



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, December 29, 2019

Volume 10, Issue 52



This-N-That

I do hope everyone had an enjoyable Merry Christmas and as we look forward to the New Year I am looking to Congress to pass many ore pieces of Veteran Legislation that is so desperately needed!

Some of the pieces will help some, and other pieces will help many! But we're not able to do it all alone, we still need each and everyone of you to help make sure things work as we would like

them to.

So please, keep up the work of sending out all of the pre-written E-Mails in the "Take Action" section of this newsletter, and you can do this weekly. Then follow those up with phone calls to your Reps in DC and give a verbal request they bring them out of committee and pass them!

Any and all assistance would be greatly appreciated.

And I'd like to thank all who sent their well wishes for Christmas! Means a lot that we have so many supporters!

On behalf of our Volunteers nationwide and myself, we wish you and your family a very Happy New Year and good health!

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org



Congress Passes FY 2020 Spending Bills -- Government Funded to September 30, 2020, Concurrent Receipt, HR 4183 and HR 3530

On Friday, December 20, 2019, President Trump signed two major spending bills to fund the government for FY 2020 to September 30, 2020. This avoided the need for another Continuing Resolution as well as a government shutdown. Most important to TREA and its members was the funding for the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Enactment provides both DOD and VA flexibility to fund programs and services for active duty service members, veterans, retirees as well as Guard and Reserve Components. TREA is reviewing the funding levels and will provide specific details in the near future.



Links to Other Stories

1. [FDA bans blood donation by people who have](#)

lived in UK

2. Lubbock Veterans visit other Veterans in hospice to provide comfort and encouragement
3. VA web-based patient tool surpasses five million users
4. Lubbock Veterans remember Pearl Harbor at Silent Wings Museum
5. Tricare billing glitch leaves some customers with maxed-out credit cards
6. More Veterans struggled to find work last month, even as national unemployment rates fell
7. VA paid Columbus Veteran \$76,000 for PTSD from war events. He admits he made it up.
8. Strangers attend elderly Army Veteran's funeral in Texas after request from friends
9. Milam appointed to Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation
10. Disabled Veterans can fly Space Available Flights for free
11. VA may have to halt rollout of new benefits if CRs continue
12. Detroit Man Sentenced to Two Years in Prison for Impersonating Deceased Relatives and Stealing More than \$800,000 in Government Benefits
13. Veterans Court changes lives by offering

second chance

14. VA's Board of Veterans' Appeals plans virtual hearings in 2020

15. VA continues record setting claims processing pace for 2019

16. VA recognized for health IT innovations directly impacting Veterans

17. VA, Walmart open telehealth locations to serve Veterans in rural areas

18. VA opens gambling addiction center in Las Vegas

19. Thousands of medical tests delayed, improperly canceled at VA facilities, audit finds

20. Homeless Veterans in Oklahoma City receive winter coats, boots and blankets

21. Amid lawsuits, Bayer mounts campaign to defend weedkiller

22. Court will not lift VA-imposed stay on Blue Water Navy claims, says delay cannot extend past Jan. 1

23. VA extends benefits to offshore Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans January 1st

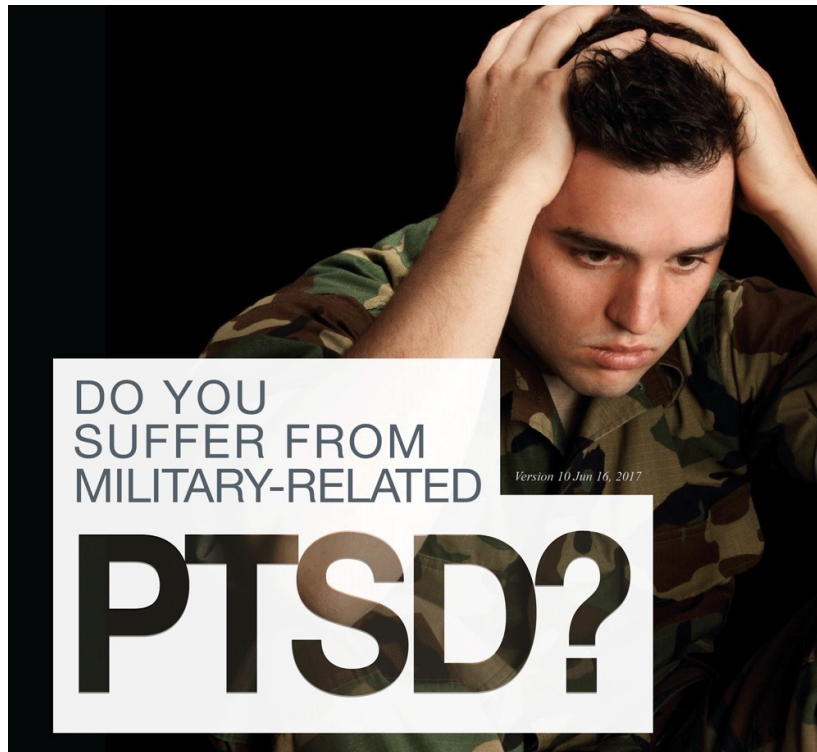
24. VA improves health care facility performance transparency

25. Lubbock Veteran helps law enforcement with foot pursuit

26. Lawmakers kill off controversial plan to limit GI Bill benefits transfer to spouses, children
27. Feds indict Miami VA employees and medical suppliers accused of kickback scheme
28. Here are more than 300 bases with possible toxic 'forever chemical' contamination
29. Helping Veterans choose health care providers is all about transparency
30. Fifteen Individuals Charged for Roles in Fraud and Bribery Scheme at Two South Florida VA Hospitals
31. VA Benefits for Spouses of Disabled Veterans
32. Veteran gifted adaptable home in Abacoa
33. Shoe slide developed by VA nurse helps Veterans relearn to walk
34. Formerly homeless Veterans have a good problem in needing furniture
35. Can Villages of Tiny Homes Help America's Homeless Veterans?

Check us out today: www.Veterans-for-change.org





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



**Listen to New TRICARE Beneficiary
Bulletin Podcast #533**

Listen to this latest podcast to hear about:

- Military Health System Nurse Advice Line
- Emergency and Nonemergency Care Options
- TRICARE Pharmacy Copayments

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



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 **3,342** hits per day, and downloads average **5,973** per day with a total **5,670,075** 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 **18,200** documents in 171+ Libraries, added **34** documents on-line

(Updated: 12/23/19)

- 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: **9,294**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than **5,741**, Added 124 New Links (Updated: 12/16/19)

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



Below are links to all currently active pre-written E-Mails to many pieces of legislation. We ask that you go to each one, and send the pre-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. [H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act](#)
4. [H.R. 2359, the Whole Veteran Act](#)
5. [S. 514, the Deborah Sampson Act to Improve VA Services for Women Veterans](#)

6. H.R 445, Help Hire Our Heroes Act
7. S. 2022, Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019
8. H.R. 96, to Provide Dental Care for All Veterans Enrolled in Veterans Health Care
9. S. 555 and H.R. 1377, Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act
10. H.R. 840, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act
11. S. 179/H.R. 712, Legislation Calling for Clinical Trials to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Medical Cannabis for Chronic Pain and PTSD
12. S. 980, the Homeless Veterans Prevention Act of 2019
13. H.R. 2201, Include Military Installations in Thailand as exposed to Agent Orange
14. H.R. 444, Reduce Unemployment for Veterans of All Ages Act of 2019
15. S. 2216, Transparency and Effective Accountability Measures for Veteran Caregivers Act
16. H.R. 2200, the Keeping Our Promises Act
17. H.R. 553, Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act
18. Senate Bill Introduced to Protect Active Duty from Medical Malpractice

19. H.R. 1182, Veterans' Access to Acupuncture Services
20. S. 374/H.R. 1092, the Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act of 2019
21. H.R. 2568, the Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act
22. Urge Congress to Pass the Retired Pay Restoration Act
23. Protect Bankrupt Disabled Veterans from Losing Benefits
24. S. 318, the VA Newborn Emergency Treatment Act
25. S. 785, the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act
26. H.R. 713, Provide Beneficiary Travel Funds to Veterans Seeking Specialized Treatment for Military Sexual Trauma
27. Urgent Action Needed to End "Widow's Tax"
28. S. 154, VA CLEAR Act of 2019
29. H.R. 663/S. 191, Burn Pits Accountability Act
30. S. 1392, the Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act
31. S. 1881 and H.R. 3356, Veterans Expedited TSA Screening Safe Travel Act
32. H.R. 1963, Expanding Care for Veterans Act
33. NDAA and Spending Bills

34. H.R. 4137, Healthcare for Open Air Burn Pit Exposure Act
35. H.R. 2982, Women Veterans Health Care Accountability Act
36. H.R. 4451, Support Our Services (SOS) to Veterans Caregivers Act
37. H.R. 3036, Breaking Barriers for Women Veterans Act
38. S. 2950, the Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act of 2019
39. H.R. 2200, Keeping Our Promises Act
40. HR 5028, Protect Individual Unemployability for Disabled Veterans



TREA continues to work hard to support Concurrent Receipt

By seeking the enactment of legislation that authorizes comprehensive expansion of concurrent receipt of uniformed services retired pay and VA disability compensation, by expanding Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP) to beneficiaries with 20 or more years of service with less than 50 percent disability rating and all those medically retired with less 20 years of service (Chapter 61) who are not eligible for concurrent receipt.



~Follow us on MEWE ~

Follow us on [MEWE](#)! The support staff at [MEWE](#) is responsive, open to suggestions and works very hard to protect your personal information.

We hope you will join us on this new site.

VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE

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

AMVETS GROUP

VETERANS SOCIAL GROUP

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

AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY





TREA's Holiday Program - Did you Know?

Did you know that TREA has supported and cared for over 500 wounded and/or deployed military/veteran families through our Holiday Program? This will be our 4th year with the program and we could not be happier or prouder of what we have been able to accomplish and provide for these families. We provide each family with food, clothing, gifts and a handwritten card. We have even personalized over 140 stockings for young children and filled them with holiday candy and gift cards.

By the time you read this article, TREA will have

provided holiday cheer to 150 families this year. For next year you can adopt your own family, you can provide financial assistance so that TREA can make our funds stretch even farther or you can buy a gift (or two) that TREA can use to send to a child or family member.

All families are vetted through Soldiers Angels and forwarded to us for support. It is a wonderful program and provides support for so many families - think about adding a little Holiday Cheer into your life by participating in this great program.

Go to our website (www.trea.org) and click on the link on our homepage to see photos and read the thank you notes and letters from families we have adopted in the past.

Call TREA Headquarters at 303-752-0660 to get involved or to get your name on the list for next year.





All Veterans Would Get Dental Care Help Under This Proposed Plan

A proposed Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pilot program would help all veterans access free or discounted dental services in their local communities. Currently, the VA provides dental care only to veterans who have a service-related dental problem, are former POWs or are rated as totally disabled as a result of their military service. Now, according to a notice published in the Federal Register, the VA wants to begin an at least five-year-long pilot program that would connect veterans with dentists in their area who offer free or discounted dental care to all veterans -- not just those with a service-connected disability. Read more [here](#).



**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



Before New Year's, Update DEERS

Is your information current in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)? Before the year ends, be sure you and your family's information is up to date and correct. Incorrect information in DEERS can cause problems with TRICARE claims and other health care benefits. For you and your family to use TRICARE, you must keep your information up to date in DEERS.

To learn more, [read the full article](#).



Office of Inspector General

1. Fake Caller ID Schemes: Information on Federal Agencies' Efforts to Enforce Laws, Educate the Public, and Support Technical Initiatives
2. GAO-20-124, Drug Control: The Office of National Drug Control Policy Should Develop Key Planning Elements to Meet Statutory Requirements
3. Health Care Workforce: Views on Expanding Medicare Graduate Medical Education Funding to Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants



**Some New Commissary Shoppers
Will Be Able to Use This Letter for
Base Access**

Defense Department officials have announced a workaround that will allow more new shoppers to access base commissaries and exchanges on Jan. 1, when eligibility categories expand. Some veterans who don't have a Veteran Health Identification Card, or VHIC, from the Department of Veterans Affairs will be able to use a VA benefits eligibility letter to get on base instead, according to new guidance presented Friday during a Military OneSource Facebook live video. Read more [here](#).



**Explore Career Opportunities with
HEI – Hiring Vets Now**

At HEI Hotels and Resorts, we are looking for associates who embody our passion for hospitality. We live for our guests and clients and love that we can continue to grow our organization with people who do the same. [Search jobs now.](#)



Bill Would Cover Cost of Service Dogs for Veterans with PTSD

Lawmakers and veterans advocacy groups are ready for change after waiting nearly a decade for the Department of Veterans Affairs to change its policy on not reimbursing the cost of service dogs for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. The Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers, or PAWS, Act would require the VA to offer \$25,000 vouchers to veterans suffering with PTSD for use at qualifying nonprofits. Currently, the VA supports service dogs only for use in mobility issues, not in cases that only involve mental health conditions. Read more [here](#).





Your VA Bills Can Now Be Seen Online

Veterans now have access to their patient statements through the AccessVA website, officials with the Department of Veterans Affairs announced Friday. The patient statement is what the VA calls your medical bill. Normally, you get one only when you receive treatment for non-service-connected conditions. Read more [here](#).



One Marine's Christmas Wish: Bring His Pup Home from Afghanistan

It's going to take at least \$7,400 for one Marine to return home with the little puppy he rescued from razor-sharp concertina wire in his remote Afghanistan forward operating base about a year ago. Sox has not left "Captain Dave's" side since he helped her. She's even followed him on missions, according to the organization Guardians of Rescue. Read more [here](#).



CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER !



2020 CONUS COLA Rates Announced

The Defense Department has announced the 2020 Continental United States (CONUS) Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) rates. The number of service members receiving the pay in 2020 will decline by approximately 21% from 2019, and most members will see a decrease in the amount they get each month. Read more [here](#).



Your actions
could save a life.

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

VeteransCrisisLine.net

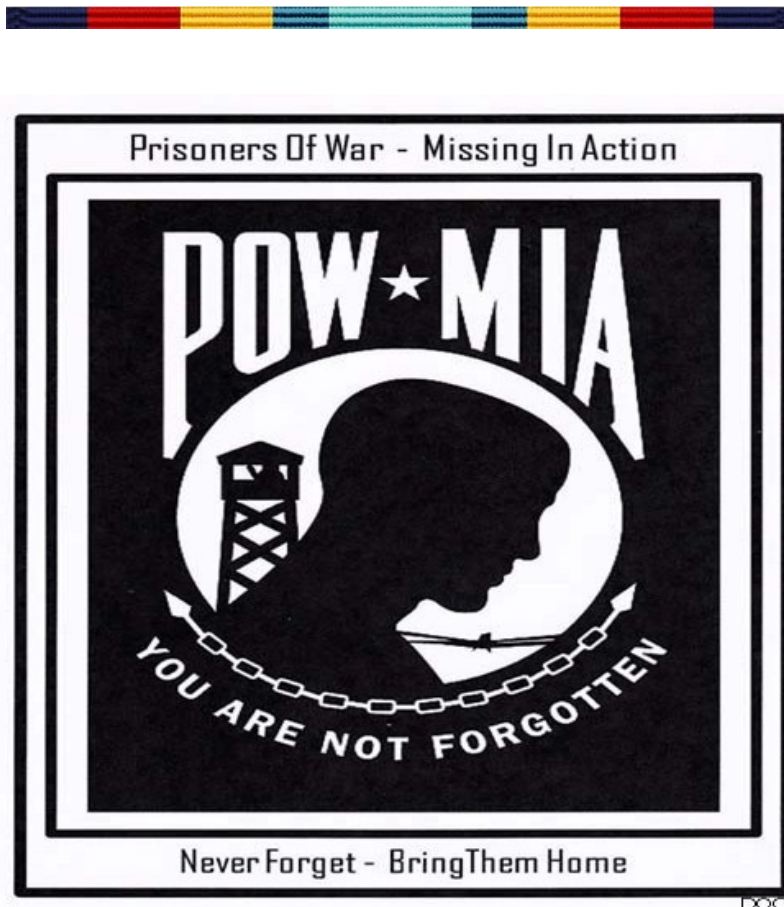
 **Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

The advertisement features two men, one in a light blue shirt and glasses, and another in a dark sweater, standing together. The text is positioned to the right of the men. The logo includes a star and a speech bubble icon.

Two Important Bills Pass The House

Last week, the House also passed the Identifying Barriers and Best Practices Study Act (HR 4183), which calls upon the GAO to study the disability and pension benefits earned by members of the National Guard and Reserves. The vote was 408-1.

HR 3530, which calls upon the VA to enforce licensure requirements for medical providers within the Department, also received an almost unanimous vote of 409-1.





Congress Overrides Pentagon on GI Bill Transfer Rules

A paragraph hidden deep inside the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) eliminates the Pentagon's ability to cap which troops can transfer the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Currently, service members are eligible to transfer GI Bill benefits to their dependents only when they reenlist (or obligate) for at least another four years, unless blocked from doing so. In 2018, the DoD announced a plan to place further restrictions on who would be eligible to transfer their benefits by limiting transferability eligibility to those with less than 16 years of active duty. Read more [here](#).



Air Force Awards \$50,000 Grant to Help Treat Infertility in Airmen

The Air Force is investing \$50,000 in a progesterone-testing kit company that could help service members who are trying to conceive. One year after a study estimated 37% of women currently serving report fertility issues, the Air Force awarded a Small Business Innovation Research grant to Proov, a company that makes \$40 kits for women to test their hormone levels. Read more [here](#).



Army Suicide Trends Have Changed in Forever Wars Era, New Study Finds

Historically, suicide rates in the U.S. Army have dipped during periods of combat. But that trend has not held true in the lengthy wars of Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq, a recent study of service suicide rates from 1819 to 2017 found. The largest historical study to date of suicide in the U.S. Army was published this month in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open. Two professors and a student from the University of Hawaii at Hilo conducted the study in conjunction with the Department of Defense. Researchers relied on the U.S. Army Surgeon General Office's data and used other government records for their findings. Read more [here](#).





Congress Overrides Pentagon on GI Bill Transfer Rules

A paragraph hidden deep inside the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) eliminates the Pentagon's ability to cap which troops can transfer the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Currently, service members are eligible to transfer GI Bill benefits to their dependents only when they reenlist (or obligate) for at least another four years, unless blocked from doing so. In 2018, the DoD announced a plan to place further restrictions on who would be eligible to transfer their benefits by limiting transferability eligibility to those with less than 16 years of active duty. Read more [here](#).



Tax & Credit

Information



1. 3 Social Security Traps That Can Spell Doom for Your Retirement
2. Sextortion scammers getting creative
3. Explained: juice jacking
4. 'Ambitious' PayPal phishing scam seeks to steal more than login credentials



If you received this newsletter as a courtesy or a forward from a friend or relative, you can sign up to receive in your E-mail every week.



[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE VFC WEEKLY NEWSLETTER!](#)



Veterans-For-Change, Inc.

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today

www.Veterans-For-Change.org

Serving those who served!

**Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends
and Family!**



**Please do not reply to this E-Mail,
this is an unattended E-Mail address,
please send all correspondence to:**

Jim.Davis@Veterans-for-change.org

©2019 Veterans-For-Change.org | CA 92584-8870

[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by
[GoDaddy Email Marketing](#)®