers Insurance 5555 Tech Center Dr. Suite 110, Colorado Springs, CO AND South West Branch Weber County Library, 2039 W 4000 S, ROY, UT

Need a change but don't know what's your best next career? This free workshop is for you! Exploring your options is the first step toward winning a fulfilling and lasting career. Let's dramatically speed up the process. Experts will show you how to use R2W's innovative tools to quickly zero in on jobs matching your career goals, while increasing your interviews and job offers. You might find the perfect job during the class. You will also learn how to get additional training and one-on-one support from caring counselors. Applying for the right job could last a lifetime. It's worth exploring! Signup for a mentor! "Workshops are comprised of a 20 minute overview online. FAST! It results in an Action Plan used by Mentors who make a big commitment to you." Services for the disabled as well.

U.S. Government Accountability Office Reports

- 1) Defense Management: DOD Has Taken Initial Steps to Formulate an Organizational Strategy, but These Efforts Are Not Complete.
 - 2) FBI Laboratory: Chemistry and Trace Evidence Units Generally Adhere to Quality Standards, but Could Review More Examiner Testimonies.
 - 3) Operational Support Airlift: Fleet Sufficiency is Assessed Annually.
 - 4) VA Health Care: Improvements Needed in Data and Monitoring of Clinical Productivity and Efficiency.
 - 5) Weapon Systems: Prototyping Has Benefited Acquisition Programs, but More Can Be Done to Support Innovation Initiatives.
-



Veterans call the President. Whose VA is it?

We need everyone to call The President's VA Hotline @ **855-948-2311**
8:00AM till 5:30PM ET and tell them about the Veterans plight with the VA

denying presumption of exposure to Agent Orange and various other illnesses related to Agent Orange. Tell them your story.

This would also apply to Veterans from Korea, Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan as well.

This is YOUR CHANCE to get the message through to the President . Be patient and wait for the operator to talk to you .

The line is being manned by military spouses, parents and veterans. All are volunteers. Please show them the respect they deserve.

And if you have not written your story and sent it to me, please do keep them coming. We're not stopping the attack from the side of Congress either!

Send your stories to: Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org

Just please keep in mind, no last names, street addresses, social security numbers or phone numbers. Just First Name, City and State.

**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

VA to Expand Caregiver Stipends, But not

Soon

VA Secretary David Shulkin told Congress that he supports a change in law to expand the Post-9/11 caregiver program so that its cash stipend and menu of support services can benefit caregivers to severely injured veterans from earlier generations. But, the VA wants to standardize how the Post-9/11 program is administered across more than 150 VA medical facilities supported by more than 360 caregiver coordinators before doing so.

New DoD Sexual Assault Recovery Program

The Department of Defense (DoD) has launched an online and mobile educational program to help individuals begin to recover after a sexual assault. The self-guided program, called 'Building Hope and Resiliency: Addressing the Effects of Sexual Assault,' can be completed at the user's pace. To access the program, visit the [Building Hope page on the Safe Helpline website](#). Also, access confidential, anonymous support 24/7, through the [DoD Safe Helpline](#) or by calling 877-995-5247.



Blue Angels Bring Back Fat Albert

The U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron C-130 Hercules, affectionately known as Fat Albert, recently returned to its role as the logistics and transport aircraft of the Blue Angels. Fat Albert underwent a ten-month preplanned Periodic Maintenance Interval (PMI), which allowed for her to go through extensive maintenance checks and repairs that are required every five years. While the aircraft will resume its role transporting the Blue Angels maintenance and support team, it will still be several more weeks before it performs at air shows. The C-130 has been the support aircraft of the Blue Angels since 1970, but began performing short demonstrations prior to the jet demonstrations in 1975. For more information, visit the [Blue Angels website](#).

A Look at the History of the GI Bill

The National WWII Museum in New Orleans is hosting an exhibit on the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (The GI Bill). On display are the original cover and signature pages of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, on loan from the National Archives, and the typed speech, with handwritten editing marks, given by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 22, 1944, after he signed the act into law. The exhibit also features illustrated panels and touchscreen videos that tell the story of the GI Bill, from the situation in 1943 when tens of thousands of disabled GIs were returning to their home communities in need of support. For more information on the museum, visit the National WWII Museum [website](#).



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

Links to Other Stories

- 1) [Congressmen Bishop and Dent Reintroduce Agent Orange Reconciliation Act](#)
- 2) [Cross-country horseback rider finishing dad's bucket list](#)
- 3) [HB 218 would jeopardize military readiness, care for Veterans](#)
- 4) [Local boy writes book to help homeless Veterans](#)
- 5) [Management and Development for Health Did Not Always Manage the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief Funds in Accordance With Award Requirements](#)
- 6) [Nationwide opioid epidemic prompts VA to implement life-saving idea](#)
- 7) [ProPublica Hammers VA Over Recent Agent Orange Science Rejection](#)

- 8) [Ranks of homeless Veterans keep swelling in Los Angeles](#)
- 9) [Senators Express Dismay Over VA's Sudden Budget Shortfall](#)
- 10) [The Veterans Day Memorial That Is Only 'Perfect' One Day a Year](#)
- 11) [Trump signs law to make VA more accountable for Vets' care](#)
- 12) [Trump signs VA reform bill, following through on campaign promise](#)
- 13) [VA Announces Plan to Dispose Of Or Reuse All Its Vacant Buildings in 24 Months](#)
- 14) [VA chief: Time to rethink disability system; current setup 'not sustainable'](#)
- 15) [Veterans: Here's what you need to know about glaucoma and cataracts](#)

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

Featured Deal: Get Free Annual Pass to National Parks

Service members (including activated members of the National Guard and Reserves) and their dependents can obtain the National Park's annual Pass for free. The pass must be obtained in person at a Federal recreation site by showing a Common Access Card (CAC) or Military ID (Form 1173). For more details, visit the [Military.com Discount Center](#).

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 2,200 hits per day, and downloads average 1,000 per day with a total 3,383,718 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: 5/19/17)
- 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: 6,543)
 - Polls
 - Web Links, more than 3,591, Added 6 New Links (Updated: 06/21/17)

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

Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org

VA Plans to Close Underutilized Facilities

The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced a plan to [dispose of all vacant VA buildings](#) in 24 months (either by demolishing or setting for reuse). Nationwide, VA currently has 430 vacant or mostly vacant buildings that are on average more than 60 years old, and cost taxpayers more than \$7 million per year to maintain. Of those 430 buildings, VA has begun disposal or reuse processes on 71. Also, the Veterans Benefits Administration is freezing its footprint and will maximize space management by leasing or eliminating office space nationwide. VA estimates these actions will save taxpayers an additional \$15.7 million annually beginning in 2017, for a total of close to \$23 million in combined annual savings from the initiatives.



<https://twitter.com/Veterans4Change>



POW/MIA Agency Deploys Team

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) deployed an Underwater Recovery Team (URT) comprised of Department of Defense civilians and U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force servicemembers to northern Vietnam in search of two U.S. Navy aviators who went missing during the Vietnam War. The two men were on a nighttime reconnaissance mission over northeastern Nghe An and southeastern Thanh Hoa provinces when their F-4B Phantom aircraft vanished from radar, Sept. 21, 1966. To this day, the two men remain unaccounted-for. The URT spent about six weeks in Vietnam searching for signs of the lost aviators. For more information, visit the [DPAA website](#).

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

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relative, you can sign up to receive in your E-mail every week.

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Serving those who served!

Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends and Family!

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Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org

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National Guard	4216
New York	153,352
Other Social Media	43,839
San Francisco	79,260
Twitter	41
US House of Reps & Staff	990
US Senators & Staff	109
University of So. California	5,328
US Air Force	26,359
US Army	67,471
US Marines	28,756
US Navy	38,243
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