



# **Veterans-For-Change Newsletter**

*A Voice of the Veterans*

Week Ending Sunday, May 10, 2020

Volume 11, Issue 19



## **This-N-That**

Good afternoon Jim,

For a long time I'd been saying there were 1.5 million homeless Veterans nationwide, it's been getting harder to actually track those numbers mostly due to all our contacts being told that's no longer important to be reporting so use your time in other ways.

I honestly can't understand how this is no longer important! These men and women served this great country giving their all and not asking for much in return, but now they are not longer an important

number? So are they saying this is a matter for someone else to fix?

I spent a lot of time working with Bob Rosebrock on the West Los Angeles VA, ran articles almost every week with the information he would provide, photo's he's provide and had seriously hoped people who read this newsletter would stop and think, what could they do to help? That might have helped a little bit but no where the amount of help needed happened or I'd not continually be bringing it up.

WLA VA has well over 300 acres of beautiful land where they could quite easily build four mini homes per quarter acre that are fully self contained for a small amount of money.

This would put them on VA Land, have a visiting nurse on a schedule, close to the facilities for mental and physical health care, be able to provide a shuttle service, etc.

Then if they actually followed court orders and removed all the Brentwood Elitist from the VA owned buildings and land, then there would be a great deal more to renovate and convert to apartments, clinics, facilities for mental health care group sessions and much more all to help the homeless Veterans.

Then there are a number of buildings sitting empty that need some serious renovation and could also be converted to even more apartments.

The budget money is there and has been, just never used and all too many times we've had promises from a number of politicians and VA officials to get this done, but here we are today problem still not solved!

I do want to commend Judicial Watch for stepping up and providing tents large enough from what I understand to house 30-40 Veterans where the WLA provided SOME 2-man pup tents! Big deal with over 4,000 plus homeless Vets in Los Angeles alone.

We can do more, we should do more, so I am pleading with everyone who reads this to take the time to call your Congressman and both Senators and politely demand immediate action nationwide but most importantly WLA First.

Together we can resolve this nightmare!, Let's bring them all home!

If you have any ideas or thoughts, please do share them with us and we will certainly look at them and see if we can merge some or all of it into the new look.

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)



## **Delay Cuts to Military Healthcare Staff During Pandemic**

The FRA has signed onto a letter, with other like-minded organizations, addressed to key members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees asking Congress to delay and closely review proposed cuts of nearly 18,000 military medical billets from the current 130,000. The letter asserts that the COVID-19 pandemic requires medical readiness requirements be reassessed and updated with lessons learned from the entire nation's response to the coronavirus emergency.

The Defense Department's fiscal 2021 budget calls for the elimination of about 18,000 military medical positions, and the FRA is concerned that such drastic cuts would impact access and quality of care for retirees, active duty service members and their families. These proposed cuts could also impact combat casualty care capabilities.

Everyone is strongly urged to use the [FRA Action Center](#) to weigh in on this important issue.





# 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



## Links to Other Stories

1. [VA under fire as coronavirus infections among Veterans, staff surge](#)
2. [Long Island man, 100, dies from coronavirus, a century after Spanish flu took his twin brother](#)
3. [More than a quarter of military families have less than \\$500 in emergency funds survey finds](#)
4. [American legion honors Vietnam Veteran after death in Charlotte County](#)
5. [The Air Force is officially investigating whether fighter pilots have higher rates of cancer](#)
6. [VA secretary defends use of hydroxychloroquine for Veterans, claims analysis led to 'misinformation'](#)
7. [Military Commissaries Limit Meat Purchases Amid Supply Chain Worries](#)
8. [Tents Raised Outside LA VA to Help Homeless Vets](#)

Neglected by Agency

9. Troops, Families Say They're Worried About Planned Changes to Military Health System

10. Surgeon Agrees to Pay \$1.75 Million to Resolve Allegations that He Accepted Kickbacks from SpineFrontier

11. Guaranteed Rate to Pay \$15 Million to Resolve Allegations It Knowingly Caused False Claims to Government Mortgage Loan Programs

12. VA is protecting and serving all of America

13. VA expands access to virtual hearings

14. VA participating in drug, plasma trials in fight against COVID-19

15. Veteran trust in VA health care rises above 90 percent for the first time



**News Flash**



## **Chairman Takano Meets with VVA National President John Rowan to Discuss How Vietnam Veterans are Staying Safe During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

RIVERSIDE, CA – This week, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Mark Takano (D-Calif.) spoke with John Rowan, the [Vietnam Veterans of](#)

[America](#) (VVA) National President, to discuss how their members are adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing practices-- especially in light of Vietnam veterans being at increased risk of contracting the novel coronavirus as a result of many veterans having pre-existing conditions. See the full conversation with the Vietnam Veterans of America [here](#).

Watch the full conversation [here](#)

“I cherish and value VVA as a partner in helping veterans and cherish your leadership. As you know I have a bunch of your buddies out there in my own district that keep me on the straight and narrow, and I appreciate that.” said Chairman Mark Takano. “One of the things VA is an expert at is geriatrics. They take care of a lot of older patients, so we know how to advise state veterans homes. In many cases VA has even been calling up private nursing facilities that have veteran residents and offering to help those homes. They’ve been venturing into the Fourth Mission, and I’ve been making sure that I encourage both the Secretary and Dr. Stone to keep taking this forward looking stance. The baby boomer generation within Vietnam veterans should be leading their neighbors in responsible social distancing. I sense your members are out there setting good examples and leading their



neighbors, and I want to thank them for that.”

“Well thank you very much for speaking with me. Our members know that once you’ve been in the military and been in certain places in your life, you know social distancing is not too much of a hardship,” said VVA National President John Rowan. “Every time we talk to members, we try make sure that they’re social distancing. I think that most of us understand that we have issues, we’re older-- the classic person that this disease wants to kill. So I think most of them are smart enough to stay indoors and out of the way, and that seems to be what I hear when I talk to my people around the country. I have been concerned about the state run veterans homes, though--the numbers are staggering. Unfortunately, that’s where the most deaths occur. We need to make sure we have oversight on what VA money is being spent on. Now that we know that such a problem occurs, we need to get a handle on it.”

For more information about the Committee’s efforts to address the COVID-19 crisis and resources for available for veterans, please visit:

<https://veterans.house.gov/covid-19>.



## 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 **3,292** hits per day, and downloads average **4,773** per day with a total **6,213,592** 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 **18,730** documents in **171+** Libraries, added 31 documents on-line (Updated: 04/19/20)
- FAQ's on-line with **1,843** FAQ's on **104** topics! (Updated 05/30/20 - **46** 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: 04/23/20) (3 Added)
  - News (Articles On-Line: **9,688**)
  - Polls
  - Web Links, more than **7,461**, Added **55** New Links (Updated: 04/02/20)

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



## **VFW Commemorates 75th Anniversary of V-E Day**

The VFW commemorates Victory in Europe Day, or V-E Day, which marks the day Nazi Germany surrendered to the Allied forces ending fighting in Europe in 1945. “This is a day of celebration and remembrance that marks 75 years since the Nazis surrendered at the hands of the Allied forces ending World War II in Europe,” said VFW National Commander William “Doc” Schmitz. “This was, and will always remain, a significant day in our nation’s and our allied partners’ histories.” The VFW encourages you to celebrate V-E Day with its comrades by sharing stories of triumph to social media over the weekend using #VEDay75.



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. Urge Congress to Pass the Retired Pay Restoration Act
2. S. 2966, the Rural Veterans Travel Enhancement Act of 2019
3. S. 1003, VET OPP Act to Reform VA Employment Programs
4. H.R. 4574 - Pass the Veterans' Right to Breathe Act Now!
5. S. 2810, the Veterans Hearing Benefits Act of 2019
6. Support H.R.4985, the Veterans Residential Care Choice Act
7. New Concurrent Receipt Bills Introduced!
8. STOP Downsizing of Military Treatment facilities
9. Support H.R. 5610 and S. 3444 to add Agent Orange Presumptives
10. Temporarily Waive TRICARE Mail Order Campaign
11. Need Your Help on Recovery Rebate Checks
12. Put In Stimulus Bill a Waiver of Mail Order Copays During Pandemic
13. Ensure Service Members and Their Families Have Safe Quality Housing
14. H.R. 6591 - Support Veterans in Need of Emergency Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic
15. Don't Cut Military Medical Staff During Pandemic!





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

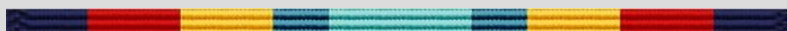
AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY



## SecDef Reverses Course on Excluding Coast Guard Children from Childcare Centers

Secretary of Defense Mark Esper has reversed course on his proposed restriction of children being allowed to attend Child Development Centers at military installations. This issue first reported in the March 13, 2020 issue of NewsBytes, and noted that the FRA dispatched a letter to the Secretary of Defense urging him to re-consider his decision to restrict attendance at CDCs for children from U.S. Coast Guard families.

Press reports indicate that one of the unintended consequences of this proposed change was that as many as 1,000 children of active-duty U.S. Coast Guard families would have lost their spots at base CDCs. The association believes it is important to provide adequate childcare at all military installations. The FRA advocates that the DoD should increase funding for Child Development Centers rather than restrict usage. A copy of SecDef Esper's order restoring the current policy is [available online](#).







## **Pentagon Outsources Moving Household Goods in PCS Moves to one Company**

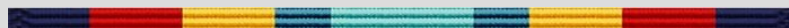
The U.S. Transportation Command has awarded a three-year contract for relocation of household goods for military Permanent Change of Station (PCS) moves to American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier Group, Inc. This is the first time a single company has exclusive rights to moving household goods in PCS moves. The company will receive \$7.2 billion over three years. The contract covers both the Department of Defense and the U.S. Coast Guard. In a statement provided to the media, the company said it planned to lead a "full-service, worldwide relocation effort with a team of subcontracting partners" with the intent of improving military moves and offering better service.

Personal vehicle (POV) shipments are currently outsourced to a single private contractor, International Auto Logistics (IAL). That contract was awarded in May of 2014 and came under intense scrutiny after hundreds of service members complained that their POVs were undelivered far past their expected arrival dates, could not be located on IAL's shipment tracking system or they arrived damaged. Press accounts claim that approximately 70 percent of the vehicles that IAL was tasked with shipping over 2014's peak moving dates were considered late.

The FRA will monitor implementation of this contract to ensure that PCS moves go smoothly.



*CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER !*



## **A Nurse Is More©**

A Nurse is more, Why?

Though nobody, can say why, for sure,

Nurse's desire, for service, is pure.

Not for themselves, it has to be for others.  
A life dedicated, to their sisters and their brothers.

A Nurse is more, How?

Through reserves, of strength, care and love,  
Nurses take their lead, from the power above.  
Above and beyond, their duty comes first.  
Their patient's needs paramount, before even hunger  
and thirst.

A Nurse is more, When?

When we need them the most, at our times of ill,  
Nurses come through, with their care and goodwill.  
When we feel we can't go on, and wish, to give up the  
ghost.  
That's when our Nurses, give it their most.

A Nurse is more, Where?

In the hospital, the battlefield, the clinic, school, home  
or hospice,  
Nurses are there, in the ER, the OR, the workplace,  
and medical office.  
Where we are, to go for our care, thankfully, we find  
Nurses there.  
Aging, sick, fearful, weary, we turn to Nurses, and  
know they care.

A Nurse is more,

A Nurse is more, much more than all we've said, or all

we can say,

other than, to acknowledge the Nurses, who so  
brighten our day.

In gratitude, we thank Nurses, their willingness to  
serve, we find so appealing,  
bringing to us, their comfort, wisdom, compassion and  
healing.

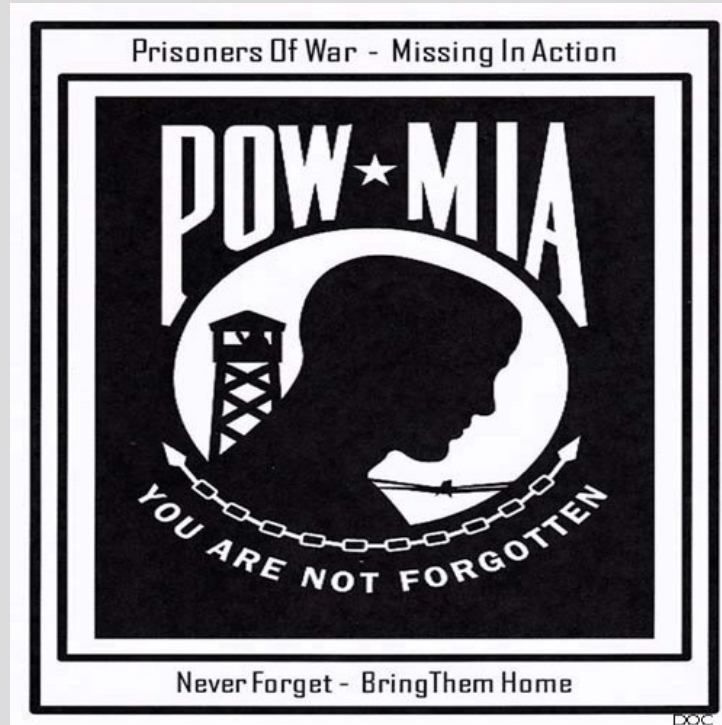
Richard G. Shuster, RandomlyRamblingRick, A Nurse  
Is More©

A Nurse is More© was written to honor all Nurses and  
Dedicated to Jeannine E. Shuster, R.N.

May is Nurses Month, Honor a Nurse. Permission is  
granted to reproduce this poem for any Nurses forum.

Nurse's Week and Nurse's Day are during May. If you  
know a Nurse, are related to a Nurse, or just would like  
to thank a Nurse, please send or give a copy of this  
poem.





## **VFW and House Leadership Hold Virtual Meeting**

Last week, the VFW Washington Office Executive Director B.J. Lawrence met virtually with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Mark Takano (D-CA) to discuss VFW priorities, and to tell the chairman what our members are experiencing during the COVID-19 pandemic. During the discussion Lawrence thanked the chairman for his efforts in leading the charge to secure financial stability for student veterans during this crisis. In turn, Mr. Takano applauded the VFW's role in helping hold together our local communities, "Your chapters have been answering the call — delivering food and caring for their communities. This is the pride of our country, that sense of service. So I want to extend my deep gratitude to all of your VFW members for what they're doing for our country." The VFW would like to thank Chairman Takano for taking the time to personally listen to our concerns. We look forward to working hand in hand with the chairman, and all the members of the committee, to uphold our promise to always take care of veterans, service members, and their families.

[Watch the meeting.](#)





**Complete the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry Immediately**

All veterans who served in eligible locations should include their information in the [Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry](#). Participation in the registry is very important as it will allow VA to track burn pit exposure and draw inferences regarding associated adverse health effects. Exposure to burn pits [may be associated with respiratory conditions](#) such as asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD). Recently, VA stated that veterans with underlying respiratory conditions [may be at greater risk](#) for developing complications related to COVID-19. Service members and veterans who have already signed up for the registry should make sure that their contact information, phone number, address, and email are up-to-date. [Learn more about the registry](#).



**Our values  
match yours.**

*Veterans For Change*  
Est. 2006

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

The complex block contains a logo on the left with a heart inside a dog tag shape. To the right is the text 'Our values match yours.' Below that is the 'Veterans For Change' logo featuring an eagle and an American flag, with 'Est. 2006' underneath. At the bottom is the website URL 'www.veterans-for-change.org'.



## Face Covering Guidelines Set Forth by VA to VISNs

Last week, a letter was distributed to network directors at the Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) regarding mask usage at VHA facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. A snapshot survey of community living centers and spinal cord injury units found several asymptomatic COVID-19-positive individuals amongst the staff and veterans. VA requires staff, trainees, volunteers, veterans, inpatient residents, and visitors to wear either their own or a VA-provided face covering. VHA will supply VA staff who deliver direct patient care, evaluate suspected COVID-19 positive individuals, or conduct home visits with proper respiratory protection and PPE. [Learn more.](#)



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## More Veterans Have Unlimited Data for Telehealth

VA has announced that veterans using [VA Video Connect](#) on their TracFone mobile phones through the T-Mobile network, will no longer pay for data while using video telehealth technology to connect and meet with their VA health care teams. [TracFone Wireless, Inc](#) is the fourth major wireless carrier, after T-Mobile, Sprint, and Verizon to partner with VA to support veterans who are using VA Video Connect. VA Video Connect enables veterans to video conference with their VA providers on their smartphone, tablet or computer from any location with an internet connection. [Read more.](#)



## VFW Adds Comment to VA's Proposed Rule

This week, the VFW added comment to the Federal Regulation for the Proposed Rule for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Improvements and Amendments under the [VA MISSION Act of 2018](#). The VFW-supported VA MISSION Act of 2018, gives VA the authority to expand the caregiver program to veterans of other generations. The expanded population that can take advantage of the caregiver program needs to receive services now, not later. The most significant concern regarding the proposed rule is the disregard for service-connected illness and condensing the three-tier to a two-tier schedule. The VA MISSION Act of 2018 outlines a timeframe that envisioned VA starting the expansion in the summer 2019. Family members of WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans should not have to wait any longer to access training, respite care, and the support services that the program offers. [Read the VFW's comment.](#)





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

*Honoring those who served*



## Download COVID Coach App

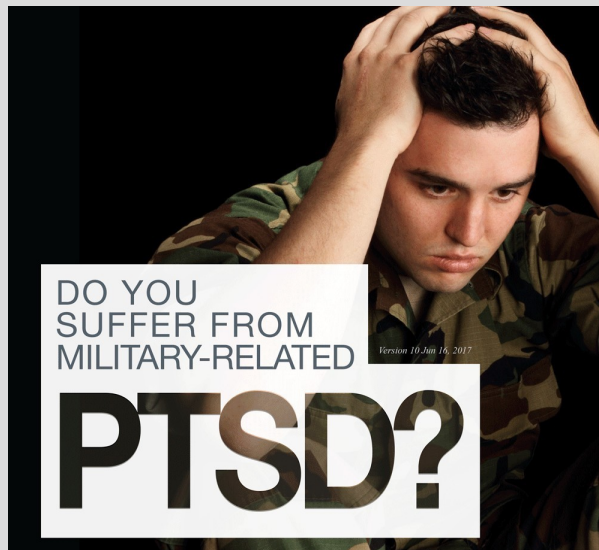
The COVID Coach app was created for everyone, including veterans and service members, to support self-care and overall mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. Features include education about coping during the pandemic, tools for self-care and to improve emotional well-being, trackers to check your mood and measure your growth toward personal goals, and graphs to visualize progress over time. COVID Coach can be used as a stand-alone tool or as a supplement to professional mental health care. [Download the COVID Coach app.](#)



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



**MIA  
Update**



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

announced four new identifications 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:

**Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Robert D. Jenks**, 20, was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, 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. Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded, while the Japanese were virtually annihilated. Jenks died on either the third or fourth day of battle, Nov. 22-23, 1943. Interment services are pending. [Read about Jenks.](#)

**Navy Seaman 1st Class Maurice V. Spangler**, 20, 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 Spangler. Interment services are pending. [Read about Spangler.](#)

### **Naval Reserve Seaman 1st Class James C.**

**Williams**, 20, 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 Williams. Interment services are pending. [Read about Williams.](#)

**Navy Fireman 1st Class Samuel C. Steiner**, 20, 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 Steiner. Interment services are pending. [Read about Steiner.](#)





# Veterans-For-Change, Inc.

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today

[www.Veterans-For-Change.org](http://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](mailto:Jim.Davis@Veterans-for-change.org)

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