



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, July 26, 2020

Volume 11, Issue 26



This-N-That

Good evening Jim,

We have a real good chance of having Bladder cancer, Hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism added to the Agent Orange presumptive list, but we desperately need everyone's help. Down under the TAKE ACTION section, simply click on the issue and it will take you to the explanation and at the bottom is a link TAKE ACTION which will take you to a pre-written E-Mail. Just complete all the boxes and send it off.

There aren't that many action items, but we still hope

you will still click on each of them and send the pre-written E-Mails. It might not help you now, but it would help others and you in the future should you be diagnosed with any of the illnesses we hope to have added soon.

The VA has rule that tells VA people that all claims must be reviewed within 48 hours, and the VA now is pushing extremely hard to get it removed.

We need everyone especially those who have claims pending to call your Rep and Senators and ask them to please help make it mandatory issue that all claims be reviewed within the 48 hours.

The VA is also strongly opposed to the provision of dental care to all Veterans, not even taking into consideration the fact that good dental care prevents many other illnesses from popping up and most likely adding more dollars to their VA benefits.

I understand most of their "excuses" to reduce dollars being paid out, but wanting to cut preventative dental care isn't acceptable and in the long run would cost them quite a bit more.

Almost any doctor or dentist worth their weight in gold would agree with preventative dental care can and would prevent many other illnesses.

This would also be another good reason to call your Rep and Senators in DC and ask that they make this too a mandatory issue.

The House version of the NDAA contains HR 6395 which is provision to take control of Mare Island Cemetery away from the city of Vallejo, CA and put in the control of the VA.

Personal I feel this is the best move possible as the city of Vallejo has allowed this cemetery to fall into such disarray it's become a complete and total mess not to mention disrespectful and dishonorable.

Now we just need for the Senate to approve 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



***Hal Roesch II Named VFW's New
National Commander***

Hal Roesch II, of Hampton, Virginia, was installed as the Veterans of Foreign Wars' 112th national commander today during a change of command ceremony at the VFW National Headquarters. Roesch assumes command of the oldest combat veterans service organization boasting more than 1.5 million members, including its Auxiliary. "I stand before you, humbled, elated and ready to selflessly serve the 1.5 million members and its Auxiliary as we continue the tradition of serving America's veterans, service members and families worldwide," said Roesch. Roesch is a 20-year U.S. Air Force retiree serving from 1982 to 2002. He earned his VFW eligibility during his combat service in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and overseas service as part of Southern Watch. Roesch said the VFW is preparing to build a 20/20 Vision For Veterans and it begins with re-educating and reintroducing the organization to its communities and local and national leaders. He also reinforced the organization's commitment to inclusivity stating, "Our doors are open to ALL eligible veterans, and today I stand here before you and personally invite all eligible veterans to join our organization." [Read more.](#)





Senate Approves Adding Agent Orange Presumptives in Defense Bill

On Wednesday, the Senate approved a VFW-supported amendment to S. 4049, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA), to add bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and parkinsonism to the list of presumptive conditions associated with exposure to Agent Orange. The scientific community maintains that sufficient evidence exists to link these three conditions. The amendment was introduced by Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) and was approved by a vote of 94 – 6. A vote on the Senate NDAA is expected to occur within the next few days. The VFW thanks Sen. Tester for his efforts to expand veteran’s disability benefits, and urges the conference committee to keep this provision in the final version of the NDAA. [Learn more.](#)



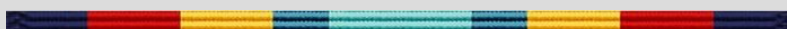
Links to Other Stories

1. [Former VA Hospital Nursing Assistant Admits to Murdering Seven Veterans and Assault with Intent to Commit Murder of an Eighth](#)
2. [Montana Psychiatrist Sentenced for Unlawful Possession of an Opioid](#)
3. [Rochester Gun Store Burglar Admits To Lying About Military Medals](#)
4. [Owner Of Fraudulent Telemarketing Company Pleads Guilty To Health Care Fraud Conspiracy](#)
5. [Deltona Man Sentenced For Theft Of Government Funds](#)
6. [Acting Manhattan U.S. Attorney Announces \\$678 Million Settlement Of Fraud Lawsuit Against Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation For Operating Sham Speaker Programs Through Which It Paid Over \\$100 Million To Doctors To Unlawfully Induce Them To Prescribe No](#)



Multiple Veteran Bills Sent to President

This week, the House and Senate passed multiple bills supporting veterans. VFW-supported bills [H.R. 3535](#), the G.I. Bill Work Study Improvement Act of 2019, [H.R. 3504](#), the Ryan Kules and Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019, and [S. 3637](#), to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act and provide additional legal protections for service members impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These three pieces of legislation now head to the White House. The VFW asks the president to swiftly sign these bills into law. Veterans, service members, and their families will greatly benefit from this bipartisan, bicameral work done by Congress.



House Defense Bill Contains Mare Island Cemetery Provision

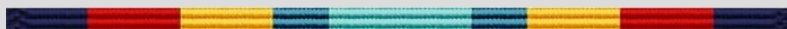
On Tuesday, the House passed [H.R. 6395](#), the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA). The House version of the NDAA includes a VFW-supported provision introduced by Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA) to transfer control of Mare Island Naval Cemetery from the city of Vallejo, California, to VA. Vallejo assumed responsibility for Mare Island in 1996, and has shamefully permitted it to fall into disrepair. The VFW strongly supports the transfer of Mare Island to VA to ensure it is properly maintained in perpetuity. After the Senate passes its version of the NDAA, a conference committee comprised of members from both chambers will reconcile any differences before the final legislation is sent to the president for approval.



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 07/24/20)

1. [Support Veterans Economic Recovery Act!](#)
2. [NDAA Amendment to Provide Benefits to Vets Exposed to Agent Orange](#) Ask Your Senator to please support HR. 3224 The Deborah Sampson Act
3. [Please Support Addition of Agent Orange Presumptive Diseases](#)
4. [Support Amendments That Add Diseases Caused by Agent Orange!](#)



House Holds Hybrid Hearing

This week, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a pending legislation hearing to consider 20 bills. At this hearing many veterans issues were discussed including proposals for which the VFW has resolutions. Recognition for early Vietnam veterans, transfer of authority of the Mare Island Naval Cemetery, VA dental care, and expanded maternity care for veterans, were just some of the VFW-supported bills discussed. [Read the VFW's statement](#) for the record or [watch the hearing](#).



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](#)





VFW Participates in Senate Roundtable

On Wednesday, VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Tammy Barlet and VFW National Veterans Service Veterans Casework Consultant Meggan Thomas participated in a roundtable discussion hosted by the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. The purpose was to discuss possible legislative solutions to address veteran equality and barriers to VA benefits and health care for women, minority, American Indian, and Alaska Native veterans. Thomas stated that VA communications must be culturally sensitive and inclusive to the needs of minority veterans. The VFW thanks the committee for hosting the roundtable, and for their efforts to address veteran equality and ways VA can improve both services to minorities. [Read more.](#)



Office of Inspector General

1. [Sexual Harassment: VA Needs to Better Protect Employees](#)
2. [VA Health Care: Actions Needed to Improve Oversight of Graduate Medical Education Reimbursement](#)



House Holds Hearing on Sexual Harassment

On Wednesday, members of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee and Women Veterans Task Force conducted a hearing on ending sexual harassment in VA. Representatives from VA's human resources department, women's health services, and health administration, along with VA Acting Deputy Secretary Pamela Powers responded to questions regarding the findings of the June 2020 Government Accountability Office report, *Sexual Harassment: Inconsistent and Incomplete Policies and Information Hinder VA's Efforts to Protect Employees*. Powers stated that VA needs to address harassment behavior and plans to add bystander training. Chairman Mark Takano (D-CA) referenced documentation of VA harassment that dates back 30 years and urged VA to ask for funding if that will assist in rectifying this issue. [Watch the hearing](#) or [read more](#).



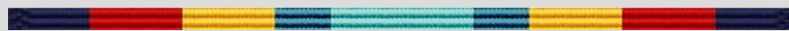


CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER !



Overseas Absentee Voter Registration Deadline

Uniformed services members, their families, and overseas citizens can find information about absentee voter registration on the Federal Voting Assistance Program website. The deadline to [request a ballot](#) for the November 2020 General Election is Aug. 1.



DOC



VA Benefits Webcast

Next Thursday, at 2 p.m. (EDT) Under Secretary for Benefits Paul R. Lawrence, Ph.D., Education Service Executive Director Charmain Bogue, and Medical Disability Exam Program Integration Office Executive Director David McLenachen will participate in a webcast. The discussion will touch on VA's Veterans Benefits Administration's performance in the third quarter of fiscal year 2020, education updates, and Compensation and Pension exams. [Register for the webcast.](#)





House & Senate Pass Their Version of 2021 NDAA

The House and Senate considered floor amendments and passed their version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA-H.R.6395/S.4049). There were 750 House floor amendments filed for the House NDAA (HR 6395). The House Rules Committee deemed 407 worthy of additional consideration. Key amendments supported by the FRA, such as expanding concurrent receipt, authorizing the Department of Defense (DoD) to waive mail-order

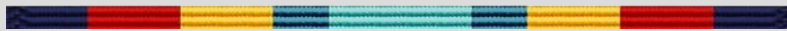
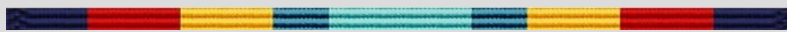
prescription co-pays during pandemic, final months' pay for widows of retirees, expanding the list of diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange did not get called for a vote. The House and Senate devoted considerable debate time to an amendment sponsored by Rep. Mark Pocan (Wis.) in the House and Sen. Bernie Sanders (Vt.) in the Senate to cut \$74 Billion (10%) from the Defense budget and give it to anti-poverty programs. The House amendment failed 93-324 and the Senate amendment failed by a vote of 23-77. Both bills provide for a three percent annual pay increase for active duty and improve oversight of military privatized housing.

The House bill was amended to require a moratorium on incinerating PFAS chemicals by Defense. Another ratified House amendment made improvements to military overseas voting. The House bill was also amended to expand and improve the Burn Pits Registry.

The Senate also passed its version of the FY2021 NDAA after considering floor amendments. There were 799 Senate floor amendments filed for consideration. The Senate considered only six floor amendments, that included FRA-supported amendment #1972, sponsored by Sen. Jon Tester that expands the list of diseases (Bladder cancer, Hypothyroidism, and

Parkinsonism) associated with exposure to the Agent Orange herbicide for which there is a presumption of service connection for veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam. The amendment was approved by the Senate (94-6).

Now that both chambers of Congress have approved their version of the FY2021 NDAA a conference committee will be appointed to resolve the differences between the two bills. Once the differences are resolved a final bill will be submit to both House and Senate. If both chambers approve the bill it will be sent to the President to be signed into law or vetoed.



USS Nimitz certified to administer CCP

The U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command approved the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Nimitz as an authorized site to administer CCP.

[Read More](#)



MHS honors individuals, teams for exemplary research

Each year, the Military Health System honors excellence among its researchers and medical teams through the premier Department of Defense scientific meeting.

[Read More](#)



Keep These Summer Health and Safety Tips in Mind

While COVID-19 may have caused you to rearrange your original summertime plans, there's still plenty you can do outdoors. However, now more than ever, you'll need to practice good health and safety habits. By doing so, you'll not only protect your own health, but the health of someone else, too.

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

U.S. Naval Hospital Guam collects convalescent plasma

U.S. Naval Hospital Guam began collecting COVID-19 convalescent plasma (CCP) May 31 in support of the Department of Defense effort to ...

[Read More](#)



***MHS emphasizes importance of
vaccinations***

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted everyday routines, including keeping up with health care appointments for non-emergency needs such as vaccinations.

[Read More](#)



Air Force lab continues to support DoD's testing efforts

The 81st Medical Group has been a forerunner in the fight against COVID-19 on the Gulf Coast. The Microbiology Department has been testing all ...

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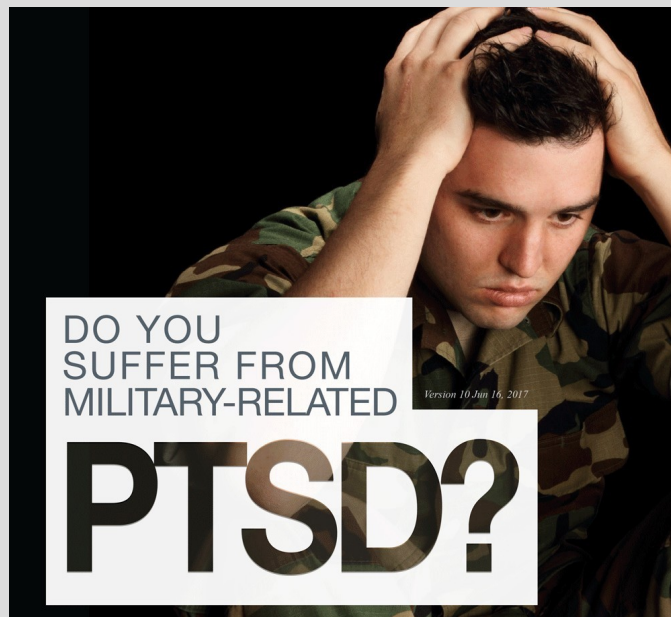
[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE VFC NEWSLETTER!](#)



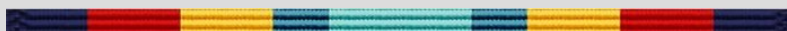
***Got COVID-19 Questions? Read the
Latest TRICARE FAQs***

Do you have questions about how COVID-19 impacts your TRICARE benefit? You can find answers to your frequently asked questions (FAQs) and more on the TRICARE Coronavirus FAQs page. Since the start of the national emergency due to the pandemic, TRICARE's been sharing weekly articles to help service members and their families navigate these trying times.

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



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



Virtual Mental Health Care through Cohen Veterans Network

Mental wounds are just as difficult to heal as physical wounds – and treating them is just as important.

Through a national network of clinics, Veterans and their families are eligible for personalized, evidence-based mental health care. There is no cost for care if you don't have insurance.

[Read More](#)



**Work at VA to Make a Positive Impact on
Veterans**

Employees agree that a top reason they joined the VA is to make a positive impact on the Veterans they serve. VA encourages a culture of innovation to improve Veterans' and employees' experiences.

[Read More](#)



Army, Navy providers team up virtually to save soldier's life

A specialized team from Brooke Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston in Texas virtually supported a ...

[Read More](#)



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one new identification and one burial update 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:

Army Pfc. Glenn E. Collins, 21, of Tucson, Arizona, was a member of Heavy Mortar Company, 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. Collins will be buried in his hometown at a date yet to be decided by the family. [Read about Collins.](#)

Marine Corps Pfc. John P. Langan, 18, was a member of Company C, 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. Langan died on the third day of battle, Nov. 22, 1943. Interment services are pending. [Read about Langan.](#)



ONE VOICE
CAN MAKE
ALL THE DIFFERENCE!



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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