



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, October 27, 2019

Volume 10, Issue 43



This-N-That

As you all know last week I had told you we found a new hosting service, and were in negotiations with a web master, the second part is still in negotiation, but the transition date is currently scheduled for December 2nd.

Since we will have a new home soon, I am continuing to work on more web links as well as prepping more documentation to go on-line.

The November 2nd weekly newsletter at this time may or may not go out as I am scheduled for surgery on October 30th and the current game plan is only two days down, and if the plan goes as anticipated, the newsletter will go out.

Remember come January 1st Tricare Co-Pays will be increasing. There is more information further down in this newsletter.

There are several bills for Veterans that have come out of the House and once again all the bills to help Widows and the SBP/DIC off set still have not been addressed after more than a decade. So we do desperately need your help with all the pre-written E-Mails listed in the "TAKE ACTION" section of this newsletter. And if you would follow those with calls to your Reps in DC would be greatly appreciated.

If you think we're missing anything, or have a link to more information, documents you can share, please do let me know!

A very dear friend of mine was just recently given a diagnosis that she has Leukemia and she's not

taking it too well, which I'm sure anyone who is given this kind of information wouldn't, but I would like to ask that everyone send Lois prayers.

Anyone who received our newsletter via Yahoo Groups, please know that they are closing all groups down in December. So if you'd like to continue to receive the newsletter, towards the bottom there is a button you can click on to subscribe so that you will be able to continue receiving our newsletter.

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



House Holds Hearing on Protecting Benefits for All Service Members

On Wednesday, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing to discuss creating parity of benefits for National Guard and Reserve Components. The subcommittee focused on the issue of the DD Form 214, which is not issued to all National Guard and Reserve members. Not receiving a DD Form 214 can complicate their ability to access veteran benefits. The VFW is working closely with DOD and members of Congress to address the loopholes these service members face. [Watch the hearing.](#)



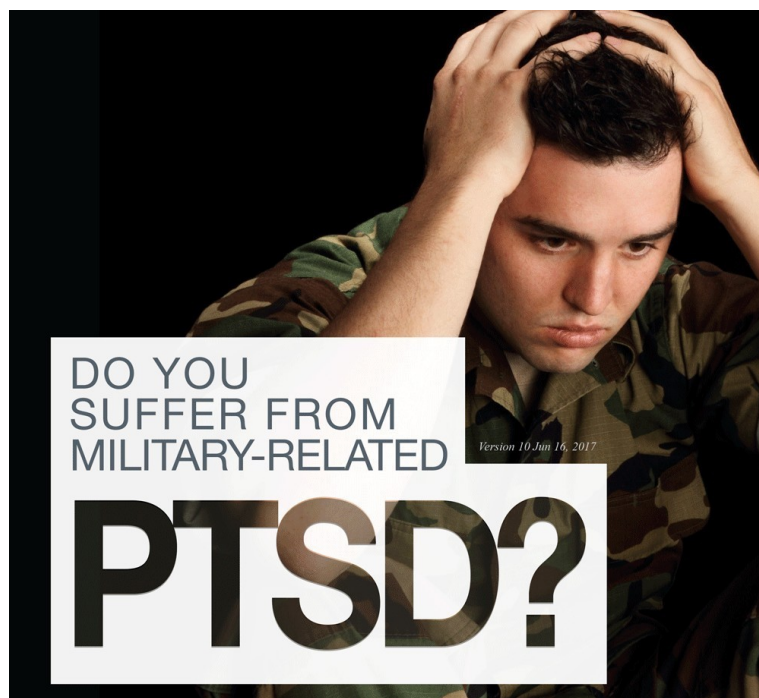
HOME *of the* FREE
BECAUSE *of the* BRAVE

Honoring those who served



FY2020 Appropriations

H.R.4378 - Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Health Extenders Act of 2019, signed into law on 9/27/19 as P.L. 116-59, which includes funding for VA expires on November 21, 2019. Congress can either sign these federal appropriations bills into law before November 21, 2019, or pass another Continuing Resolution (CR) into 2020 to keep government open.



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



VFW Demands Answers on the Delayed Decision on Agent Orange Conditions

Military Times [reported](#) on Oct. 23, that White House officials, including Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, are responsible for the delayed decision on additional Agent Orange diseases. “In light of today’s news regarding the continued delay to add four presumptive diseases to the Agent Orange list, the VFW is extremely upset and dissatisfied with the backdoor political games that are being played in Washington as the lives of our veterans are at stake,” said VFW National Commander William “Doc” Schmitz. “The health and welfare of our nation’s veterans should, and must, be our number one priority.” [Read the VFW press release.](#)



[Veterans-For-Change Web Site](#)

The Veterans-For-Change website has been

around since 2009. 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 **3,625** hits per day, and downloads average **4,282** per day with a total **5,537,087** 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 **17,905** documents in **149+** Libraries, added 37 documents on-line (Updated: 09/19/19)
- FAQ's on-line with **1,790** FAQ's on 101 topics! (Updated 08/29/19 - 128 NEW)
- 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: **9,120**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than **5,374**, Added 74 New Links (Updated: 10/16/19)

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



TRICARE Pharmacy Copayments to Increase Starting Jan. 1, 2020

On Jan. 1, some copayments for your prescription drugs will increase. If you get your prescriptions through the TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery or at a retail network pharmacy, you'll pay anywhere from \$2 to \$7 more starting Jan. 1. Congress made this change in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018.

Read the [full article](#).



Below are links to all currently active E-Mails to many pieces of legislation. We ask that you go to each one, and send the ore-written E-Mails, and to also call your Reps or Senators and ask for their support on a weekly basis!

You don't need to be Active Duty or a Veteran, in fact we ask all Veteran friends to also help!

1. [Allow Active Duty to Sue Military for Medical](#)

Malpractice (H.R. 2422)

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

3. Action Alert: Tell Congress to End the Widow's Tax Now!

4. H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act

5. H.R. 2359, the Whole Veteran Act

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

7. H.R. 445, Help Hire Our Heroes Act

8. S. 2022, Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019

9. H.R. 96, to Provide Dental Care for All Veterans Enrolled in Veterans Health Care

10. S. 555 and H.R. 1377, Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act

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

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

13. **S. 980, the Homeless Veterans Prevention Act of 2019**

14. H.R. 2201, Include Military Installations in Thailand as exposed to Agent Orange

15. H.R. 444, Reduce Unemployment for

Veterans of All Ages Act of 2019

16. S. 2216, Transparency and Effective Accountability Measures for Veteran Caregivers Act

17. H.R. 2200, the Keeping Our Promises Act

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

19. Senate Bill Introduced to Protect Active Duty from Medical Malpractice

20. H.R. 1182, Veterans' Access to Acupuncture Services

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

22. S. 374/H.R. 1092, the Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act of 2019

23. H.R. 2568, the Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act

24. Urge Congress to Pass the Retired Pay Restoration Act

25. Protect Bankrupt Disabled Veterans from Losing Benefits

26. S. 318, the VA Newborn Emergency Treatment Act

27. S. 785, the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act

28. **Blue Water Navy Veterans Need Your Help**

29. H.R. 713, Provide Beneficiary Travel Funds to Veterans Seeking Specialized Treatment for Military Sexual Trauma
30. Urgent Action Needed to End "**Widow's Tax**"
31. S. 154, VA CLEAR Act of 2019
32. H.R. 663/S. 191, Burn Pits Accountability Act
33. S. 1392, the Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act
34. S. 1881 and H.R. 3356, Veterans Expedited TSA Screening Safe Travel Act
35. H.R. 1963, Expanding Care for Veterans Act
36. NDAA and Spending Bills
37. H.R. 4137, Healthcare for Open Air Burn Pit Exposure Act
38. H.R. 2982, Women Veterans Health Care Accountability Act
39. H.R. 4451, Support Our Services (SOS) to Veterans Caregivers Act
40. H.R. 3036, Breaking Barriers for Women Veterans Act



**Veterans bills passed out of the
House Veterans Affairs Committee
10/16/2019**

HR 4162 - GI Bill Planning Act. - A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the period under which an election must be made for entitlement to educational assistance under the All-Volunteer Educational Assistance Program of Department of Veterans Affairs, to phase out the use of such program, and for other purposes.

HR 3749 - A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to entities that provide legal services for homeless veterans and veterans at risk for homelessness.

HR 4613 -A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and maintain a website of the Department that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of certain legislatively requested reports of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

HR 4477 - A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan to address certain high risk areas identified by the Comptroller General of the United States regarding the Department of Veterans Affairs in

the 2019 High-Risk List of the Government Accountability Office, and for other purposes.

HR 561 - Protecting Business Opportunities for Veterans Act - A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the oversight of contracts awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, and for other purposes.

HR 4625 - Protect the GI Bill Act a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require that educational institutions abide by certain principles as a condition of approval for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.





Quote

“We need not to be let alone. We need to be really bothered once in a while. How long is it since you were really bothered? About something important, about something real?”

— Ray Bradbury, Fahrenheit 451



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We hope you will join us on this new site.

VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE

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VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE**

AMVETS GROUP

VETERANS SOCIAL GROUP

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

AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY





Links to Other Stories

1. [Connecticut Man Pleads Guilty To Possessing Fentanyl At Veterans Affairs Facility In Bath, NY](#)
2. [San Diego Stand Down assists more than 800 Veterans](#)
3. [The End Veteran Homelessness Challenge Draws to Successful Conclusion With Support From Elementary Schools Across the Country](#)
4. [How To Support Your Loved One With PTSD](#)
5. [Light-emitting diode \(LED\) therapy program works for this Veteran](#)
6. [Woman Working to End Sexual Assault at the](#)

VA Says She Was Assaulted at VA Hospital

7. Service dog whose story raised awareness of PTSD has died

8. Doctor pleads guilty to sexually exploiting VA patients

9. Do Veterans lack social-emotional skills? A major study finds that many civilian employers believe they do.

10. The National Guard's suicide rate has surpassed the other military components

11. Active duty suicides are on the rise, as the Pentagon works on new messaging and strategy

12. City spending on Veterans spikes as services decline

13. Next Social Security raise could be low, and that's not even the worst part

14. Progress on recovering missing troops, but still a daunting task ahead

15. VA concedes its debt collection systems leave Veterans confused, frustrated

16. Advocates demand White House speed up timeline for 'blue water' Vietnam Veterans benefits

17. Veteran suicides increase despite host of prevention, mental health efforts

18. Homeless Veterans

19. No-Cost Flu Shot Options for Veterans

20. VA Releases Survivors Quick Start Guide
21. VA staff's instant action prevents a Veteran suicide
22. Clearing the Cholesterol Confusion
23. VA Releases 2019 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Report
24. Vet arranges flag honor for doc's life-saving work
25. Maryland Residents Facing Federal Charges For Stealing Over \$820,000 In V.A. Benefits Fraud Scheme
26. Texas Healthcare Fraud Takedown Results in Charges Against 58 Individuals
27. Local non-profit offering hunting, fishing trips to prevent Veteran suicides
28. More than 80 demos at the VHA Innovation Experience
29. Asbestos Exposure and VA Benefits
30. VA Loan Interview: Breaking Myths about the VA Loan Program

Check us out today: www.Veterans-For-Change.org



Veterans bills passed on the House floor 10/15/2019

H.R. 95 - To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that children of homeless veterans are included in the calculation of the amounts of certain per diem grants.

H.R. 2385 - To permit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program.

H.R. 1199 - To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study regarding the accessibility of websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals with disabilities.

H.R. 2334 - To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Odessa, Texas, as the "Wilson and Young Medal of Honor VA Clinic".





One Veteran's Pledge©

When it was my time, I served. My sons served, because I shared with them the value and meaning of serving. I wear the badge of doing the right thing, but also the pain of sending my sons into harms way. Today I can justify that it still is right, but am troubled over the pain my son has and the pain of so many other sons and daughters and the pain of their loved ones, who, like myself, sent them off to war. So, today, I proudly serve our Veterans in the best ways I can. I am an activist for Veterans issues, I honour our standing military and I help with health and well being issues of our Veterans of all Era's and for the active duty military of today. This is the focus, this is our purpose, this is what we owe to our Veterans.

Richard G. Shuster (from Rick's Random Ramblings, One Veteran's Pledge©)



**Veterans legislation pass by the
House Judiciary Committee
10/16/2019**

HR 886 - Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act - This bill directs the Department of Justice to establish a Veterans Treatment Court Program to provide grants and technical assistance for state, local, and tribal governments to develop and maintain veteran's treatment courts.



**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



**New Podcast - Listen to TRICARE
Beneficiary Bulletin #524**

Listen to the latest podcast to hear about:

- TRICARE Website Expansion
- Explanation of Benefits
- TRICARE Open Season Webinar

Visit the Multimedia Center for this podcast and previous podcasts [here](#).



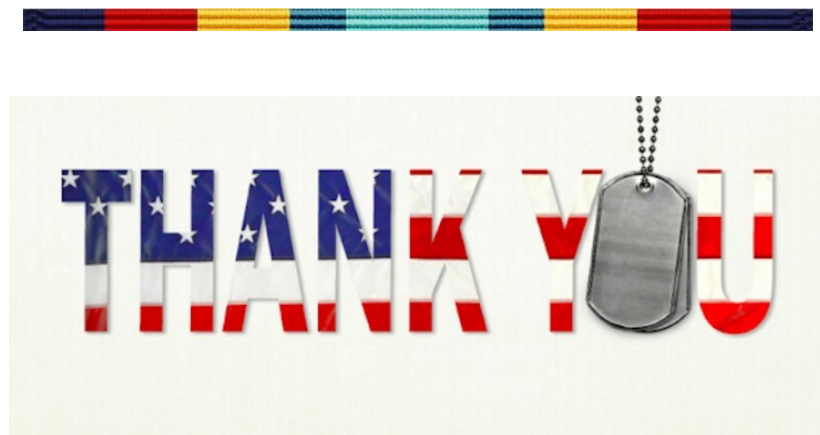
House Sends Four Bills to Senate for Action

The House of Representatives passed four bills on October 15, 2019. The bipartisan legislation will help homeless veterans with children find transitional housing, help veterans with disabilities access important information from VA's website, and help preserve the legacies of those interred in veterans' cemeteries. A final bill honors two Medal of Honor recipients for their heroic actions during the Vietnam War - by naming the VA community-based outpatient clinic in Odessa, Texas, after them.

They are:

- H.R. 95: The Homeless Veterans Families Act.
- H.R. 1199: The VA Website Accessibility Act of 2019.
- H.R. 2334: To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community based outpatient clinic in Odessa, Texas, as the "Wilson and Young Medal of Honor VA Clinic."
- H.R. 2385: To permit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program.

All will be forwarded to the Senate for consideration and action.



VFW Testifies at Hearing on Pending Legislation

On Tuesday, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing to discuss 10 pieces of pending legislation to enhance veteran benefits programs, strengthen protections, and improve access. VFW National Legislative Service Deputy Director Pat Murray encouraged the subcommittee to not allow VA to report a debt to the credit agencies if the debt is under dispute. Many of the draft bills introduced are supported by the VFW, such as greater protection for veterans who receive VA debt notices, increasing the number of locations from which a veteran can appear in disability compensations before the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and conducting a study on VA benefits provided to members of the National Guard and Reserves. [Read VFW's Testimony](#). [Watch the hearing](#).





House Veterans Affairs Hearing weekend ending 10/31/2019

<https://veterans.house.gov/>

Women Veterans' Task Force - On Thursday, October 17, 2019, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Women Veterans Task Force will hold a roundtable discussion entitled, "Trends and Opportunities in Interdisciplinary Research Regarding Women Veterans."

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: Cannon House Office Building 303,
Washington DC

Presiding: Rep. Brownley

Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs -

On Tuesday, October 22, 2019, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs will hold a legislative hearing on H.R. 4360; H.R. 592; H.R. 1030; H.R. 4165; H.R. 4183; H.R. 628; H.R. 1424; H.R. 1911, and a draft bill to extend increased dependency and indemnity compensation paid to surviving spouses of veterans who die from ALS, and a draft bill to permit appellants to appear before the Board of Veterans' Appeals via picture and voice transmission from locations outside the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Time: 10:30 AM

Location: House Visitors Center 210, Washington, DC

Presiding: Rep Luria

Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity - On Wednesday, October 23, 2019, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity will meet to conduct a hearing entitled "Protecting Benefits for All Servicemembers." This hearing will examine issues related to creating parity of benefits for guard and reserve (G&R) members equal to that of active duty.

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: House Visitors Center 210, Washington,
DC

Presiding: Rep. Levin



**Our values
match yours.**



www.veterans-for-change.org



VA and DOD to Fund New Research on Traumatic Brain Injury

The Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the launch of a new joint research project focused on mild traumatic brain injuries (TBI). The five-year study is budgeted for up to \$50 million with half of the funding coming from each department. The project will be led by Virginia Commonwealth University Professor Dr. David Cifu. Dr. Cifu is also a senior TBI specialist for VA and will work with the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Va. [Learn more.](#)



House Committee on Veterans Affairs Moves Six Bills to Floor

On October 16, 2019, the House Committee on Veterans Affairs (HVAC) held a full committee markup and past six bills to the House floor for consideration. The bills will improve veterans' lives by ensuring GI Bill benefits are protected from predatory for-profit schools, providing legal services for homeless veterans, addressing key high risk areas within VA, improving transparency, and protecting business opportunities for veterans. The six bills are:

- 1) H.R. 561: The Protecting Business Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2019.
- 2) H.R. 3749: The Legal Services for Homeless Veterans Act.
- 3) H.R. 4162: The GI Bill Planning Act of 2019.
- 4) H.R. 4477: The Reducing High Risk to Veterans and Veterans Services Act.
- 5) H.R. 4613: The VA Reporting Transparency Act.
- 6) H.R. 4625: Protect the GI Bill Act.

HVAC officials have asked for swift House floor action.





OMB Delays Efforts to Expand List of Medical Conditions for Agent Orange Exposure

The FRA, along with several other veterans service organizations, are working on a letter to the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) Secretary, Robert Wilkie, in reference to adding four diseases: hypertension, hypothyroidism, Parkinson's-like syndromes and hypertension to the list of diseases eligible for Agent Orange benefits. More than two years ago, Secretary Shulkin attempted to add additional health conditions to the list of diseases eligible for Agent Orange benefits, but the Office of Management

and Budget (OMB), which is the White House budget office, blocked the effort, according to the Military Times. In 2016, scientists with the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine recommended adding these ailments to the presumptive list.

The issue of expanding medical conditions for Agent Orange presumption was noted in the Sept. 13, 2019 NewsBytes story regarding the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Ranking Member, Jon Tester (Mont.) and six other senators asking the VA Secretary to add the four diseases to the presumptive list. The FRA will continue to monitor developments on this issue to ensure that veterans, who had their health impaired by exposure to the Agent Orange herbicide, are cared for by the VA.





Never forget our fallen!



Spouse Employment Difficulties Impacting Retention

A recent panel discussion at the Brookings Institute noted that military spouses unable to obtain good-paying jobs are having an impact on military retention rates. The panel discussion referenced a U.S. Chamber of Commerce study that found the unemployment rate among military spouses is 16 percent. This is more than four times the unemployment rate of the entire nation. The Chamber report also noted that military spouses earn 27 percent less income than non-military spouses. Approximately one third of military spouses are not living in the same location as their service member spouse. In most cases, money was the primary reason for the separation.

A May 2018 study by the White House Council of Economic Advisors noted the challenges facing military spouses in the job market. Employers are reluctant to hire workers who face frequent and unpredictable transfers. Further, professional licensing in one location does not always transfer to another location. Often when a service member is deployed overseas, many of these locations do not provide spousal work visas. It is often said that the individual joins the military, but the family re-enlists.



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TRICARE Open Season and FEDVIP Sign Up Coming Soon

TRICARE Open Season and the Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) enrollment begins Monday, November

11th and ends on Monday, December 9th. During TRICARE Open Season, beneficiaries can:

- **Do nothing.** Beneficiaries will stay in their current TRICARE health care plan through 2020 or as long as they are eligible.
- **Enroll in a plan.** If a beneficiary is eligible for a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select but not enrolled, they can enroll in a plan during open season.
- **Change plans.** If a beneficiary is already enrolled in a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select, beneficiaries can switch plans and switch between individual or family enrollment.

If an eligible person is not already in a plan and doesn't enroll in a plan, they are only eligible for care at a military hospital or clinic if space is available.

Outside of TRICARE Open Season, beneficiaries can enroll in or change enrollment to TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select following a Qualifying Life Event (QLE). A QLE is a certain change in life, such as marriage, birth of a child or retirement from active duty, which may mean different TRICARE options are available. A TRICARE QLE opens a 90-day period for beneficiaries to make

eligible enrollment changes. A QLE for one family member means all family members may make enrollment changes. To learn more, [visit the website](#).

Outside of the Federal Benefits Open Season, beneficiaries may only make changes to their existing FEDVIP plan if they experience a QLE. Remember, FEDVIP QLEs may be different from the TRICARE QLEs. Dental premiums will increase 5.6 percent and vision premiums will increase 1.5 percent on average. If you wish to change your FEDVIP plan, you must either do so during open season or following a FEDVIP QLE. For 2020, FEDVIP offers 10 dental and four vision carriers to choose from. To help select the right dental and/or vision coverage, beneficiaries [can go online](#) and compare the many 2020 plans. The rates (premiums and cost-shares) are based upon where you live. The website allows you to compare up to three plans at one time, side-by-side.





Your actions

could save a life.

Showing you care can make a big difference to someone in crisis.

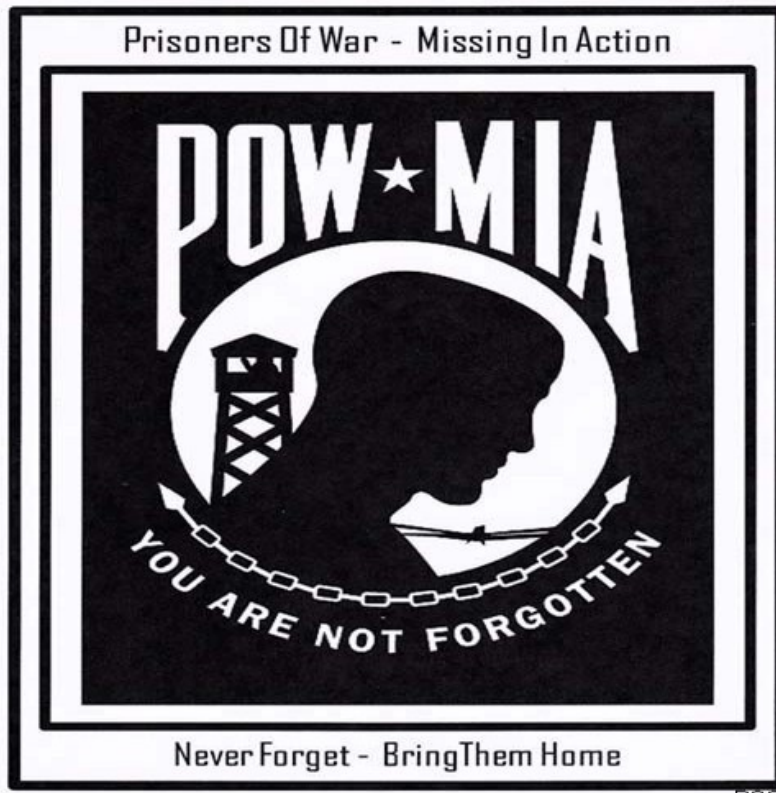
VeteransCrisisLine.net



VA Has Refunded All Home Loan Funding Fees Charged in Error, Officials Say

The Department of Veterans Affairs says it has made refunds to all veterans who were mistakenly charged a funding fee on their VA guaranteed home loans. Generally, all veterans using the VA Home Loan Guaranty benefit must pay a funding fee. That funding fee is a percentage of the loan amount, which varies based on the type of loan as well as other factors. Veterans eligible for disability compensation, as well as surviving spouses of veterans who died as a result of service-connected issues, are exempt from the fee. A June report by the VA's Inspector General said that from Jan. 1, 2012, through Dec. 31, 2017, the VA improperly charged disabled veterans funding fees despite their exempt status. Read more [here](#).





DOC



Office of Inspector General

1. Military Pensions: Servicemembers Need Better Information to Support Retirement Savings Decisions
2. Freedom of Information Act: DHS Needs to Reduce Backlogged Requests and Eliminate Duplicate Processing
3. Medicaid: Opioid Use Disorder Services for Pregnant and Postpartum Women, and Children
4. Substance Use Disorder: Prevalence of Recovery Homes, and Selected States' Investigations and Oversight



World War II Museum Opens New Research Center

A new research center at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans is designed to give visitors access to the museum's WWII knowledge, officials said in a release. The new center, called the Hall of Democracy, will be home to the museum's research and education departments, a new library featuring accounts of the war, a new exhibit hall and a research services program. The center's first exhibit follows the trial of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann. That exhibit will be displayed until early January. Read more on the [National World War II Museum's website](#).



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1. Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc. to Voluntarily Recall a Single Lot of Johnson's Baby Powder in the United States
2. Baby powder manufacturer voluntarily recalls products for asbestos
3. Peekay International Inc., Expands the Recall For Underclared Sulfites In "Swan Dried Apricot" And "Keshav Dry Apricot"
4. Perrigo Company plc Issues Voluntary Worldwide Recall of Ranitidine Due to Possible Presence of Impurity, N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) Impurity in the Product
5. Dr. Reddy's Confirms its Voluntary Nationwide Recall of All Ranitidine Products in the U.S. Market
6. Sanofi Provides Update on Precautionary Voluntary Recall of Zantac OTC in U.S.
7. Shivam Distributors Recalls "Dry Dates " Due to Undeclared Sulfites
8. GL Holdings Issues Voluntary Worldwide Recall of Green Lumber Products Due to Presence of Undeclared Tadalafil





Commissary and Exchange Privileges to Expand in January 2020

TREA is pleased to announce that certain service-connected veterans may be eligible for Commissary and Exchange services beginning in January 2020. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) will soon provide specific instructions.

The 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) became Public Law 115-232 when it was signed August 2018. AAFES will be implementing the provisions of the law and will be publishing specific information on how newly eligible persons may access their

stores and exchanges in the near future. The effective date is January 1, 2020. AAFES is currently coordinating within DOD and with VA to provide an access card or device for these newly eligible persons.

The Act includes provisions to allow Purple Heart and Medal of Honor recipients, former prisoners of war and **Veterans with disabilities connected to their military service** to shop at the discounted on-base store. It also extends that access to veteran caregivers. This will strengthen the commissary system in the long run, which is good for both active-duty personnel, veterans and retirees as it will increase the number of persons eligible to use commissaries.

In addition, the NDAA also expands access to Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Post Exchange privileges to these Purple Heart recipients, **service-connected disabled Veterans**, former POWs, and their caregivers. Previously, this benefit was only offered to Medal of Honor recipients and 100-percent disabled veterans.



Tax & Credit --- Information



1. Taxpayers can compare eligibility and benefits of two education credits
2. IRS reminds employers about the benefits of EFTPS
3. Online seminars from 2019 IRS Nationwide Tax Forums now available
4. IRS recommends business owners e-file payroll tax returns
5. IRS launches International Charity Fraud Awareness Week
6. Why it's important for taxpayers to know their filing status
7. IRS urges families, teens to make online safety a priority
8. Taxpayers can follow these steps after a disaster to reconstruct records
9. Tax treatment for family members working in the family business
10. Tax preparers can take classes online to earn CPE credits
11. IRS urges tax professionals to renew PTINs now for 2020
12. Taxpayers should be on the lookout for new version of SSN scam



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MIA Update

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one new identification, and six burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from WWII and the

Korean War. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

Army Cpl. Lloyd B. Odom, 19, of Odessa, Mo., was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, 31st Regimental Combat Team. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, in the vicinity of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Odom will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Odom.](#)

Army Cpl. Charles H. Grubb, 21, of War Eagle, W. Va., was a member of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 1, 1950, in the vicinity of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Grubb.](#)

Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Willard R. Best, 24, of Staunton, Ill., was a member of the 407th

Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 92d Bombardment Group (Heavy), 40th Combat Bombardment Wing, 1st Air Division, 8th Air Force. On Aug. 24, 1944, Best was the top turret gunner aboard a B-17G Flying Fortress aircraft, carrying nine crewmembers, which was struck by German anti-aircraft fire and crashed during a bombing raid over Merseburg, Germany. Best's remains will be buried in his hometown in the spring of 2020. [Read about Best.](#)

Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. John F. McTigue, 22, of Astoria, N.Y., was a member of the 407th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy,) 92d Bombardment Group (Heavy,) 40th Combat Bombardment Wing, 1st Air Division, 8th Air Force. On Aug. 24, 1944, McTigue co-piloted a B-17G Flying Fortress aircraft, carrying nine crewmembers, which was struck by German anti-aircraft fire and crashed during a bombing raid over Merseburg, Germany. McTigue's remains will be buried Nov. 18, 2019 in Woodside, NY. [Read about McTigue.](#)

Marine Corps Reserve 2nd Lt. Ernest A. Matthews, Jr., 34, of Dallas, Texas, was

assigned to Headquarters Company, Headquarters Battalion, Division Special Troops, 2nd Marine Division. On Nov. 20, 1943, Matthews participated in a landing against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands. He was killed that day in an attempt to secure the island. Matthews remains will be buried Nov. 5, 2019, in San Antonio, Texas. [Read about Matthews.](#)

Army Pvt. Connie Cagle, 23, of Sweetwater, Tenn., was a member of Company K, 126th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Division, when his unit was engaged with enemy forces along the Soputa-Sanananda Track, near Buna, in the Australian Territory of Papua (present-day Papua New Guinea.) Cagle was killed in action on Nov. 22, 1942. Cagle will be buried in Grand Rapids, Mich. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Cagle.](#)

Army Air Forces Sgt. R.L. Tyler, 22, of Denton County, Texas, was a member of Headquarters Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group, when taken prisoner after the fall of Bataan in the Philippines on April 9, 1942. He reportedly died July 18-19,

1942. Tyler will be buried at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Tyler.](#)



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