



# **Veterans-For-Change Newsletter**

*A Voice of the Veterans*

Week Ending Sunday, July 01, 2018

Volume 9, Issue 26



## **This-N-That**

This week I bring you both bad and good news.

As you may recall I had told you about Betty Hidalgo-Rabuse, our Director of Operation Mail Call.

Betty had been quite sick for just over two months with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Sadly Betty has passed away this past Saturday, June 26, 2018 leaving behind her husband

[James Rabuse](#), a Retired Army Veteran, Her two daughters and her grandson.

James has been struggling to reach the funds goal to help cover Betty's funeral & memorial expenses, and if you're inclined to help please click on James's name above.

This week the house unanimously passed the Blue Water Navy Bill HR 299 by a vote of 382 to ZERO!

Many congratulations to Commander John Wells, USN (Ret.) his team and all the Blue Water Navy Veterans who all participated in making this happen!

But we still need everyone's help by calling both your Senators (numbers can be located further down in this newsletter) and politely ask them to please support HR 299. And to also take a few minutes to go to their individual websites and send a message there as well, then to either copy and paste the information or type in new information into an E-Mail and send to your entire address book asking all

your friends and family to call and e-mail as well.

I've been preaching how to make things happen for all Veterans for a very long time now, and with the passage of HR 299 just goes to show what you can accomplish by getting involved in a particular issue and sticking with it till it happens.

Over the past few weeks I have also been talking about those who either served in the military or had made every effort to serve who had Autism or Asperger Syndrome and how we have merged forces with AFOA (Autistic Farmers of America) and LT Bobby Ross.

This was done to create a further bond with our Veterans, helping them to gain employment in the farming industry, be self supportive, and to locate as much information as is possible to share with everyone.

We are still collecting information on both these illnesses and as soon as we have what

we feel is a good start we will publish them all on the website.

Anyone who would like more information on AFOA, please feel free to write to me and I will make sure your E-Mail gets in the hands of LT Bobby Ross.

This coming week is the 4th of July and we'd like to remind everyone, although it's a time to rejoice in our country, have terrific BBQ's and awesome fireworks displays, please keep in mind your animals who might not tolerate loud noises and bright flashing light, and the same would apply to those who live around you who have served and have PTSD.

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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## Will 'Blue Water' Bill Support All Disabled Veterans?

The House Veterans Affairs Committee wants to extend Agent Orange disability benefits to 90,000 "Blue Water" Navy veterans of the Vietnam War by raising funding fees under the VA home loan program — but will disabled veterans be shielded from a funding fee, as the committee claimed last month? An organization called the Veterans Association for Real Estate Professionals (VAREP) argues otherwise. For more details, see this [post](#).

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REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

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## VA Staffing Shortages Addressed

Roscoe Butler, American Legion deputy director for health care in the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division, recently testified before the Subcommittee on Health to voice the Legion's support for five pieces of pending legislation, which included bills addressing the severe staffing shortages plaguing the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). According to a recent study, there will be a shortage of more than 100,000 doctors by 2030, including medical officers, nurses, psychologists, physician assistants and medical technologists. A video of the hearing along with relevant documents is available on the House Committee on Veterans Affairs [website](#).



### ***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 **4,155,960** 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 16,411 documents on-line (Updated: 06/08/18)
- 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: 7,450)
  - Polls
  - Web Links, more than 3,654, Added 9 New Links (Updated: 05/27/18)

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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Reduce Your Rx Costs Now**

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## **H.R. 4556, Opening VA Dental Care to All Veterans**

Representative Carol Shea-Porter (NH) introduced H.R. 4556, a bill that would require the VA to offer comprehensive dental care to all 9.1 million veterans enrolled in the VA health care system.

Current law limits eligibility for VA dental care to veterans with a service-connected disability rated 100%; veterans with a service-connected dental condition; former prisoners of war; and homeless veterans. Dental care is also available if a dental condition is aggravating a service-connected condition or complicates

treatment of that condition.

This bill would eliminate these restrictions on eligibility for VA dental care, allowing all veterans that are enrolled in the VA system to access in-house dental care. The bill phases in the new eligibility over five years to give the VA time to invest in and increase its capacity to provide dental care.

This bill is in accordance with DAV's Resolution No. 013, which supports legislation for VA to provide dental care services to all enrolled veterans.

Please use the prepared letter to ask your Representative to support passage of H.R. 4556. Thank you for your efforts and support of the DAV Commander's Action Network.

[Take Action](#)





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



**Navy App Offers Blended Retirement  
Info**

The Navy recently updated its financial literacy mobile app to include information on the Blended Retirement System (BRS) and additional resources for Sailors to better manage and plan their finances. Along with new BRS information, there is a BRS New Accessions Course, a BRS comparison calculator, and the Family Financial Planning Course. Users can explore issues like managing their credit, building a spending plan, home buying, moving, as well as how to navigate survivor benefits, insurance and the Thrift Savings Plan among many other topics. The Navy Financial Literacy mobile application is available for download at the [Navy App Locker](#) for both Apple and Android devices.



**TRICARE Beneficiary  
Bulletin #455**



Listen to this week's podcast to hear about:

- Food Poisoning
- PTSD Care & Support Webinar
- TRICARE Coverage While Moving

Visit the TRICARE Media Center for this and previous podcasts at [www.tricare.mil/podcasts](http://www.tricare.mil/podcasts).



**LT Bobby Ross**

## June's Featured Song

### The Fisherman

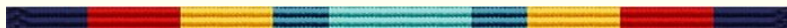
#### PATRIOTIC MUSIC

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!



**Life Changes Can Mean  
TRICARE Changes**

Did you get married or divorced recently? If so, you have experienced a TRICARE [Qualifying Life Event](#) (QLE). These changes may trigger a change in your TRICARE eligibility and options. A QLE for one family member creates a QLE for all family members. Getting married or divorced allows you and your dependents 90 days to enroll in or change your TRICARE health plan coverage outside of the annual open season. If you get married, register your new spouse in the [Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System](#) (DEERS). You must also update DEERS if you get divorced. Learn more about QLEs on the TRICARE [website](#).







## VA Burial Benefits

To pay lasting tribute to the service and sacrifice of Veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers benefits for burial in a VA national cemetery or a private cemetery. Qualified Veterans receive a government-furnished headstone or marker, grave liner, perpetual care of the gravesite, burial flag and a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Spouses and other eligible family members may be buried in VA national cemeteries as well. For more information, visit the [Memorial Benefits section](#).



**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!**

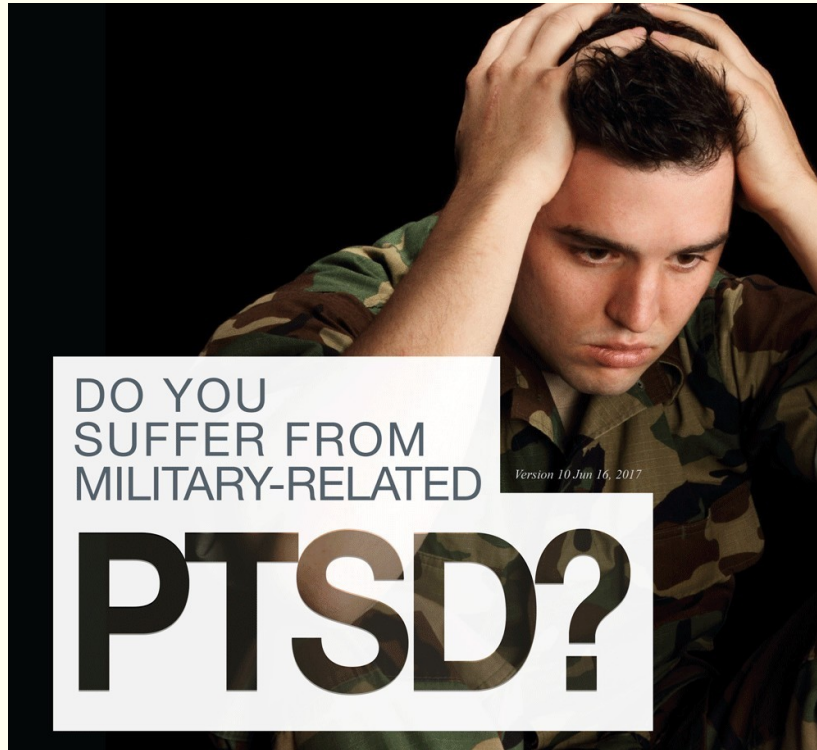
[www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)



**PBS to Rerun 'The Great War'  
Documentary**

The ground-breaking documentary series The Great War is re-airing on Public Broadcasting Stations (PBS) stations across the country. Episode 2 on June 26 at 9/8c. Episode 3 on July 3 at 9/8c. All three episodes will be available for free streaming starting June 19 at 9 PM EST through July 30 on the PBS [website](#). Check your local television listings for correct date and air time in your area. For more information, visit the WWI Centennial Commission [website](#) and visit the PBS [website](#).





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



**Many TRICARE Fees Could Change  
Again in 2019**

The out of pocket flat rate care fees, deductibles and, for working age retirees, enrollment fees could change Jan. 1. The potential for annual fee increases or decreases are authorized in a law passed by Congress last year. But until now very little has been known about how or if those annual changes will happen. Read the [full story](#).



## **Moving this Summer? Your TRICARE Options May Change**

Are you starting a new adventure in a new location soon? If so, that's a TRICARE Qualifying Life Event (QLE). A QLE is a major life change, like moving, getting married or divorced, or becoming eligible for Medicare. Moving doesn't change your TRICARE eligibility. But moving may change your TRICARE health plan options.

Read the full article [here](#).



**Our values  
match yours.**



*Veterans For Change*  
Est. 2000

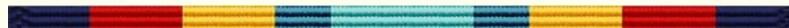
[www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)



# VA Issues New VA Refi Policies

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has issued a new policy that protects veteran homeowners from predatory lending practices when obtaining a VA-guaranteed refinance loan. The new policy and its accompanying law help protect veterans and servicemembers from the dangers associated with repeatedly refinancing their home loans, requiring, among other things, the seasoning of the original loan and a recoupment period for fees, closing costs, and expenses related to the refinance. The policy also provides for a specified interest rate decrease and for protections of loan-to-value ratios. A refinancing loan must meet the requirements specified in the new law or VA will not guarantee the loan. Visit the 'Paycheck Chronicles' to learn more about the new [VA Home Loan Refinance Policies](#).





## VA Telehealth Goes Anywhere



The Department of Veterans Affairs recently marked its go-live date for a policy shift that now allows qualified practitioners to log in to VA's telehealth system and see patients without regard to state rules and regulations. The VA delivers telehealth in clinical settings and in the home. In VA clinics, patients and local caregivers and technicians can connect with remote physicians and specialists, giving patients access to providers across the VA system. Also, the new VA Video Connect application allows in-home users to connect with doctors, mental health specialists, nurses and others to conduct medical visits, follow-up care and psychotherapy. VA Video Connect is available to Android and desktop users via the VA's [website](#) and to iOS users via Apple app stores.





## **Your Military Retirement Choices**

Anyone who was in the military as of Dec. 31, 2017, is automatically grandfathered into the High-3 Legacy retirement system. This is the system where you multiply the number of years you serve by the average of your highest 36 months of basic pay by 2.5%. This option requires you to serve at least 20 years to qualify for retirement. However, if you have less than 12 years of service (active duty) or less than 4,320 points (Reserves/National Guard), then you have a choice to make. You can either stick with the High-3 system or opt into BRS. To make the right decision for you, take a hard look at your finances and your goals. Chat with your spouse or family. Make an appointment with your installation's personal financial manager or another trusted advisor and run the BRS calculator. For more information, see this [article](#).





## Blue Water Navy Veterans Closer to Receiving Benefits

With a unanimous 382-0 vote in the House on Monday, H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017, is closer than ever before to becoming law and finally providing Blue Water Navy veterans the benefits they have been denied for too long by VA's arbitrary and capricious regulations. The bill would also expand benefits to veterans exposed to Agent Orange while serving along the Korean DMZ and children born with spina bifida due to a parent's exposure during service in Thailand. It will also require VA to report on research being conducted on Gulf War Illness. The VFW calls on the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs to swiftly consider and pass this important legislation. Read the [bill text](#).



## **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**



## **Senate Holds Hearing on Wilkie Nomination**

On Wednesday, DOD Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Robert Wilkie testified before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs as part of his confirmation process to be the next secretary of Veterans Affairs. Wilkie discussed his military background and how he plans to work for veterans by walking the post and improving customer service at VA. Committee members asked Wilkie about several VFW priorities, such as expanding benefits to Blue Water Navy veterans; improving access to care by implementing the VFW-supported VA MISSION Act which includes ensuring veterans of all eras are eligible for caregiver benefits; and his plans to address staffing shortages. Wilkie was also given the opportunity to clarify reports about his past statements regarding the confederate flag and other issues. [Watch the hearing](#), which starts at the 12:15 mark.



Links to Other Stories

1. He Collected Nearly \$200,000 As A Vietnam Vet With 2 Purple Hearts — But He Never Actually Served
2. Here's What It Would Cost To Shelter Every Homeless Person — And Why LA Will Never Do It
3. House approves benefits for Blue Water Navy Veterans
4. House passes benefits fix for ailing 'blue water' Veterans, now awaits Senate's move
5. Kids use summer break to raise money for homeless Veterans
6. Marine Vet who received double arm transplant to deliver 1st pitch at Boulders game
7. Navy IDs pilot who died in crash at N.M. Air Force Base
8. Program gives Wilmington area landlords incentives to rent to homeless
9. Secret data: Most VA nursing homes have more residents with bed sores, pain, than private facilities
10. VA Issues New Policy to Protect Veteran Homeowners from Predatory Lending
11. VA Issues New Policy to Protect Veteran Homeowners from Predatory Lending



12. [VA Mental Health Care is So Bad, It's Unconstitutional](#)
13. [VA Provides Reorganization Plan to Strengthen and Modernize Department](#)
14. [VA Releases National Suicide Data Report](#)
15. [VA secretary nominee promises more medical choices for Vets, but not privatization](#)
16. [VA Showcases New Medical Advancements in Veteran Care on Capitol Hill](#)
17. [Vet Village, AK would connect homeless Veterans to work and shelter](#)
18. [Veterans' Diseases Associated with Agent Orange](#)
19. [Vietnam Veterans suffering from Agent Orange Exposure may soon be compensated](#)
20. [Washington-Morgan Community Action gets grant to help homeless Vets](#)


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)



## Financial Readiness

In anticipation of July's "Month of the Military Consumer," the DOD Office of Financial Readiness has released three informational videos explaining how to better plan for retirement. Each video is approximately four minutes long, and provides an overview of the new blended retirement system, the Thrift Savings Plan and pointers on how to become more financially literate. Additionally, service members and their families are highly encouraged to meet with an accredited personal financial manager or financial counselor for free during the month of July at their local installation's Military and Family Support Center, or contact Military OneSource to schedule an appointment. [Learn more](#) about taking charge of your finances or [view the videos](#).





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## **Kentuckian Receives Medal of Honor**

On Tuesday, President Trump presented the Medal of Honor to the widow of Army 1st Lt. Garlin Murl Conner, a Kentucky farmer and World War II veteran, who on the morning of Jan. 24, 1945, ran alone toward an attacking battalion of German soldiers and Panzer tanks to direct American artillery fire. Conner, who died in 1998, enlisted in the Army in 1941 at the age of 21 and would go on to serve in 10 campaigns over 28 months on the front lines, to include Anzio, Italy, where he earned a battlefield commission. The Army credits him with four Silver Stars, a Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts. Few in his family or hometown knew about his wartime achievements because he never talked about it, and the campaign to get him the Medal of Honor didn't begin until a 1996 meeting with a former Army Green Beret from Wisconsin, Richard Chilton, who was conducting research on an uncle who died after the Anzio landing. Chilton is a life member of VFW Post 11279 in Twin Lakes.

[Read more.](#)





## Employment Hearing

On Tuesday, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on veteran hiring and retention. The latest veteran unemployment number is 3.4%, which is lower than it has been in past years. However, unemployment numbers are sometimes cyclical and can be impacted by various factors that cause them to spike quickly. Major corporations, including Walmart, Dell, Starbucks and Prudential, along with Hiring Our Heroes, testified on how they attract and retain veteran hires and how those employees have strengthened their individual companies. The VFW is glad to see major industry leaders embracing veterans and their families in their hiring practices. [Watch the hearing.](#)



## **Blue Water Navy Veterans Get Covered**

This week was a big win for Vietnam veterans in our district and our country. After months of planning and hard work, we've finally cut

through the red tape and passed the **Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018** through the House.

This bipartisan measure will finally provide benefits and compensation to veterans who suffer health complications from toxic substances they encountered while serving on the Vietnamese coast, along the Korean demilitarized zone, or during service in Thailand. The bill also provides health benefits for their children born with spina bifida as a result.

For too long, our Blue Water Navy Vets were left in the cold. With this bill, we've won a major victory in finally honoring our commitment to them.

Our district's veterans have made tremendous sacrifices for the safety of our communities. Every day I work to honor their service by ensuring every veteran gets the benefits and respect they earned.

Watch my Floor [speech here](#).

Congressman Lou Correa



**GAO**

U.S. Government Accountability  
Office Reports

1. [Actions Needed to Mitigate Billions in Improper Payments and Program Integrity Risks](#)
2. [Federal Oversight of Compliance at 340B Contract Pharmacies Needs Improvement](#)
3. [Preparations for Transitioning to a New Electronic Health Record System Are Ongoing](#)



## **Congress Works on Defense Funding Bill**

The bill that authorizes DoD to spend money - the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fy2019 - is now in a Senate-House conference committee where they will work out the differences between the two versions and come up with one bill that will be sent back to each body for final approval.



At the same time, both the House and the Senate are working on their versions of the fy2019 Defense Appropriations bill, which will provide the money that DoD can spend in the 2019 fiscal year.

The House bill they are working on will provide money for the 2.6 percent pay raise for active duty personnel that the NDAA authorizes. It also provides money to raise the end strength of the armed services by over 15,000 additional personnel. This is divided up between the four branches within DoD with the Navy receiving the most new personnel and the Marine Corps the fewest.

The bill the Senate is working on provides money for the same military pay raise of 2.6 percent. However, it only pays for 6,961 additional personnel for the services, which must be negotiated with the House so they can come up with one figure.

Both bodies have several more steps to take before they finish work on the appropriations

bill and TREA will be watching closely and keep you posted about any important developments.



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



## **Report on Water Contamination at 126 CONUS Military Installations is Out**

Last week the first in-depth look at the health risks created by chemical compounds, known commonly as PFOS and PFOA, which are found in hundreds of military water sources at 126 installations across the United States and what illnesses may be linked to even minimal exposure to them was released.

The chemical compounds found in military fire-fighting foam (as well as other types of fire-fighting foam), perfluorooctane sulfonate and perfluorooctanoic acid, are "hardy, toxic chemicals that do not degrade in soil or water,

and can be absorbed by humans through drinking water, or through the soil or air. The compounds even reach fetuses of pregnant women. The study reported the chemicals have been found in umbilical cords and human breast milk," according to the Military Times.

It found that human exposure could be associated with 'pregnancy complications, thyroid issues, liver damage, asthma, decreased responsiveness to vaccines, decreased fertility and kidney and testicular cancer.'

The report's findings were based on multiple studies of populations near contaminated water sources, civilian as well as military. However, causality could not be directly established because there could have been multiple ways a person could have been exposed instead of just drinking water. The compounds are present in everyday household goods, but are concentrated in firefighting foam, meaning that concentrations around military installations, airports and fire stations tend to be higher.

[Here is the full list of installations \(from DOD\).](#)

Also from Military Times: "Based on 187 peer-reviewed studies where laboratory rats or other animals directly ingested the compounds, the results were more dire. At the highest dosages, the animals experienced liver or other organ failure. At significantly decreased exposure levels the subject rats survived but had increased prenatal loss in pregnant lab rats, and increased loss of the pups after birth. Long-term effects at lower doses included long-term impacts to rat testes and ovaries.

The 'Toxicological Profile for Perfluoroalkyls' was produced by the Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). To leave a public comment on the report, the study directed respondents to go to [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov). There the study can be searched by name."

TREA has been working with a group called the Veterans & Civilian Clean Water Alliance. This group grew out of veterans who all

became sick after serving at the former Wurtsmith AFB in Michigan, but works for everyone who suffers from water contamination across the country. Their goal is to receive the same kind of remedy as those who were exposed to TCE in the drinking water at Camp Lejeune. For more information, or to join them at <http://veteransandcivilianscleanwateralliance.org/>.

The fy 2018 and fy2019 National Defense Authorization Acts contained funding for a nationwide study that will look at eight to 10 military bases to study the effects of PFOS and PFOA exposure. The 2019 bill also supports creation of a national registry for service members, their families and the public to report exposure to the contaminants.

This goes to show that Congress is aware of the problem, but they need more of a push from those they represent. Please, if this issue is important to you, let your member of Congress and BOTH of your Senators know.

Thank you.



1. Draeger Medical Systems, Inc. Jaundice Meter JM-103 and Jaundice Meter JM-105 Recalled Due to Misinterpretation of Display Messages for Out of Range Values
2. LL's Magnetic Clay Inc Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Allergens in Prescript-Assist Dietary Supplement
3. Nectar Foods Inc Dba Honey Mama's Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Almonds in Oregon Peppermint Cacao Nectar Bar
4. Talking Rain® Voluntarily Recalls Sparkling Ice® Cherry Limeade in Response to Customer Complaints
5. Wish Bone Salad Dressing Issues Allergy Alert On Undeclared Milk and Egg in 15 oz. Wish-Bone House Italian Salad Dressing

**Commissaries in the News - Again**

We have reported in the past on changes being made in the commissary system because of pressure from Congress to either reduce or eliminate taxpayer support for commissaries. The Department of Defense has already concluded that without some taxpayer support, the benefit would disappear.

But because of that Congressional pressure DoD has been moving forward with changes to try and reduce expenses. The latest effort is the appointment of a task force to determine the feasibility, economies and efficiencies of combining the business operations of the exchange system with AAFES, NEX and MCX. That study is expected to be completed later this year but we expect them to conclude it would create the efficiencies they are seeking and that they will move ahead with combining the operations. They have stated, however, that they are only talking about the "back room" operations. The stores themselves would remain the same.

The latest wrinkle in the commissary saga

came last Friday at a forum in Washington, D.C.. According to a report on Military.com, "All veterans may be able to shop in commissaries and exchanges in the future, if Defense Department officials are successful in pushing their proposal. Officials have asked Congress to allow veterans who haven't already earned the shopping benefit as retirees, as well as civilian employees, to be able to shop in the stores, said Stephanie Barna, special assistant to the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness."

Although that change is not likely to happen this year, Ms Barna stated that they will keep pushing the idea. "It's something that's very important to us," she said, "and it's something I think ultimately we will achieve."

There is a different change that has a good chance of taking place this year. A provision to allow Purple Heart recipients, veterans with service-connected disabilities, former prisoners of war, and caregivers of these veterans to shop at commissaries and exchanges, and to use morale, welfare and recreation facilities,



has been included in the House version of the NDAA. However, it is not included in the Senate version of the bill so they will have to decide whether to include it in the final bill.



## MIA Update

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has announced identification and burial updates for three American service members who had been missing in action from WWII. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

-- Army Sgt. James K. Park was a member of Company I, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division. On Nov. 23, 1944, Park was declared missing in action after being wounded while his

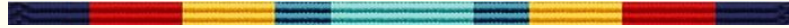
unit was engaged in fierce fighting within the Hürtgen Forest in Germany. Soldiers from Park's company attempted to search for him, but were prevented from doing so due to sustained fighting in the area. On Nov. 24, 1945, his status was amended to deceased. Interment services are pending. [Read about Park.](#)

-- Navy Fireman 1st Class Walter F. Schleiter was stationed aboard the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen. Interment services are pending. [Read about Schleiter.](#)

-- Navy Seaman 1st Class Daniel L. Guisinger was stationed aboard the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The

battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen. Interment services are pending.

[Read about Guisinger.](#)



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Riverside County, CA

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[www.Veterans-For-Change.org](http://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)

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