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Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, June 28, 2020

Volume 11, Issue 23



This-N-That

Good afternoon Jim,

I hope everyone had a great weekend!

I want to thank the many people who wrote to me wishing me good health. I still have a number of you I still need to reply to, might take me a few days to respond to everyone, but I promise I will.

Our web master is still working on a couple of new things, and will take time, but hopefully soon we will have a couple new databases added to the website.

We're still looking for more ideas of what we need added to the website, so 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

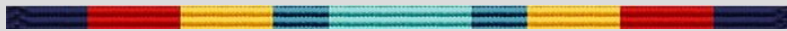
Founder

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org



HVAC Conducts Oversight Hearing on VA Telehealth

On Tuesday, members of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Technology Modernization and Health Subcommittees, VA, and VSOs discussed the expansion and impact of VA telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic. VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Tammy Barlet stated according to data from a COVID-19 survey conducted by the VFW VA converted many routine care appointments to telehealth. "Telehealth overcomes longstanding barriers, allowing veterans to maintain their continuum care with providers they trust" she said. [Watch the hearing.](#)



TRICARE FAQs: COVID-19 and Telemedicine Services

As you begin to schedule a doctor's appointment, you may have questions about your TRICARE benefit. You can find answers to your frequently asked questions (FAQs) and more on the TRICARE Coronavirus FAQs page. The following are some of the most frequently asked questions about telemedicine or telehealth and COVID-19.

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



Your actions
could save a life.

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

VeteransCrisisLine.net

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

The advertisement features two men, one in a light blue shirt and glasses, and another in a dark sweater, with the latter's arm around the first. The background is white with blue and black text. The logo includes a blue star and a grid of red dots.

Take the VFW 2020 Voter Survey

Today there are 2.1 million U.S. service members and 20 million veterans. Including spouses, surviving parents, and voting age children, this powerful voting bloc exceeds 100 million. With another federal election year upon us, the VFW believes it is important to survey our members and supporters to better understand your voting habits. The 10-question survey, which should take about two minutes to complete, will run through June 30, 2020. Your feedback is important to the VFW. [Take the survey.](#)



Links to Other Stories

1. [What You Should Know About Long-Term Care Assistance From the VA](#)
2. [Veteran's Affairs Respiratory Therapist charged with stealing COVID-19 related medical supplies and selling them on eBay](#)
3. [Dangers of Asbestos Exposure in Military Service](#)
4. [Despite steady rise in coronavirus cases, VA officials push ahead with return to normal operations](#)
5. [Food Pantries Springing Up in VA Medical Facilities](#)
6. [Long-awaited report on Veterans suicide calls for public awareness campaign, better research tools](#)
7. [Sam Johnson, former Texas congressman and Vietnam POW, dead at 89](#)
8. [Tricare Dental Is Giving You More Insurance for Free](#)
9. [At age 100, this retired WWII Vet lives alone, walks the stairs, and shops for his disabled neighbor](#)
10. [Five Women Veterans Who Deserve to Have Army Bases Named After Them](#)
11. [Let's Honor Our Veterans With Actions...Not Just Words](#)
12. [VA hospitals still an excellent choice for Veterans](#)



TRICARE Select Enrollment Fees Beginning 2021

Starting in 2021, some military retirees will have enrollment fees for the first time. This group includes those using TRICARE Select, who are under 65 years old, and who joined the military before 2018. The monthly fee for an individual is \$12.50 and \$25 for a family. Defense health officials stated these veterans will receive communication from their regional contractors with instructions on how to set up payments. It is important to note that failure to pay will mean loss of coverage until the following open enrollment period. [Learn more.](#)



Complete the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

All veterans who served in eligible locations should include their information in the [Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pits 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.



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! (Updated 06/21/20)

1. [Support Veterans Economic Recovery Act!](#)
2. [Support NDAA Provision to Authorize A Study of Agent Orange Exposure of Service members on Guam](#)
3. [Temporarily Waive TRICARE Mail Order Co-pays](#)



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

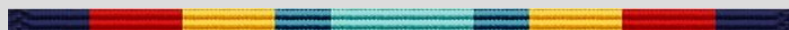
HOMELESS HEROES PROGRAM OF VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE

AMVETS GROUP

VETERANS SOCIAL GROUP

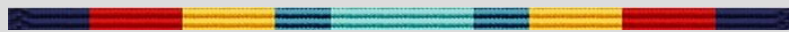
{USAVET} SUPPORTING GOD & ALL WHO SERVED OUR GREAT NATION

AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY



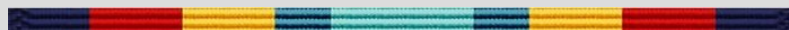
Office of Inspector General

1. Public Health Preparedness: HHS Should Take Actions to Ensure It Has an Adequate Number of Effectively Trained Emergency Responders
2. Retirement Security: BLS Should Explore Ways to Improve the Accuracy, Timeliness, and Relevance of Its Cost-of-Living Measurements
3. Military Justice: DOD and the Coast Guard Need to Improve Their Capabilities to Assess Racial Disparities



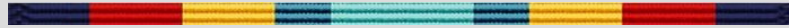
IRS Extends Deadlines for Disaster Situations

On Tuesday, the IRS announced that victims of the April tornadoes, severe storms, and flooding that took place in parts of Mississippi, Tennessee and South Carolina will have until Oct. 15, 2020, to file individual and business tax returns. The IRS is offering this relief to areas designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as qualifying for individual assistance. [Find the current list of eligible localities.](#)





CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER !



Changes Coming Soon for Some TRICARE Select Retired Beneficiaries

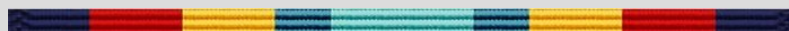
Starting on Jan. 1, 2021, TRICARE Select Group A retired beneficiaries must pay monthly enrollment fees in order to maintain their TRICARE health coverage. This is a change, and the first time this beneficiary group will pay enrollment fees. Here the key points you need to know.

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



FRA Honors Rep. Mark Takano

FRA National President Donna Jansky presented the FRA Pinnacle Award to Rep. Takano (Calif.), Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) for his work in helping veterans. The award presentation took place on Capitol Hill. Due to the pandemic, the FRA did not have the Pinnacle reception nor did the National Board of Directors "Storm the Hill" this year. Rep. Takano successfully sponsored the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act (H.R.299) that was enacted into law. He also created the Women Veterans Taskforce that focused on tackling the barriers that women veterans face while attempting to access their VA benefits and health care. He is currently in his fourth term in Congress and has served on HVAC for the past five years. As HVAC Chairman and Ranking Member (last session of Congress), Takano has worked tirelessly to help veterans.



HASC-MP Approves FY2021 NDAA

The House Armed Services, Military Personnel Subcommittee marked up and approved their portion of the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA-H.R.6395). The bill will now move to the full House Armed Services Committee for further consideration. The subcommittee approved bill

includes:

- Delaying the Defense Health Agency's (DHA) scheduled reduction in military medical end strength for one year;
- Postponing DHA's plans to restructure its Military Treatment Facilities (MTF), which would result in many beneficiaries being sent into the community for care;
- Providing a three percent annual active duty pay increase that keeps pace with pay increases in the civilian sector;
- Providing a Basic Need Allowance for those service members that qualify;
- Enhancing child care and on-base education for children, including 24/7 childcare centers where needed, and that military families have access to these services. A study is required to evaluate the childcare stipend and whether it should have a cost of living adjustment;
- Eliminate 180-day delay for retirees seeking certain DoD civilian jobs;
- Giving priority for on-base housing for military families where a spouse has agreed to provide licensed in-home day care services for other children;
- Establishing a military-civilian task force on domestic violence that requires the Secretary of Defense to collect information on prevalence of domestic violence

involving members of the Armed Forces, their intimate partners, and immediate family members; and

- Requiring Government Accountability Office (GAO) to study DoD inability to evaluate housing quality. report due 12/1/20 on MHPI performance, and standardization of quality metrics. Subcommittee also wants to know about implementation of GAO recommendations.

The subcommittee bill did not address concurrent receipt reform, waiver of pharmacy co-pays during pandemic, eliminating scheduled pharmacy co-pay increases, and final months pay for military widows. The FRA will be working to get votes on committee and floor amendments for these and other issues.

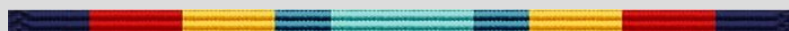
The Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) has approved its version of the FY2021 NDAA (S.4049) and is awaiting further consideration by the full Senate. Once both chambers have passed their version of the NDAA, a conference committee will be appointed to resolve the differences between the two bills and then submit the final bill to both chambers for approval before sending it to the President to be signed it into law or vetoed. Everyone is urged to use the [FRA Action Center](#) to weigh in on amendments to the House and Senate NDAA's that include: Concurrent Receipt expansion, TRICARE pharmacy co-pay waiver

during the pandemic, delay cuts to military medical staff, the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act (H.R.463), and authorizing a study of Agent Orange exposure in Guam.



Navy PCS Moves Begin Gradually

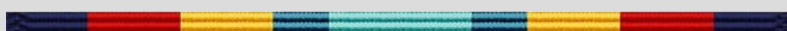
In March, the Navy stopped all Permanent Change of Station (PCS) moves in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving more than 42,000 personnel in limbo, unable to move to their next assignment. Now the Navy plans to gradually allow moves to bases in the U.S. and internationally. Priority will be given to those moving to ships and aircraft that are getting ready to deploy, as well as those assigned to what are deemed critical jobs. In addition, the Department of Defense has designated states or regions as "red" (no go) or "green" (good to go), depending on the rate of COVID-19 infections in the area.



Exclusive Contract for one Moving Company Delayed

Military.com is reporting that a contract for a single company to have exclusive rights to moving household goods in PCS moves has been delayed by U.S. Transportation Command (TRANSCOM), pending further review. The three-year \$7.2 billion contract that was awarded to American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier Group, Inc. was first reported in the May 8, 2020 NewsBytes. That story noted the similarities to International Auto Logistics (IAL), who in 2014 was awarded the exclusive contract to personal vehicle (POV) shipments, which came under intense scrutiny after hundreds of service members complained that their POV's went undelivered far past their expected arrival due dates, could not be located in IAL's shipment tracking system or arrived at their final destination damaged. Press accounts claim that approximately 70 percent of the vehicles IAL tasked with shipping over 2014's peak moving system were considered late.

TRANSCOM informed the Government Accountability Office of a request to take corrective action on the exclusive PCS contract. The GAO oversees government contract protests and disputes. The FRA will monitor this process on this contract to ensure that PCS moves go smoothly.



TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) Health Matters Newsletter Issue 2, 2020

Do you want to learn more about how to get health care, elective surgery, and prescriptions during COVID-19? Here are just some of the articles you can read in the latest issue of the TOP Health Matters Newsletter:

- TRICARE Responds to the COVID-19 Crisis
- Pharmacy Options: Filling Prescriptions When Social Distancing
- Getting Care During COVID-19
- Keep DEERS Updated

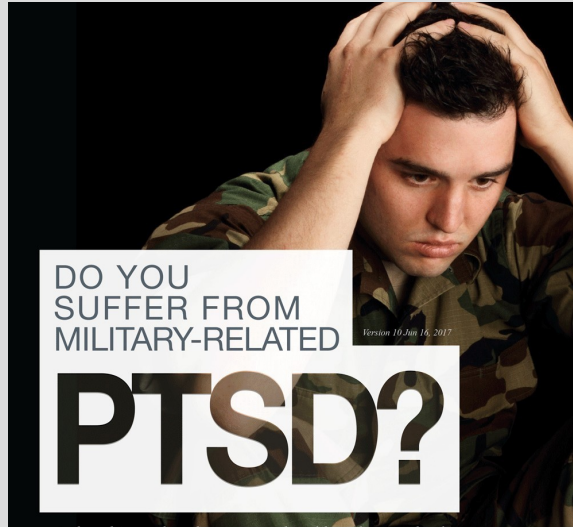
Download the latest TOP Health Matters Newsletter at www.tricare.mil/publications.



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



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:

Navy Fire Controlman 3rd Class Robert T. Stout, 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 Stout. Interment services are pending. [Read about Stout.](#)

Marine Corps Pfc. John M. Fahy, 19, 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. Fahy died on the third day of battle, Nov. 22, 1943. Interment services are pending. [Read about Fahy.](#)

Army Master Sgt. James L. Quong, 30, was an Army Reserve captain in World War II but gave up his commission to join the Regular Army as a master sergeant in the Korean War, he was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th

Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Quong.](#)

Army Cpl. Francis J. Rochon, 21, was a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Sept. 1, 1950, near Changnyeong, South Korea. The Army officially declared Rochon deceased on Dec. 31, 1953, and declared his remains non-recoverable Jan. 16, 1956. Interment services are pending. [Read about Rochon.](#)



Veterans-For-Change, Inc.

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today

www.Veterans-For-Change.org

Serving those who served!

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



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Jim.Davis@Veterans-for-change.org

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