



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, January 06, 2019

Volume 10, Issue 01



This-N-That

We hope everyone had a great New Years eve and day, made all your New Years goals and hope they all come true.

The VA has been ousted once again this time for not having used millions of dollars that were ear marked for Veteran Suicide Prevention!

With this being one of the most critical situations Veterans face, begs the questions why not? Why was this money not being used? Was it diverted to some other program of lesser value?

Doesn't much matter why, what matters most is will this situation be rectified and when? How many more lives must be lost due to negligence on the part of the VA, it's director Robert Wilkie, and his administrative staff.

I do want to say thank you! Thank you to everyone who stepped up to the plate for Blue Water Navy Veterans to help get the earned, long over due, and in some cases past due benefits and medical care.

You've proven what I've been saying all along since 2006, the more voices being heard, the more the offices of members of either the House or Senate the better the chances you have of a success! And together you made history in the House with HR 299.

Sadly one person, Senator Enzi managed to single handedly tank it all and for that I am deeply sorry. But, please don't lose hope and faith.

I know Commander Wells and his team are working very hard to continue to fight for what is right. So as we know what the next steps are, I will come back to you and again be asking for your help and support.

This month is blood donor month, so if you're able to give blood, please, check with your local VA Hospital and see what their dates of donation are and give blood. You never know whose life you will be saving. Maybe even your own!

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

Happy New Year!

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org



**STATEMENT FROM MILITARY
VETERANS ADVOCACY ON THE
FAILURE OF THE UNITED STATES
SENATE TO PASS THE BLUE
WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS
ACT, HR 299**

Although we are disappointed in the failure of the Senate to pass the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, we are determined to continue seeking relief for these sick and dying veterans and their families. It is disheartening that the Senate would refuse to restore the benefits to the tens of thousands of suffering veterans exposed to herbicide

during the Vietnam War. This bill was passed unanimously by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2018. These veterans, stationed in the bays, harbors and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam, are suffering from multiple medical conditions. The costs of survival have devastated them financially, resulting in many losing their homes as they try to survive the effects of herbicide exposure.

Last year we enjoyed the support of then Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin who testified on several occasions that this bill should be passed. The inexplicable reversal after Secretary Shulkin's departure was a significant blow to the Blue Water Navy veterans. Of increasing concern is the fanatic opposition which has led the VA to intentionally provide false information to Congress. Inaccurate VA claims that the science does not support extending benefits coupled with intentional inflation of actual costs have successfully confused the issues and led to the defeat of the bill in the Senate. This betrayal by the very agency that was designed to assist veterans is troubling.

It is unfortunate that Congress has become obsessed with the cost of benefits and, in the case of the Blue Water Navy, strict enforcement of the offset inaccurate of the Pay As You Go Act. For the second consecutive Congress a small minority of Senators have used budgetary rules to justify the defeat of the bill.

We enjoyed the support of the Fleet Reserve Association, the Association of the U, S, Navy, AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Officers Association of

America, Jewish War Veterans and many other members of the Military Coalition. We thank them for their support and look forward to working with them in the future.

As well as returning to Congress, Military-Veterans Advocacy and the Blue Water Navy veterans anxiously await a decision by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in the case of Procopio v. Wilkie. A favorable decision in this case will extend the coverage to the same area as the Blue Water Navy bill.

Military-Veterans Advocacy wishes to thank out many supporters in the Congress and in public for their support, We have come closer this year than we ever have before. We are not giving up, We are not going away. We will be back to challenge the unconscionable VA action in Congress and the courts.

Commander J. B. Wells U. S. Navy (Retired)
Attorney at Law
Executive Director
Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc.

For more information on Military-Veterans Advocacy go to www.militaryveteransadvocacy.org or like us on Facebook.

Please support Military-Veterans Advocacy through the Combined Federal Campaign. Our CFC number is 59905

Amazon Shoppers: you can support Military-Veterans Advocacy by going to "Amazon Smile" for your shopping. The prices are the same but Amazon donates 0.5% of the

purchase price to Military-Veterans Advocacy Inc.
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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 for Mental Health and are currently seeking a new Licensed Mental Health Worker, where you can seek help or just ask questions.

We average **1,790** hits per day, and downloads average **1,100** per day with a total **4,630,018** 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 **16,843** documents on-line (Updated: 12/23/18)
- 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: 10/30/18) (37 Added)
- News (Articles On-Line: **8,108**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than **4,658**, Added **79 New** Links
(Updated: 12/28/18)

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



Military-Veterans Advocacy's Statement on the Introduction of a Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Bill

Military-Veterans Advocacy, the primary stakeholder along with the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Association just discovered that Dr Phil Roe of TN the Ranking Member on House Committee on Veterans Affairs has introduced another Blue Water Navy bill using the same verbiage as the bill that failed the Senate last year. The Blue Water Navy bill passed the House unanimously but died in the Senate due to multiple holds.

Military-Veterans Advocacy Executive Director, Commander John B Wells, USN (ret) stated that the re-introduction was "premature." Wells, the author of the original bill, worked closely with the Committee on the language defining the scope of coverage. MVA is currently working on revised language to clarify the area of coverage, in response to a statement by the Congressional Budget Office that the scope of the bill had been expanded.

"While we appreciate Dr. Roe's, current and present support," Wells said, "we need to address lessons learned from the 115th Congress to ensure the bill will pass in this Congress. We have asked Dr. Roe to work with Military-Veterans Advocacy to perfect the bill before it moves forward."

A court case brought by Military-Veterans Advocacy,

Procopio v. Wilkie, is pending a decision before the full Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. A favorable decision will expand the presumption of exposure to the territorial sea, the same area covered by the bill. A decision is expected sometime next Spring.

Commander J. B. Wells U. S. Navy (Retired)
Attorney at Law
Executive Director
Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc.

Ranking Member Roe Introduces the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019

Washington, D.C. - Today, Rep. Phil Roe, M.D. (R-Tenn.) Ranking Member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs introduced the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019.

"The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 would ensure that our Vietnam Veterans receive the benefits they deserve. This bill mirrors the language of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of [2018](#), which passed the House 382 - 0 during the 115th Congress. One of my final acts as Chairman in 2018 was holding a bipartisan [press conference](#) to urge the Senate to pass H.R 299. Needless to say, despite the endless efforts of Senate Veterans Affairs' Committee Chairman Isakson and Ranking Member Tester, the Senate never passed the legislation. This is why

I have introduced this bill that mirrors the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018 and I encourage my colleagues in the House to once again swiftly pass this bipartisan piece of legislation.

"Currently, Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans are unable to receive the presumption of exposure to Agent Orange because VA's presumption policy extends only to those who served on land in Vietnam or in Vietnam's inland waterways. This legislation would extend the presumption of exposure of Agent Orange to our Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans. I hope that my colleagues in the House and Senate waste no time in passing this bill and sending it to President Trump so we can ensure that Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans receive the benefits they deserve."

Background:

Agent Orange is a herbicide used during the Vietnam era that has been known to be associated with certain health issues in people who have been exposed to the chemical. The Agent Orange Act of 1991 said that if a veteran served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975 and has a disease that has been associated with exposure to Agent Orange, they are automatically presumed to have been exposed to it and therefore qualify for disability compensation. The Blue Water Navy Veterans Act of 2019 would extend the presumption of exposure to Agent Orange to veterans who served in the Blue Water Navy.

Veterans-For-Change Makes Social Media Change

Effective immediately, all social media pages that have been on Face Book for many years have all been moved to MEWE.com for a number of reasons.

We know most people don't like change, however, this new Social Media Site, MEWE.COM has no advertisers, truly respects privacy and protects your security far better than Face Book ever could. They also have a fantastic customer service group who actually does respond to your messages, suggestions, ideas and more!

We hope you will join us on this new site.

Veterans-For-Change

www.mewe.com/join/veterans-for-change

Homeless Heroes Program of Veterans-For-Change

www.mewe.com/join/homelessheroesprogramofveterans-for-change

AMVETS Group

www.mewe.com/join/amvetsgroup

VETERANS SOCIAL GROUP

www.mewe.com/join/veteranssocialgroup

{USAVET} SUPPORTING GOD & ALL WHO SERVED OUR GREAT NATION

www.mewe.com/join/usavetsupportinggodallwhoserveandse

rive

AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY

www.mewe.com/join/americansforsovereignty

New to TRICARE? The Basics You Need to Know

If you're new to TRICARE in 2019, welcome! You've joined 9.4 million beneficiaries who receive comprehensive health and dental coverage. You can now connect to a network of military and civilian providers worldwide. Learning about your benefit will help you make the most of your coverage and take command of your health this year.

Read the full [article here](#).



January's Featured Song

[Voice of America](#)

By

[LT Bobby Ross](#)

LT Bobby Ross - Voice Of America

[Previous Featured Songs](#)

KBR Files Motion with Supreme Court in Attempt to Nix Burn Pit Review

Military contractor Kellogg, Brown, and Root (KBR) has filed a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court, asking it to throw out multiple lawsuits filed by veterans who say they were made sick by burn pits the company used for waste disposal on bases in Iraq and Afghanistan. In a brief filed last week, officials for KBR and its former subsidiary Halliburton urged the court not to restore dozens of the lawsuits filed against the companies, who handled daily operations for many of the bases starting in 2001. Read more in this [article](#).



Employer Spotlight: Naval Nuclear Laboratory is Hiring Veterans

The Naval Nuclear Laboratory has an ongoing need for various talent, engineers, scientists, IT and technicians with shipboarding and other military experience.

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MEMBERS OF CONGRESS!**
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To call Different Members of Congress:
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TOLL FREE: 866-272-6622
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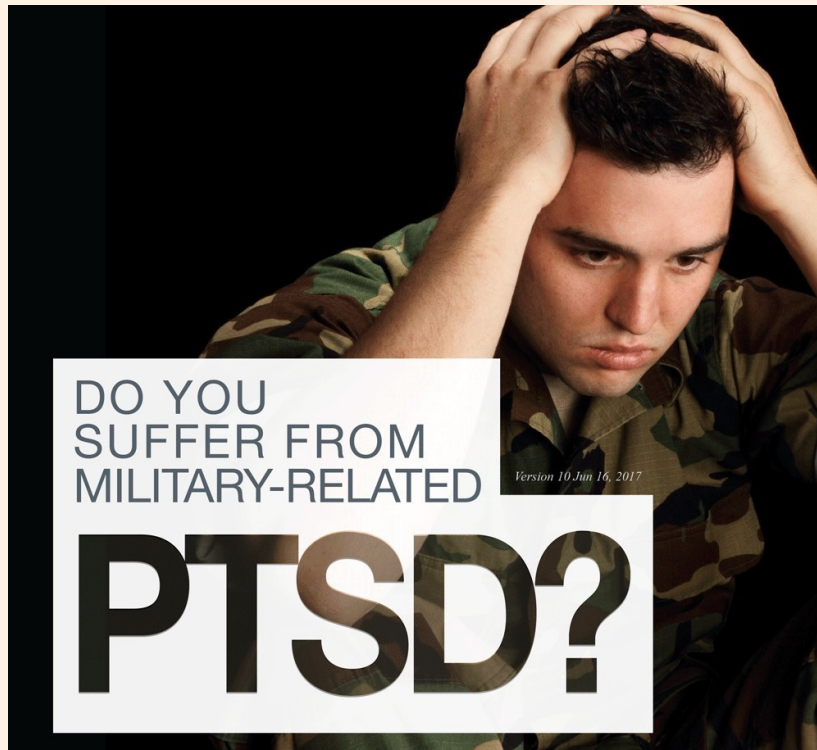


AMERICAN SOLDIERS

**WILLING TO DIE FOR THE COUNTRY
THAT ISN'T WILLING TO PAY THEM!**

Class-Action Suit Could Aid More Than 50,000 Veterans

Through the efforts of a Yale Law School clinic, more than 50,000 U.S. [Army](#) Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan are part of a newly certified class-action lawsuit that challenges the less than honorable discharges they received. The plaintiffs are represented by the Yale Law School Veterans Legal Services Clinic and co-counsel at Jenner & Block. Read more in this [article](#).



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

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**Our values
match yours.**



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Navy Updates Selective Reenlistment Bonus

The U.S. Navy has updated the Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) award plan for active component and full time support sailors. They also announced a pay for performance pilot program. Increased award levels are effective immediately. The pilot program for sailors in seven ratings will give an additional 0.5 multiple or "kicker" to their reenlistment bonus. Eligible Sailors looking to reenlist under SRB are encouraged to work with their command career counselor, command master chief and chain of command to discuss their reenlistment well before their EAOS. Sailors can stay informed of award changes through the [Navy's SRB webpage](#).



Jump Start 2019 with the 2019 \$0 Down VA Loan Benefit Now

VA Loan limits have increased to \$484k. Take advantage of this great benefit and lock in a low rate for as little as \$0 down. [Use your VA loan benefit today.](#)



The Navy Wants Applicants for National Intelligence University

The Navy is looking for enlisted information warfare sailors to attend the National Intelligence University (NIU). Active duty sailors in the cryptologic technician (CT), intelligence specialist (IS) and information systems technician (IT) ratings can apply for NIU for Bachelor of Science in intelligence, Master of Science of strategic intelligence and Master of Science and technology intelligence degree programs. Sailors must be an E-5 or above and eligible for a continental U.S. shore assignment between April 2019 and January 2020. Those who want to apply should contact their detailer immediately. Visit the [NIU website](#) for more information.



Veterans Affairs to Help ECA Students Hurt by Closures

Students impacted by the closure of the about 70 campuses run by the Education Corporation of America (ECA) might be eligible for restoration of a portion of their post-9/11 GI Bill entitlement. ECA announced that it is closing its Brightwood College, Brightwood Career Institute, EcoTech Institute, Golf Academy of America and Virginia College schools. VA officials are in the process of identifying impacted beneficiaries.

Links to Other Stories

1. [5 Things for Veterans to Know About Expanded GI Benefits](#)
2. [After 30 years, it's time to rethink VA's Cabinet department status](#)
3. [Agent Orange presumption policy leads to higher VA health care use](#)
4. [BIG Change Coming to VA Benefits](#)
5. [Gaming the System](#)
6. [Government May Shut Down But VA Will Not Says VA Secretary](#)
7. [LHI awarded contracts by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
8. [Long Islands Veterans deserve a better VA hospital](#)
9. [Massachusetts Judge Sides with 'Bad Paper' Veterans Denied Bonuses](#)
10. [Military women, female Veterans are shifting away from GOP](#)

11. Navy corpsman: Carrying the legacy
12. Secret Warfare
13. The Last Battle of the Vietnam War: Agent Orange and Its 'Presumed Diseases'
14. These are the GI Bill transfer changes you'll need to know about in 2019
15. VA 'taken advantage of' by paying billions in fees, secretary says
16. VA announces moratorium on discharges and decreases from comprehensive caregiver program
17. Veterans donate during National Blood Donor Month
18. Veterans protest the gutting of West L.A. PTSD therapy groups

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



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Tech for Troops Combats Veteran Homelessness

One nonprofit is hoping to fight veteran homelessness by teaching veterans information technology (IT) skills. Since 2014 the VA has partnered with the program, which offers three courses focusing on IT training, technology reuse and computer recycling. For more information, read this blog post on the [VA website](#) or visit [Tech for Troops](#).



Navy Updates Enlisted Advancement Calculation

The current enlisted advancement Final Multiple Score (FMS) calculation process will see changes beginning with the spring 2019 Active Duty and Selected Reserve (SELRES) advancement cycles. Aimed at "rewarding sailors demonstrating sustained superior performance," the FMS changes include updates to the computation process of the Performance Mark Average (PMA), reduction of the number of cycles for Pass Not Advanced (PNA) points, changes to the Service in Paygrade (SIPG) factor and the discontinuation of Individual Augmentee (IA) Points. For questions about the new FMS, contact MyNavy Career Center at 833-330-6622 or askmncc@navy.mil or read more on the [Navy website](#).

Veterans in 116th Congress

A total of 96 military veterans were sworn in yesterday as members of the 116th Congress. According to an Army Times article, 19 are serving in the Senate and 77 in the House, for an overall veteran percentage of 17.9 percent. Four decades ago the percentage of military veterans in Congress exceeded 70 percent. Of the 96 veterans, only 44 are eligible for VFW membership, with 28 currently being members in good standing. Other demographics:

- 48 served in the military after the year 2000;
- 30 are Democrats and 66 are Republicans;
- 19 are first-time lawmakers; and
- 7 are women

Read the Army Times [article here](#).



1. [Aurobindo Pharma USA, Inc. Initiates Voluntary Nationwide Consumer Level Recall of 80 Lots of Amlodipine Valsartan Tablets USP, Valsartan HCTZ Tablets, USP and Valsartan Tablets USP, Due to the Detection of NDEA \(N-Nitrosodiethylamine\) Impurity](#)



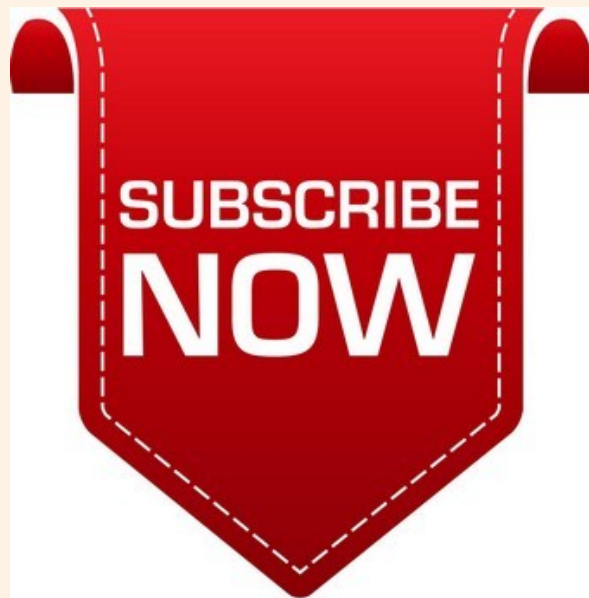
SURVIVAL IS FUN



2019 Military Pay Rates Released

On Jan. 1, DOD released the monthly basic pay rates for 2019. The 2.6 percent raise is the largest since the 3.4 percent increase in 2010, and 0.3 percent larger than last year's raise. In terms of direct impacts on service members, junior officers and senior enlisted can expect to see about \$1,300 more a year, junior enlisted can expect to see about \$670 more a year, and senior officers with more than 12 years of service will receive approximately \$2,300 more per year. The increase is based on a yearly federal calculation that is designed to keep military pay rates on par with private sector wages; however, the VFW has long advocated for a more realistic calculation. Download the [2019 pay charts](#).

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.



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MIA Update

This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced six new identifications. Returning home with full military honors are:

Army Cpl. John G. Krebs was a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, and engaged in combat operations against the North Korean People's Army south of Chonui, South Korea, when he was declared missing in action. Interment services are pending. [Read about Krebs.](#)

Army Pfc. James C. Williams was a member of Medical Company, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, when he was killed in action near Taejon, South Korea. Fellow soldiers returned Williams' remains to the collection point. After his death, the 34th Infantry Regiment's Medical Company was ordered to withdraw, and his remains were left behind. Interment services are pending. [Read about Williams.](#)

Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Burleigh E. Curtis was a member of the 377th Fighter Squadron, 362nd Fighter Group. On June 13, 1944, the P-47D that Curtis was piloting crashed during a dive-bomb attack near Briouze, France. Interment services are pending. [Read about Curtis.](#)

Army Pfc. William F. Delaney was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry

Division, when his battalion launched a massive firing demonstration against a large pocket of German defenders near the town of Grosshau, in the Hürtgen Forest in Germany. During the battle, an enemy artillery shell struck Delaney's foxhole, and he died before he could be medically evacuated. Due to ongoing combat operations, his remains were not recovered at that time. Interment services are pending. [Read about Delaney.](#)

Navy Machinist's Mate 1st Class George Hanson 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, including Hanson. Interment services are pending. [Read about Hanson.](#)

Navy Steward 2nd Class Felicismo Florese 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, including Florese. Interment services are pending. [Read about Florese.](#)

**ONE VOICE
CAN MAKE
ALL THE DIFFERENCE!**



Veterans-For-Change, Inc.

Riverside County, CA

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www.Veterans-For-Change.org

Serving those who served!

Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends and Family!

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