



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, November 15, 2020

Volume 11, Issue 35



This-N-That

Good afternoon Jim,

I'd like to wish a belated Happy Veterans Day as well as a belated Happy Birthday to the Marine Corps!

It's been a month since our last publication, and I/we are still battling with Windows 10 so that's caused a tremendous slow down for us.

But we have been able to add more than 100+ new documents and nearly 100 more weblinks to the website, and we're working on many more documents

to get online as quickly as we can, we are backed up with more than 100,000 documents on the server and an additional 35 CD's packed with even more. So do check often, and if you've not registered an account, it's free of charge and will open a world of more documents as well as the forums as well as ability to comment on the many articles posted.

I know many are frustrated over the elections, and I can tell you we too share that frustration, but to avoid getting into debates, or potential arguments, we're steering clear of that issue.

It's getting closer to being cold out, rain is coming, and in many areas, snow is coming! So we'd like to remind everyone to please make clothing donations to the local DAV to help our homeless Veterans. Clothing and food both are needed, and I'm sure they'd be glad to accept cash donations as well to possibly help cover costs of motel rooms.

Suicide Prevention is still also a very hot topic, and it should be as we're not seeing improvements in the leaps and bounds direction, although we are seeing some improvement, just not fast enough to help bring that number to zero!

In the TAKE ACTION section of this newsletter, only one bill has been added, seems Congress is too busy

with other things than taking care of our Country's Veterans as well as Military!

Although it's been a slow process, our new website look is coming along, we're still deciding on the looks and feel of some of the pages, and trying to make the databases work correctly, but we're still looking at an early 2021 roll out date.

As we get closer and things are better refined and modules are working correctly, I will try and give a heads up when we're going to roll it out.

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

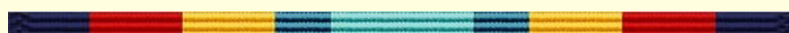
On behalf of our Volunteers nationwide and myself, we wish you and your family good health and a Happy Thanksgiving Holiday!

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org



Veterans Appreciation Day at Gettysburg

Gettysburg National Military Park and the Gettysburg Foundation have announced it will hold a special Veterans Appreciation Day on Nov. 12. Veterans can enjoy free admission to the [Film, Cyclorama & Museum Experience](#) at the

Museum & Visitor Center

[.https://www.gettysburgfoundation.org/exhibits-tours-events/exhibits-tours-events](https://www.gettysburgfoundation.org/exhibits-tours-events/exhibits-tours-events) Guests have the unique opportunity to see the [Gettysburg Cyclorama](#) painting in a special “lights up” presentation and discussion. [Read 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**



Walmart Reopens Five VA Telehealth Access Points

VA has announced five [Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations](#) (ATLAS) sites in select Walmart stores have resumed clinical services for veterans in rural areas. VA suspended the operation of clinical services at all ATLAS sites in April to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The reopened ATLAS sites give veterans more options to receive care that does not require hands-on exams, such as primary care, nutrition, mental health counseling and social work. [Learn more.](#)



November's topic is: Caregiver Support

VA offers many programs, services, and resources for caregivers. The first 6 resources listed are for caregivers of Veterans who do not need to have a service-connected condition for which the caregiver is needed. They are also for Veterans who have served during any era. No formal application is required.

- VA's Caregiver Support Line – 855-260-3274 (toll free 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET)
- Connect with your local VA's [Caregiver Support Coordinator](#)
- Link to someone who has experienced similar challenges and situations through the [Peer Support Mentoring Program](#)
- Education and training – [Building Better Caregivers](#), a 6-week online course and other caregiver self-care courses
- [Tips and tools](#) – on a wide range of topics such as managing dementia behaviors, caring for your finances, preventing medication mishaps, talking with providers and suicide prevention
- Support via text messages, called [Annie Caregiver Text Support](#), with stress management tips and activities (service can be paused or stopped at any time)
- [Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers](#) (PCAFC) – provides resources, education,

support, a financial stipend, and health insurance (if eligible), beneficiary travel (if eligible), to caregivers of eligible Veterans

To learn more about services and resources for Veterans and their caregivers, visit www.va.gov/Geriatrics.

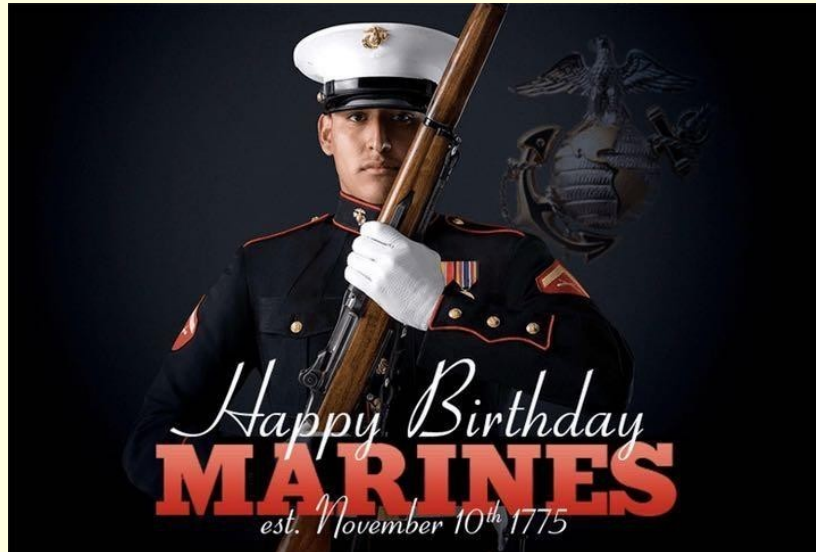


Links to Other Stories

1. [Timothy King, Marine and Oregon Reporter Dies After Motorcycle Crash](#)
2. [Rethinking pain management within the MHS](#)
3. [DoD program focuses on opioid safety and prescribing naloxone](#)
4. [Bergen County Man Charged with Conspiring to Steal More Than \\$7.8 Million Worth of HIV Medication from Veterans Affairs Medical Center](#)
5. [Federal electronic health record connects with more community partners](#)
6. [VA, Blue Star Families to support Veterans impacted by COVID-19](#)
7. [Advocates Renew Push for Stipend to Feed Low-Income Military Families](#)
8. [Information on Recently Passed Legislation](#)
9. [#HonoringVets: Audie Murphy](#)

10. VA, American Kidney Fund join efforts to help Veterans diagnosed with kidney disease
11. VA, Duke University and Baylor College of Medicine launch partnership to enhance breast cancer treatment for Veterans
12. Walmart reopens five VA telehealth access points after COVID-19 shutdown
13. VA recognizes 2020 Robert L. Jesse Award winner for innovative steps in expanding telehealth access for Veterans
14. New report highlights VA's role in IT innovation, key to successful coronavirus pandemic response
15. VA honors caregivers of Veterans throughout November
16. VA, Prostate Cancer Foundation to expand genetic services to Veterans through nursing research pilot initiative
17. VA releases COVID-19 Response Report
18. Women Veterans Health Care
19. VA releases 2020 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report
20. VA recognized for clear, consistent communication to Veterans





VFW-Supported Vet Center Expansion Act Becomes Law

Last week, the VFW supported [H.R. 1812](#), the Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act, was signed into law. This law expands Vet Center counseling and related mental health services for veterans and service members of the National Guard, Reserve, or Coast Guard, who took part in drug interdictions or responded to national disasters or emergencies. Participating in these high-stress situations can have serious mental health consequences. Expanding access to Vet Centers will provide an opportunity for those who served in these situations to have access to the mental health services they earned and deserve.



Veterans-For-Change Web Site

The Veterans-For-Change website has been around since 2009. The looks pretty much stay the same for now, but in the background our new webmaster has been working on a whole new look and feel, a facelift so-to-speak.

Constant improvement and change are 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 **3,183** hits per day, and downloads average **5,092** per day with a total **6,883,749** visitors as of today.

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 us a confirmation E-Mail. Once received, we will automatically make you authorized.

www.Veterans-for-change.org

- Documents Library with over **19,646** documents in 171+ Libraries, added **142** documents on-line (Updated: 11/02/20)
- 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: **10,048**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than **7,809**, Added **79** New Links (Updated: 11/02/20)

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



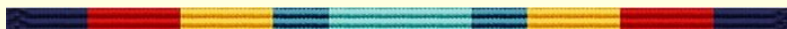
Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Bill Becomes Law

Last week, [H.R. 2372](#), the Veterans' Care Quality Transparency Act, was signed into law. The law requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to assess suicide prevention and mental health services of non-VA entities who have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with VA. The GAO assessment will include the size of the catchment area, staffing structure, staff accreditations or licensures, program limitations, trackable outcomes, and breakdown of specific demographics, such as women veterans, minority veterans, and age and location of veterans.



Discover Family Benefits

If you're the spouse or dependent child of a Veteran or Service member, you may qualify for certain benefits like health care, life insurance, and money to help pay for school or training. Find out which [VA benefits you may qualify for and how to access them](#).



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 11/14/20)

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
21. S. 2950, the Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act



**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



**Legislative Update on Agent Orange
Conditions**

On July 23, 2020, the Senate passed [S. 4049](#), the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA). The Senate NDAA contains a provision to add bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and parkinsonism to the list of presumptive conditions associated with exposure to Agent Orange. The House-passed version of the NDAA, [H.R. 6395](#), does not contain this provision. The differences between the House and Senate versions of the NDAA will be reconciled by a conference committee comprised of members of both chambers, expected to be formed sometime next month. The VFW is fully committed to ensuring that the final NDAA adds these three conditions to the Agent Orange presumptive list.



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."



NDAAs Final Passage Coming Soon

Both the House and Senate will be back in session next week. Key legislators will begin negotiations on the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The legislation will soon go to conference committee to resolve the differences between the two versions (S.4049, H.R.6395) and create a final bill. Now is the time to let your elected officials know your concerns on such issues as:

- Adding diseases to list of diseases caused by exposure to Agent Orange herbicide;
- Stopping scheduled cuts to military medical staff during the pandemic;
- Waiving TRICARE Mail order co-pays during pandemic;
- Stopping plan to exclude retirees and dependents from MTFs and
- Supporting repeal of 180-day delay for retirees applying for DoD GS-13 and below.

Once the final bill is agreed to by the conference committee, it will be sent to both chambers. If approved by the House and Senate, it will be then sent to President Trump to be either signed into law or vetoed. This can happen very quickly once there is an agreement. So now is the time to use the FRA Action Center to weigh in on these critical issues.



Office of Inspector General

1. Anesthesia Services: Differences between Private and Medicare Payments Likely Due to Providers' Strong Negotiating Position



Learn the Latest From VBA

Watch the latest webcast from the Under Secretary for Benefits, Paul R. Lawrence, Ph.D., to hear how VBA exceeded 2020 performance goals and objectives despite this year's challenges. [Learn how VBA's efforts and accomplishments have made this our #BestYearEver for delivering the benefits Veterans have earned and deserve.](#)



President Trump Dismisses SecDef Mark Esper

President Trump dismissed Secretary of Defense (SecDef) Mark Esper with an abrupt announcement on Twitter. National Counterterrorism Center Director Christopher Miller will serve as acting SecDef making him the fifth Defense Secretary in less than four years.

Sen. James Inhofe (Okla.) Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, released a statement thanking Mark Esper for his service, "for prioritizing implementation of the National Defense Strategy, for thinking critically about how the Pentagon operates, and always putting our service members first." Inhofe also indicated that he spoke with Christopher Miller about moving forward with the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that legislators may pass during the upcoming lame duck session. He was an honor graduate from the Army's Ranger School, an Army War College fellow with the CIA and a Special Forces battalion commander during the height of the Iraq war.



[CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER !](#)



Deadline for Public Comment on ANC Burial Restrictions Ends on Monday

As noted in the October 9th NewsBytes, the deadline for public comment on proposed burial restrictions for Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) ends Monday, Nov. 16, 2020. Acting Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy recommended restrictions to eligibility criteria in September 2019, for burial at ANC that will include military retirees for above-ground inurnment. The FY2019 National Defense Authorization Act directed the Secretary of the Army to revise eligibility criteria to keep the cemetery functioning as an active burial ground "well into the future" - defined as 150 years.

The Fleet Reserve Association surveyed its members regarding proposed changes to eligibility criteria for burial at ANC that will include military retirees for only above-ground inurnment. Most members responding to the survey opposed this restriction. Many retirees believe that twenty or more years of arduous military service has earned them the option to be provided an in-ground burial at ANC.

Before implementing the proposed rule, the ANC must allow for public comment on the proposed rule in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act.

The FRA has shared these survey results with the ANC and with key members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees. The Association has also signed onto a Military Coalition (TMC) letter. The letter recommends grandfathering those currently eligible and conducting non-contiguous expansion to ensure ANC can operate with full military honors well into the future. The TMC is a group of organizations representing more than 5.5 million past and present members of the uniformed services, as well as their families and survivors.

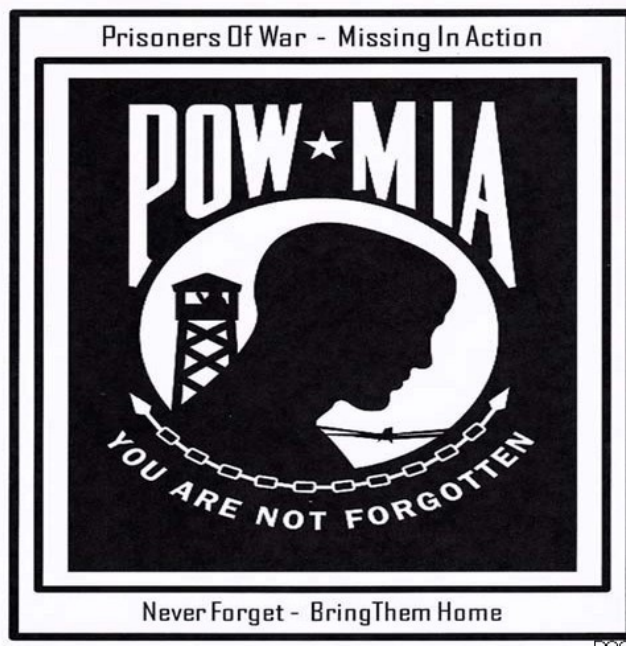
Everyone is encouraged to submit a comment for the record can [go online](#). You can also use the [FRA Action Center](#) to weigh in on this issue with their legislators.



Understanding VA Claims

You may qualify for [VA disability benefits](#) if you have physical or mental health conditions that developed as the result of your service. To receive these benefits, you must file a claim to determine your disability rating. [Learn more about the VA claims process.](#)





Congress Passes Mental Health Care and Services Bill

This week, the Senate passed VFW-supported [H.R. 8247](#), the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care and Treatment (COMPACT) Act, which passed the House in September and now heads to the president for signature. This legislation seeks to enhance a wide variety of services related to improving transition, suicide prevention, and care and services for women veterans. [Read more.](#)



Adapt Your Car with VA

If you have a service-related disability that prevents you from driving, VA can help you buy a specially adapted vehicle or adapt an existing vehicle to make it drivable for you! Learn how to apply for [automobile allowance and adaptive equipment grants](#).



1. [FDA recommends avoiding use of NSAIDs in pregnancy at 20 weeks or later because they can result in low amniotic fluid](#)
2. [Coronavirus Q&As for Consumers](#)
3. [Medtronic Recalls Rashkind Balloon Septostomy Catheters for Quality Issues](#)
4. [FDA Drug Shortages](#)
5. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: November 3, 2020](#)
6. [Nostrum Laboratories, Inc. Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Metformin HCl Extended Release Tablets, USP 750 mg, Due to N-Nitrosodimethylamine \(NDMA\) Content Above the Acceptable Daily Intake \(ADI\) Limit](#)
7. [Drug Safety-related Labeling Changes \(SrLC\)](#)
8. [Current and Resolved Drug Shortages and](#)

Discontinuations Reported to FDA

9. Outbreak Investigation of Salmonella Stanley: Wood Ear Mushrooms - Dried Fungus (September 2020)
10. Current and Resolved Drug Shortages and Discontinuations Reported to FDA
11. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
12. Improving the Design of Clinical Trials of Drugs to Treat Schizophrenia
13. Protect Your Family From Fraudulent Flu Products
14. Outbreak Investigation of E. coli O157:H7: Unknown Food (Fall 2020)
15. FDA Approves First Treatment for COVID-19
16. FDA Encourages Manufacturers to Clearly Declare All Uses of Sesame in Ingredient List on Food Labels
17. Lohxa LLC Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Chlorhexidine Gluconate Oral Rinse USP, 0.12% Due to Microbial Contamination
18. Stryker Neurovascular Recalls Trevo XP ProVue Retriever Due to Core Wire That May Break or Separate During Use
19. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Authorizes Monoclonal Antibody for Treatment of COVID-19
20. FDA Offers Guidance to Enhance Diversity in Clinical Trials, Encourage Inclusivity in Medical Product Development
21. FDA Permits Marketing of New Device Designed

to Reduce Sleep Disturbance Related to Nightmares
in Certain Adults

22. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Authorizes
First Test that Detects Neutralizing Antibodies from
Recent or Prior SARS-CoV-2 Infection

23. FDA Takes Efforts to Protect Patients from
Potentially Harmful Compounded Drugs Through
Finalizing Insanitary Conditions Guidance

24. FDA Updates and Press Announcements on
NDMA in Metformin



**New National Native American Veterans
Memorial Opened**

On Veterans Day, the new [National Native American Veterans Memorial](#) to honor the military service of Native Americans opened on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The memorial, Warriors' Circle of Honor, consists of an elevated stainless-steel circle balanced on an intricately carved stone drum. The artist who designed the memorial, Harvey Pratt of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, served in Vietnam from 1962 to 1965. The museum has a complementary new online exhibition, [Why We Serve: Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces](#). [Learn more](#).



Landmark Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Bill

S.785, Commander John Scott Hannon Act PL 116-171 Oct. 17, 2020.

TREA is constantly lobbying Congress to address the serious challenges many veterans and service members face when transitioning from the military to civilian life. S. 785 - The Commander John Scott Hannon

Veterans Mental Health Improvement Act was recently signed by the President. This critical bill provides veterans with transition assistance, mental health support and telehealth access. It commits VA to

deliver bold new initiatives to improve veteran mental health and well-being, and help bring an end to the tragic trends in veteran suicide.

The bill is named after former Navy SEAL Commander Hannon, diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder after serving our nation honorably for more than 23 years. He actively helped other veterans with war-related physical and mental trauma, but who regrettably died from suicide in 2018. VA will implement the types of programs that improved Commander Hannon's life, including:

- Bolstering VA's mental health workforce to serve more veterans by giving VA direct hiring authority for more mental health professions, offering scholarships to mental health professionals to work at Vet Centers, and placing at least one Suicide Prevention Coordinator in every VA hospital;
- Improving rural veterans' access to mental healthcare by increasing the number of locations at which veterans can access VA telehealth services and offering grants to non-VA organizations that provide mental health services or alternative treatment to veterans;
- Studying and investing in innovative treatment options by expanding veterans' access to alternative programs and investing in VA research on veterans'

suicide risk and identifying and treating mental illness;

- Holding VA accountable for its mental healthcare and suicide prevention efforts by examining how VA manages its suicide prevention resources and how VA provides seamless care and information sharing for veterans seeking mental healthcare from both VA and community providers; and
- Establishing a grant program that requires VA to better collaborate with community organizations across the country already serving veterans. This collaboration will result in earlier identification of veterans who are at risk of suicide and will provide the ability to intervene with preventive services.



Volunteer for COVID-19 Research Studies

VA is conducting studies to test new COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, and to better understand how the virus affects people. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age, but do not have to be veterans or be enrolled in VA health care. Participants will not be required to pay for care related to the study and will possibly be compensated for their travel and time.

[Learn more.](#)



National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020

S. 2661, P.L. 116-172 Oct. 17, 2020.

The law designates 9-8-8 as the digit number to be used as the National Suicide Hotline number by 2022, and requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to designate 9-8-8 as the universal telephone number for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline.

A state may impose and collect a fee for providing 9-8-8 related services. However, this fee must be held in a designated account to be spent only in support of 9-8-8 services, and the FCC must submit an annual report on state administration of these fees.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Veterans Affairs must jointly report on how to make the use of 9-8-8 operational and effective across the country, and HHS must develop a strategy to provide access to competent, specialized services for high-risk populations.





Free Entrance to National Parks for Veterans and Survivors

Starting Veterans Day 2020, all veterans and Gold Star Families became eligible for free access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests. In addition to receiving access to National Parks, the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have indefinitely waived entrance or standard amenity fees for veterans and Gold Star Families. Please visit the [National Parks Service website](#) for more information about how to access this new benefit.



Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living (COLA) Adjustment Act of 2020

H.R. 6168, P.L. 116-178 Oct. 20, 2020.

This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase, as of December 1, 2020, the rates of veterans' disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children. The percentage increase in benefits shall be the **same 1.3 percent** as the cost-of-living increase for Social Security recipients.



**TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee to Start
Jan. 1**

DOD announced that TRICARE Select Group A retirees will be required to pay an enrollment fee beginning on Jan. 1, 2021. Congress directed the Defense Health Agency in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 to implement TRICARE Select retiree enrollment fees, but delayed the implementation. Group A is comprised of retirees and their family members if the sponsor's initial enlistment or appointment occurred before Jan. 1, 2018. The enrollment fee is waived for medically retired individuals and their family members, and for survivors of active-duty deaths. During [TRICARE Open Season](#), running now to Dec. 14, beneficiaries must set up an allotment with their regional contractors for the enrollment fee to begin on Jan. 1, 2021. Beneficiaries who do not set up their allotment by the deadline will be unenrolled due to nonpayment. These individuals would have previously had 90 days from the termination date to request reinstatement. However, recently the Defense Health Agency has agreed to extend the reinstatement period to 180 days. [Learn more.](#)



Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act

H.R. 1812, P.L. 116-176 Oct. 20, 2020.

This law expands the eligibility to receive counseling from VA Vet Centers to members of the National Guard and Reserves or Coast Guard who served during emergency situations in the wake of a national emergency, major disaster, civil disorder, or drug interdiction operation.



Protect Your Hearing with TRICARE

Do you find it hard to hear your family or friends during conversations? Have you missed hearing a doorbell ring or horn beep? Hearing loss is a common issue caused by noise, aging, heredity, and disease. Hearing is vital to teamwork and communication, especially in a military setting. TRICARE may cover [hearing exams](#) and [hearing aids](#). This is based on your TRICARE health plan and sponsor type.

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



Tax & Credit Information



1. IRS designates November 10 National EIP Registration Day

2. Here's what taxpayers need to know about filing an amended tax return
3. It's time for tax professionals to renew their PTIN
4. IRS provides tax inflation adjustments for tax year 2021
5. Income ranges for determining IRA eligibility change for 2021
6. IRS reminds businesses to e-file payroll tax returns
7. Tips to help taxpayers avoid post-disaster scams
8. To help non-filers, IRS sets Nov. 10 as 'National EIP Registration Day;' Register at IRS (dot) gov for Economic Impact Payment
9. IRS provides guidance on certain distributions from terminating 403(b) plans
10. Many college students may still qualify for an Economic Impact Payment; Review the guidelines and register by Nov. 21 at IRS (dot) gov
11. IRS resources to help small business owners
12. Reminder to all taxpayers: Gift cards are not used to make tax payments
13. IRS provides certainty regarding the deductibility of payments by partnerships and S corporations for State and local income taxes
14. IRS reminder to non-filers: Nov. 10 is 'National EIP Registration Day;' Community partners can help people sign up for Economic Impact Payment



Early Detection is Key to Breast Health

Did you know that the most common cancer in American women after skin cancer is breast cancer? According to the National Cancer Institute, "approximately 12.9% of women will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point during their lifetime." Breast cancer often has no symptoms in early stages when it's most easily treated. This is why TRICARE-covered [breast exams](#) and [mammograms](#) are important for early detection.

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



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.



CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE VFC NEWSLETTER!



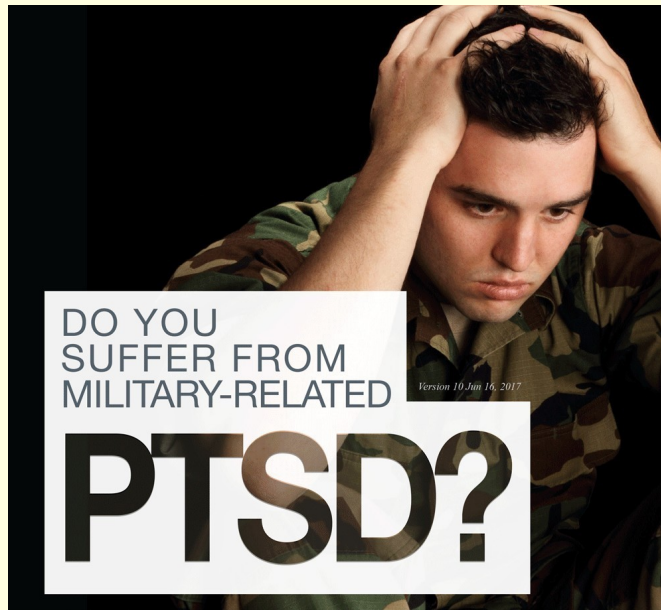


TRICARE Beneficiaries May Be Eligible for FEDVIP Vision

When's the last time you and your family members had their eyes checked? Maintaining good health and wellness includes eye health. "Even if your eyes feel healthy, you could have a problem and not know it," according to the National Eye Institute. But a comprehensive eye exam can help your eye doctor check for common eye problems and detect diseases that can cause vision loss. Did you know that a Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) plan may help you get the eye care you need?

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**



TRICARE Young Adult Premium Increase

The Defense Health Agency (DHA) recently announced that effective Jan. 1, 2021, TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) premiums will increase. TYA Select monthly premium will be \$257 and TYA Prime monthly premium will be \$459. By law, TYA enrollees must pay premiums that represent the full cost of the program. These costs have risen, so TYA premiums are increasing. TRICARE Young Adult is a plan that qualified adult children can purchase after eligibility for "regular" TRICARE coverage ends at age 21 or age 23 and enrolled in college, [learn more online](#).



Act Now: Open Season Is Underway

TRICARE Open Season and Federal Benefits Open Season are happening now and run through Monday, Dec. 14.

If you're enrolled in or eligible for a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select, TRICARE Open Season applies to you. This is your chance to enroll in a health plan or change your health plan for next year. Your enrollment choices will take effect on Jan. 1, 2021.

Enrolling in a Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) plan may help you get the dental or vision care you need. If eligible, your chance to do so is now during Federal Benefits Open Season, which also runs from Nov. 9 to Dec. 14. If you enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season, your FEDVIP coverage will take effect on Jan. 1, 2021.

To learn more, read the latest articles about [TRICARE Open Season](#) and [Federal Benefits Open Season](#).



Delays in Obtaining Military Documents for Eligibility Determinations

We are asking for your assistance. As you may be aware, the government's primary repository for military personnel records, the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), has been closed to the public since

March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to numerous COVID-19 exposures occurring with increasing frequency, the NPRC has informed us they have shut down most of their remaining operations indefinitely. This decision negatively impacts our ability to obtain documents to determine eligibility for interment in national cemeteries.

We will continue to make every attempt to assist Veterans and their families, but if a service member's records cannot be obtained through any source other than NPRC, we may not be able to make a timely eligibility determination.

We ask you to inform family members of this issue and ask them to search for any additional military documents which may be in their possession. Documents kept by the Veteran may be the only documents available at this time to verify his or her eligibility for burial.

We also encourage you to ask family members to check the following:

Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) or the American Legion. These organizations may have discharge documents on file for members.

Any orders the service member may have received or any documents showing a military service number would be helpful.

County clerk of the county where the service member would have returned from service. The service member may have filed their documents with the county upon discharge from military service.

If the service member has a set of dog tags, please send a clear photograph of them to our agency.

Any additional information provided may improve our ability to locate records. You may send any additional information or documents by fax at 1-866-900-6417 or by email at NCA.Scheduling@va.gov. Please follow up on the fax or email with a phone call to 1-800-535-1117, Option 1, to alert us to this additional information.

We apologize for the delay and thank you for your assistance in this emergency.

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





The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced three new identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

Army Cpl. Paul W. Wilkins, 19, was a member of B Company, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 11, 1950, when his unit was fighting enemy forces near Choch'iwan, South Korea. He was never found, nor were any remains recovered that could be identified as Wilkins. The Army declared a presumptive finding of death for Wilkins on Dec. 31, 1953, and he was declared non-recoverable on Jan. 16, 1956. Interment services are pending. [Read about Wilkins.](#)

Navy Coxswain Paul L. Boemer, 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 Boemer. Interment services are pending. [Read about Boemer.](#)

Navy Fireman 1st Class Howard D. Hodges, 20, was assigned to the battleship USS West Virginia, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS West Virginia sustained multiple torpedo hits, but timely counter-flooding measures taken by the crew prevented it from capsizing, and it came to rest on the shallow harbor floor. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 106 crewmen, including Hodges. Interment services are pending. [Read about Hodges.](#)



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

©2020 Veterans-For-Change.org | CA 92584-8870

[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by
[GoDaddy Email Marketing](#)®