



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, December 31, 2017

Volume 8, Issue 49



This-N-That

We hope everyone had a truly Great Christmas this year! And we wish you the very Best New Year to come!

2017 was an incredibly busy year and we, and this includes YOU as well have helped us gain some ground! Not a lot but we have gained some.

2018 is going to be a very busy year too! And we have to fight just that much harder in order for us to truly see some serious gains in benefits and healthcare.

Please keep in mind even though you think your Congressman and Senators don't listen to you, if we continue to push, continue to make things go viral WE CAN WIN THE BATTLE!

I don't want to take up time in this newsletter to lay out all that is being worked on, but I will make it a point in the next two weeks to put out a special release of current legislation that needs your help to push it through.

For now we're just putting out a bare bones newsletter to close out the year and to say thank you for all you have done to help in the fight for all Veterans!

If you and your family have plans to go out, please make sure you have a designated driver, and please no texting while driving. We want to have all of you around in 2018!

On behalf of our Volunteers nationwide and myself, we wish you and your family a very Happy and Prosperous New Year and good health!

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org



TRICARE 2018 Changes Update

On Jan. 1, 2018, the current three U.S. TRICARE regions consolidate into two. Due to these changes, it is possible that your primary care manager (PCM) will no longer be in network. What can you do? First, [check to see if your PCM is still in network](#). If you are enrolled in TRICARE Prime and are being assigned a new PCM, your regional contractor will notify you. If enrolled in a plan other than TRICARE Prime, you should also check to see if your specialty care providers will remain in network. The 2018 TRICARE Network Provider Directories are now available when using the online [Find a Doctor](#) provider search tool. For more information, visit the TRICARE [website](#).





**Stung By 'Raw Politics,' Roe
Assesses VA Choice,
Caregiver Plans**

Rep. Phil Roe (R-Tenn.), chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, expected that every committee member, Democrat and Republican, would vote for the VA Care in the Community Act (HR 4242), his comprehensive plan developed over months to reform the flawed Veterans Choice program. Roe therefore said he was surprised and disappointed when all nine Democrats at the bill's mark-up hearing opposed the legislation they helped to shape and for which they were original co-sponsors. For more details, see this Military [Advantage post](#).



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, whatever 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 **3,786,755** 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 **16,155** documents on-line (Updated: 11/13/17)
- 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 (Counselor Needed)
- 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: **7,020**)
 - Polls
 - Web Links, more than **3,614**, Added 2 New Links (Updated: 11/12/17)

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





2018 CONUS COLA Rates Released

DOD has released the 2018 CONUS COLA rates and approximately 7,000 less military members will be eligible for the pay in the coming year. CONUS COLA is paid to military members stationed in high-cost areas in the US. It is a taxable pay that is paid in addition to regular pay and station allowances. The rate varies by geographic location, rank, years of service, and dependency status.





**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:

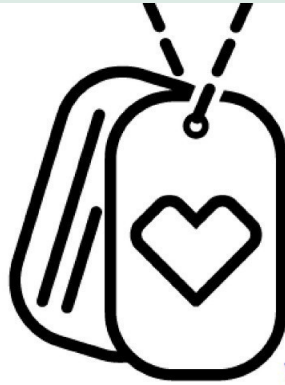
202-224-3121

TOLL FREE: 866-272-6622

PLEASE... STOP Making Excuses!

www.veterans-for-change.org





**Our values
match yours.**



www.veterans-for-change.org



TRICARE Increasing Copayments

On Feb. 1, 2018, copayments for prescription drugs at [TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery](#) and [retail pharmacies](#) will increase. These changes will affect TRICARE beneficiaries who are not active duty servicemembers. Prescriptions filled at [military pharmacies](#) remain available at no cost. Using home delivery, the copayments for a 90-day supply of generic formulary drugs will increase from \$0 to \$7. For brand-name formulary drugs, copayments will increase from \$20 to \$24. To see the new TRICARE pharmacy copayments, visit the TRICARE [website](#). To learn more about the TRICARE Pharmacy Program, or move your prescriptions to home delivery, visit the TRICARE Pharmacy [webpage](#).





Appeals Court Rejects Trump Effort to Delay Transgender Ban

A federal appeals court has denied a Trump administration request to delay the [Jan. 1 start date](#) for transgender people to enlist in the military. A three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals wrote in a two-paragraph order Thursday that the administration's request was denied. For more details, see this [article](#).





VA Decision Ready Claims Program Expands

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has unveiled its latest enhancements to the Decision Ready Claims (DRC) program. Veterans will now be able to file certain claims for direct service connection, presumptive service connection and secondary service connection. Surviving spouses will also be able to file certain claims for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, and transitioning servicemembers will be able to file pre-discharge claims less than 90 days from leaving the military. For more information, read the VA [Vantage Point Blog](#) and visit the VA Decision Ready Claims [webpage](#).



**Happy New Year
2018**



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) Cabinet Meeting Marks Tremendous Year of Progress
- 2) Food donations keep Veterans healthy
- 3) Highest-ranking female officer in Afghanistan would rather talk about war than gender
- 4) Illegal VA policy allows hiring since 2002 of medical workers with revoked licenses
- 5) Monument to honor Delaware's women Veterans
- 6) Navy to Forgive Past Fitness Test Fails, End Most Fitness Discharges
- 7) Previously missing Korean War Veteran finally laid to rest
- 8) The Longest War: 8 Years After My Last Deployment, I Returned To Afghanistan As A Reporter. Here's What I Found
- 9) The VA's sneak attack on homeless Veterans

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

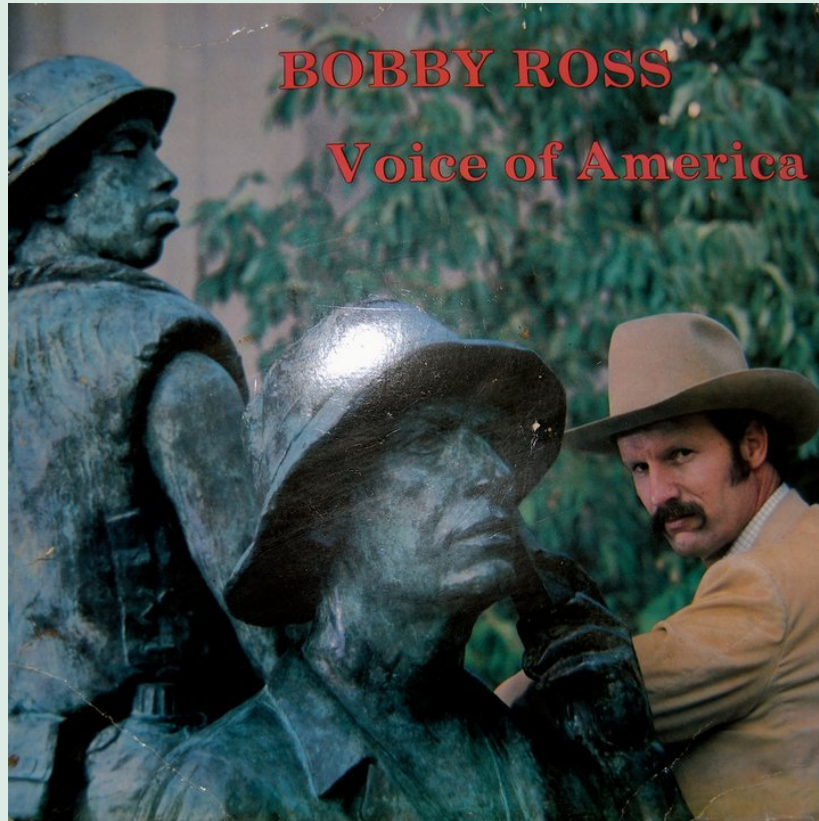




Veterans Crisis Line

The current episode of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) 'Borne the Battle' Podcast highlights the Veterans Crisis Line. To reach the Veterans Crisis Line, call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1. Listen to the Podcast on the VA Vantage [Point Blog](#). The [#VApodcast](#) is now available in iTunes. Search 'Borne the Battle' in the Apple Podcast app, on [Stitcher](#), or see it in the [iTunes](#) store.





**30 Year Anniversary for LT
Bobby Ross LRRP Network**

Thirty years ago this month I had produced my "[Voice of America](#)" shortly after I had moved to Nashville in 1986. I had just graduated from the world famous [Music Department of San Francisco State University](#) singing opera. So, I put on my cowboy uniform, and moved to Music City dreaming to become a Country Music recording artist. Down the road from my University was [Silicon Valley](#), where my Dad had an office. I was on the ground floor of this 'new' stuff going on with computers and this really new thingie called "[The Internet](#)". I was the first in Nashville to have a web site in Cyberspace, and this month 30 years ago I started my LRRP Network. It is presently one of the largest on the Internet. So have fun with my newsletter and remember it is an "Interactive Adventure". All the pictures and highlighted words are capable of taking you to other locations with two little clicks of your mouse. Have a great Christmas and New Years and I look forward to being with you, again, in 2018.





GAO

U.S. Government Accountability
Office Reports

No Reports This week!



**“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.



**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!**



Please do not reply to this E-Mail, this is an unattended
E-Mail address, please send all correspondence to:

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



Distribution

Express Mail	145,084
Boston	76,756
Courtesy Copies	3,500
Department of VA	13,362
DoD	30,849
Face Book Pages	3,529
Google	29,393
Los Angeles	138,120
Microsoft	10,081
National Guard	4679
New York	155,914
Other Social Media	48,748
San Francisco	80,694
Twitter	44
US House of Reps & Staff	1003
US Senators & Staff	136
University of So. California	5,821
US Air Force	27,921
US Army	71,039
US Marines	30,556
US Navy	40,203
Veterans	19,097,185
Washington DC	145,563
Yahoo	185
	20,160,365

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