



Week Ending Sunday, November 12, 2017

Volume 8, Issue 46



## **This-N-That**

I can't begin to tell you just how much I truly appreciate, and thank you all! All of you who have served and those serving today! And your families as well as they too have served right along with you!

Many of you have come home only to become sick and broken and our Government continually seeks to fail you at every corner!

Many of you have waited and waited for fifty years or more,

sick, many others have already passed on, and all thanks to our Government.

You've filed your claims, filed your appeals and for many others filed for hearings, and still our Government fails you, but they had no problem signing you up for service, and for others forced you into service via the draft.

Our Government knew of the dangers, and for the most part you too as well knew of the dangers, except when it came to doing your job being exposed to and handling chemicals, being exposed to burn pits, and our government took no precautions, and sure as hell didn't tell you they knew full well of the dangers of the chemicals such as all the rainbow chemicals used to "defoliate" the jungles for you to have a better advantage.

Most of you came home, happy to be home and not knowing what the future held for you health wise. For some the effects of all the chemicals and toxic fumes from burn pits either had no effect on you, or the problems with your health didn't show up for many years.

And the wonderful healthcare system you were going to need to rely on failed you with arbitrary deadlines to file, and arbitrary lines drawn in the sand saying you didn't qualify because you really didn't have "boots on the ground!" But they knew damn well you handled the chemicals, and have received tons of evidence especially for our Blue Water Navy, that the barrels leaked, decks were hosed down and run off water was run through the

on-board water reclamation system and "supposedly" cleaned enough to drink, bathe in, wash laundry in, food prepared with, etc. and constantly being poisoned your entire tour.

I know I have asked, pleaded and begged with you to send out pre-written letters from various organizations we've been working with, but today, being YOUR DAY, Veterans Day, I want to ask you all to please come together.

Send an E-Mail to Secretary of the VA, Dr. Shulkin at [david.shulkin@va.gov](mailto:david.shulkin@va.gov) and tell him he needs to take swift and immediate action and add to the federal register to provide the benefits and medical care needed for our Blue Water Navy.

Then I'd like for you to send a message to President Trump at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/> and ask that he please put as much pressure as he can on Congress to pass the legislation that has been on the floor and was supposed to have passed and see to it that Congress holds it's promises!

And then one last thing, further down in this newsletter we post phone numbers you can call to call your Congressman and Senators and leave a message for them urging them to pass the legislation quickly.

We simply cannot continue to allow them to kill you just to avoid paying what they know is right, fair and just!

Our deadline is Sunday night at midnight, so won't you

please, help us to help you? And just as a reminder, you do not have to be a Veteran to participate in these actions. In fact we could really use Veteran friendly civilians too!

Again, I do thank you so much for your service and wish you all a great Veterans Day! And to our Marine Corps, have a great Birthday!

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

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

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

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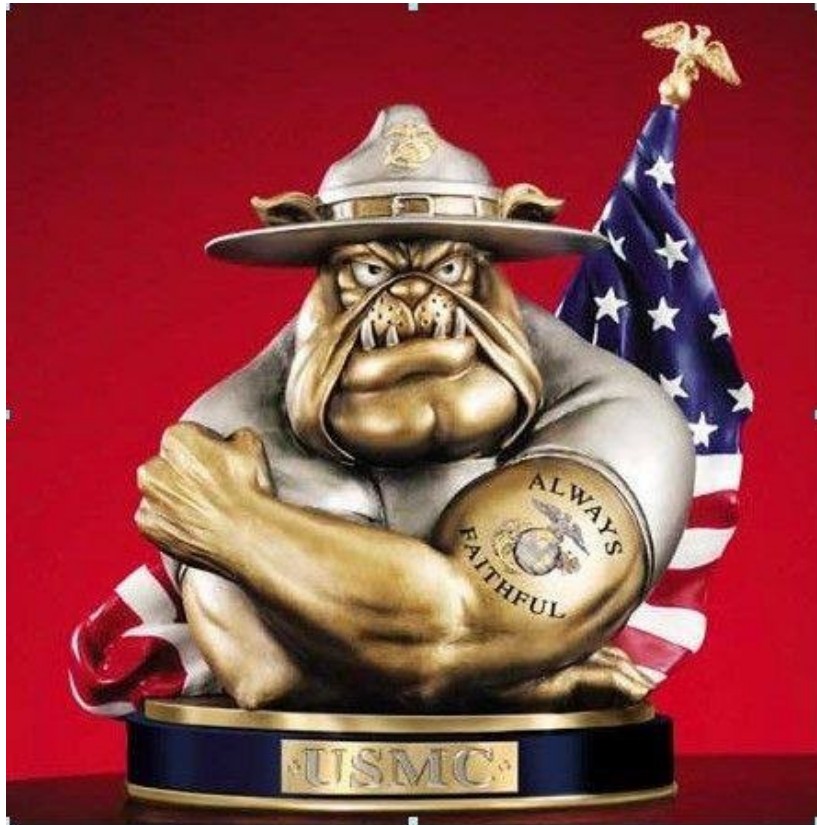
**Veterans Day 2017**

This week while the House of Representatives is working on taxes and President Trump is traveling through Asia. The Department of Veterans Affairs is working to prepare for Veterans Day, this coming Saturday, November 11th. Vice President Pence will be hosting the National Veterans Day Breakfast, which will be attended by TREA National President John Adams and TREA Auxiliary National President Irme Cates. Pence will also be the main speaker at the ceremonies in Arlington National Cemetery. TREA National President John Adams will be representing TREA on stage, along with representatives from other veterans groups. Also at the National Veterans Day Ceremony at Arlington TREA Board Member Justin Jump and Deputy Legislative Director Mike Saunders will carry the American and TREA flags in the opening processional and closing recessional. TREA First VP Ed Cates, TREA Board of Director Member Aaron Reed, Past National President Art Cooper and TREA National Legislative Director Larry Madison will also be representing TREA.

TREA's sister organization, The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) will be represented by TSCL Chairman of the Board and TREA Past National President Art Cooper, along with Board member Joe Kluck and TSCL Executive Director Shannon Benton.

Source: TREA

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## Happy Birthday, Marine Corps!

November 10 this year marks the 242nd birthday of the Marine Corps: 242 years of warfighting excellence. At places like Trenton, Tripoli, Chapultepec, Belleau Wood, Guadalcanal, Chosin, Khe Sahn, Fallujah, Sangin, and so many others, Marines have made their mark on U.S. military history. For special features and other commemorations to celebrate the day, visit [Marine Corps Birthday page](#).

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**This Veterans Day, Thank a Woman  
Veteran**





This November, VA's Women's Health Services is publicizing their "Thank a Woman Veteran" campaign, which honors our 2.1 million women this Veterans Day. Truly honoring women Veterans begins with a culture that promotes equality and recognizes their contributions to our country.

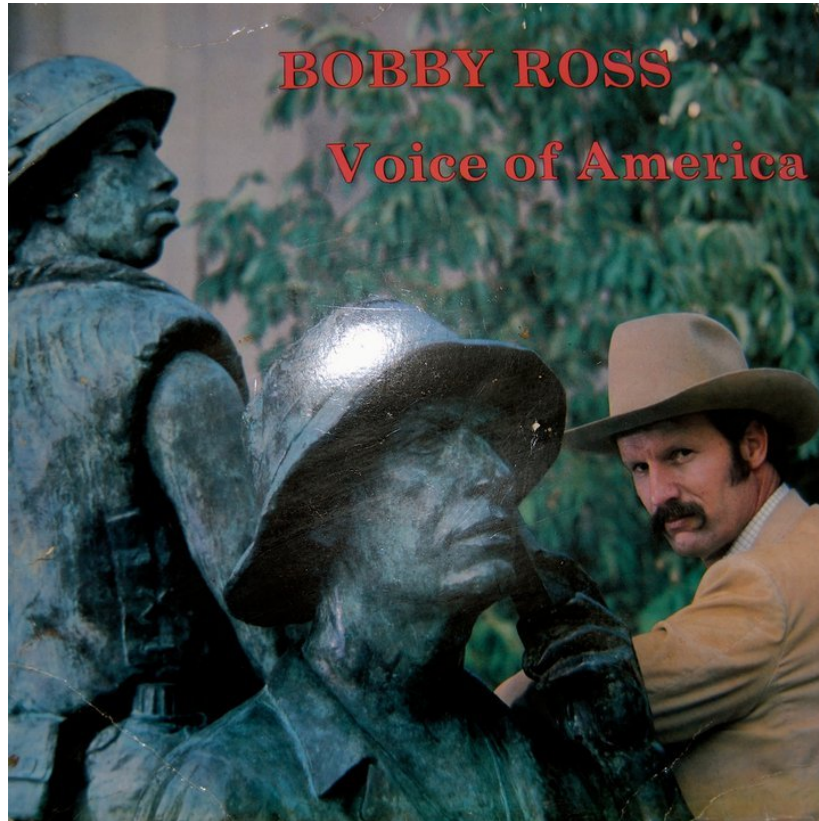
As part of continuing efforts to improve VA's culture towards women Veterans, Women's Health Services is taking this time to bring awareness to the significant roles women Veterans have had in our military forces. This campaign encourages women Veterans to take pride in their Veteran status, and places emphasis on cultivating a welcoming and inclusive environment for women as they transition from servicemember to Veteran.

Check out VA's Women's Health Services Outreach Campaigns promoting culture change. Share on your social media, webpages, or blog!

- [Women Veterans Culture Change](#)
- ["I am One" Campaign](#)

Visit [www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov) to access additional information, materials, and resources for women Veterans.

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**"I'll Go To The Wall"**

This Saturday I'm checking into a nice room at the Sacramento Hyatt Hotel, and spending Veterans Day at the Capital of my home State of California. Across the street from the hotel are the Capital Grounds, and there is where our California Vietnam War Memorial is located. We had more of our sons killed in the Vietnam War than all the other States in our Union. This is one of the reasons I have posted this song today. It's lyrics speak for themselves, and I will be going to The Wall to pay my respects.

This song was on of the last I produced in Nashville. The world of technology was changing so fast with the free downloading of music on the Internet that I could see the writing on the wall. So I packed it all up and left Nashville at the end of 2004, and came home. Today, it is almost impossible to make money as a recording artist in the music industry, especially in Country Music. The Multi-National Corporations own it all, now. So I am so proud to be able to post my songs here on Jim's site for you to listen to and appreciate. My LRRP Network will be 30 years old next month, so if you want to join, go to this site:

<http://www.rassio.com/?page=47>

LT Bobby Ross

[The Fisherman: Country Music Album - LT Bobby Ross Productions](#)

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# **TREA Signs Letter to Congressional Leaders Opposing DoD Attempt to Raise TRICARE Fees**

Fighting to protect military people from the never-ending attempts to cut their earned benefits is a very complicated and difficult job. Not only must we keep an eye on 535 members of Congress and what they might propose to do, as well as the various committees that have jurisdiction over military people, we also have to keep an eye on the bureaucracy, especially within the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There are multiple agencies within each department that have jurisdiction over the various earned benefits of military people, each with the capability of cutting some benefit in one way or another.

TREA recently learned that the Defense Health Agency (DHA) published an Interim Final Rule (IFR) that outlines the intention of the DHA to implement an across-the-board fixed-fee copayment schedule for the new TRICARE Select. This is intended to replace the existing TRICARE Standard/Extra copays currently in effect.

We believe these fee changes undermine the intention of last year's NDAA law which said that current military members, their families and retirees were to be grandfathered from increases in TRICARE fees.

TREA, along with other veterans organizations, sent a letter last week to the four leaders of the House and Senate

Armed Services Committees asking Congress to stop the DHA rule and enforce the commitments it made less than a year ago and insist language be added to the conference report of the NDAA which would prohibit the DHA from implementing the TRICARE cost increases for current military families and retirees.

No reply has been received as of yet from any of the leaders and the issue is complicated by the fact that the Senate version of the FY2018 NDAA, currently in negotiation between the House and the Senate, contains a provision that would also repeal the grandfathering.

We are keeping a close eye on this situation and will keep you posted on things as they develop.

Source: TREA

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## **Specials, Discounts for Veterans Day**

Military.com has compiled a [list](#) of free or reduced goods and services offered to service members, veterans and their families by businesses and organizations in honor of Veterans Day. The list will continue to be updated as it gets closer to Nov. 11. The list of Veterans Day specials and discounts for veterans is available on [Military.com](#).

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## **After 18 Months of Study, VA Delays Adding New Agent Orange Illnesses**

After 18 months of review by his department, VA Secretary David J. Shulkin awkwardly announced Wednesday that he plans to “further explore” adding ailments to the list of compensable conditions VA presumes were caused by exposure to [Agent Orange](#) and other herbicides used during the Vietnam War. The decision to punt long-anticipated decisions on Agent Orange-related ailments will disappoint thousands of aging veterans with bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, Parkinson-like tremors and hypertension (high blood pressure). For more details, see this [Advantage post](#).

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## **Take Command: New Contractor Network Provider Directories Available**

For care starting Jan. 1, 2018, check out the new TRICARE Network Provider Directories. Find your Network Provider Directory below:

- [TRICARE East Network Provider Directory](#)
- [TRICARE West Network Provider Directory](#)

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## **Still Time to Use Your \$0 Down VA Loan Benefit this Year**

There is still time to use your VA Loan benefit in 2017. Qualified borrowers can buy or refi with as little as \$0 down, and have no PMI payments with great rates and financing up to \$424,000. [Use your VA loan benefit today.](#)

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## **Commemorating Veterans Day: Discounts, Events and More**

Military.com commemorates Veterans Day on November 11 this year with special features on veterans who are making a difference, how to best celebrate the holiday and honor those who have served, as well as rundowns on major events and discounts for veterans and their families. To get it all, visit the Military.com [Veterans Day page](#).

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## **Legion Survey Addresses Medical Cannabis**



An independent public opinion research company conducted a nationwide survey about the opinions of veterans, their family members and caregivers on the issue of medical cannabis. The results of the survey are available [online](#). The results are tied to the American Legion's continued efforts, under [Resolution 11](#), to urge Congress to amend legislation to remove marijuana from Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act and reclassify it, at a minimum, as a drug with potential medical value. According to the survey, 92 percent of veteran households support research into the efficacy of medical cannabis for mental and physical conditions.

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**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](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)**

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**Tricare Reminder: Changes Coming  
in 2018**

On Jan. 1, 2018, [Tricare Standard](#) will transition to Tricare Select. Under Tricare Select, beneficiaries will need to be enrolled if they wish to use the program, and disenroll if they no longer wish to use this health plan. There are three ways you can be disenrolled: (1) if you no longer wish to continue Tricare coverage; (2) if you fail to pay enrollment or premium fees; or (3) if you or your sponsor lose Tricare eligibility. During calendar year 2018 (Jan. 1-Dec. 31), you will have a full year grace period to enroll or re-enroll in Tricare Prime or Tricare Select at any time. For more information, visit the [Tricare Changes webpage](#).

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## TREA Meets With Congressional Leadership

Last week TREA's Legislative Director Larry Madison met with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and the Ranking Member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee Tim Walz (D-Minn.), a TREA Life Member and the highest ranking enlisted retiree ever to serve in Congress. Several other Democratic members of Congress were also present at the meeting.

This meeting was the latest in a series of meetings Leader Pelosi has had with veterans groups for the last several years when she has served as both House Minority Leader and Speaker of the House.

The focus of the meeting was Veterans health care and the legislation pending in the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, specifically focused on the CHOICE reform and Asset and Infrastructure Review bills.

TREA, along with the other veterans groups in attendance, made it very clear that while we support changes and improvements in the VA that will provide better and faster health care for veterans, we are very much opposed to efforts by some members of Congress and the Administration that could lead to privatization of the VA.

The meeting lasted about two hours, which is typical of the meetings Leader Pelosi has had with veterans groups in the past. In fact, some have lasted nearly three hours. We have been told that no other group gets as much time with

Leader Pelosi as do veterans groups and we are grateful for her and Rep. Walz's attention to veterans' issues.

Source: TREA

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## **Army Emergency Relief Helps Soldiers**

Army Emergency Relief (AER) is ready to help soldiers affected by the recent hurricanes. Financial assistance is available to qualified recipients affected by those three hurricanes to, among other things, purchase immediate-need items such as food, clothing and shelter; replace essential furniture; fund replacement of damaged or destroyed automobiles; conduct minor home repairs; and purchase generators. AER can assist up to \$4,000, for example, if the cost to repair a flood-damaged vehicle exceeds the value of the vehicle. Eligible recipients of AER assistance include active duty Soldiers and their Families, retired Soldiers, and National Guard and Reserve Soldiers on Title 10 orders for more than 30 days. For more information, visit your base Army Emergency Relief office.

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**Veterans-For-Change Web Site**

The logo for the Veterans-For-Change website is displayed in a blue, stylized font within a rectangular frame that has a light blue, textured border.

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 1,200 per day with a total 3,669,697 visitors as of Friday.

If you subscribe you will have full access to the entire website and best of all it’s FREE of charge! You just need a valid E-mail address so the system can send you a confirmation E-Mail. Once received, click on the link to be authorized automatically.

**[www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)**

- Documents Library with over 16,142 documents on-line (Updated: 8/12/17)

- 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: 11/02/17)
- News (Articles On-Line: 6,883)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than 3,612, Added 1 New Links  
(Updated: 11/01/17)

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

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# November Designated "Veterans and Military Families Month" - Events Scheduled Throughout the Country

On November 1st at the White House President Trump signed a proclamation making the entire month of November "Veterans and Military Families Month." The President was joined at the signing by VA Secretary David Shulkin. This was the first of numerous events announced by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Secretary Shulkin said at the signing: "Our Veterans and Military Families are an important part of our lives throughout the year, and by focusing for the first time nationally on a whole month of activities nationwide for Veterans and Military Families Month, we can more fully celebrate and recognize their contributions to the nation."

The month's list of events throughout the country includes:

- Senior leader visits to VA medical centers and regional offices;
  - Homeless Veteran Initiative events;
  - Surrogate Speeches;
  - Churches/Synagogues recognize Veterans and their families;
  - VA Canteen Specials
  - Suicide Prevention Events
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- November 9 - National Veterans Stand Out Day - Veterans will wear something meaningful to them denoting

their military service

- November 9 - National World War I Memorial Ground Breaking Ceremony -- Washington
- November 10 - Boston Parade / Marine Corps Birthday
- November 11 (Veterans Day) - Veterans Day Breakfast D.C. and Arlington National Cemetery Veterans Day Ceremony
- November 13-17 - Veteran Legal Clinic Week of Service (Pro Bono Legal Assistance for Veterans at VA medical centers)
- November 13-17 - National Apprenticeship Week
- November 13-17 - Suicide Prevention Week -- Preventing Veterans Suicide is Everyone's Business
- November 15 - Groundbreaking Ceremony West LA Cemetery
- November 20-24 - Spend an Hour with a Vet Week
- November 20 - National Cemetery Administration Veteran Employee Day
- November 28 - 10th Anniversary of the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)
- November 30 - VA names new cemetery in the San Francisco Bay Area

There will be additions throughout the month. To see the full list of events for Veterans and Military Families month is available at

<https://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/veteransmonthcalendar.asp>

Source: TREA



**Our values  
match yours.**



[www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)

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## **Returning Fallen Warriors' Personal Effects**

Following the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, the U.S. Army established the Joint Personal Effects Depot (JPED) at Joint Base Myer- Henderson Hall, in Arlington, Virginia. It is the perfect area to account for and process personal items of fallen warriors, return them to the families, and help provide closure. When Soldiers make the ultimate sacrifice in theater, their personal effects are inventoried, packed and rushed to the JPED, usually within five days. As items arrive at the depot, they are brought into an individual cage where they are inventoried and packed for shipment to the servicemember's primary next of kin. Soldiers go through great pains to ensure each item is soil-free and presentable for the family members.

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**Take Command: Enroll Now for 2018  
TRICARE Coverage**



On Jan.1, 2018, there are a number of changes coming to your TRICARE benefit. This includes a change to the current TRICARE regions. The current three regions (North, South and West) will become two regions (East and West). There will be new regional contractors for the new East and West regions. In preparation for this change, enrollments in TRICARE health plans will be delayed while beneficiary files are transferred to the incoming regional contractors.

Read the [full article here](#).



**The Sounding of Taps**

Taps, played on the humble bugle, has been a lasting tribute to America's fallen servicemembers and veterans since the Civil War. Trained buglers who can play the somber melody, which was designated as the 'National Song of Remembrance' by Congress in 2012, are in short supply requiring America's final salute to often be played electronically. Eugene Russell, an Army veteran and VA photographer, has been sounding Taps for the past 38 years. He put those skills to use recently at [Quantico National Cemetery](#). Russell took time off from work to sound Taps for five funeral services in one day. As a fellow Veteran, he serves other veterans and their families. For more information, read the [VA Vantage Point Blog](#) and visit the [Bugles Across America 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**

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## **Forever GI Bill Update**

Dear Fellow Veterans and Colleagues,

As you know, the recent passage of the Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017, also known as the “Forever GI Bill,” enacts several changes to the GI Bill that will positively impact Veterans and their families. Some of the changes became effective the day the law was signed, some next fall, and some in the future. In the months to come, I’ll be updating you on how this new law impacts VA education benefits and what actions Veterans may need to take.

Here’s a breakdown of some of the legislation that immediately went into effect with the President’s signature, and what it means for you.

**The 15-year time limitation for using Post-9/11 GI Bill -**

The 15-year limitation to use benefits is removed for

Veterans who left active duty on or after January 1, 2013, children who became eligible for the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship) on or after January 1, 2013, and all Fry Scholarship eligible spouses.

There is no action you need to take; if eligible, the limitation is simply removed for you.

**Restoration of Benefits due to School Closure** - We are now authorized to restore benefits and provide relief to Veterans affected by school closures or disapprovals.

If you attended courses or programs discontinued from January 1, 2015 to August 16, 2017, and attended an accredited institution of higher learning, and did not transfer any credits to a comparable program, entitlement will not be charged for the entire period of your enrollment. The law also provides separate criteria for partial benefit restoration for school closures after January 1, 2015.

To apply for restoration, we will develop a web page with instructions, information, and a form to complete and return. I will update you when this page is available, and we'll post an announcement on our main GI Bill page and social media sites.

**Independent study programs at career and technical education schools covered by GI Bill** - This allows anyone eligible for GI Bill to use their benefits at an accredited independent study program at an area career

and technical school, or a postsecondary vocational school providing postsecondary level education. A bit of background on this provision: before the passage of this law, most non-college degree programs weren't approvable if any portion of it was online. This change allows those programs to be considered for approval even if some or all of the instruction is online/not in a classroom.

There is no action for you to take here, as these programs will go through the normal course of approval by the appropriate State Approving Agency. Any new programs will be added to our GI Bill Comparison Tool.

**Reservists who had eligibility under the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) and lost it due to sunset of the program will have that service credited toward the Post-9/11 GI Bill program** - We are in the process of identifying the approximately 2,800 Reservists affected by this and will send them letters with instructions.

I will update you when the letters go out, and what to do if you did not receive a letter but feel you may be eligible for this restoration. We will also post more information on the [GI Bill web](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

These changes will greatly benefit our nation's Veterans by providing expanded access and opportunity to access education benefits. I will continue to update you as we work out the details of this legislation.

As always, thank you for your service.

Regards,

Curtis L. Coy

Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity

Veterans Benefits Administration

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Washington, DC 20420

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## Links to Other Stories

- 1) [2 officials fired at Memphis VA Hospital](#)
- 2) [About 250,000 Veterans Sign Up for New Exchange Benefit](#)
- 3) [Army Corps of Engineers waives day use fees at recreation areas on Veterans Day](#)
- 4) [Blind Army Veteran overcomes trauma through creative writing](#)
- 5) [From Military Veteran to OIG Special Agent](#)
- 6) [Here is why I turned down the NFL Peoples Health Champion Award](#)
- 7) [House Votes for VA to Clean Up Its Management](#)
- 8) [Legion hosts Agent Orange summit to advocate for Blue Water Navy Veterans](#)
- 9) [Navy Veteran finds profound healing through music therapy](#)
- 10) [PVA "Deeply Disappointed" in New Tax Reform Plan](#)
- 11) [Send Your Leftover Halloween Candy To The Troops](#)
- 12) [Sprayed and betrayed: Veterans exposed to Agent](#)

Orange feel abandoned by VA

13) VA Launches Program Aimed at Providing Veterans More Options in Claims Disagreements

14) VA May Expand List of Ailments for Agent Orange Coverage: Shulkin

15) VA Official: Vets Should Give Up Appeals Rights, 'Instead' Reopen Claim

16) VA's Shulkin calls for new, strategic approach to Veterans benefits programs

17) Veterans Affairs nurse accused of peeping into University of Pittsburgh dorms

18) Veterans Affairs Secretary Admits VA Is 'Adversarial' For Veterans

19) Veterans' health care battle becomes dispute over the details

20) Vets Mental Health Care Act Passes House

21) Vietnam Vet: What Veterans Day Means to Me

You can help VFC by reading articles posted and commenting at the bottom and rate the articles. If you don't have an account, sign up today, it's FREE. Your comments and rankings tell us what type of information you want most.

Check us out today: [www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)

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## **Iraq and Afghanistan Vets Call VA Motto Sexist**

A group of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans is demanding the Department of Veterans Affairs change its motto, which they argue is sexist, outdated and exclusionary. Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, an organization with approximately 425,000 members, has advocated all year for expanded services for women veterans. The group renewed its efforts this week to challenge the VA's motto by sending a letter to VA Secretary David Shulkin and appealing to lawmakers and other VA officials. For more details, see this [article](#).



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## **Tricare to Consolidate Regions**



Changes are coming to Tricare beginning Jan. 1, 2018. Currently, there are three Tricare regions in the U.S.: North, South and West. The North and South regions will combine on Jan. 1, 2018 to form Tricare East, while Tricare West will remain mostly unchanged. Two new contractors, Humana Military, and Health Net Federal Services will administer these regions. This change will allow better coordination between the military hospitals and clinics and the civilian health care providers in each region. Florida and Georgia will continue to be served by Humana Military as part of the new Tricare East. You can begin to prepare for the upcoming changes now: (1) [sign up for a DS Logon](#) and (2) update your personal information in [DEERS](#).



- 1) 2020 Census: Actions Needed to Mitigate Key Risks Jeopardizing a Cost-Effective Enumeration
- 2) Border Patrol: Issues Related to Agent Deployment Strategy and Immigration Checkpoints
- 3) DATA Act: OMB, Treasury, and Agencies Need to Improve Completeness and Accuracy of Spending Data and Disclose Limitations
- 4) Disaster Assistance: Opportunities to Enhance Implementation of the Redesigned Public Assistance Grant Program
- 5) DOD Financial Management: Additional Actions Needed to Complete the Army's Analyses of Unsupported Accounting Entries for Its General Fund
- 6) Federal Facility Security: Selected Agencies Should Improve Methods for Assessing and Monitoring Risk
- 7) High-Containment Laboratories: Coordinated Actions Needed to Enhance the Select Agent Program's Oversight of Hazardous Pathogens
- 8) Imported Seafood Safety: FDA and USDA Could Strengthen Efforts to Prevent Unsafe Drug Residues
- 9) Investigational New Drugs: FDA's Expanded Access Program
- 10) Low-Dose Radiation: Interagency Collaboration on Planning Research Could Improve Information on Health Effects
- 11) Low-Wage Workers: Poverty and Use of Selected Federal Social Safety Net Programs Persist among Working Families
- 12) Opioid Use Disorders: HHS Needs Measures to Assess the Effectiveness of Efforts to Expand Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment

- 13) Physical Security: NIST and Commerce Need to Complete Efforts to Address Persistent Challenges
- 14) Presidential Transition: Information on Ethics, Funding, and Agency Services
- 15) Public Relations Spending: Selected Agencies' Activities Supported by Contracts and Public Affairs Staff
- 16) Southwest Border Security: Actions Needed to Enhance CBP's Maintenance of Roads Used for Its Operations
- 17) Transitioning Veterans: DOD Needs to Improve Performance Reporting and Monitoring for the Transition Assistance Program
- 18) TSA Modernization: Use of Sound Program Management and Oversight Practices Is Needed to Avoid Repeating Past Problems
- 19) U.S. Marshals Service: Additional Actions Needed to Improve Oversight of Merit Promotion Process and Address Employee Perceptions of Favoritism
- 20) Veterans Health Administration: Better Data and Evaluation Could Help Improve Physician Staffing, Recruitment, and Retention Strategies

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

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# **Governor Scott and Florida Cabinet Issue Resolution Recognizing Veterans Day**

**TALLAHASSEE** -- Gov. Rick Scott and the Florida Cabinet issued a resolution today recognizing Nov. 11, 2017 as Veterans Day. The resolution was presented during the Nov. 7 Cabinet Meeting at the Capitol.

“I am proud to issue this resolution recognizing Veterans Day as we honor those who have served our great nation,” said Governor Scott. “Florida is committed to being the most military and veteran friendly state in the nation. As a veteran myself, I think it is so important to thank our courageous veterans for their service defending our country’s freedom.”

Approximately 100 veterans were in the audience to accept the resolution on behalf of the state’s more than 1.5 million veterans.

“On this Veterans Day, we ask you to pause, reflect and thank our state’s more than 1.5 million veterans who have defended the principles upon which our country was founded,” said retired Army Lt. Col. Glenn Sutphin, executive director of the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs. “From our network of award-winning state veterans’ homes to connecting veterans to their earned benefits and services, Florida is the most veteran-friendly state in the nation.”

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



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

Riverside County, CA

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