



# **Veterans-For-Change Newsletter**

*A Voice of the Veterans*

Week Ending Sunday, February 09, 2020

Volume 11, Issue 06



## **This-N-That**

So many things going on as usual there just isn't the time or space to put all in this newsletter, we're already rather large as it is, but it's hard to hold back on so much information when much is time sensitive.

Starting off, Secretary Wilkie is dragging his feet again, but this time on adding more illnesses to the presumptive list, and I guess he thinks he's a scientist with tons of knowledge and disputes the

validity of actual scientific proof that Agent Orange can and does cause these added illnesses?

We still don't know what all Agent Orange causes, and chances are we still won't for possibly another decade as Agent Orange chemical make-up affects each person differently, and the one thing that has been proven over and over again is that when the human body comes into contact with many chemicals it changes the DNA make-up of that person which in turn causes the illness to come on, and that too could take years as the chemicals are stored up in body fat and can sit dormant for years until something else happens then it comes to life.

The same applies to exposure to TCE and PCE and dozens of other chemicals that are known carcinogens and each causes various forms of illnesses to arise later in life and could be just a few months to as long as two decades later.

Many organizations like VFC continue to work tirelessly to get all these new illnesses added, I know personally I'm tired of reading all these scientific reports some being several thousand

pages long. And for me, more often than not I do have to stop and look up certain words and phrases to better understand the reports.

Many of the reports are quite expensive to obtain, but thankfully we can access and download most reports at no cost, other times the reports that are very expensive to obtain copies on we have a very small network of friends who actually spend their hard earned money to get them, then share them with us freely.

We don't have the man power to actually research and draft legislation, but there are other organizations who have that capability, and once we get a copy and have time to thoroughly read and understand then we can get behind them to support their actions.

But that too is not often either, some are so poorly written, too many holes in them we can't in all good faith back them. But we do continue to fight on as best we can, by doing fax blasts to the House or Senate or both as needed, and those are all followed up with phone calls to various Congressman and Senators seeking their support

and action.

Those bills we can get behind and fully support we place in the TAKE ACTION section as one of a few organizations have the funds needed in order to use a very expensive system where pre-written E-Mails are programmed in and we can provide you links to those pre-written E-Mails and ask you to help by sending them out.

And this past week our network has grown by 380 new subscribers to the newsletter all comprised of both Veterans and civilians.

Some thing this week that we've added came to us by surprise, and this was a list of Veteran bills that have been suspended. No reason for their suspensions, but I did feel it was important to share that information with you.

There was no link to subscribe, even after going to a website to look further for any explanation, there was no subscription button, and the source was rather mysterious as well, but I do hope that person continues to forward that information to me, I feel it's important for our network of

Veterans and civilians to know.

Finally, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittees on Health, and Oversight held joint meetings to discuss how the VA supports MST (Military Sexual Trauma) survivors.

This is good and I can't take credit for this, but I do feel all our actions helped to play a role in this happening, I personally don't feel the VA has ever handled MST Victims the way they should have all along. And that the VA medical and mental health care is and has been sorely lacking.

And to all our Veterans who have been a victim and have come forward to VFC, I want to thank you, maybe our action and you stories have also helped and we do hope a lot of good comes from this.

The House did pass the Veterans Therapy Act (H.R.4305) (PAWS) to assist Veterans with PTSD with service animals. And we anticipate immediate passage in the Senate.

The provision of service animals to Veterans has

been controversial for a long time, and with all the medical evidence to back up the need for this I'm more than sure has helped to bring us to this point.

I can't speak for everyone, but I know from seeing first hand how much good it does for a Veteran with PTSD has been helped just by the presence of a service animal whose been specially trained.

Although there is no pre-written E-Mail to send, I would like everyone to call their Senators and encourage immediate passage of HR 4305 when it hits their floor for a vote.

We have finished uploading all the documents on state benefits and I look forward to finish getting uploaded all the web links for state benefits as well this coming week.

We've also had the entire documents library opened to full access by anyone including non subscribers, and this will remain in effect until March 1, 2020 when we will limit access again to non-subscribers.

If you subscribe, you will receive an authentication E-Mail with a link which will finalize your subscription, this is a security measure, so if it doesn't come into your IN box with a couple of minutes, please be sure to look in your spam or junk folder for it. It is time sensitive.

Should you not authenticate, don't worry, I do check every couple of days and I manually approve accounts and will send you a "Welcome E-Mail."

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)



**Legislation Introduced to Establish a  
Presumption for Blast Exposure**

Last Thursday, Representative Nydia Velazquez (D-N.Y.) introduced VFW-supported H.R. 5739, the Blast Exposure Protection Act of 2020. This important legislation would establish a presumption of service-connection for disabilities associated with blast exposures, which will make it easier for veterans to prove that health conditions are related to their military service. “Traumatic brain injury and other conditions associated with blast exposure are very serious health issues,” stated VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Matthew Doyle. “Many service members go untreated for blast injuries while in service, which makes it difficult to prove that these conditions were caused by an event in service. The VFW is proud to support the Blast Exposure Protection Act of 2020, which would ensure that veterans who were exposed to blasts during military service receive the care and benefits they desperately need.” The VFW thanks Rep. Velazquez for introducing this legislation and for her efforts to expand disability benefits for veterans. [Learn more.](#)





## **The VA Asks for Delay of New Presumptive Conditions Related to Agent Orange Exposure**

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently sent a report to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. It explains their concern with the scientific evidence behind the link between bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, parkinsonism, hypertension and exposure to Agent Orange herbicide. The VA claims that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine did not identify any "definitive causal links" between Agent Orange and the diseases. The VA is now waiting on the results of its own study. The National Academy of Medicine has already established an association between Agent Orange exposure and these four diseases. The FRA is supporting the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act (H.R.5610), which would increase the presumptive conditions linked to exposure of the Agent Orange herbicide to include parkinsonism, bladder cancer, hypertension and hyperthyroidism. FRA Members are strongly urged to use the [FRA Action Center](#) to weigh in on this important legislation.

The FRA has signed onto a letter to President Trump, with several other associations, requesting that he intervene and add these ailments to the list of Agent Orange presumptive conditions for disability benefits immediately.



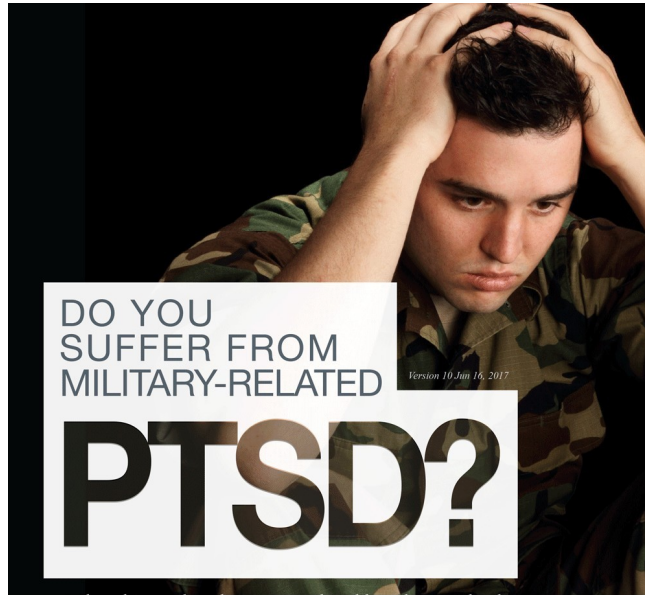
## Links to Other Stories

1. [Military Pensions Are Creating A Generation Of Millionaires](#)
2. [California WWII Veteran, 104, asks for Valentine's Day cards: 'I'll save every one'](#)
3. [VA guides Veteran out of darkness](#)
4. [Proposed Social Security disability changes could cut off disabled recipients](#)
5. [Federal Court Says VA Can't Block Education Payouts](#)
6. [Veterans Group Sues Military Leaders, Claiming Yearslong Delays on Benefits Decisions](#)
7. [2020 Blue Water Navy Agent Orange Update](#)
8. [New law gets more Vets to qualify for agent orange benefits](#)
9. [HPV vaccine age limit raised by FDA to age 45](#)

10. VA, lawmakers trade barbs after sexual assault claim from congressional staffer
11. Knoxville reveals 'Veterans District' to replace VA campus
12. The VA is developing new metrics for measuring its digital transformation
13. TRICARE Expands List of Drugs It Won't Cover
14. Florida police department invites public to homeless Veteran's funeral
15. 10 Legendary Heroes of the US Air Force
16. Army Veteran who said prosthetic legs were repossessed to get new pair from VA
17. Senate Passes Bill to Provide Higher Pay to VA Execs
18. Veterans have options for seeing Vietnam memorial wall
19. VA IG Warns Long Wait Times Could Continue with Mission Act Reforms

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





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



**Two Extremely important VA Forms  
all veterans should fill in and submit  
ASAP**

Two extremely important VA Forms (VBA-21-0845-ARE.pdf and VA 40-1007.pdf), that all veterans should fill in and submit to VA, asap.

If you don't, your beneficiary will not be able to talk to the VA.....(Authorization to Disclose Personal Information to a Third Party).

And, secondly, the APPLICATION FOR PRE-NEED DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR BURIAL IN A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY.This will save your survivors some of the red tape/hassle.

<https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-0845-ARE.pdf>

<https://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-10007.pdf>

Source: Paul Sutton / Bruce Dwyer



**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 **4,675** hits per day, and downloads average **8,350** per day with a total **5,830,860** visitors as of Friday.

If you subscribe you will have full access to the entire website and best of all it's **FREE of charge!** You just need a valid E-mail address so the system can send you a confirmation E-Mail. Once received, click on the link to be authorized automatically.

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

- Documents Library with over **18,475** documents in 171+ Libraries, added **51** documents on-line (Updated: 02/03/20)
- 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: **9,422**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than **6,903**, Added **198** New Links (Updated: 01/31/20)

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



## The Weekly Leader



## ***Bill Suspensions***

- H.J.Res. 80 – Approving the request of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for a waiver under section 1703E(f) of title 38, United States Code (Rep. Roe – Veterans' Affairs)
- H.R. 4302 – Homeless Assistance Act of 2019, as amended (Rep. Sherman – Financial Services)
- H.R. 2398 – Veteran HOUSE Act of 2020, as amended (Rep. Peters – Financial Services)



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. [Urge Congress to Pass the Retired Pay Restoration Act](#)
3. [Protect Bankrupt Disabled Veterans from Losing Benefits](#)
4. [S. 2966, the Rural Veterans Travel Enhancement Act of 2019](#)
5. [S. 1003, VET OPP Act to Reform VA Employment Programs](#)
6. [H.R. 4574 - Pass the Veterans' Right to Breathe Act Now!](#)
7. [S. 2810, the Veterans Hearing Benefits Act of 2019](#)
8. [Support H.R.4985, the Veterans Residential Care Choice Act](#)



## House Holds Joint Hearing on Military Sexual Trauma

On Wednesday, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittees on Health, and Oversight and Investigations, held a joint hearing to discuss how VA supports survivors of military sexual trauma (MST). Survivors of MST often exhibit symptoms associated with PTSD, such as anxiety, sleeplessness, intrusive thoughts, agitation, and an inability to concentrate. Many survivors of MST do not report their assaults to their commanders or medical professionals, which makes it difficult to develop a claim for VA benefits. At the hearing, Ranking Member Jack Bergman (R-Mich.) stated, "We need to make sure that veterans applying for benefits for MST related conditions are treated with dignity and evaluated fairly." [Watch the hearing.](#)



~~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

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VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE

AMVETS GROUP

VETERANS SOCIAL GROUP

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

AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY





## **Listen to New TRICARE Beneficiary Bulletin Podcast #539**

Listen to this latest podcast to hear about:

- TRICARE Dental Program Coverage
- TRICARE For Life Eligibility and Enrollment
- Spring Travel Tips

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



## **Senate Holds Oversight Hearing on VA Community Care**

On Wednesday, the Senate Veterans' Affairs

Committee held a [hearing](#) on the implementation of VA's Community Care Network (CCN) program and MISSION Act requirements. Testifying were senior leaders of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the CEOs of both CCN providers. While all witnesses testified that the implementation of CCN is progressing smoothly, questions were raised about the speed at which providers are being reimbursed and the backlog of provider payments on VA's books. VA is working on new processes to speed turnaround time for reimbursements and expects to be caught up by the fall. The issue was raised that CCN contracts do not reflect MISSION Act standards for community care as the contracts were awarded prior to the MISSION Act's passage into law. VA pledged to move toward MISSION Act standards in the CCN program and the contractors both testified that they strive to meet the MISSION Act's more stringent standards for access and timeliness. The VFW will continue to monitor the implementation and [advocate for changes](#) where necessary. If you have had positive or negative experiences with VA health care, including the Community Care Networks or the MISSION Act, share your experiences through the VFW's VA

Health Care Watch by [email](#) or phone at  
1.800.VFW.1899.



## House Passes PAWS Act

The House unanimously passed the Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers (PAWS) for Veterans Therapy Act (H.R.4305). It is intended to assist veterans struggling with PTSD and other mental health challenges through service dog training therapy. Committee testimony on the measure, noted that mental wellness does not have a one-size-fits-all solution, which is why the VA must provide innovative and out-of-the-box treatments to help veterans combat these invisible illnesses. There is no question that the companionship and unconditional love offered by man's best friend can have powerful healing effects on men and women from all walks of life, including our men and women in uniform. The bill now goes to the Senate for further consideration.



## **Student Veterans May Receive Financial Relief**



VA has recently implemented Sections 107 and 501 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, commonly referred to as the Forever GI Bill. The law requires student veterans to receive their monthly housing allowance based on the zip code of the school where they actually take the majority of their classes, not the zip code for the main campus. This change could cause student veteran's monthly housing allowance to be decreased. VA is offering impacted individuals the opportunity to apply for one-time relief to help with the transition to a lower rate. Those affected will need to fill out [VA Form 22-10204](#), and submit the form through the [Ask a Question Portal](#), or mail the form to the [Regional Processing Office of Jurisdiction](#), or call the Education Call Center at 1.888.442.4551.



**CONTACT YOUR  
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS!**

To Call your Representative:  
202-225-2305

To Call your Senators:  
202-224-3841 or 202-224-3553

To call Different Members of Congress:  
202-224-3121

TOLL FREE: 866-272-6622

**PLEASE... STOP Making Excuses!**

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



**Military Retirees Can Be Court-  
Martialled After All, Appeals Court  
Decides**

In the latest turn of a dramatic and winding court saga, a naval appeals court has released a split decision finding that a Navy retiree was properly court-martialed and convicted for a crime committed after he had left active duty. The en banc decision was published Jan. 24 by the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals, with four judges agreeing with the final decision and three others dissenting. The matter concerns retired Chief Petty Officer Stephen Begani, who pleaded guilty to attempted sexual assault and attempted sexual abuse of a child in December 2017, after corresponding and making plans with a Naval Criminal Investigative Service undercover agent pretending to be a 15-year-old girl. Read more [here](#).




## **VA Transitioning to New Electronic Health Record System**

In May 2018, VA began a 10-year effort to migrate veteran health data into a modern electronic health record that will give VA providers secure access to patients' complete medical histories from the time they enter military service through transition to veteran status. How VA's Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) effort will affect each individual veteran depends on two primary factors: whether their military records already exist in a digital form, and when EHRM is being implemented in their region. VA will begin deploying its new system in March at select VA medical facilities in the Pacific Northwest, and will install the system nationwide over the next several years.



## Office of Inspector General

1. [Drug Development: FDA's Priority Review Voucher Programs](#)
  2. [VA Acquisition Management: Steps Needed to Ensure Healthcare Federal Supply Schedules Remain Useful](#)
- 

## Beyond the Call Award

On Wednesday, the VFW presented U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sergeant (Retired) Jeremy Kitzhaber with the VFW's "Beyond the Call" Award. Kitzhaber served 22 years in the Air Force and now serves as the legislative committee chairman for VFW Post 63 in Boise, Idaho. Kitzhaber played an instrumental role in the fight to eliminate the unjust Widow's Tax. Jeremy worked on ending the Widow's Tax while fighting his own health battle with Pseudomyxoma Peritonei from his exposure to radiological, chemical, and biological hazards while serving our country. [Watch the ceremony.](#)



# 11 Service Decorations Congress Should Create or Bring Back

When we think of veterans, we tend to separate them by era: World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and Post-9/11 are the most common. But there are many problems with this. Those eras simply don't cover everyone who served. Someone who spent all their time in the military during the late 1970s and early 1980s is neither Vietnam-era nor Desert Storm-era. And there are achievements in the military that are deserving of a medal -- or at the very least, a ribbon. Here are a few awards and decorations we could revive or create that would help fill those gaps. Read more [here](#).



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match yours.**



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## Lawmakers Question VA over Improving Veteran Care for Suicide

Lawmakers admonished the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) last week over reports of veterans committing suicide at its facilities, as well as its lack of progress in reducing veteran suicide rates. House Veterans Affairs Committee members questioned VA staff in a hearing about suicide weeks after the latest VA Inspector General report found [institutional failures](#) at one facility that led to a veteran's suicide. About 17 veterans commit suicide each day, one of the VA officials testified, and six of those were in touch with the VA within a year or two of their death. Read more [here](#).



## **Meeting in Atlanta on Water Contamination at Camp Lejeune**



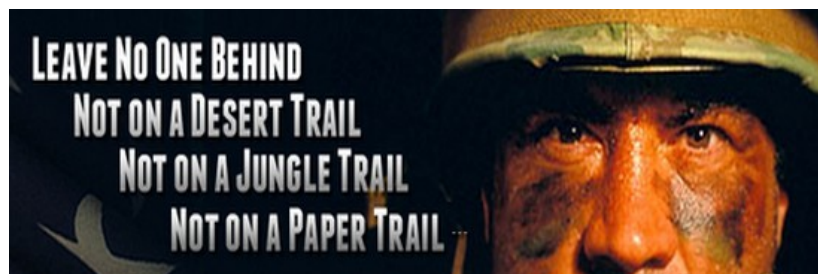
The [Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry](#) (ATSDR), a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is holding a Camp Lejeune Community Assistance Panel meeting for anyone who was at Camp Lejeune, N. C., from 1953-1987. The meeting is scheduled Feb. 13, 2020, at 9 a.m. EST, and will address the ongoing research regarding water contamination discovered at the installation in 1982. [Learn more.](#)





## Deputy VA Secretary Dismissed

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie revealed in a brief statement posted on the VA website, that he terminated his next in command at the VA, Deputy Secretary James Byrne, due to loss of confidence. Byrne was confirmed by the Senate on Sept. 11, 2019 (81-11). He served as acting Deputy Director prior to his Senate confirmation when previous VA Secretary David Shulkin resigned after questions arose about taxpayer funded travel. Before Byrne served as acting deputy secretary, he served as general counsel for the VA. Before coming to the VA, he served in the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction. Earlier, Byrne was a Marine Corps infantry officer.



## Vets Don't Need 20% Down with the VA Loan Benefit

Your VA Loan means you don't need to save 20% for a down payment. Use your VA loan benefit now.



## VA Program Provides Veterinary Care for Some Service Dogs

If you have a service dog from an accredited agency, you may be able to get veterinary care for it from the VA. Veterans who have a service dog to assist them in functioning because of a severe mobility impairment due to visual, hearing or mental health issues are eligible for the program. Read more [here](#).



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## Does VA Care Improve Disabled Veterans' Health? More Research Needed, GAO Finds

The Department of Veterans Affairs keeps "limited" research on how its care helps veterans with service-connected conditions recover, a government watchdog said in a report released in January. Rep. Jack Bergman, R-Michigan, a retired Marine Corps lieutenant general, asked the Government Accountability Office to study whether VA care and benefits are helping veterans with service-connected disabilities get better. The subsequent GAO report found the results difficult to determine because the data wasn't easily available to compare and the majority of reevaluations of veterans' disability statuses did not change. Read more [here](#).





## Your actions

could save a life.

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

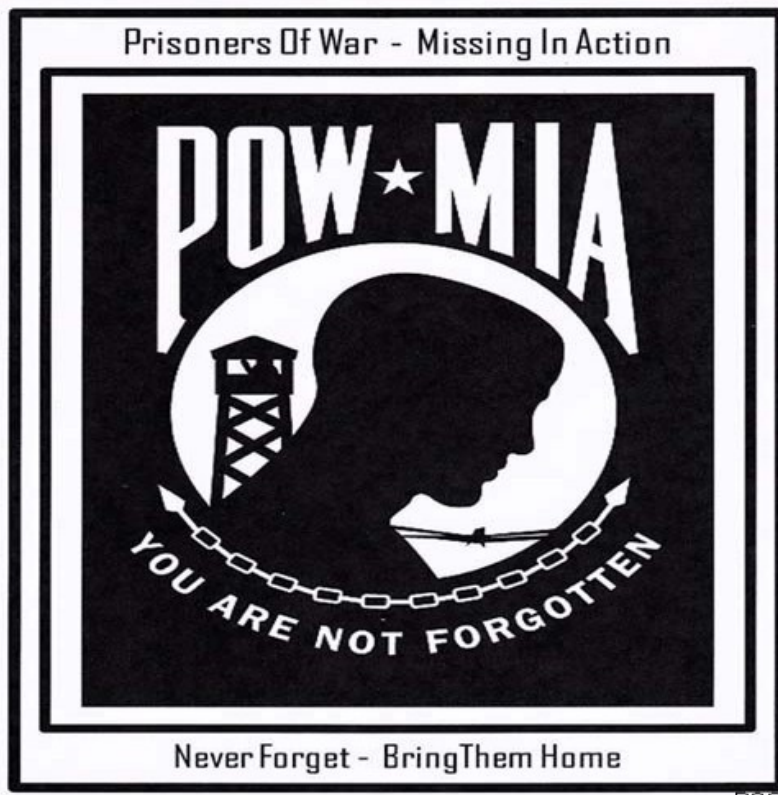
VeteransCrisisLine.net



## 4 More Military Bases Tapped to House Coronavirus Evacuees

Four U.S. bases are on standby to assist the Department of Health and Human Services with housing those fleeing the novel coronavirus threat, Pentagon officials said Saturday. Defense Secretary Mark Esper approved an HHS request Saturday to house 1,000 people who may require quarantine following overseas travel, according to a Defense Department statement. Read more [here](#).





## **VA Will Give Extra Cash to Those Affected by GI Bill Housing Changes**

About 250,000 veterans affected by a new reduction in GI Bill Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) payments could receive extra cash for one school term, thanks to a "relief" program offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Student veterans who might qualify for the relief payout were sent an email notice Jan. 22 about the change. Read more [here](#).





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 NEWSLETTER !](#)*



**Military Sexual Trauma Survivors  
Call on Presidential Candidates to  
Sign Reform Pledge**

President Donald Trump, Joe Biden, Joe Walsh and Mike Bloomberg have not signed on. "We cannot rely on the military to institute its own reform," said Paula Coughlin, the whistleblower for 87 women who were sexually assaulted at the Navy's Tailhook Association symposium in 1991. "I certainly could not rely on the military in the wake of my assault. The time has come to demand real, lasting change. I am heartened that the majority of presidential candidates have signed the pledge." Read more [here](#).







The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced three new identifications, and three 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:

**U.S. Marine Corps Pfc. Royal L. Waltz**, 20, was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 18th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands, in an attempt to secure the island. Waltz died between the first and second day of the battle, Nov. 20-21, 1943. Interment services are pending. [Read about Waltz.](#)

**U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Cpl. Oscar E. Koskela**, 22, was a member of Headquarters

Company, 29th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, when American forces participated in the battle for Saipan, part of a larger operation to secure the Mariana Islands. Koskela reportedly sustained wounds in combat and was taken onboard the USS Solace for treatment. He died onboard the ship on June 18, 1944. Interment services are pending. [Read about Koskela.](#)

**U.S. Navy Chief Machinist's Mate Lada Smisek**, 42, served at the Naval Ammunition Depot and Submarine Base in Cavite, Philippine Islands, when Japanese forces invaded. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of the Bataan peninsula on April 9, 1942, and of Corregidor Island on May 6, 1942. Smisek was among those reported captured after the surrender of Corregidor and held at the Cabanatuan POW camp. Interment services are pending. [Read about Smisek.](#)

**U.S. Navy Fireman 1st Class Hadley I. Heavin**, 23, of Baxter Springs, Kansas, was assigned to the battleship USS West Virginia, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7,

1941. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 106 crewmen, including Heavin. He will be buried May 23, 2020, in his hometown. [Read about Heavin.](#)

**U.S. Navy Fireman 1st Class Rex E. Wise**, 21, of South Haven, Kansas, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Wise. He will be buried April 22, 2020, in Braman, Oklahoma. [Read about Wise.](#)

**U.S. Army Cpl. Arthur C. Ramirez**, 19, of Pima, Arizona, was a member of Battery B, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 6, 1950, when enemy forces attacked his unit near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. His remains could not be recovered following the attack. Ramirez will be buried March 19, 2020, in Marana, Arizona. [Read about Ramirez.](#)



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