



# Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

*A Voice of the Veterans*

Week Ending Sunday, April 14, 2019

Volume 10, Issue 15



## **This-N-That**

Many of you know me only from the VFC Website, production of the weekly newsletter, some are word of mouth, and some from rumor and innuendo.

Veterans-For-Change began in May 2006 just a few days over a month after my fathers passing.

I got into working for and with Veterans because of a promise I made to my father to keep his mission going to help all Veterans get their benefits. And at the time I seriously didn't have a clue of what I was walking into, or even how to go about accomplishing that mission.

Much of what I learned came from many Veterans, like yourself and the rest came from digging, researching and learning on my own.

Then we went to beginning a group on Yahoo Groups trying to gain as many Veterans as possible who would be proactive and help in the fight to make as many of the wrongs within the VA right again.

After a while came the VFC Website where the hosting service and domain were "donated" to help us get up and on-line, and with the help of about a dozen

people we gathered several thousand documents, formatted, processed and got uploaded and on-line along with several hundred web links.

In 2009 after question after question, request after request to become an NPO (Non-Profit Organization) all the paperwork was started, and away we went.

Later the person who had "donated" hosting service and domain chose to shut it down and attempted to "sell" it back to us for \$5,000.00.

Within a couple of months we were back up and on-line with the same domain name, but instead of a dot com we bought the dot org domain and it took several months to re-build the site which ended up being a blessing as we had a legitimate hosting site, legitimate webmaster who knew what he was doing and also provided much of the cyber protections the prior person claimed to have done but did not.

Then about six years ago many slanderous claims were floating on the internet, and of course a lot of people would believe the claims and accusation because it was on the internet. None chose to even speak with us and even find out the truth.

Over the past four years or so the claims and slander continued to increase and I won't provide names, but most came from RM, MM, AD, AO, TB, JG, LM, and more, then came all the attempts to blackmail, but we've persevered through all of it and still managed to provide the newsletter and website serving thousands of Veterans nationwide.

Since 2006 when we began, we've strived every single day to provide as much information as is humanly possible.

For me, this started off as just a few short hours a day, after work, on weekends, and within a few years after that ended up being a full time volunteer job, and I have no regrets what-so-ever in having made that decision.

I've truly enjoyed learning all I've learned and am still learning. Glad to have participated in many campaigns to help push legislation through, participated in drafting legislation and so forth

creating legislation and so forth.

We've provided assistance in preparing claims and appeals for several thousand, and I've lost track of how many, but the quantity of Veterans and widows we've helped doesn't matter, even having helped one person made every ounce of work well worth it.

To this day even though many tell me I am wasting my time, effort and energy, I still continue to do my best to encourage both civilian, active duty military and Veterans to become pro-active by signing and sending off all the pre-written E-Mails, making the phone calls to Reps in DC and to share the information with others and getting them to help as well.

We're down to a small handful of volunteers and we're still doing just fine in my opinion. Adding more links, more articles and more documents to help in many situations, illnesses, etc.

The website may not be growing in leaps and bounds as was anticipated, but we've also received more than 100,000 new documents and the process is somewhat slow, but we are moving forward.

We do have a spot on the website where we list all the individuals who have helped over the years, it's our own way of saying thank you!

I also want to say thank you to each and everyone who follows our newsletter and shares it with friends and family, all those who have visited the website and found what they needed. And keep checking back we're still adding more each week.

We do currently have a glitch in signing up for a new account and working to get that repaired so everyone can access many of the libraries only available to subscribers. So be patient, or send me an E-Mail and I can set up your account manually.

We're still looking for individuals who would be interested in moderating our forums on-line. We want to bring them back to life again, so those who would be interested, please contact me.

We're still looking for a new website hosting service with a webmaster who is very familiar with Joomla. If you are that person or know someone who might be a good fit for us, again, do let me know.

It's still tax time! So if you've not already done your taxes, not even prepared, or don't know what all you need in order to get your taxes done and help to provide the best outcome, go to this link [Tax Deduction Finder and Problem Minimizer](#) and click on the GREEN download button.

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)



## **VA releases mental health and suicide prevention toolkit for former Guard and Reserve members**

Improving care and support for former Guard and Reserve members who were never federally activated is a critical part of VA's suicide prevention efforts.

**[READ MORE](#)**



## **VA to Roll Out Community Care Expansion Even If IT Systems Aren't Ready**

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie on April 3 told a skeptical House Committee that his agency is sticking with the June 6 rollout

date for expanded private health care options, even if the IT systems aren't fully in place to handle the transition. In testimony before the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Wilkie said the Mission Act requires the new rules on access to community health care for veterans to go into effect regardless of whether the systems are operational. He said the main concern is the "decision support tool," which aids doctors and veterans in deciding whether the best health care option is in the private sector. Read more about the plan [here](#).



## 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 **2,656** hits per day, and downloads average **2,833** per day with a total **4,881,467** 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.

- Documents Library with over **17,242** documents on-line (Updated: 04/11/19)
- 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: **8,404**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than **4,709**, Added 4 New Links (Updated: 04/05/19)

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





## **H.R. 1527, the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act**

Representative Clay Higgins introduced H.R. 1527, the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act. This bill would provide veterans who are no longer capable of living independently an alternative to nursing home care, in which the veteran would continue to receive the care that they need in an intimate home-like environment through VA's Home-Based Primary Care program, and the Medical Foster Home (MFH) attendant program.

Started in 2000, VA Medical Foster Homes provide veterans who need nursing home level of care an alternative to being placed in a nursing home. VA Medical Foster Homes merge traditional adult foster care with comprehensive longitudinal care provided in the home by a VA interdisciplinary team that includes a physician, nurse, social worker, rehabilitation therapist, mental health provider, dietitian, and pharmacist. Since its inception, over 4,000 veterans have resided in Medical Foster Homes.

However, many service-connected veterans who wish to reside in a VA Medical Foster Home are unable to do so because of substantial out-of-pocket costs of approximately \$1,500 to \$3,000 per month. Because VA does not have the authority to cover these costs, veterans are placed in nursing homes which VA pays for but cost more than twice as much.

As the veteran population continues to age, the need for long-term care services will continue to grow. Home-based community programs like MFHs will enable VA to meet the needs of aging veterans in a manner closer to independent living than institutionalized care. With the passage of this bill, veterans would have the option of care that more closely aligns with their independence while maintaining their quality of life.

This bill is in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 085, which calls for legislation to improve the comprehensive program of long-term services and supports for service-connected disabled veterans regardless of their disability ratings.

Please use the prepared letter to write your Representative to cosponsor and support passage of H.R. 1527, the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act. Thank you for your efforts and support of the Commander's Action Network.

### **Take Action**



## **VA Canteen Service Stores Add Online Shopping**

The Department of Veterans Affairs hospital gift shops, known as the VA canteen service, have added online shopping for the first time — and the prices could be worth checking out. Established in 1946, the Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) was created to provide merchandise and services at reasonable prices to patients, visitors and employees at VA hospitals. Now, the VCS has moved into the electronic age and expanded its inventory. Any veteran enrolled in the VA health care system can now shop [its website](#). Your family can shop there, too. Read more about the expansion [here](#).



## **~Follow Veterans-For-Change on MEWE Social Media~**

Follow us on [MEWE](#)! We've move to [MEWE](#) and after three months, membership has grown and the support staff at [MEWE](#) is responsive, open to suggestions and works very hard to protect your personal information.

**IMAGINE A SOCIAL NETWORK WITH ALL THE FEATURES YOU LOVE**



## **AND NONE OF THE BS.**

Where you are the customer to serve and not data to sell.

Where you share your real life and celebrate, not censor, diversity.

We know most people don't like change, however, this new Social Media Site, [MEWE.COM](http://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](http://www.mewe.com/join/veterans-for-change)

### **HOMELESS HEROES PROGRAM OF VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE**

[www.mewe.com/join/homelessheroesprogramofveterans-for-change](http://www.mewe.com/join/homelessheroesprogramofveterans-for-change)

### **AMVETS GROUP**

[www.mewe.com/join/amvetsgroup](http://www.mewe.com/join/amvetsgroup)

### **VETERANS SOCIAL GROUP**

[www.mewe.com/join/veteranssocialgroup](http://www.mewe.com/join/veteranssocialgroup)

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

[www.mewe.com/join/usavetsupportinggodallwhoserveandserve](http://www.mewe.com/join/usavetsupportinggodallwhoserveandserve)

### **AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY**

[www.mewe.com/join/americansforsovereignty](http://www.mewe.com/join/americansforsovereignty)





## **H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act**

On January 8, 2019, Representative Gus Bilirakis (FL) introduced H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act.

This bill would extend concurrent receipt authority to longevity retirees with service-connected disabilities rated less than 50 percent disabling. Under current law disabled veterans with longevity retirement from active military service who are also in receipt of a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability determination of 50 percent or higher may retain both military retirement pay and their compensation.

DAV strongly supports H.R. 303 as it would end the unfair policy of forcing many military longevity retirees to forfeit some of their retired pay in order to receive equal amounts of disability compensation from the VA. This legislation is in accord with DAV Resolution No. 104 and would eliminate concurrent receipt for all longevity retirees.

Please use the prepared electronic letter or draft your own to urge your Representative to support and cosponsor H.R. 303. As always, we appreciate your support for DAV and your grassroots activism in participating in DAV CAN. Thank you for all you do for America's veterans and their families.

**Take Action**



## **HOUSE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING**

Pending Legislation

Economic Opportunity Subcommittee (Chairman Mike Levin, D-Calif.) of House Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing on:

H.R.95, the "Homeless Veteran Families Act"; H.R.444, the "Reduce Unemployment for Veterans of All Ages Act of 2019"; H.R.1718, the "GI Education Benefits Fairness Act"; a discussion draft to amend title 38, U.S. Code, to make certain improvements to the educational assistance programs of the Veterans Affairs Department with respect to flight training programs and certain other programs of education; a discussion draft "Justice for Servicemembers Act"; a discussion draft to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 and title 38, U.S. Code, to expand eligibility for the HUD-VASH (HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) program, to direct the Veterans Affairs secretary to submit annual reports to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives regarding homeless veterans; a discussion draft "Homes for Our Heroes Act of 2019"; a discussion draft "Veteran Employment and Child Care Access Act"; a discussion draft "BRAVE (Burial Rights for America's Veterans' Efforts) Act"; a discussion draft to clarify seasoning requirements for certain refinanced mortgage loans; a discussion draft "Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act"; a discussion draft "VET OPP (Veterans' Education, Transition, and Opportunity Prioritization Plan) Act"; a discussion draft to amend title 38, U.S. Code, to adjust certain limits on the guaranteed amount of a home loan under the home loan program of the Veterans Affairs Department; a discussion draft to amend title 38, U.S. Code, to make certain improvements to the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Scholarship program of the Veterans Affairs Department; a discussion draft to amend title 38, U.S. Code, to expand eligibility for the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship to children and

for the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship to children and spouses of certain members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who die from service-connected disabilities; and a discussion draft to amend title 38, U.S. Code, to improve the ability of veterans to receive in-state tuition using educational assistance administered by the Veterans Affairs secretary.



## **Search Over 1000 Nationwide Jobs Now**

Hundreds of companies are looking for Veterans. [Search over 1,000 nationwide jobs now and find your next opportunity.](#)



**April's Featured Song**

**Finally Welcomed Home**

By

LT Bobby Ross

## LT Bobby Ross - Voice Of America

### Previous Featured Songs



## S. 514, the Deborah Sampson Act to Improve VA Services for Women Veterans

Senator Jon Tester (MT), Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, introduced S. 514, the Deborah Sampson Act. This legislation, a comprehensive measure addressing gender disparities, aims to improve and expand Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) programs and services for women veterans.

The bill would permanently authorize counseling for veterans recently separated from military service and accompanying family members in group retreat settings, including in women-exclusive settings. It would extend the number of days, from seven to 14, VA may cover the cost of care for newborns of women veterans. It would also provide adoption assistance to veterans who have infertility conditions incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

S. 514 aims to eliminate barriers to care by:

- Adding \$20 million to retrofit VA medical facilities to comply with environment of care deficiencies;
- Requiring every VA medical facility to have at least one full-time or part-time designated women's health provider on staff;
- Studying the staffing needs of Women Veteran Program Managers in addition to determining the need for a Women Veterans Ombudsman;
- Conducting mini-residency training for women's health providers;

- Conducting mini residency training for women's health providers;
- Requiring VA to create a training module for community providers specific to women veterans' unique medical needs;
- Providing support services for women veterans seeking legal assistance;
- Authorizing grants for organizations supporting women veterans and their families;
- Requiring VA to report on its use of various primary care models serving women veterans;
- Requiring VA to provide information on staffing levels of women's health providers including PACT team members and gynecologists;
- Requiring data collection and reporting on all VA programs serving veterans, by gender and minority status;
- Requiring VA to report on the availability of prosthetics for women veterans;
- and
- Centralizing all information for women veterans in one easily accessible place on VA's website.

DAV's 2018 report, [Women Veterans: The Journey Ahead](#) identified many of these gaps in VA programs for women and calls for comprehensive VA women's health services that appropriately recognize and honor their military service and sacrifices. This bill is also consistent with DAV Resolution No. 019, which supports enhanced medical services and benefits for women veterans.

Please contact your Senators to urge co-sponsorship and passage of S. 514. A letter has been prepared for this purpose or you may write your own to express your personal views.

As always, thank you for your advocacy and support of our nation's women veterans.

## Take Action



## 4 Common VA Loan Myths

VA home loans are among the strongest benefits that veterans can easily access. but there are a [few misconceptions that might be preventing some](#)

access, but there are a few misconceptions that might be preventing some veterans from utilizing them.



## **H.R 445, Help Hire Our Heroes Act**

On January 10, 2019, Representative Julia Brownley introduced H.R. 445, the Help Hire Our Heroes Act. This bill would amend the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 to make permanent the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP).

The VRAP was started in 2012 to provide training assistance to unemployed veterans between the ages of 35 and 60 who are no longer eligible for the GI Bill. It provided up to 12 months of training benefits at community colleges and technical schools in occupations that the Department of Labor has identified as "high demand." Since funding for this program expired in March 2014, the VA has not been able to enroll new veterans in VRAP. This program gap means that thousands of older, qualified veterans have been unable to access the resources which could help them find work.

This bill would strike the end dates of the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program and would replace it with year to year authorizations. This bill is in accord with DAV Resolution No. 190 which seeks adequate funding and permanency for veterans' employment and training programs.

Please use the prepared letter to write to your Representative to cosponsor and support passage of H.R. 445, the Help Hire Our Heroes Act. Thank you for your efforts and support of the Commander's Action Network.

## Take Action



## Think You Know All Things Military? Play Our Daily Trivia

Play our daily military trivia challenge and you could win our monthly prize of an Amazon Fire TV Stick. [Test your knowledge now.](#)



**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**



## CalVet Seeks Events for Our

### 2019 Memorial Day Online Calendar

In keeping with our mission of serving our California Veterans and their families, CalVet is compiling a list of Memorial Day events taking place throughout our State.

To submit your Memorial Day or other event for consideration on CalVet's calendar, please send the following information to [PAO@calvet.ca.gov](mailto:PAO@calvet.ca.gov):

1.

Event date

2.

Name or type of event

3.

Event start and end times

4.

Name of sponsoring organization

5.

Venue name

6.

Venue address

7.

Contact person plus phone number, e-mail address or URL link

8.

Cost of admission, if any

9.

If pre-registration is required, please provide a link and the registration deadline

10.

Indicate if this is a northern or southern California event.

To view our CalVet calendar online, go to  
<https://www.calvet.ca.gov/home/Calendar>.

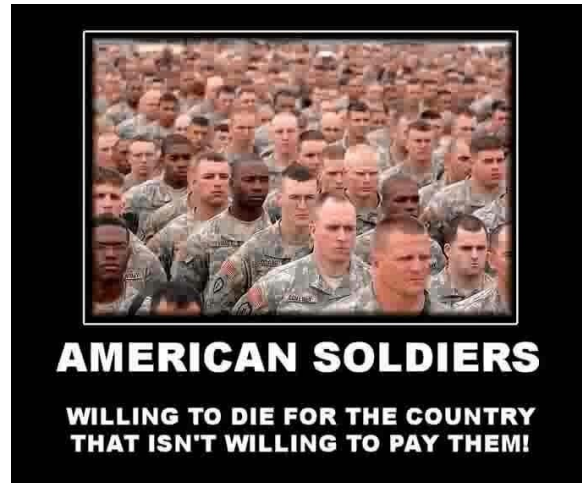
Follow CalVet on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)



## **Free Food for Military Kids in Honor of Month of the Military Child**

Each year, the Pentagon sets aside April to celebrate the Month of the Military Child. As part of that, the Army and Air Force Exchange System celebrates Purple Up Day on April 13, and offers all kinds of exchange restaurant deals to make the day just a little tastier. The freebies are for kids 18 years or younger, and available only on April 13 while supplies last, exchange officials said in a news release. Read more about the freebies [here](#).





## **HVAC Chair Concerned VA's IT Could Disrupt Healthcare for Veterans**

House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano (Calif.) issued the following statement regarding the serious concerns raised about the Department

of Veterans Affairs (VA) Information Technology (IT) solutions:

"The recent U.S. Digital Service (USDS) report on implementation of technology systems to support the Community Care components of the MISSION Act is incredibly alarming. By suggesting that VA's planned IT solutions are inadequate, and that VA has not given itself enough time to develop a workable system, this report raises real concerns that implementation may be delayed and could even disrupt healthcare for 75,000 veterans every day.

"USDS raises credible concerns that Community Care should have a veteran-centric approach, but despite these critiques, VA appears to be ignoring the problem or at least is unwilling to revisit its approach. Nowhere is this clearer than VA's intention to formally request a funding transfer to implement the very IT solutions USDS raises concerns about.

"VA's history of failed IT systems shows that it cannot move forward with this IT implementation without addressing these root problems. The Committee will hold a hearing to demand answers from VA about the status of system development and will scrutinize the funding transfer request in light of these troubling findings."

The FRA believes congressional oversight of ongoing implementation of the VA technology upgrades is vital to ensuring improvements to the system. The FRA wants to ensure adequate funding for Department of Defense and VA health care resource sharing in delivering seamless, cost effective, quality services to personnel wounded in combat and other veterans and their families.



**H.R. 840, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act**

Representative Julia Brownley introduced H.R. 840, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act, authorizing the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to pay for or provide child care for veterans traveling to and returning from a VA facility for regular or intensive mental health treatment or necessary health care services. Veterans-particularly younger women veterans returning from recent deployments-have indicated that lack of child care is a significant barrier in accessing medically necessary mental health readjustment services.

VA reports that younger veterans demonstrate high usage rates of VA mental health care services and data shows women veterans are especially likely to make intensive use of such services. In a recent study, a third of veterans indicated an interest in access to child care services and 10 percent reportedly have canceled medical appointments because they did not have child care. H.R. 840 would allow VA to pay for or otherwise furnish child care to those children for whom a veteran is the primary caretaker to allow the veteran to seek needed treatment.

NAV Resolution No. 172 supports VA's provision of child care services and

DAV Resolution No. 173 supports VA's provision of child care services and assistance to veterans accessing needed VA health care, benefits, education, employment, rehabilitative or other specialized services offered.

Please help support passage of this important legislation by sending your representative the prepared letter or drafting your own version.

Thank you for your participation in the DAV Commander's Action Network and for your support of our nation's veterans.

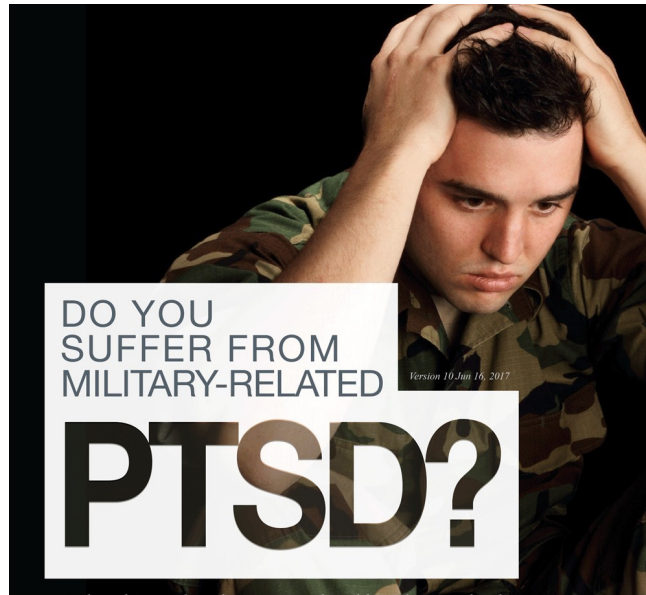
## Take Action



## WeWork Wants to Empower You: Search Jobs Now

WeWork is committed to hiring veterans and providing the tools and support you need to succeed in your civilian career. [View jobs.](#)





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



## **S. 179/H.R. 712, Legislation Calling for Clinical Trials to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Medical Cannabis for Chronic Pain and PTSD**

These companion bills, S. 179 and H.R. 712, would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to carry out a clinical trial of the effects of cannabis on health outcomes of adults with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

These measures would require the VA Secretary to conduct clinical trials that look into whether cannabis is able to reduce symptoms associated with chronic pain such as inflammation, sleep disorders, spasticity, and agitation and effects on the use or dosage of opioids, benzodiazepines or alcohol for veterans with PTSD.

Research is necessary to determine the safety and efficacy of any drug. At this time there are few definitive answers about risks and benefits associated with the use of cannabis on various medical conditions and illnesses. Research is necessary to help clinicians better understand the safety and efficacy of cannabis use for certain conditions common in the veteran population such as chronic pain and posttraumatic stress.

These bills are in line with DAV Resolution No. 023 which calls for comprehensive and scientifically rigorous research by the VA into the therapeutic benefits and risks of cannabis, cannabis-derived products as a possible treatment for service-connected disabled veterans.

Thank you for your support of our nation's ill and injured veterans. Please use the letters below to ask your elected officials to support S. 179/H.R. 712.

## Take Action



## Obesity Is Not a Service-Connected Disability: VA

Obesity cannot be considered a service-connected disability, according to a new ruling by the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) General Counsel expected to be published in the [April 8, 2019, edition of the Federal Register](#). The new ruling, among several precedent opinions set to be included, reinforces the VA's long-standing opinion that obesity isn't a disease or injury according to the law for wartime or peacetime compensation and can't be considered directly related to military service for compensation purposes. While the VA treats obesity as a disease for which treatment is warranted, the distinction is in the words "service-connected." The VA simply does not see it as a condition that was a result of military service, and therefore for which compensation is payable. Read more



about the decision [here](#).



## Bill Empowers Employers to Hire Reserve Component Members

Congressman Tim Ryan (Ohio) and Congressman Steven Palazzo (Miss.) have introduced the Reserve Component Employer Incentive, Compensation, and Relief Act (H. R.801). The bill provides employers with a tax credit aimed to offset costs accrued and hardships undertaken when employees that are members of the Reserve Component (National Guard and Reserves) are activated for military duty. This legislation will incentivize employers to hire and retain these service members.

This bill recognizes that the Reserve Component has transitioned from a Strategic Reserve to an Operational Reserve, the National Guard and Reserves are fully integrated in ongoing national security missions around the globe. This transition has led to increased training requirements which go beyond the statutorily required 39 days of annual training to requirements, totaling 80 or more days per year.

The FRA wants to ensure Congress adequately funds and supports Reserve Component requirements for an operational reserve. Members can weigh in on this legislation by going to the [Action Center](#) online and scroll down to the appropriate bill.

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## These US Troops Are Slowly Being Poisoned by Lead in Their Bones

A number of U.S. troops with unexplained symptoms such as impaired concentration, anger, irritability and impulsivity, as well as physical problems such as high blood pressure, peripheral neuropathy and low sex drive, have chronic lead poisoning, according to a report [Wednesday in The New York Times Magazine's At War Blog](#). Thirty-eight troops — mostly from Special Forces units — have gone to Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York for a special test that measures the level of lead in one's tibia bone. Of those, a dozen registered bone lead levels higher than normal, with four having roughly twice the expected amount. Dozens of other service members sought treatment at the Cleveland Clinic's Center for Functional Medicine for lead and other metal poisoning, including those tested at Mount Sinai. Troops can inhale lead or ingest it by firing weapons or eating, drinking, smoking or chewing tobacco on ranges. If lead is absorbed, it is present in the bloodstream for up to a month, where it can be detected by a blood test, and it remains in soft tissue for up to 90 days. It is then absorbed into the bones, where levels can increase with additional exposure. Read more on [here](#).





## **H.R. 444, Reduce Unemployment for Veterans of All Ages Act of 2019**

On January 10, 2019, Representative Julia Brown (CA) introduced H.R. 444, the Reduce Unemployment for Veterans of All Ages Act of 2019.

Currently, veterans with service-connected disabilities or other employment handicaps are able to receive career development services through VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program up to 12 years after they

separate from military service. H.R. 444 would remove the limiting 12-year-period for eligibility.

In agreement with DAV Resolution No. 310, we support this legislation to eliminate the 12-year-period of eligibility. By removing the limited eligibility period, H.R. 444 will provide veterans the flexibility to receive the support they have earned and deserve throughout their lifetime and thus help reduce unemployment for service-connected veterans.

Please use the prepared electronic letter or draft your own to urge your Member of Congress to support and cosponsor H.R. 444.

Standing up for veterans is vital and we thank you for your advocacy. Your actions help make DAV a highly influential and effective organization in Washington. Thank you for all you do for America's veterans and their families.

## Take Action



## VA Canteen Service Stores Add Online Shopping

The Department of Veterans Affairs hospital gift shops, known as the VA canteen service, have added online shopping for the first time — and the prices could be worth checking out. Established in 1946, the Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) was created to provide merchandise and services at reasonable prices to patients, visitors and employees at VA hospitals. Now, the VCS has moved into the electronic age and expanded its inventory. Any veteran enrolled in the VA health care system can now shop [its website](#). Your family can shop there, too. Read more about the expansion [here](#).





## LinkedIn Premium Now Free for Veteran Caregivers, Fry Scholars

Veteran caregivers enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs' stipend program and students using the Fry Scholarship can now get a free year of LinkedIn Premium, thanks to a newly extended partnership between the company and the VA. [LinkedIn's Premium](#) accounts typically cost \$29.99 per month, or \$299.88 if you sign up for a full year, and bring access to a variety of features, including career courses, upgraded connections to recruiters and the ability to view who is looking at your profile. Veterans also qualify for a free year of the service. Read more about the new discount [here](#).



## Services Turn Focus to Warfighters as DHA Takes Over Military Hospitals

The head of the Defense Health Agency and the services' surgeons general on Wednesday outlined their approaches to realigning the military health system, including changes that will have civilians providing the majority of care to beneficiaries and a slimmed-down uniform staff focusing primarily on operational medicine. Vice Adm. Raquel Bono, director of the Defense Health Agency, said that after assessing the operational medical needs of the military forces, the Defense Department will reduce uniformed medical positions and explore civilian options for providing care for 8 million non-military beneficiaries. Bono said the DHA, which also manages the Tricare program, is weighing options for replacing that care, including hiring civilians, using contract staff, entering into "military-civilian partnerships" or using existing [Tricare](#) networks. Read more [here](#).





## **H.R. 553, Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act**

On January 15, 2019, Congressman Joe Wilson introduced H.R. 553, the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act. This bill would eliminate an unfair offset placed on many surviving spouses of service members who pass away during active duty or spouses of retirees who die of a service-connected disability.

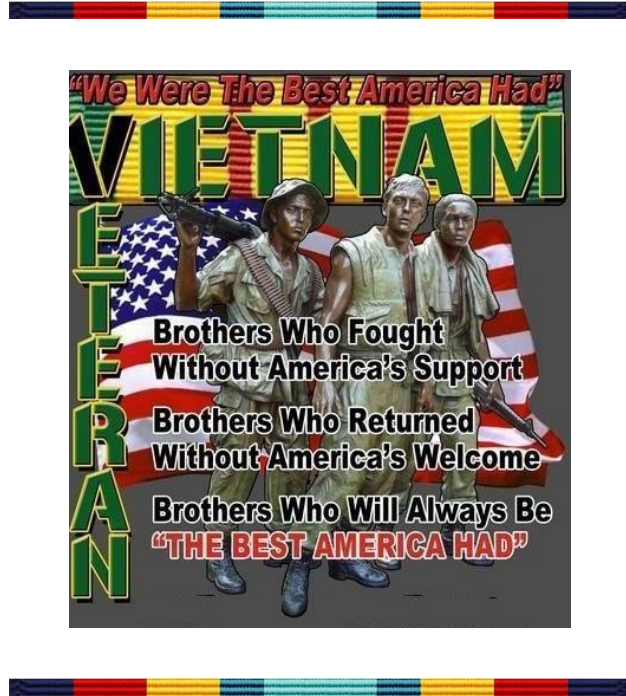
Currently, purchased Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities are offset by the amount of any benefit payable under the VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) program. SBP is not a government gratuity benefit; rather, it is a type of insurance purchased out-of-pocket by military retirees for their survivors while DIC is a VA benefit intended to provide spouses of veterans who died from a service-connected condition some semblance of financial security. Thousands of survivors of military retirees are adversely affected by this unfair offset between SBP and DIC benefits.

Upon the retiree's death, the SBP annuity is paid monthly to eligible beneficiaries; however, if a surviving spouse is also entitled to DIC, the SBP benefit is reduced by the amount of the DIC benefit (currently \$1,283.11 per month). In general, when DIC benefits are payable but the monthly rate is equal to, or greater than, the monthly SBP payment amount, beneficiaries lose the entire SBP payment.

This bill would eliminate the offset and allow surviving spouses to receive both the purchased SBP annuities and their earned DIC benefits. This bill is in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 014, which calls for Congress to repeal the offset between SBP annuity payments and DIC payments.

Please use the prepared letter to write your Representative to cosponsor and support passage of H.R. 553, the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act. Thank you for your efforts and support of the Commander's Action Network.

## Take Action



## Links to Other Stories

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.

1. [A look at VA's comprehensive outreach approach to suicide prevention](#)
2. [After his death, Marine's loved ones hold event to help homeless Veterans](#)
3. [Burn Pits: Lawmakers working to make life easier for Veterans suffering from exposure](#)
4. [Female Veteran denied IVF treatment benefits: 'It's taking away my life dream'](#)
5. [Great Escape War Veteran Laid to Rest](#)



6. In one year, VA improves mental health care for transitioning service members
7. Local company donates \$11,000 to help veterans suffering from PTSD, trauma
8. Michigan man charged with fraudulently obtaining nearly \$12 million in VA construction contracts in Cleveland and Michigan by falsely claiming the company receiving the contracts was owned by a disabled Veteran
9. Navy Veteran among first participants in Pharmacogenetic Testing program for cancer survivors
10. Obesity Is Not a Service-Connected Disability: VA
11. Pharmacologic and Non-pharmacologic Therapies in Adult Patients with Acute Exacerbation of COPD: A Systematic Review
12. Senate approves military burn pit awareness bill
13. Should VA move ahead with a BRAC-style commission to shutter some hospitals?
14. Suicidal Veteran Arrested For Veterans Crisis Line Threats
15. The Congressman Who Turned the VA into a Lobbying Free-For-All
16. This California community is a model haven for homeless Veterans. Now the VA is shutting it down
17. VA announces broad suicide prevention partnership and safe firearm storage partnership
18. VA researcher links flu to heart-failure hospitalizations
19. VA researcher receives career award for contributions in hearing loss
20. Vascular Contributions to Cognitive Impairment and Dementia
21. Veterans Lose Major Voice As Journalist Retires, 'Military Update' Ends
22. Veterans' Family, Caregiver and Survivor Advisory Committee provides recommendations to VA Secretary
23. Will New Layer Of Bureaucracy Fix GI Bill, Voc Rehab?
24. Your environment and your body: How exposure to mold and lead may impact your health

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



**Army Plans to Expand Program that Helps  
Soldiers Find Jobs After Service**

## SOLDIERS FIND JOBS AFTER SERVICE

A Fort Hood-based pilot program that pays for soldiers to get civilian licenses and professional credentials could expand beyond Texas by the end of September, Sergeant Major of the Army Dan Dailey said recently during congressional testimony. Speaking to a House Appropriations Committee subpanel, Dailey said the Credentialing Assistance Program, which is now only offered to roughly 36,000 soldiers of the regular Army, Army Reserve and Texas Army National Guard at Fort Hood, is expected to expand to all installations across the service in fiscal 2020, which begins Oct. 1. Read more about the program [here](#).



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## Support SBP/DIC Offset Repeal (S. 622/H.R. 553)!

Sen. Doug Jones (AL) has introduced legislation (S. 622) that repeals the SBP/DIC offset for survivors, sometimes referred to as the "military widows tax."

Earlier, Rep. Joe Wilson (SC) introduced similar legislation in the House, the "Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act" (H.R. 553).

SBP and DIC payments are paid for different reasons. The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) is purchased by the retiree and is intended to provide a portion of retired pay to the survivor. Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a special indemnity compensation paid to the survivor when a member's service causes his or her premature death. In such cases, the VA DIC should be added to the SBP the retiree paid for, not substituted for it. It should be noted as a matter of equity that surviving spouses of federal civilian retirees who are disabled veterans and die of military-service-connected causes can receive DIC without losing any of their federal civilian SBP benefits.

## TAKE ACTION



## How Military Members Can Cancel TV, Internet and Phone Contracts Without Fees

You may know that the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) lets you get out of an apartment or car lease; protects you from being taken to court; and protects child custody agreements when you get permanent change of station (PCS) orders or deploy. But you may not know the SCRA also offers military move protections for your phone, TV and internet service contracts. Changes to the SCRA in Public Law 115-407, the Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018, allow you to cancel your internet or TV programming contracts without

penalty if you deploy or relocate for at least 90 days to a new location that doesn't offer your current service. Read more about the change [here](#).



## TRICARE Fee Increases in 2019?

The FRA is thankful that the Administration's proposed FY2020 budget recently submitted to Congress does not include any TRICARE fee increases.

Unfortunately, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) submitted a report to Congress in December recommending various TRICARE fee increases and other benefit cuts for military retirees and active duty military. Concern in Congress about the growing annual spending deficit for the current and upcoming fiscal years is increasing and legislators may consider these drastic cuts to reduce the deficit. Some of the many recommendations in the report include:

- A new TRICARE-For-Life (TFL) annual enrollment fee of \$485 for individual coverage and \$970 for family coverage, and increased cost-shares
- Increasing TRICARE Prime and Select enrollment fees beyond the current annual CPI increase
- Reduce active duty BAH to 80 percent of actual cost
- Limit active duty annual pay increases
- Eliminate VA's Individual Unemployability payments to disabled veterans at the full rate of compensation for Social Security

the full retirement age for Social Security

Members can tell their legislators NOT to reduce the deficit on the backs of our active duty military, veterans, retirees and their families by going to the [FRA Action Center](#) and scroll down to Don't Enact CBO Proposed Budget Cuts! campaign listed on the Center.



## Office of Inspector General

1. [Action Is Needed to Address the Federal Government's Fiscal Future](#)
2. [Air Ambulance: Available Data Show Privately-Insured Patients Are at Financial Risk](#)
3. [Defense Health Care: DOD's Proposed Plan for Oversight of Graduate Medical Education Programs](#)
4. [Drug Policy: Preliminary Observations on the 2019 National Drug Control Strategy](#)
5. [Medicare and Medicaid: CMS Should Assess Documentation Necessary to Identify Improper Payments](#)
6. [Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute: Review of the Audit of the Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2018](#)
7. [Private Health Insurance: Enrollment Remains Concentrated among Few Issuers, including in Exchanges](#)
8. [Ground Combat Forces: The Marine Corps Should Take Actions to Track Training Funds and Link Them to Readiness](#)
9. [Improvements Needed to Strengthen Program Management and Cybersecurity](#)
10. [Key Entrepreneurship Programs and Activities Do Not Specifically Target Historically Black Colleges and Universities, but Collaboration Exists with Some Schools](#)
11. [Priority Open Recommendations: Department of Health and Human Services](#)
12. [Priority Open Recommendations: Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
13. [Streamlining Government: OMB and GSA Could Strengthen Their Approach to Implementing a New Shared Services Plan](#)

## 14. VA Needs to Address Challenges as It Implements the Veterans Community Care Program



### **NEX Stores Sell Tickets to Benefit the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society**

Until May 15, the Navy Exchange will offer customers the opportunity to support the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society by purchasing a \$5 benefit ticket. The tickets will be available for purchase at select NEX locations and online at [myNavyExchange.com](http://myNavyExchange.com). This year, the purchase will also provide customers with additional savings with a coupon to be used in stores May 9-15 and online May 9-17. Customers purchasing a ticket are helping fellow Navy and Marine Corps personnel and families in need. Since 2011, NEX customers have donated more than \$2 million to the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society. Read more at [Navy.mil](http://Navy.mil).



### **CalVet to Assist Veterans with Pathway to Citizenship**

**WHO:** The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) with community partners including the County of San Diego, Military and Veterans Affairs, and the Education and Leadership Foundation.

**WHAT:** Veterans of the U.S. Armed forces may be eligible for expedited citizenship due to their military service. This day long event will assist each veteran individually with the process of citizenship or naturalization.

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 13, 2019, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**WHERE:** Military and Veterans Resource Center, 649 W. Mission Ave., Escondido, CA

**EVENT:** CalVet has partnered with the greater San Diego community to provide legal assistance and instruction to veterans seeking citizenship and/or naturalization services. Veterans will also have the opportunity to learn about additional state and federal benefits through their military service.

**BACKGROUND:** Last March CalVet's Minority and Underrepresented Veterans Division launched the Pathway to Citizenship program in partnership with the Governor's Office and community immigration services. Since then, more than 70 veterans and their families have received assistance with citizenship and naturalization services.

For more information, visit the Minority Veterans Affairs web page [here](#).



## Join April 25 Webinar on TRICARE Pharmacy Program

Do you have questions about your pharmacy benefit or your prescription drugs? Join the "Make the Most of Your TRICARE Pharmacy Benefit" webinar on April 25, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET. This webinar will discuss how to fill prescriptions and manage prescriptions, as well as pharmacy covered services, costs, and more. A pharmacy expert will provide detailed information about the TRICARE Pharmacy Program and answer your questions.

Read the full article [here](#).



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



## **S. 318, the VA Newborn Emergency Treatment Act**

On February 4, 2019, Senator Patty Murray (WA) introduced S. 318, the VA Newborn Emergency Treatment Act. The bill would authorize the VA Secretary to provide payment for emergency transportation of a woman veteran's newborn

who requires more specialized treatment at a newborn care facility. In some cases, women veterans are transferred with the newborn and payment is authorized by VA. However, VA believes it lacks clear authority to pay for the transportation of the newborn infant alone. This legislation would provide such authority.

DAV Resolution No. 019 calls for enhancing women veterans health care services. DAV believes women veterans deserve a robust maternity care benefit that allows their infants initial coverage for care that would be covered under Medicaid and many private insurance plans. Maternity care is an important benefit to the significant portion of women veterans now under VA care. Many women veterans for whom VA coordinates maternity care are at high risk for pregnancy complications, including pre-term labor or low-birth weight newborns, because of service-connected conditions. Infants born to these mothers often require more specialized and intensive services after birth; however, not all hospitals have such services available and transportation for the infant, but not necessarily the mother, becomes necessary.

Please help us ensure that VA covers the expense of emergency transportation for newborns of women veterans. Use the letter below to ask your Senators to



for newborns of women veterans. Use the letter below to ask your senators to support this important measure.

Thank you for your support of America's disabled veterans and the Commander's Action Network.

## Take Action



## Congressional Oversight of VA MISSION Act

In the past two weeks, the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs held hearings to conduct oversight of VA's plan to implement the VFW-supported VA MISSION Act of 2018. The House hearing focused on a recent U.S. Digital Service review of VA's IT software, which found deficiencies that could affect VA's ability to deploy certain IT programs on time. VA Veterans Health Administration Executive-in-Charge Dr. Richard Stone confirmed that VA is on pace to fully implement the new [Veterans Community Care Program](#), which will replace the current [Veterans Choice Program](#), and that VA will be able to address possible implementation issues as they arise. Committee members expressed concerns with VA's ability to seamlessly implement the new program and VA's new access standards. Watch the [Senate Hearing](#). Watch the [House hearing](#).



1. Brian Richardson DBA “In Tha Pink” Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Kopi Jantan Tradisional Natural Herbs Coffee Due to Presence of Undeclared Sildenafil and Tadalafil
2. Conagra Brands Announces Recall of a Limited Amount of Hunt’s Tomato Paste Cans Due to Potential Presence of Mold
3. FDA Drug Safety Communication: Prescription Acetaminophen Products to be Limited to 325 mg Per Dosage Unit; Boxed Warning Will Highlight Potential for Severe Liver Failure
4. FDA orders important safety labeling changes for Addyi
5. FDA warns about risks of using home use test strips that are pre-owned or not authorized for sale in U.S., including those for glucose, warfarin
6. FDA warns public not to use unapproved or uncleared medical devices to help assess or diagnose a concussion
7. Great American Marketing Company Recalls Ready To Eat Products Because of Possible Health Risk
8. NadaMoo! Voluntarily Recalls Select Pints of Strawberry Cheesecake Due to Undeclared Almond
9. Nestle Purina PetCare Company Voluntarily Recalls a Limited Amount of Muse Wet Cat Food Natural Chicken Recipe in Gravy in Three-ounce Cans due to the Potential Presence of Rubber Pieces
10. The FDA Warns Against Use of Previously Owned Test Strips or Test Strips Not Authorized for Sale in the United States: FDA Safety Communication
11. Thogensen Family Farm Recalls Raw Frozen Ground Pet Food (Rabbit; Duck; Llama; Pork) Because of Possible Listeria Monocytogenes Health Risk



## **Bataan/Corregidor Congressional Gold Medal Proposed**

Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.) this week introduced S. 1093 to award the Congressional Gold Medal — Congress’s highest recognition of appreciation — to the defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, who just hours after the attack on

Pearl Harbor became the first to fire upon the Imperial Japanese Army as they invaded the then-U.S. territory of the Philippines. In an opinion editorial published Tuesday, the 77th anniversary of the fall of Bataan, Senator Udall and VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence wrote that “what came next for the troops is almost unspeakable: months of unrelenting combat, a 65-mile death march and, for survivors, three years of gruesome imprisonment. Too few returned home after the war, and with each passing year, even fewer remain to tell their harrowing and heroic stories. We must honor these heroes — before it is too late. [Read the opinion editorial.](#)



## Keeping Your Military Child Healthy with TRICARE

During the month of April, the Department of Defense recognizes the unique contributions of the military child. Military kids serve too, and their strength and resilience is especially celebrated this month. The overall health and wellness of military children is key to the success and happiness of military families. TRICARE covers well-child care for children up to age 6 (from birth through age 5).

Read the full article [here](#).



**istic Farm**



**SURVIVAL IS FUN**



## **Legislation to Establish New Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions Introduced**

Recent [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#) reports have found an association between exposure to Agent Orange and bladder cancer, hypertension, and Parkinson's-like symptoms. This week, Representatives Westerman (R-Ark.), Fitzpatrick (R.-Pa.), Tipton (D.-Calif.), Stefanik (R-N.Y.), Cunningham (D-S.C.), Boyle (D-Pa.), Thompson (D-Calif.) and Kuster (D-N.H.) introduced H.R. 2201, the VFW-supported Keeping Our Promises Act, which adds the new conditions to the [list of conditions](#) presumed to be associated with Agent Orange exposure. Adding these conditions to the list would provide veterans exposed to Agent Orange an expedited avenue for care and compensation benefits. The bill would also force VA to evaluate and make a decision on future recommendations. Learn more about the [Keeping Our Promises Act](#). Stay tuned to the VFW Action Corps Weekly for updates on this important bill.





## **H.R. 1200, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019**

On February 13, 2019, Representative Elaine Luria (VA), Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs and Ranking Member Michael Bost (IL), introduced H.R. 1200, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019.

This bill, if enacted, would authorize a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for veterans in receipt of compensation and pension, and for survivors of veterans who died from service-incurred disabilities and are in receipt of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). It would provide a COLA increase by the same percentage as Social Security and would effective December 1, 2019.

Receipt of annual COLA increments aids injured and ill veterans, their families, and their survivors to help maintain the value of their VA benefits against inflation. Without COLAs, these individuals, who sacrificed their own health and their family life for the good of our nation, may not be able to maintain a quality of life in their elder years. DAV strongly supports H.R. 1200 as it is in accord with DAV Resolution No. 031.

Take Action Today! Please use the prepared electronic letter or draft your own to urge your Representatives to support and co-sponsor H.R. 1200.

As always, we appreciate your support for DAV and your grassroots activism in participating in DAV CAN. Your advocacy helps make DAV a highly influential and effective organization in Washington.

Thank you for all you do for America's veterans and their families.

## Take Action



# Tax & Credit Information



1. [Free tax help available in-person and online](#)
2. [Here's how taxpayers can prepare for an appointment at a volunteer tax prep](#)

site

3. IRS, Security Summit partners mark significant progress against identity theft; key taxpayer protection trends continue
4. IRS.gov: Best place to get last-minute tax tips and resources
5. IRS: Rushing to file taxes can result in errors, use e-file, file extension if needed
6. Tax deadline approaches: IRS dispels five myths about tax refunds
7. Taxpayers can get faster tax refunds with Direct Deposit
8. Taxpayers who can't pay their taxes should still file on time
9. IRS now seeking volunteers for Taxpayer Advocacy Panel



## **H.R. 663/S. 191, Burn Pits Accountability Act**

On January 17, 2019, Representative Tulsi Gabbard (HI) introduced H.R. 663, the Burn Pits Accountability Act in the House and Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN) introduced a companion bill, S. 191, in the Senate.

Since the Persian Gulf War, a common waste disposal practice at military sites outside the United States was the use of burn pits. Smoke from these pits contained toxic substances that may have short- and long-term health effects, especially for those who were exposed for longer periods. Many service members reported acute symptoms of respiratory or eye irritation, gastrointestinal distress, or rashes during or shortly after exposure, but the research thus far has been inconclusive about whether there are longer lasting consequences to these exposures as many veterans, who are still struggling with health conditions that arose during or after military service believe.

Both bills would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that periodic health assessments ascertain whether a service member has been at a location when an open burn pit was used or exposed to toxic airborne chemicals. It will further

require the Secretary to enter into an information sharing agreement with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA). If a service member was exposed, the VA Secretary will enroll the member into the VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, unless the member elects not to enroll.

In agreement with DAV Resolution No. 069, DAV supports H.R. 663 and S. 191-legislation that would ensure that exposure to burn pits and airborne chemicals are recognized by both the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

Thank you for all you do for America's wartime service-disabled veterans and their families.

### Take Action



## TRICARE Updates Coverage for Breastfeeding Supplies, Services

TRICARE recently revised coverage regarding breastfeeding supplies and services. The policy now clarifies the specific types of breast pumps and supplies covered. The updated policy also added coverage for two additional breastfeeding supplies.

Read the full article [here](#).



## MIA Update

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has announced burial dates of four previously unaccounted-for service members from World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Returned home for burial with full military honors are:

**Army Cpl. Benjamin W. Scott**, 19, of Alamo, Miss., will be buried April 13 in Atwood, Tenn. In July 1950, Scott was a member of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat actions against North Korean forces in the vicinity of Choch'iwon, South Korea. Scott



was declared missing in action July 12, 1956. [Read more about Scott.](#)

**Navy Reserve Journalist 3rd Class Raul A. Guerra**, 24, of Montebello, Calif., will be buried April 25 in Whittier, Calif. On Oct. 8, 1967, Guerra was a passenger aboard an E-1B Tracer en route from Chu Lai Air Base to the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany. Radar contact was lost with the aircraft approximately 10 miles northwest of Da Nang, South Vietnam, and adverse weather hampered subsequent search efforts. [Read more about Guerra.](#)

**Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Walter B. Stone**, 24, will be buried May 11 in his hometown of Andalusia, Ala. On Oct. 22, 1943, Stone was assigned to the 350th Fighter Squadron, 353rd Fighter Group. He was killed when his P-47 Thunderbolt aircraft crashed in northern France during a bomber escort mission. Because France was enemy-occupied territory at the time of the crash, search and recovery operations were not possible. [Read more about Stone.](#)

**Navy Seaman 1st Class Herbert J. Poindexter Jr.**, 24, will be buried June 21 in his hometown of Jacksonville, Fla. On Dec. 7, 1941, Poindexter was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which capsized after sustaining multiple torpedo as it was moored at Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmembers, including Poindexter. [Read about Poindexter here.](#)



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