



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, February 23, 2020

Volume 11, Issue 08



This-N-That

I know for many weeks I've talked about Veteran suicide and homelessness, I do make sure that each and every week we post a means for any Veteran in need of help to call or get on-line and chat.

I also would hope that people keep this information handy so if someone you know is in distress, needing help can also reach out and give that information to the person in need.

It's important enough to me to include in my opening article as well.

Veterans Crisis Line

Available 24/7/365

Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1

Text to 838255

Chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat

Additional suicide prevention resources can be found [here](#).

Veterans who are in crisis or having thoughts of suicide, and those who know a Veteran in crisis, should contact the Veterans Crisis Line for confidential crisis intervention and support available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

It's important that you know, you are important to all of us, your life has meaning and purpose, so if you are in need, please reach out!

I keep reading articles about how the VA has been defrauded and I do make it a point to post those articles on the website for all to read. And what amazes me is how long each of these cases is allowed to continue all un-noticed for a long enough time it mounts up to billions of dollars! Those very same billions of dollars that should be going toward Veteran benefits, medical care and more but doesn't!

What I never see is that those who are responsible for

being held accountable for these millions of dollars are not being kicked to the curb for failure to perform their duties, showing me more and more it's a matter of the good old boys club, they all look out for each other.

So who is to be held accountable? It's quite clear to me that Secretary Wilkie isn't being held accountable, yet he's the top dog in the VA, so why is that? And does this further prove my theory that claims and appeals sit and wait because funding is not available and huge chunks of those funds are being stolen from the VA right under their noses?

I don't know about you, but I believe in someone being held fully accountable, that all VA Medical Center Budgets should be publicly posted and each month expenditures are also publicly posted so anyone can look and see if VA Medical Center Funding is being spent according to budget, with specific detailed noted on any funds being transferred from one line item to another and why.

Many of you either never knew or didn't know that the VA used to publish what was called the Monday morning Work Load Reports. These reports would tell us specifically how many new claims, by category, pending, approved, etc..

Then the VA changed the report to in my opinion to

hide information, and then they just stopped posting them to be read or downloaded by public. Why is this? Is this more that the VA wants to hide so that no one questions their actions or motives?

They stopped publishing them November 2015, and I know I used those reports frequently when addressing a specific issue(s) with all members of Congress in our weekly fax blast. Since November 22nd, 2015 we've not been afforded that opportunity.

I do want to thank everyone who has been sending me E-Mails telling me of their particular stories, I've been able to answer many, but I still have many more to answer so please be patient, and if you've not told me your story, and choose to, there is still time.

I would still like to hear Veterans stories on the following:

- Claim Denials (any reason)
- MST (Military Sexual Trauma)
- Service at local VAMC (Good, bad and ugly)
- Specific Illness denied based on coverage

Finally the Polls on Veterans-For-Change is up and operational after over a year of them not working correctly. And there are now 10 active poll questions.

Please visit the site and check them out, and respond to any or all of the polls you choose to.

The Contact us page is still being worked on since it's been changed, I do test it daily to see if it's been corrected or not so I can let everyone know. So please be patient, it's coming soon!

We've also added over 100 new web links, all the state Veteran Benefits links have been completed as well as all the state benefits documents, so be sure to check out both the documents library and web links to see what benefits you might qualify for in your state.

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."

Remember as of 03/01/20 some libraries will be restricted to subscribers only, and the downloads will be stream lined as well.

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



Advocacy Group Sues VA Secretary over Blue Water Navy, Thailand Veterans

Louisiana based Military-Veterans Advocacy (MVA) today filed suit in the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. The suit seeks judicial review of a change to the Veterans Administration adjudication manual issued on Dec. 31, 2019. That regulation will guide the benefit claims for tens of thousands of military veterans.

MVA took issue with the failure of the VA to include veterans who flew into South Vietnam and its territorial sea, despite the fact that some close air support missions were less than a thousand feet. They also charged that the VA ignored the provisions of its own regulation by excluding veterans who served in "waters offshore," an area that extended past the territorial sea but was included in the area of combat.

"We need to finish the job for the Blue Water Navy veterans," said MVA Executive Director Col. Rob Maness (USAF, Ret.). "There are thousands of veterans who served on aircraft carriers and other ships and were exposed but did not actually enter the territorial sea or the area designated by Congress."

Last year MVA won a landmark decision, *Procopio v. Wilkie*, that extended benefits to those who served in Vietnam=s territorial sea.

"We covered about two-thirds of the Blue Water Navy," said former Petty Officer Mike Yates, of Las Vegas, Section Chief for the Blue Water Navy. "Now we have to cover the rest of them."

The suit also argues that actions by the VA to limit veterans serving at Royal Thai Army and Air Force bases to those who had duties on the perimeter. MVA Veterans of Southeast Asia Section Chief Bill Rhodes,

of Mena, Arkansas, a former Marine who served in Thailand, dismissed the limitation as "woefully inadequate."

"Official government documents indicate herbicides were used within the confines of the bases, not just on the perimeter," Rhodes said. "Many of the barracks abutted the perimeter. Military personnel who had duties elsewhere but slept on or near the perimeter are not covered by this rule."

Rhodes also noted that to account for wind drift, the Army Field Manual required a 500-meter buffer area when herbicide was sprayed at ground level.

MVA Director of Litigation Cmdr. John B. Wells, (U.S. Navy, Ret.), who brought the suit, also complained that the rule was not published in the Federal Register to allow for notice and comment.

"Historically, the VA has used the adjudication manual to publish their rules," Wells said. "This allows them to avoid public comment from veterans and stakeholders. They have also dodged judicial review by claiming that their adjudication manual was exempt. This is a flagrant violation of the Administrative Procedures Act, and this suit will hopefully put an end to that practice."

MVA is a non-profit organization that uses litigation

and legislative advocacy to protect members of the armed forces and military veterans. The all-volunteer group also provides seminars on benefits and trains attorneys in VA law.

Commander John Wells, USN (Ret.)
Military Veterans Advocacy



Links to Other Stories

1. [Former VA Pharmacist Found Guilty of Stealing Controlled Drugs from Veterans' Prescriptions](#)
2. [Former Regional Sales Director for Insys Therapeutics Sentenced for Racketeering Conspiracy](#)
3. [44 Additional Defendants Served and Accused of Defrauding Government and Insurance Companies by Falsifying Patient Records for Cataract Surgeries](#)
4. [Hundreds attend funeral of Veteran who had no immediate family](#)
5. [Announcing the Veterans Benefits Banking Program](#)
6. [Lubbock under the microscope: Study on 'PFAS' exposure near Reese Center](#)
7. [Veteran's families still have chance to place names on Regional Monument of Courage](#)
8. [Proving asbestos exposure in military service in a DIC appeal](#)

9. Veterans ask, VA answers: Questions on electronic health record modernization
10. After years of vigilant service, Veterans must remain vigilant online
11. VVA-Personality/Adjustment Disorder Discharges
12. American Heart Association praises VA genetic research
13. VA launches diabetes campaign to help Veterans, health care teams better manage care
14. Clinic Files Class Action On Behalf of Marine Corps Vets with PTSD
15. C-123 Veterans Association
16. Benefits for Veterans Disabled by Camp Lejeune Water Contamination
17. Monk v. Mabus
18. Service Women's Action Network MST FOIA
19. How video gaming is helping disabled Veterans
20. Charles Beckwith: The Father of Delta Force
21. Some Civilians Who Served in Vietnam Are Getting Veteran Status
22. 34 US service members diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries after Iranian missile strike
23. Top VA hospital lacked full-time gynecologist, facilities serving women Veterans for years, report says
24. Karen Pence: The Trump-Pence administration is working tirelessly for America's Veterans and military families

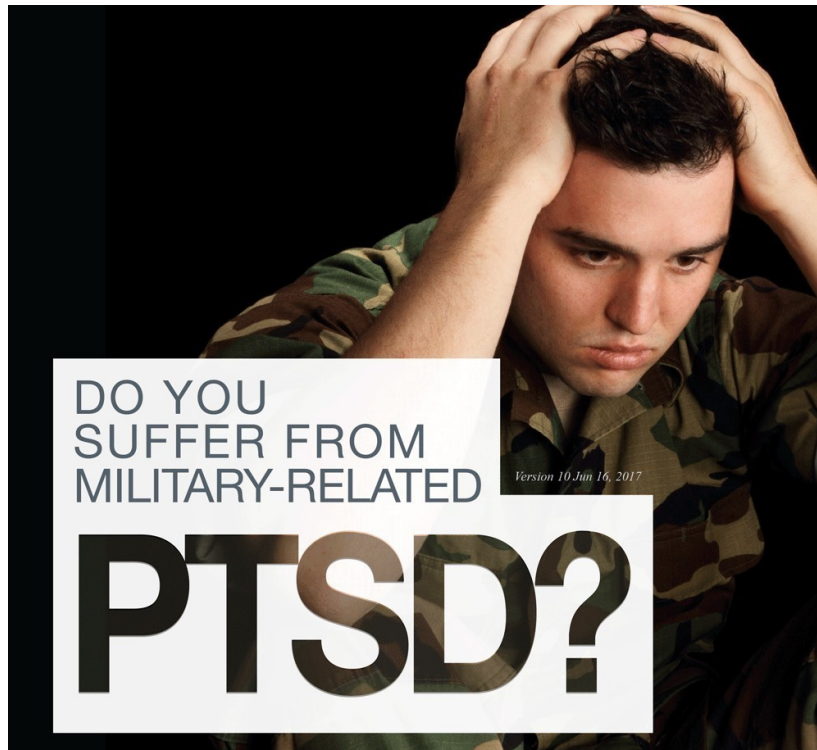
25. [VIONE changes the way VA handles prescriptions](#)
26. [Pennsylvania man accused of faking Veteran status, stealing from American Legion Post](#)
27. [Bowling fundraiser in Flushing gives back to homeless Veterans](#)
28. [Veteran defends \\$50 million lawsuit against Denver after homeless camping arrest](#)
29. [Houston Texans' Deshaun Watson gives Super Bowl trip to military Veteran](#)
30. [VA must address the needs of women Veterans](#)
31. [Need cryotherapy or crutches? Check out these services while shopping at your military exchange.](#)
32. [VA disputes science panel's findings on proposed Agent Orange diseases; decision not expected until late 2020](#)
33. [VA Releases Updated List of Agent Orange Exposure Locations](#)
34. [Coronavirus: What providers, patients should know](#)
35. [Excessive Masculinity Linked to High Suicide Risk](#)
36. [Mid-season flu activity increase: How to keep healthy](#)
37. [VA Disability Ratings for GERD Explained](#)
38. [Clinical Contact Center ready to answer Veterans' questions](#)
39. [Veteran improvements focus of modernization fair](#)
40. [Veteran drops 88 pounds with MOVE! weight loss program](#)
41. [DoD Expanded Access: we appreciate your](#)

patience

42. Caregivers focus of new academy program
43. Maine Homeless Veterans Alliance helps pass out food and supplies in Sanford
44. VA actively recruits military spouses for careers serving Veterans
45. Dept. of Veterans Affairs Gets a Reality Check
46. VA offers Veterans new resources to safely store lethal means
47. Four centenarian World War II Veterans honored at Super Bowl LIV
48. West Hempfield Elementary School recognized for Veterans Day program
49. VA aims to stem overuse of heartburn, reflux drugs
50. Select locations to offer virtual exams for Veterans
51. 91 Years of Corruption: The VA's Brutal History in Military
52. CDC coronavirus information and resources
53. Military movies can show PTSD battles
54. Michigan Woman Pleads Guilty to Defrauding U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Out of \$1.7 Million in Veterans Benefits

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**

Got Feedback About TRICARE Publications? Take the Survey

Do you love TRICARE newsletters, or are fact sheets answering your questions? TRICARE wants to hear your feedback. Your comments, suggestions, and questions help to create better content and improve your TRICARE benefit resources.

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



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 our new webmaster has been making repairs to things that haven't worked properly in over a year.

There are still repairs being made, but the polls are now working 100% and there are five polls open to all to take.

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 **3,471** hits per day, and downloads average **6,898** per day with a total **5,884,849** 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 **18,475** 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: **9,495**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than **7,309**, Added **136** New Links (Updated: 02/19/20)

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



Public Notice

NOTICE is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs of the State of California (the “Department”) will hold a public hearing at 9:00 a.m. on March 2, 2020, as required by Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended:

Legal Division

Department of Veterans Affairs

Suite 306, 1227 “O” Street

Sacramento, California 95814

The purpose of the hearing is to solicit public comments on the Department’s proposed bond issuance of State of California veterans general obligation bonds and/or homeowner mortgage revenue bonds in the combined maximum aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$900,000,000 (collectively, the “Bonds”).

The Bonds, in one or more series pursuant to a common plan of finance, will be issued to (i) provide monies for the Farm and Home Purchase Program of the Department (the “Program”) and (ii) refund and redeem bonds previously issued by the Department or the State, the proceeds of which were used to provide monies for the Program. Under the Program, the

Department acquires residential property to be sold to veterans throughout the State of California. In connection with the issuance of the Bonds, monies will be available for the acquisition of residential property to be sold to veterans in the State of California, to fund a reserve for the mortgage revenue bonds, and to pay costs associated with the issuance of the Bonds.

It is important to note that the faith, credit, and taxing powers of the State of California are in no way pledged or encumbered by the mortgage revenue bonds.

Those wishing to comment on the proposed financing may either appear in person at the public hearing or submit written comments, which must be received prior to the hearing. To allow all interested individuals a reasonable opportunity to express their views, the Department will impose the following requirements on persons who wish to present oral comments at the hearing: (1) persons desiring to speak at the hearing must file with the Department a request in writing at least 24 hours prior to the hearing, and (2) each person is to limit his or her oral remarks to a period no longer than 10 minutes. Accommodations for any person with special needs, who desires to attend the hearing, will be made upon timely written request.

The meeting location is accessible to the physically disabled. A person who needs disability-related

accommodations or modifications in order to participate in the meeting shall make request no later than five (5) business days before the meeting.

Send comments or requests to Legal Division,
Department of Veterans Affairs of the State of
California,
1227 "O" Street, Suite 306, P.O. Box 942895,
Sacramento, California 94295 0001, Attn: Dan
Muallem.



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](#)



**The DoD Announces Plan to Downsize
Nearly 50 Hospitals and Clinics**

As noted in last week's NewsBytes, the Pentagon released a plan that, if fully implemented, would significantly restructure the military health system's responsibilities in the continental U.S. over the next several years. The list includes 50 existing Military Treatment Facilities whose services would change in some way. In the FY2021 Defense Health Program budget proposal, the Pentagon estimated a \$36 million savings during the first transition year by moving some patients (retirees and families) from MTFs to private providers in the DoD's TRICARE system. The focus of these changes is to improve readiness. The DoD wants to remove care that doesn't contribute to the readiness mission and move it into the TRICARE civilian network. The Defense Health Agency estimates that 84,000 active duty family members and 110,000 military retiree beneficiaries will be impacted by military treatment facility downsizing proposed.

Many TRICARE beneficiaries are worried about the impact these changes will have on their pocketbook. Retirees and their family members who are switched from MTFs to the TRICARE network care would face out-of-pocket cost increases because they would have a co-pay fee for most of their covered services.

The FRA would like to know your thoughts on this issue. Please fill out the [survey online](#).

A copy of the report is also [available online](#).



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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](#)





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

Honoring those who served



We're losing a Vietnam Veteran

From Anthony D'Aleo:

Today I went to visit my friend and Vietnam Brother at his home.

He told me that Community Hospice is taking care of him at his home.

Well here's another Brother, Vietnam Vet that Agent Orange will be taking him. Keep Bob Dinkins in your prayers, I ask all of to place Bob on your prayer list, ask other Vets to do the same.

Thank you!

Anthony

We did ask about sending cards and letters, here is the response:

Thank you for asking, my friend is ready to fly for Air force Vet. Bob is at peace with Jesus and has everything ready to meet Jesus, friends and family in Heaven. I will go see him again this weekend. Here's his home address for Cards below:

Robert (Bob) Dinkins
389 St. Kitts Loop
Saint Augustine, Florida 32092



HVAC Subcommittee Discuss Privacy Concerns at VA

The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing on data privacy for veterans who are using the Department of Veterans Affairs' vendors. The VA explained during the hearing that they have a process for vetting third party vendors who are part of the Community Care Network. Committee members expressed concern that privacy data should be protected by these third-party vendors. The committee focused on the security of the integrated electronic health record, record sharing and data collection and permissions from apps the VA offers for smartphones. The VA health care information from veterans falls under the jurisdiction of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and their personal information falls under the Privacy ACT. A third party vendor must follow VA procedures when gaining access to veteran information. The VA often performs compliance audits to ensure their agreements and policies are upheld. The VA claims that they have policies in place to immediately rectify an incident during a data breach.



**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



**Independent Budget Releases a Critical
Issue Update**

On Thursday, The Independent Budget (IB) co-authors — the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), DAV (Disabled American Veterans), and the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), issued “[The Independent Budget Veterans Agenda for the 116th Congress: Critical Issue Update](#).” This follow-up to its 2019 report evaluates VA’s progress on 26 key recommendations the IB made last year to help ensure the VA MISSION Act of 2018 is wholly and effectively implemented. Please note that the introduction explains the status ratings used, and in many cases, individual sections contain supplemental recommendations about how the VA or Congress can help to achieve the goal. [Read more](#).



Office of Inspector General

- [1. Medicaid Eligibility: Accuracy of Determinations and Efforts to Recoup Federal Funds Due to Errors](#)
- [2. VA Health Care: Veterans' Use of Long-Term Care Is Increasing, and VA Faces Challenges in Meeting the Demand](#)



CCN Payment Delays Discussed at HVAC Joint Subcommittee Meeting

Assistant Director, Legislative Programs Theo Lawson recently attended a joint oversight hearing of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittees on Health and Oversight and Investigations. The hearing was about the status of the Community Care Network program provider networks. Attention was paid to the backlog of claims-2.5 million claims out of 3.8 million are older than 30 days. The Department of Veterans Affairs testified that this will be remedied by the end of the fiscal year this September.

The VA is making changes to streamline the payment and referrals process. This includes reforming the purchase and authorization systems and improving effective communication with service providers using technology as opposed to telephone calls. The Community Care Network is responsible for monitoring feedback from the service providers. Currently, 30 percent of veterans obtain health care through the CCN.





New Research on Challenges Faced by Minority Veterans

On Thursday, VFW National Legislative Service Director Carlos Fuentes participated in a panel discussion with VA officials and other advocates to discuss the findings of a recent Center for a New American Security report entitled “[New York State Minority Veteran Needs Assessment](#),” which evaluates challenges faced by women, LGBT, and racial and ethnic minority veterans across life domains. The report includes recommendations on how veterans service organizations — like the VFW — VA, and researchers can address health, housing stability, financial stability, and social functioning differences between minority veterans and their non-minority peers. [Learn more](#).





**Our values
match yours.**



www.veterans-for-change.org



Some Military Treatment Facilities to Stop Serving Retirees and Military Families

On Wednesday, the Pentagon released a list of military treatment facilities and clinics that will no longer provide care to military retirees and active-duty families as part of a shift in focus to supporting active-duty readiness. The report lays out the process through which officials selected the locations slated for changes that could impact 200,000 retirees and active-duty family members. Of those, about 80,000 are active-duty family members, while the remaining 120,000 are retirees and their families. [Read the report.](#)





**Legislation Introduced to Study Cancer
Among Fighter Pilots**

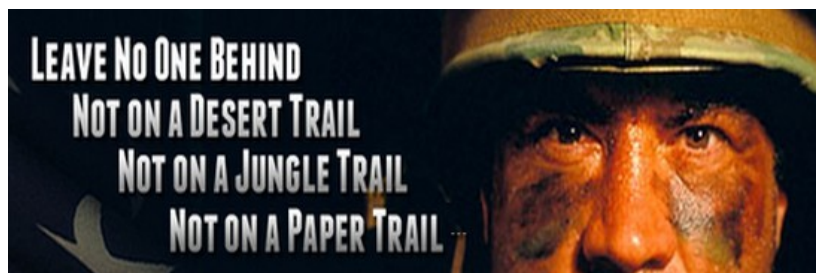
Last Wednesday, Representative Elaine Luria (D-Va.) and Representative Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.) introduced H.R. 5858, the Military Pilots Cancer Incidence Study Act. This important legislation would require DOD to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to study and report on the incidence of cancer diagnosis and mortality among military pilots compared with other service members. In a press release, Representative Luria stated, “I am introducing the Military Pilot Cancer Incidence Study Act, so DOD and the VA understand the scope of the problem, identify service-connected illnesses, and address them appropriately. We owe it to these brave service members to know what health risks they assume and ensure we screen and treat early, so they live longer and healthier lives.” The VFW thanks Rep. Luria and Rep. Kinzinger for introducing this legislation and for their efforts to expand health care and disability benefits for veterans. [Read more.](#)





New Research Project Honors the History and Legacy of Black Soldiers in WWII

Ten years ago, in the Netherlands, a research effort was started that compiled the oral histories of Dutch people who survived World War II. Through this project, researchers learned about the hundreds of black American soldiers who were tasked with burying nearly 20,000 soldiers killed in action in the middle of winter. These soldiers labored in 12-hour shifts for months, burying their fellow yet segregated soldiers in makeshift, wartime cemeteries, and conducting makeshift services. These wartime cemeteries would become the Netherlands American Cemetery at Margraten. From this research The Black Liberators Project was born. [Read more.](#)



Veterans History Project

The Library of Congress, Veterans History Project is an effort to preserve oral histories, memoirs and collections of historical documents of U.S. veterans from World War I to the present. The FRA wants to provide an opportunity for Shipmates to share and preserve their stories for future generations of Americans. The Veterans History Project no longer accepts online registrations. Please submit your historical materials along with the required forms found in our Veterans History Project Field Kit. Be sure to follow the provided guidelines. The kit and additional information about the project are online. You will need to go [here](#).



CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!



**Do You Know of an Endangered
Historic American Battlefield?**

The American Battlefield Trust is writing a report on the “most threatened battlefields on American soil.” The Trust is [accepting nominations](#) from the public on possible battlefield sites that are endangered by development and natural disasters, so that they may be included in their upcoming report. The nominations are due by March 1, 2020. [Learn more.](#)



Your actions
could save a life.

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

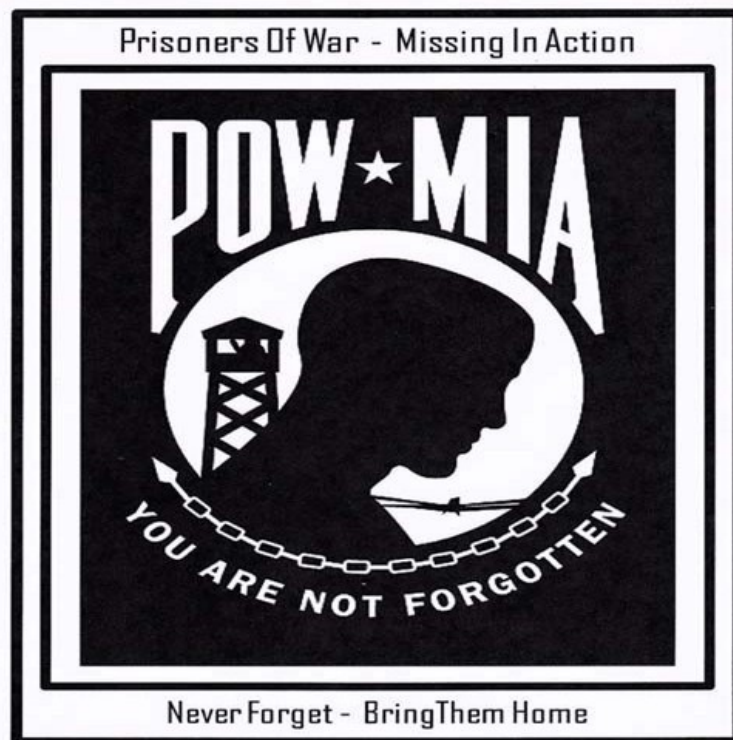
VeteransCrisisLine.net

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

The advertisement features two men, one with his arm around the other's shoulder, set against a white background. To the right of the men is the text 'Your actions could save a life.' Below this is a grey box with the text 'Showing you care can make a big difference to someone in crisis.' Underneath is the website 'VeteransCrisisLine.net' and the logo for 'Veterans Crisis Line' which includes a star icon and the phone number '1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1'.

**VA Discussion on Prostate Cancer
Treatment Scheduled Feb. 24**

Please join prostate cancer expert, Dr. Bruce Montgomery, as he speaks about VA's Precision Oncology Program for Cancer of the Prostate on Feb. 24 at 1 p.m. EST. VA has launched a precision oncology initiative to give veterans with prostate cancer access to the latest, cutting-edge treatments. Using genetic testing, doctors aim to select treatments that are customized for individual veterans, helping them to live longer, better-quality lives. Dr. Montgomery will speak in-person at VA headquarters in Washington, D.C. If you are not able to attend in-person, the lecture will be broadcast online. [Register here.](#)



DOC



Tax & Credit Information



1. All taxpayers have the right to quality service
2. New Form 1040-SR, alternative filing option available for seniors
3. Taxpayers should find out if they can benefit from the earned income tax credit
4. IRS takes next step on abusive micro-captive transactions; nearly 80% accept settlement, 12 new audit teams established
5. IRS revises Form 1023 for applying for tax-exempt status; New electronic filing available to help charities
6. IRS launches Identity Theft Central
7. Many taxpayers don't realize they could benefit from the earned income tax credit
8. Form 1023 Revisions and Required Electronic Submission
9. IRS News Release on the Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act provisions
10. Tax season stress busters straight from the IRS
11. Taxpayers must only pay what they owe
12. Many taxpayers can file both their state and federal tax returns for free
13. Here's how seniors and retirees can file their taxes

for free

14. Gathering records before preparing tax return makes filing go smoother
15. Taxpayers should know the difference between standard and itemized deductions
16. IRS, Treasury issue proposed regulations updating income tax withholding rules
17. IRS urges tax professionals, taxpayers to protect tax software accounts with multi-factor authentication
18. Avoid the rush: Track tax refunds using the 'Where's My Refund?' tool at IRS (dot) gov
19. Dealing With Divorce—Taking the First Financial Steps
20. Filing taxes 101: Common errors taxpayers should avoid
21. IRS increases visits to high-income taxpayers who haven't filed tax returns
22. J5 tax chiefs closing the net on global tax evasion
23. Taxpayers must reconcile marketplace advance payments and file Form 8962
24. IRS provides answers and a safe harbor on carbon capture credits
25. IRS seeks volunteers to be the voice of the Taxpayer on the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel
26. Revised Form W-4 and new Income Tax Withholding Assistant for Employers



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



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The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced two new identifications, and two 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. Navy Steward's Mate 2nd Class Jesus F. Garcia, 21, 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 Garcia. Interment services are pending. [Read about Garcia.](#)

U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Ernest L. Roth, 20, was assigned as a pilot with the 359th Bombardment Squadron, 303rd Bombardment Group, 8th Air Force in Europe. On May 19, 1944, he was piloting a B-17G

bomber while on a bombing run over Berlin when the plane was hit by flak and crashed. Six of the 10 crewmembers, including Roth, were killed in the crash. They were recovered by German forces and reportedly buried in the Döberitz cemetery. Interment services are pending. [Read about Roth.](#)

U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class Lyal J. Savage, 19, of Dexter, New York, 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 Savage. He will be buried June 27, 2020, in his hometown. [Read about Savage.](#)

U.S. Navy Fire Controlman 1st Class Robert L. Corn, 24, of Baker City, Oregon, 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 Corn. He will be buried May 1, 2020, in Honolulu, Hawaii. [Read about Corn.](#)



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