



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, September 06, 2020

Volume 11, Issue 32



This-N-That

Good evening Jim,

September is Suicide Prevention Month and the first article following this one provides links to tools, and a survey which I feel everyone should have. You never know when they will come in handy and you may not recognize signs of risk of suicide.

The VA has introduced a new platform using Artificial Intelligence to process VR&E forms.

Personally I don't know how this will work, or if it will

work. Most of us know when the VA introduces new programs at least 50% have failed.

Anyone taking part in this new program, please do let us know how well it's worked for you.

Every day either from news feeds I subscribe to or from Veterans forwarding article links to me I read daily about Veteran Suicide, and the more I read the more angry I become and the main reason for many of these Veteran Suicides are due to the in compassionate VA and their failure to address claims like these quickly and providing the much needed mental health care.

If you're one of the many who do call their reps in DC, please don't forget to mention the need for help to prevent Veteran Suicide.

Quite some time ago the VA in their infinite wisdom decided to remove all DBQ's (Data Base Questionnaires) from their website, however, they're still in use to this date.

We have had numerous requests for the forms and we've searched all over the internet for copies and come up dry.

If you by chance have a full set of blank forms, could you be kind enough to share them with us? It would be

greatly appreciated!

We've added more to the TAKE ACTION list of items to send out pre-written E-Mails, some will let you add to and/or edit.

But, please take the time to send them all out! We really need to push as hard as we can on Congress, let them know we need these bills passed and we're not going away!

Quite a number of new links have been added to the website, not quite a 100, I believe it's some where around 87-89 new links, some might provide information you've been looking for, so give it a check out and see.

Please be safe, please practice the guidelines, don't let your friends or family wake up to your passing!

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



September is National Suicide Prevention Month

The VFW encourages everyone this month to learn more about mental health and to reach out to fellow Veterans who may be struggling, especially with the social distancing aspect of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Military Health System has information in its [toolkit](#) to assist people with suicide awareness and [tools for prevention](#). The PREVENTS Taskforce has released a survey to gather feedback that will be used to in the taskforce's roadmap for ending Veteran suicide. [Take the survey](#).



TRICARE Approves PCM Referral Waiver in Louisiana and Texas

Following Hurricane Laura, TRICARE approved a waiver of primary care manager (PCM) referral requirements in certain parishes and counties in Louisiana and Texas through Sept. 26. This means you can seek care from any TRICARE authorized provider. You can also go to any TRICARE authorized hospital or medical facility without any referral, even if the hospital or provider is outside of the network. Please visit the TRICARE [disaster alerts page](#) for a complete list of affected parishes and counties.



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**



VA Introduces New AI Platform

VA announced a new artificial intelligence (AI) platform, an electronic Virtual Assistant (e-VA), for Veterans in the Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program. The new platform will provide efficient customer service support for Veterans and automated administrative tasks for VR&E counselors and staff. Veterans receiving services through VR&E must opt in to e-VA when they receive an email or text introducing this new function. It is important to note all correspondence through e-VA will be included in Veterans electronic VA files.



Links to Other Stories

1. Enough is enough: Trump gave Veterans real and permanent choice
2. VA announces new clinical trial for Veterans with COVID-19
3. VA's Board of Veterans' Appeals reaches appeal decisions goal early
4. VA's digital COVID-19 screening for Veterans, employees, aids in low infection rate
5. 2020 Updates to VA Home Loan Benefits
6. Department of Defense Offers an Expanded Child Care Service Through Military OneSource
7. This soothing submarine video will put you straight to sleep
8. Check out the most underused Veterans benefits in your state
9. CalVet Ready to Help Veterans Affected by Wildfires
10. An update on the Barstow Veterans Home: Jay Obernolte
11. Plan would mandate more research, assistance for Veterans facing toxic exposure illnesses
12. Heat's Leonard Stands for Anthem to Honor Military, Marine Brother
13. Governors ask Trump to extend Guard coronavirus support missions set to end this month

14. About 9,000 children are signed up for the virtual option as DoD schools reopen
15. VA coronavirus total tops 40,000, even as active cases decrease
16. Seeking the Military Suicide Solution Podcast, Episode 28: Tom Cruz — attempt survivor and suicide prevention advocate
17. Amidst retirees' outcries, advocates seek more leeway in new Tricare Select fee plan
18. VA Caregiver Program Opens to Eligible WWII, Korea and Vietnam Vets
19. Next coronavirus relief package must include a big defense boost, GOP leaders argue
20. Veterans suicide prevention plans take a big step forward, but still face tough political hurdles
21. VA coronavirus total tops 40,000, even as active cases decrease
22. More than 2,000 Veterans Affairs patients have now died from coronavirus
23. 'Astonishing': Veteran Military Pilots See First Survey Data on How Many Have Cancer
24. Program allows some Alaska Native Vietnam Vets to get land
25. Service Chiefs to SecDef: Stop the Handover of Military Hospitals to Defense Health Agency
26. Double Amputee Veteran, a Gun Felon, Committed to Mental Institution
27. The VA Is Using AI to Shorten its Mail Processing

Time on Claims Intake

28. VA's Active COVID-19 Cases Dip as Deaths Rise Steadily in August



New VA Clinical Trial for Veterans with COVID-19

VA announced a new clinical trial to study COVID-19 convalescent plasma in the treatment of seriously ill patients. This trial is the first of many studies in the VA Coronavirus Research and Efficacy Studies (VA CURES), which is a standardized framework for studying potential treatments for COVID-19. “This trial will go a long way toward helping in the fight against COVID-19,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “VA CURES will provide valuable information that will benefit our Veterans who are battling COVID-19, as well as other patients and the medical community in general.” [Learn more.](#)



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 fourteen 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 **3,429** hits per day, and downloads average **4,286** per day with a total **6,628,083** 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 **18,731** documents in 171+ Libraries, added 1 documents on-line (Updated: 09/04/20)
- 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: **9,963**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than **7,730**, Added 56 New Links (Updated: 08/31/20)

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



VFW Commemorates 75th Anniversary of V-J Day

On Sept. 2, 1945, the Empire of Japan signed formal documents of surrender officially ending WWII and officially designating the day as Victory Over Japan Day (V-J Day). Although hostilities ceased on Aug. 15, 1945, the formal surrender occurred aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay two weeks later. The VFW and its Auxiliary will always be thankful for the service and sacrifice of all Veterans of WWII. [Learn more.](#)



Jim, 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!

Jim you don't need to be Active Duty or a Veteran, in fact we ask all Veteran friends to also help! (Updated 09/04/20)

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!
5. H.R. 6027, the Restore Veterans' Compensation Act
6. H.R. 5867, the STOP Veteran Suicide and Substance Abuse Act
7. H.R. 95, Legislation to Allow Homeless Veterans to Stay With Their Children While Receiving Services
8. H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act
9. H.R. 553, Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act
10. H.R. 1527, the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act
11. S 179 and HR 712, VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2019
12. H.R. 1200, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019
13. S. 785, the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act
14. H.R. 96, to Provide Dental Care for All Veterans

Enrolled in Veterans Health Care

15. H.R. 6590, DAV Supports Deferring Debt Collections during COVID-19 Crisis
16. H.R. 6933, the Caring for Survivors Act of 2020
17. Support S. 3761/H.R. 7443 to re-establish VSO review period on VBA decisions
18. S. 4166, Ensuring Survivors Benefits during COVID-19 Act of 2020
19. Please Ask Your Member Of Congress To Support Tester/Harder Amendment In The Fy2021 National Defense
20. NDAA Final Passage Coming Soon



**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



Get Answers to Your TRICARE Dental Program Coverage Questions

Are you looking to keep that healthy smile? Practicing good oral hygiene is the key to keeping your gums and teeth healthy. Having a good dentist helps, too. When you're looking for a new dentist, you may have questions about who you can see and if they accept your insurance. You may also have questions about covered services or oral health. Whether you're in the CONUS or OCONUS service area, the TRICARE Dental Program is committed to helping you find the right dentist and answering your questions.

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



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



"History is not there for you to like or dislike. It is there for you to learn from it. And if it offends you, even better. Because then you are less likely to repeat it. It is not yours to erase. It belongs to all of us."



Office of Inspector General

1. Retirement Security: DOL Could Better Inform Divorcing Parties About Dividing Savings
2. Abusive Tax Schemes: Offshore Insurance Products and Associated Compliance Risks
3. COVID-19: Brief Update on Initial Federal Response to the Pandemic
4. Social Security Contracting: Relevant Guidance Should Be Revised to Reflect the Role of Contracting Personnel in Software Development
5. COVID-19 Contracting: Observations on Contractor Paid Leave Reimbursement Guidance and Use



DHA Launches New Websites for Air Force Military Hospital and Clinics

On Sept. 1, the Defense Health Agency (DHA) launched 74 new websites to Air Force military hospital and clinics. This is an important step to modernize the Military Health System on the web. Each website moved to the TRICARE website to give patients a standard web experience.

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



Coast Guard launches MHS GENESIS at four pilot sites

The Coast Guard deployed the MHS GENESIS electronic health records (EHR) system to four Coast Guard medical facility pilot sites on August 29, the first step toward ...

[Read More](#)



CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER !

**National Cemetery Scheduling Office
Closed on Sunday, September 13, 2020**

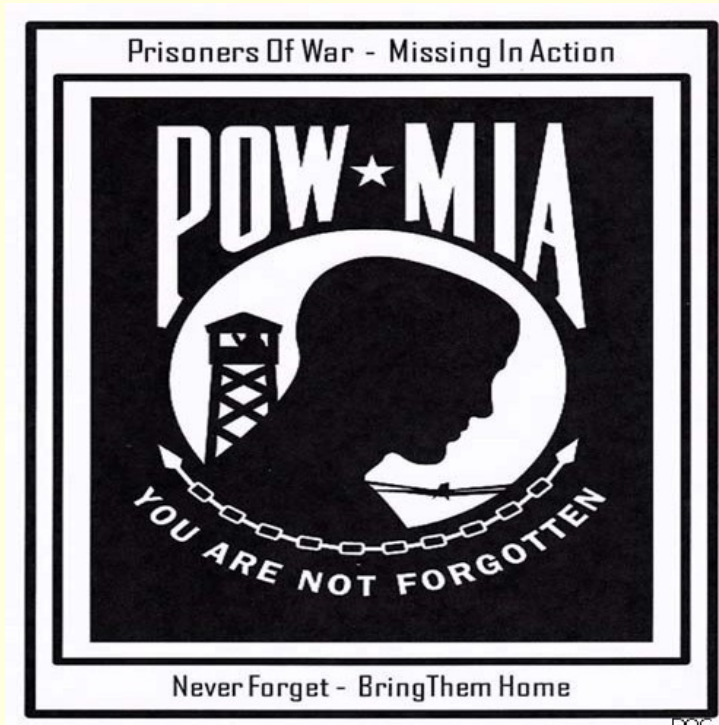
The National Cemetery Scheduling Office will be closed on Sunday, September 13, 2020 for scheduled mandatory computer hardware maintenance.

For requests during that weekend, the office will be open and available to take your calls on Saturday, September 12, 2020 from 7:00 am to 6:30 pm CST. We will reopen on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 7:00 am CST.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Jay Dalrymple
Director, National Cemetery Scheduling Office
St. Louis, MO

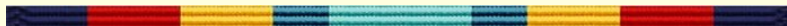




Washington state's COVID-19 response director visits Madigan

The Pacific Northwest was the first area in the United States to see cases of COVID-19. Madigan Army Medical Center located aboard Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington is within an hour of the ...

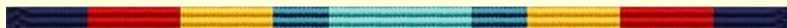
[Read More](#)





HVAC Subcommittee Discusses Improvements for TAP

The House Veterans Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a virtual hearing on coordinating transition resources for service members who are transitioning out of the military. The subcommittee members want an approach that would assist any service member transitioning into civilian life to include job placement, assistance in educational, financial, entrepreneurial, and healthcare benefits. Some of the services offered by these agencies include job training, interview coaching, resume building, and recommendations for mental health treatment programs. The subcommittee members want to move away from the one-size-fits-all approach when assisting transitioning service members. The metrics of success in the Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) will be based on a reduction in the suicide rate, placements in sustainable jobs and the overall mental and financial wellbeing of the Veteran and their families. Although it is difficult to quantify emotional wellness since it can sometimes be hidden, there is hope since some of the emerging mental health programs are yielding great results.





VSO's

I wanted to provide you with an update on our efforts for the Care Treatment Rehabilitative Services Initiative (CTRS).

We have moved from parking lots 10 & 17 to the Great Lawn. I have attached pictures of Dr. Braverman at the Great Lawn helping to set up the site.

I have also attached the [FactSheet for CTRS](#).

The CTRS is a pilot initiative that expands unsheltered homeless Veteran's access to the VAGLAHS Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program.

Our goal is to improve unsheltered Veteran's healthcare outcomes while moving towards a more permanent housing solution.

Those housing solutions are based on their

commitment within the initiative. I want to share with you the POC for the CTRS Initiative, Dr. Peter Capone-Newton. He can be reached at peter.capone-newton@va.gov.

For more information too, here is a number for the CTRS Initiative: 1-877-222-8387.

We opened this up April 6, 2020 for the purpose of providing a low-barrier treatment area where homeless Veterans can seek out healthcare, social work, hot meals, a clean and safe environment and opportunity to transition into a more permanent solution within our CERS Programs (Community, Engagement and Reintegration Services). As you are aware, the CTRS is an initiative and not a program, meaning it is not funded.

This is why we seek out community partners like Brentwood Schools and Village for Vets along with so many other donors who have gone through our Voluntary Services Department.

Meet Brian who happens to be a homeless Veteran living in our CTRS site on the Great Lawn of GLA. Brian talks about his addiction with drugs and alcohol and how the CTRS initiative is helping him to get his life on track again.



My First Poem

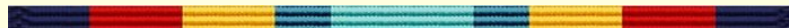
I do not remember my poems, either # one or # two, I suppose in early elementary school, likely it was a roses are red or the sky was blue.

I like to rhyme, but even though, the words may chime, and some folks think it's really cool, at times the sing song makes me lose my mind.

Poems are less threatening than writings done in prose, and safety seems to be the best defense, though I wrote story line and article, a poem is what I chose.

2006 Richard G. Shuster





New PTSD Therapy for Couples Shows Promise

A study published in the Journal of Behavior Therapy reveals that couples that have one person with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) may soon have faster access to more efficient therapy that treats the disorder and simultaneously improves their relationships.

Current treatment usually involves a 15-week process that may soon be shortened to only one weekend.

The pilot program included active duty and Veteran couples and was created by Consortium to Alleviate PTSD (CAP). The CAP is a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional research consortium jointly funded by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to advance the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of

PTSD among post-9/11 service members and Veterans.

The FRA supports robust funding for research to treat PTSD. According to the researchers, the impacts of PTSD on military members or Veterans and their families is significant, with estimates suggesting that 15 percent of service members and 23 percent of Veterans who have deployed to Iraq and/or Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001, suffer from PTSD. The disorder affects not only individuals, but also their spouses and families. The researchers noted that PTSD is associated with relationship distress, physical and psychological aggression, and partner psychological distress.



A man was showing his friend a new set of matched golf clubs he had just bought.

"Doctor's orders," the man told his friend. "My wife and I have been gaining too much weight and we went to see the doctor about it. He said we needed more exercise, so I joined the country club and bought myself this set of golf clubs."

"What about your wife?" the friend asked. "What did you buy her?"

"A new lawn mower," the golfer said.



VJ Day Anniversary

This week marked the 75th anniversary of the Victory over Japan Day. Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) is the day on which the Imperial Japanese Empire surrendered, in effect ending World War II. The term has been applied to two different days. The day when the initial announcement of Japan's surrender was made on Aug. 15, 1945, in Japan and then when the surrender document was signed on Sept. 2, 1945, officially ending World War II.



Tax & Credit Information



1. [‘Just tell me how to fix my computer:’ a crash course on malware detection](#)



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.

Please **Subscribe**

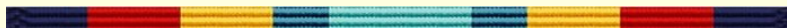
CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE VFC NEWSLETTER!

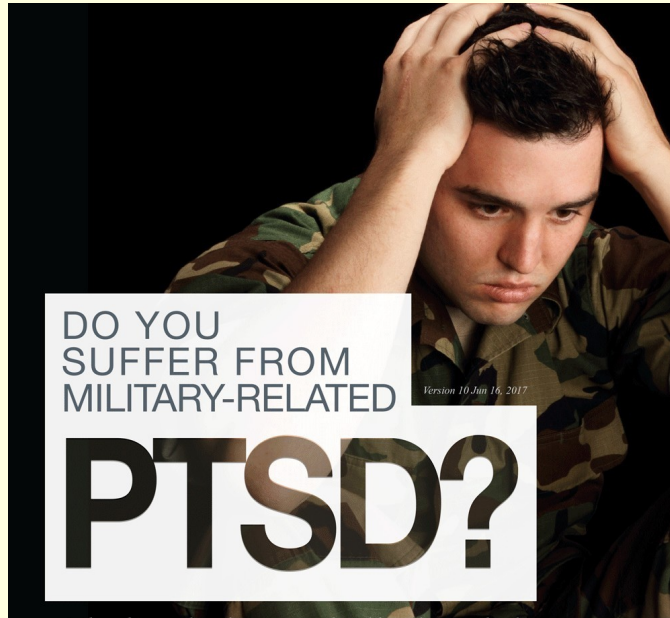


The Soul

I have looked into the dulled eyes of imbeciles, morons and those with downs and have seen recognizable signs of a kindly soul and spirit, conversely, I have looked into the eyes of men of sparkling brilliance and found no signs of a soul or kindly spirit. I think we all have a soul, some just hide it better than others..... The soul, I think, is a transparency of our Creator's image, issued to each of us, the transparency contains all the ingredients to provide us with what we spiritually require, leaving it up to us to identify and use those ingredients in such a way, as to develop the individual's finished soul product....

Richard G. Shuster



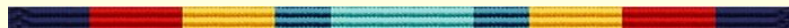


**Veterans Crisis Line:
1-800-273-8255 & Press 1
Ntl Call Center for Homeless Vets
1-877-424-3838**



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one burial update for American servicemen who have been missing and unaccounted-for from WWII. Returning home for burial with full military honors is:

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Thomas F. Johnson, 18, of San Jose, California, as a member of Company B, 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. Johnson died on the fourth day of battle, Nov. 23, 1943. Johnson will be buried in Igo, California. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Johnson.](#)



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!**



**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

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