



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, March 18, 2018

Volume 9, Issue 11



This-N-That

Our hearts are saddened after the shooting at a Veterans home in Napa County, California this past week.

Several hours after a hostage situation the shooter Albert Wong, 36, of Sacramento, a former client of the Pathway Home program and his three hostages, employees of the program at the Veterans Home of California in Yountville, about an hour's drive north of San Francisco were found

dead.

Brian Goder, a resident of the Veterans home who was under lockdown for hours in the main dining room of the Veterans home, told the Associated Press that he saw more than a dozen armed troops walking to the building in which the suspect and hostages are located. The officers wearing fatigues could be seen in a video he posted on Facebook, but it wasn't immediately clear what agency they were from.

Also as you have heard, Secretary Shulkin may very well be replaced, however the word is that the position has been offered to the Secretary of Energy which in our opinion is even a worse move as this person has no experience with medicine and working with and for Veterans.

We do feel the need to remove Shulkin quickly before things become even worse than he has made them already, but there certainly has to be a much better choice for Secretary of the VA.

And it's also been reported that Shulkin has a body guard who has been instructed not to allow

anyone near him including his own staff! But, what I'd like to know is why does he fear his own staff?

But Chief of staff John Kelly summoned Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary David Shulkin to the White House last week and told him to stop creating drama in his agency, so this is unclear if he's being given another chance, or if the rumors are true that President Trump will replace him.

Keep in mind we are seeking replacement!

Dr. Sarah Kemble the former chief of medicine of the VA's Central Western Massachusetts Medical Facility in Leeds on her death bed had reported of systemic failures with this facility, now, we wonder what the VAOIG will do with her information now that she has passed on.

If and when anything comes out, we will certainly be sure to pass that along to you!

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



Register for TRICARE Webinar on Your Preventive Care Benefits

Do you know your preventive health care benefits? Join us on Thursday, March 29, from 1 to 2 p.m. (ET) for the "Understanding Your TRICARE Preventive Care Benefits" webinar. TRICARE covers preventive services, like screenings, vaccines and physical exams to help you stay as healthy as possible. This webinar will cover recent changes to coverage for clinical preventive services with TRICARE Select, as well as enhancements to existing coverage.

Read the full article [here](#).



REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL



VA Health Data To Transfer Easier Than DoD's To New EHR System

Rep. Phil Roe (R-Tenn.), chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, returned from a recent visit to Fairchild Air Force Base, WA, alarmed that the Department of Veterans Affairs might have made a bad decision last June to replace its legacy electronic health record system, VistA, with the same commercial off-the-shelf system that the military is adopting, starting with Pacific Northwest bases. For more details, see this [Military Advantage post](#).



CalVet to meet with Central Valley Native American and Rural Veterans

WHO: Elizabeth Perez, Deputy Secretary, California Department of Veterans Affairs and Owens Valley Career Development Center – Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

WHAT: Native American and Rural Veterans Benefits and Claims Workshop

WHEN: Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 9 a.m.

WHERE: Owens Valley Career TANF, 5070 N 6th Street #110, Fresno, CA

EVENT: CalVet is providing a free workshop developed to assist veterans in applying for local, state, and federal veteran benefits. One-on-one assistance from the Fresno County Veterans Service Office is available the day of the workshop. Additionally, CalVet will be providing information to tribal leadership on the Veteran Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program

that will award \$75 million in funding round four beginning in April.

This is the second of three meetings with tribes and rural veterans across the state to assist veterans with claims and information.



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 2,100 hits per day, and downloads average 1,200 per day with a total 3,946,651 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 16,387 documents on-line (Updated: 02/20/18)
- 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: 01/11/18)
- News (Articles On-Line: 7,196)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than 3,625, Added 6 New Links (Updated: 02/19/18)

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



OUR DEBT TO THE
HEROIC MEN AND VALIANT
WOMEN IN THE SERVICE
OF OUR COUNTRY CAN
NEVER BE REPAID. THEY
HAVE EARNED OUR
UNDYING GRATITUDE.
AMERICA WILL NEVER
FORGET THEIR SACRIFICES.

PRESIDENT HARRY S TRUMAN



Commemorating Women's History Month

Every March Military.com marks women's history month by recognizing the contributions made and the glass ceilings broken each day by women in the U.S. [Army](#), [Navy](#), [Air Force](#), [Marine Corps](#) and [Coast Guard](#). For features, videos and more, visit [Women's History Month page](#).

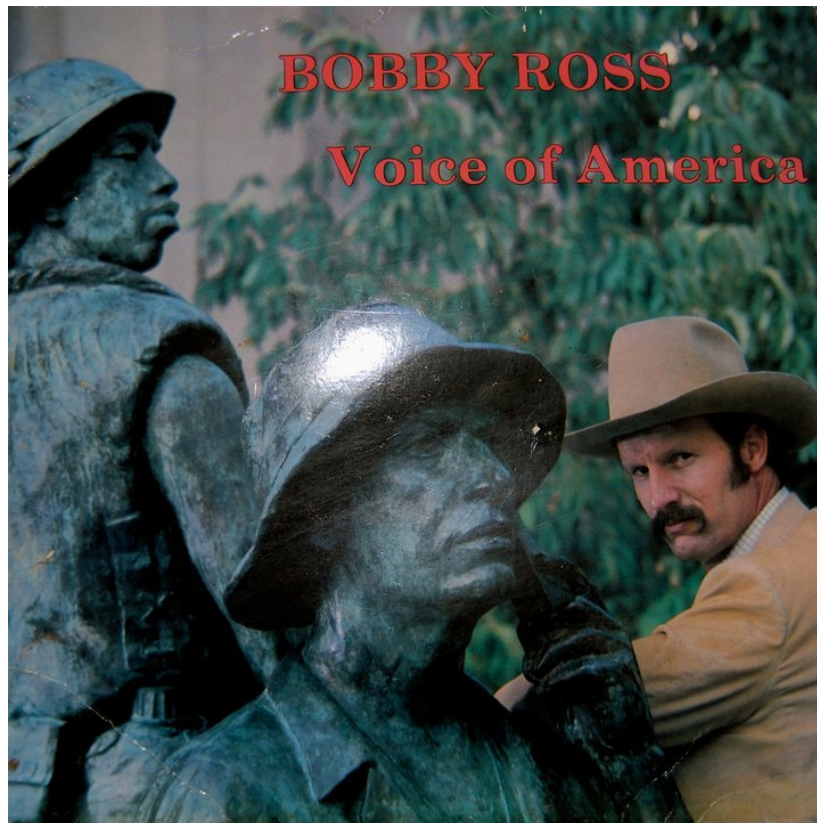


Restore Your VA Benefits

The Colmery Act (also known as the Forever GI Bill) includes significant education benefit changes that may affect you. Did you lose your Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education benefits due to a school closure or disapproval? You may be able to restore your benefits. Learn more and apply at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Education and Training [website](#).



LT Bobby Ross



February's Featured Song

JACK

LT Bobby Ross

PATRIOTIC MUSIC

Remember this site is an Internet Adventure. All you need do is click on the pictures and any highlighted word, and you are launched to another world in Cyberspace. Try it! So much fun!



Event Will Honor Vietnam Veterans, Commemorate 50th Anniversary of Vietnam War

WHO: Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 500, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet)

WHAT: Ceremony to thank and honor Vietnam veterans for their service and to present lapel pins commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

WHEN: Thursday, March 29, 2018 - noon
National Vietnam War Veterans Day

WHERE: Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Capitol Park, 15th Street at Capitol Avenue behind the Rose Garden, Sacramento, CA 95814

EVENT: Each year, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 500 hosts a ceremony to honor Vietnam veterans and provide the “welcome home” that was missing when they returned home years ago. This year, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, the event will be co-hosted with CalVet and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. All Vietnam veterans are invited to attend and receive a commemorative lapel pin in honor of their service to our nation. Pins will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. The public is welcome to attend.

BACKGROUND: Nearly three and a half million Americans served in the United States military during the Vietnam War and related conflicts in Southeast Asia between 1959 and 1975. More than 58,000 U.S. service members died during the Vietnam War, including 5,656 Californians.

The U.S. Vietnam War Commemoration began on Memorial Day in 2012 and will conclude on Veterans Day in 2025. The period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975 is being used to recognize the service and sacrifice of those who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. November 1, 1955 was selected to coincide with the official designation of Military Assistance Advisory Group-Vietnam (MAAG-V), and May 15, 1975 marks the end of the battle precipitated by the seizure of the SS Mayaguez. U.S. involvement in Vietnam started slowly with an initial deployment of advisors in the early 1950s, grew incrementally through the early 1960s and expanded with the deployment of full combat units in July 1965. The last U.S. personnel were evacuated from Vietnam in April 1975.

For more information, visit:

Vietnam War Commemoration:

<http://www.vietnamwar50th.com>.





Recent Education Benefit Changes Explained

The Department of Veteran Affairs and the National Military Family Association (NMFA) recently [hosted the #ExploreVA Facebook Live event](#) on VA education benefit changes. Robert M. Worley II, VA's director of Education Service, and Besa Pinchotti, communications director for NMFA, discussed these recent changes and how they may affect Veterans, servicemembers and their family members looking to further their education. Watch a video of the event and read questions and answers on the VA Vantage [Point Blog](#).



**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



Reduce Your Out of Pocket & Rx Costs with a TRICARE Supplement

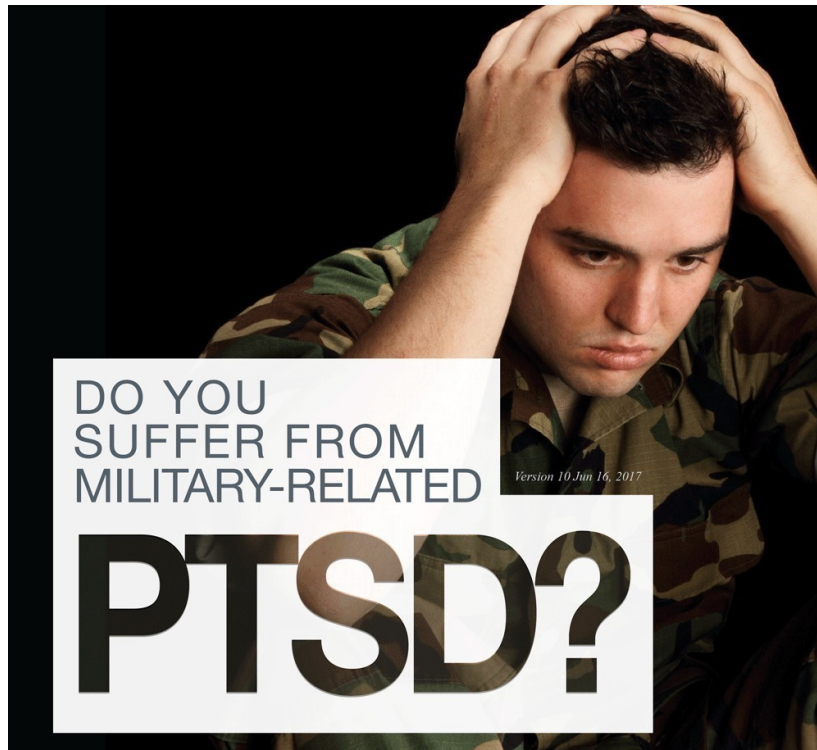
Get a Tricare Supplement that pays your cost shares and can pay 100% of covered excess charges. [Get valuable coverage now.](#)



March Is Traumatic Brain Injury Month

Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) happen to many of our service members and veterans — this month is devoted to getting those who suffer from TBI the resources and help they need. For guides and resources on TBI, visit the Military.com [TBI section](#) and this [VA page on TBI](#). The VA also offers TBI caregiver support via the 'Caring for Veterans with TBI' [webpage](#) or call the VA Caregiver Support Line at 1-855-260-3274.





**Veterans Crisis Line:
1-800-273-8255 & Press 1
Ntl Call Center for Homeless Vets
1-877-424-3838**



**VA Displays Women's Athlete
Exhibit**

March is Women's History Month. During March, ten Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers around the country will display an exhibit featuring 10 women Veteran athletes, with an expanded exhibit also available online. The exhibit is intended to increase awareness of women as Veterans. VA's Center for Women Veterans partnered on this project with Team Red, White, & Blue ([Team RWB](#)), a nonprofit organization that seeks to create quality relationships and experiences that contribute to life enrichment and overall well being. For more information, read the VA Vantage [Point Blog](#).



**Our values
match yours.**



www.veterans-for-change.org

Help for Gulf War Veterans

Nearly 700,000 men and women served in the Persian Gulf during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA's) [Gulf War Registry](#) alerts Veterans to possible long-term health problems that may be related to environmental exposures during their military service. If you served during the Gulf War, contact your local [VA Environmental Health coordinator](#) about getting a Gulf War Registry health exam. Eligible Veterans may qualify for disability compensation and other benefits. Dependents and survivors may also be eligible for benefits. Also, Leadership and input on Gulf War Veterans issues is provided to VA by the Research Advisory Committee on [Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses](#). [Read the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses 2017 Recommendations](#).





VA Launches Telehealth Program for Rural Vets with PTSD

The VA has launched a pilot program that will offer telehealth treatment to rural veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder ([PTSD](#)). The program is designed to take the treatment to the veterans rather than make the veterans come to the treatment. Many rural veterans must travel long distances to see a VA mental health specialist, and that can prevent them from seeking the treatment they need. For more details, see this [Military Advantage post](#).



Navy Advanced Education Voucher

The U.S. Navy is calling for applications for the FY-19 Advanced Education Voucher (AEV) program. The AEV program offers post-secondary, Navy-relevant education at the baccalaureate and master's level and provides financial assistance to chief, senior chief, and master chief petty officers. Applications for AEV are currently being accepted by NETC (N523). The deadline for submission for the FY-18 program is May 25. Application details, format, and more information can be found at the Navy College Program [website](#). For more information contact Senior Chief Machinist's Mate Joshua Rice, NETC N523, at (850)-452-7268 (DSN 459) or email joshua.c.rice@navy.mil.



CalVet Secretary Issues Statement on Yountville Veterans Home Shooting

Sacramento – We are devastated by today's tragedy at our Home in Yountville. Our hearts are heavy for the entire Yountville Veterans Home community and the families and friends who are grieving for those who died.

Nothing matters more than caring for our veterans and employees during this difficult time.

We appreciate the tremendous law enforcement response today and unfailing support of this community.

Vito Imbasciani MD
Secretary



Never forget our fallen!



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



5 Interesting Findings from a 2018 Military Family Report

A recent report from a major military support organization highlights a few surprises about our military and veteran community — and could help [spouses](#) and military advocates have a better idea of just how to best aid their communities. The report, released by the Military Family Advocacy Network early this month, broke down the results of a survey of over 5,600 military veterans, active duty members and families conducted last year. For more details, see this [Spousebuzz post](#).



Links to Other Stories

- 1) Former VA doctor blows whistle on her death bed, accuses VA medical center in Leeds of systemic failures
- 2) Gunman, 3 hostages reported dead at California Veterans home
- 3) Health and Wellness Innovative Program Award
- 4) Kelly warned VA chief to get his act together: report
- 5) Meet Dr. Holst - Another One of VA's Top Doctors
- 6) Monsanto's Cancer Fight Judge Pictures Weed Killer Showers
- 7) Non-profit group connects Veterans with companion dogs
- 8) Scoop: Trump finally losing patience with VA Sec. Shulkin
- 9) Things have gotten so bad at the Veterans Affairs department that the secretary has posted an armed guard outside his office
- 10) Trump considers firing VA Sec. Shulkin, replacing with Energy Sec. Perry, sources say

- 11) VA Awards More Than \$496,000 to Improve IT Infrastructure as Part of 'Buy vs. Build' Initiative
- 12) VA Expands Transparency Efforts of Institutions Receiving GI Bill Payments
- 13) VA Leader Receives Blue Star Families Caregiving Award for VA Support
- 14) VA Secretary Announces VA Open Application Programming Interface Pledge
- 15) VA to Conduct In-depth Internal Review of Existing Canine Research Projects
- 16) Veterans Affairs Provides Assistance in Wake of Yountville Tragedy

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





National Resource Directory for Veterans

The [National Resource Directory](#) is one of the largest online collections of government and non-government resources specifically designed for Veterans, their families and caregivers. The Directory contains more than 16,000 organized and vetted resources and provides information covering a variety of topics. The directory is a one-stop alternative to searching through multiple websites and publications to find what you are looking for. At www.nrd.gov, all resources and information for a topic area can be found within a single website and are easily located using the site's search engine. For more information, visit the National Resource Directory website and read the VA [VAntage Point Blog](#).



- 1) Alka-Seltzer Plus Products: Recall - Ingredients on Front Sticker May Not Match Product in Carton
- 2) Bayer Issues Voluntary Recall of Alka-Seltzer Plus® Products
- 3) Consumer Alert: Listeria Contamination In Maiden's Creamery Wild Meadow Raw Goat Milk Cheese
- 4) Kratom-containing Powder Products by PDX Aromatics: Recall - Potential for Contamination with Salmonella
- 5) Midwest Northern Nut Issues Voluntary Allergy Alert On Various Undeclared Allergens In Their Nut And Seed Snack Products
- 6) Neurovascular Embolization Coils: Healthcare Provider Letter - Potential for Increased Image Artifact When Using Magnetic Resonance Angiography For Follow-Up
- 7) Oregon Food Bank Issues Alert on Foreign Material in Chia Seeds
- 8) PDX Aromatics Recalls Kratom Powder Because Of Possible Health Risk
- 9) Schwartz Brothers Bakery Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Egg in Gourmet Cream Cheese Cinnamon Rolls



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!**

©2018 Veterans-For-Change, Inc. | Menifee, CA 92584-8870

[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by
[GoDaddy Email Marketing](#)®