



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, February 14, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 07



This-N-That

Good afternoon Jim,

This week we've packed the newsletter with a lot of information, for those interested or following the COVID vaccine, again VFC is not supporting it either way, but there are two items you should read under "Links to Other Stories".

We do have a new Sec VA Denis McDonough whom I have not found out a lot of information on other than he was "promoted" from within and from

all I can find out is he was a Naval Reservist called to active duty to serve in Iraq, but no real special information on his military career time, and I don't see anywhere that he has any medical background or any formal type of training that would have made him a good candidate in my opinion.

So, for now I will reserve judgement to wait and see what he will and won't do to help our Countries Veterans.

For now, it appears he's making the rounds to VA facilities across the country to learn first-hand how the VA treats Veterans.

We'd like to wish a Happy Birthday to the Marine Corps Women's Reserve established in 1943.

We have added two new **TAKE ACTION** items, and we hope all our readers will participate and help yourself or fellow Veteran obtain the much needed and long overdue benefits.

We'd like to continue to remind everyone to please continue to practice safe practices like masks when out, keeping safe social distancing, steer clear of anyone sneezing or coughing to help protect yourself and your family.

We continue to gain momentum on [MEWE](#), and some of our followers that we'd lost when we migrated from Face Book over to [MEWE](#) are finding us again, and we're pleased to have them rejoin us. And we encourage all of our readers to join us there, links to all our pages are further down in this newsletter.

And I'd like to encourage everyone who can to help and support Military-Veterans Advocacy go to www.militaryVeteransadvocacy.org. They helped all our Blue Water Navy Veterans, and are still working on BWN and now many other issues, and I offer a hat off to them and Commander John Wells!

On behalf of our Volunteers nationwide and myself, we wish you and your family good health and **Happy Valentines Day!**

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org



Senate Confirms McDonough as VA Secretary

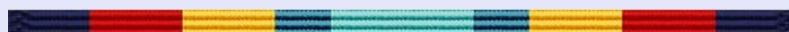
The Senate approved Denis McDonough as the next Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). According to Military Times, he will be the second non-veteran confirmed to lead the VA. McDonough served as White House Chief of Staff under former President Barack Obama. He received a unanimous vote from the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee following his testimony before the committee and was easily confirmed by an 87-7 vote.

In related news, the Senate also confirmed Kathleen Hicks as Deputy Secretary of Defense. She will be the first woman to serve in that position.



Happy Birthday Marine Corps Women's Reserve

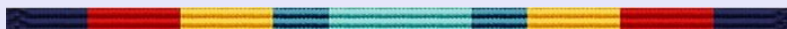
The Marine Corps Women's Reserve was established in February 1943. On June 12th, 1948, Congress passed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, which made women a permanent part of the regular Marine Corps.



Vaccinating VA Central Office employees for continuity of operations

VA is vaccinating key VA Central Office (VACO) leaders and staff who are vital to our national health care operations or who regularly interact with Veterans and their families as part of their duties.

[Read More](#)



SecDef Makes Masks Mandatory on All Military Installations

Newly appointed Secretary of Defense (SecDef) Lloyd J. Austin has ordered all service members and civilians on U.S. military installations - whether

indoors or outdoors - to wear a mask to try to limit the spread of COVID-19, with limited exceptions. The memorandum issued by the Secretary states that; "Individuals must wear masks continuously while on military installations except: (1) when an individual is alone in an office with floor-to-ceiling walls with a closed door; (2) for brief periods of time when eating and drinking while maintaining distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines and instructions from commanders and supervisors; (3) when the mask is required to be lowered briefly for identification or security purposes; and (4) when necessary to reasonably accommodate an individual with a disability."

First Lady Jill Biden and Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and Chief Medical Adviser to President Joe Biden, attempted to alleviate military-connected families' fears surrounding COVID-19 vaccines during an American Red Cross webinar. "The fight against COVID is a battle we can win, and brighter days are close, but we need your help," Jill Biden said. "That's why we're encouraging everyone to mask up, socially distance, and get the vaccine when it's your turn. We can beat this together."



4 WAYS TO HELP HOMELESS VETERANS

- 1 Encourage the Veteran or their families to visit the closest VA Medical Center or Community Resource and Referral Center for help.
- 2 Give the Veteran the phone number to the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (1-877-424-3838).
- 3 Call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (1-877-424-3838) on behalf of the Veteran.
- 4 Explore www.va.gov/homeless to learn about VA programs for Veterans who are homeless and share that information with others.


NRD.GOV



VA Secretary Denis McDonough visits DC VA Medical Center

VA Secretary Denis McDonough toured the DC VA Medical Center to see first-hand how healthcare professionals care for Veterans during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read More](#)



Veterans in rural Montana receive COVID-19 vaccine via airplane delivery

Veterans in rural Kalispell, Montana, received COVID-19 vaccines following an airplane delivery from Fort Harrison near Helena into Glacier Park International Airport Feb. 3.

[Read More](#)



Links to Other Stories

1. [501 deaths + 10,748 other injuries reported following COVID vaccine, latest CDC data show](#)
2. [Study finds CDC inflated COVID numbers by 1,600%](#)
3. [VA researcher tests condensed form of psychotherapy to treat PTSD patients](#)
4. [VA Life Insurance: Here for you at each stage of your journey](#)
5. [VA Disability Ratings for Heart Disease](#)
6. [VA Disability Ratings for GERD Explained](#)
7. [Vietnam Veteran says he deserves health benefits after being exposed to Agent Orange](#)
8. [Agent Orange Exposure Doubles Risk of Developing Dementia, Study Finds](#)
9. [Two More Individuals Plead Guilty in Connection with Health Care Kickback Conspiracy](#)

10. Five New Guilty Pleas In Nationwide Telemedicine Pharmacy Health Care Fraud Conspiracy
11. New VA Program Investigates Outdoor Therapy For Veterans
12. Boise Man Sentenced to 3.5 Years in Federal Prison for Health Care Fraud and Aggravated Identity Theft
13. State Lawmaker Indicted for Stem Cell Fraud Scheme, Illegally Distributing Prescription Drugs
14. Two Women Indicted on Charges Stemming From \$100 Million Home Health Care Fraud and Money Laundering Scheme
15. Connecticut Behavioral Health Clinician Group Pays \$100K to Settle False Claims Allegations
16. Two Youngstown-area physicians indicted for health care fraud and kickback schemes; third charged by bill of information
17. Raleigh County Woman Sentenced to a Total of 54 Months in Prison for Conspiracy to Obstruct Justice and Health Care Fraud
18. CEO Pleads Guilty to Defrauding Multiple Federal Agencies
19. Local Businesswoman Pleads Guilty To Criminal Healthcare And Tax Fraud Charges And Agrees To \$20.3 Million Civil Settlement
20. Owner of Georgia Consulting Company and

Texas Man Charged in \$2.7 Million Genetic Testing Kickback Scheme

21. Oklahoma Medical Professionals Sentenced for Unlawful Distribution of Controlled Substances and Medicare Health Care Fraud



SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

TALK:

- Killing themselves
- Feeling hopeless
- Having no reason to live
- Being a burden to others
- Feeling trapped
- Unbearable pain

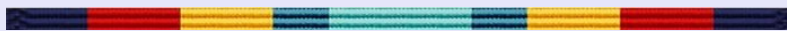


BEHAVIOR:

- Increased use of alcohol or drugs
- Looking for a way to end their lives
- Withdrawing from activities
- Isolating from people
- Sleeping too much or too little
- Visiting or calling people to say goodbye
- Giving away possessions
- Aggression
- Fatigue

MOOD:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Loss of interest
- Irritability
- Humiliation/Shame
- Agitation/Anger
- Relief/Sudden Improvement



VA Provides COVID Vaccine Update

FRA staff participated in a Zoom conference call with Veterans Health Administration to discuss the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Steven Lieberman, Acting Principal Deputy Undersecretary, claimed infection

control remains a high priority for the VA. The agency has given more than 1.3 million tests and the VA telehealth usage has increased by more than 1,400 percent. According to Military.com, 121 VA employees and 9,200 VA patients have died from COVID-19. Since December 2020, the VA has provided more than 500,000 vaccines for "high-risk" veterans at 258 sites. In January 2021, the VA gave permission for veteran caregivers to also receive the vaccine at no charge.

Vaccinations will be offered in accordance with the VA's phased risk stratification framework and will build upon elements outlined in the [COVID-19 Vaccination Plan for the Veterans Health Administration](#). Veterans and their caregivers can get the latest information and sign up to receive updates on the [VA's COVID-19 vaccine webpage](#). For a caregiver to get a vaccine they should contact their local Caregiver Support Coordinator. A list of Caregiver Support Coordinators can be [found online](#).

Additional information about the VA's COVID-19 vaccine program is also [available online](#).



Formerly homeless Veteran flourishes in job at national cemetery

The Cemetery Apprenticeship Program trains Veterans to be caretakers at VA national cemeteries, performing a variety of grounds, equipment, and building maintenance duties.

[Read More](#)



[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. And we're sincerely hoping to roll out the new website sometime this coming June.

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 **3,089** hits per day, and downloads average **4,015** per day with a total **7,103,883** visitors as of Saturday afternoon.

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 notification to approve your account. Once received, and we approve, the system will send you an E-Mail letting you know your account has been approved. Be sure to check your junk and spam folders just in case you don't receive it in your In-Box.

www.Veterans-for-change.org

- Documents Library with over **20,047** documents in 233+ Libraries, added 33 new documents on-line (Updated: 01/12/21)
- 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: **10,221**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than **7,942**, Added 47 New Links

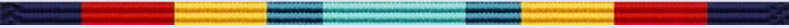
(Updated: 02/03/21)

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



VA Secretary Confirmed

Last week, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs voted 87-7 to confirm [Denis R. McDonough](#) for the position of Secretary of Veterans Affairs. He will be the second non-veteran to lead VA. While McDonough has not served in the armed forces, he is a public servant with wide-ranging experience including as White House Chief of Staff for former President Obama. "The VFW believes today's confirmation of Mr. McDonough will allow the Department of Veterans Affairs to leverage his years of government leadership experience to rebuild trust and confidence in quality VA care throughout the veteran community, especially during these uncertain times," said VFW National Commander Hal Roesch. "The VFW looks forward to working closely with Mr. McDonough to ensure the VA can continue its aggressive fight against COVID-19, and to improve the delivery of care and benefits to our nation's heroes."



Shreveport VA reaches 5,000 COVID-19 vaccine milestone

Veteran William O. Smith was the 5,000th person to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the Overton Brooks VA Medical Center in Shreveport, Louisiana. "I hope all Veterans will come and get their shots."

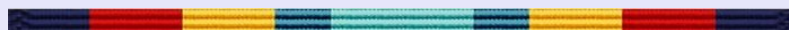
[Read More](#)



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 02/12/21)

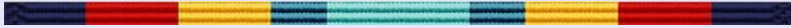
1. [Oppose TRICARE fee Increases](#)
2. [Veterans Economic Recovery Act Introduced](#)
3. [S. 134/H.R. 637, the Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2021](#)
4. [Please Support H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act](#)



Enjoy the total rewards of a psychology career at VA

Interested in a career as a VA psychologist? VA careers come with an abundance of rich rewards, including competitive pay and generous benefits.

[Read More](#)



**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



**House and Senate Veterans' Affairs
Committees Announced**

Both the House and the Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs have announced all their committee members. The [Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs](#) will be chaired by Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) with Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS) as the ranking member. The [House Committee on Veterans' Affairs](#) will be chaired by Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA) with Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL) as the ranking member. The VFW looks forward to working with all the committee members on the important issues facing service members, veterans, and their families.



Secretary McDonough's remarks to Veterans Service Organizations regarding the American Rescue Plan

This plan supports our priority of providing Veterans timely, world-class healthcare. Here's a few things those targeted funds will allow us to do: It will allow us to ensure that our 9.3 million enrolled Veterans will not have healthcare delayed. The pandemic has resulted in 19.7 million cancelled, delayed or moved appointments. These changes are not only taxing on our Veterans—they may also result in additional costs, forced cancellation, and delays. The plan will allow the Veterans Health Administration and our Information Technology team to sustain and expand telehealth capabilities critical for video-to-home telehealth visits.

[Read More](#)



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](#)

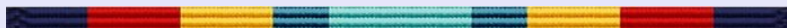
[HOMELESS HEROES PROGRAM OF
VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE](#)

[AMVETS GROUP](#)

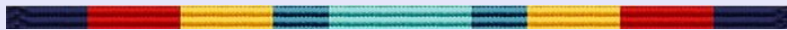
[VETERANS SOCIAL GROUP](#)

[{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."



VA COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout

This week, VA, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, and Phillips held a [webinar](#) focused on how veterans and caregivers can access the COVID-19 vaccine. VA offers COVID-19 testing and [vaccinations for caregivers](#) participating in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. The panel discussed [how eligible veterans and their caregivers can receive their COVID-19 vaccinations](#) at any VA facility and should be immunized at the same time. Veterans who never used their VA benefits can contact their local VA office for information regarding the vaccinations, and VA's distribution plan. Veterans and caregivers can [sign up](#) for updates and express their interest in receiving a vaccine, which will help VA with their vaccine supply.



Biloxi VA using smart disinfecting robot to fight germs

Biloxi VA using a smart disinfecting robot to fight germs in hospital rooms. Delivers UVC light to inactivate pathogens. Complies with CDC recommendations for infection control in medical facilities.

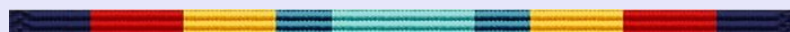
[Read More](#)



DPAA Family Meeting Soon

On Feb. 20, 2021, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) will be conducting two virtual family update meetings in Los Angeles & Honolulu. These meetings are intended to keep family members updated on DPAA's mission. The meetings will include formal presentations, question and answer sessions, and one-on-one discussions between government officials and family members.

[Learn more](#)



Disenrolled from TRICARE Select? Here's How to Reinstate Your Coverage

As of Jan. 1, 2021, TRICARE Select Group A retirees are required to pay enrollment fees each month. If you didn't set up your enrollment fees for TRICARE Select or TRICARE Overseas Program Select coverage last year, you were disenrolled from your plan effective Dec. 31, 2020. If you want to have TRICARE Select coverage this year, you must request reinstatement with your TRICARE contractor.

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



CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER !



**When Can I Get the COVID-19
Vaccine?**

The big question on the mind of many TRICARE beneficiaries is, "When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?" The Department of Defense (DoD) is offering the COVID-19 vaccine to service members, retirees, and their families through different phases of the schema. The DoD COVID-19 vaccination plan is based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 recommendations.

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



Technology and best practices help Veteran hear again

Army Veteran Donnie Acklin lost a lot of his hearing working in the motor pool in Vietnam. Thanks to the tele-audiology program at the Poplar Bluff VA, he has his hearing back AND virtual appointments.

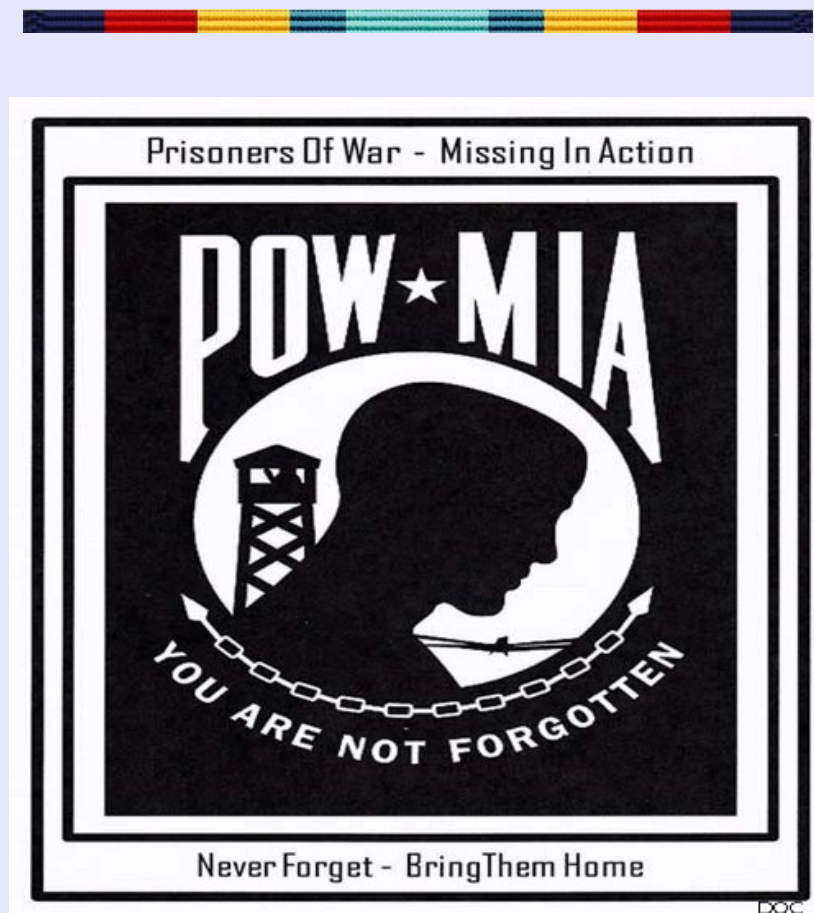
[Read More](#)



Kansas City VA welcomes da Vinci surgical system

The robotic aided da Vinci system provides Kansas City VA surgeons the flexibility to perform minimally invasive surgeries. The results are faster recovery times and less pain during recovery.

[Read More](#)



Airborne hazards exams probably saved their lives

Real life Veteran stories about how participating in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry and Gulf War Registry positively impacted their health and probably saved their lives.

[Read More](#)



Resources to support you throughout your GI Bill journey

While there are many resources to support those managing the impacts of COVID-19, we narrowed a few down to create a COVID-19 fact sheet with GI Bill students in mind. You can see the COVID-19 resources described below and find them listed in our COVID-19 Fact Sheet.

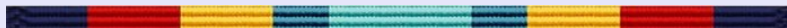
[Read More](#)





1. Outbreak Investigation of *Listeria monocytogenes* – Hispanic-style Fresh and Soft Cheeses (February 2021)
2. FDA approves add-on therapy for patients with genetic form of severely high cholesterol
3. FDA's Generic Drug Program in 2020 Helped Ensure Availability of High-Quality, Affordable Drugs Amid COVID-19
4. Boston Scientific Recalls EMBLEM S-ICD Subcutaneous Electrode (Model 3501) Due to Risk of Fractures
5. Dole Fresh Vegetables, Inc. Is Voluntarily Recalling Two Lot Codes of Dole™ Sunflower Crunch Chopped Salad Kit
6. Delicæ Gourmet LLC Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Shrimp Allergen in Thai Peanut Sauce, Panang Curry Sauce, and Spicy Red Curry Sauce
7. Hickory Harvest Foods Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Almonds in Sprouts Vanilla Flavored Yogurt Covered Cranberries

8. Smiths Medical Recalls Medfusion 3500 and 4000 Syringe Pumps Due to Risk of Medication Delivery Error
9. FDA Drug Shortages
10. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Authorizes Monoclonal Antibodies for Treatment of COVID-19 (02/09/21)
11. Ocean Beauty Seafood LLC Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Soy in Publix Brand Parmesan-Crusted Wild Alaskan Salmon Fillets 12 Oz. Package
12. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (02/09/21)
13. FDA Announces New Resource for Veterinarians and Pet Owners Interested in Clinical Field Studies of Animal Cells, Tissues, and Cell- and Tissue-Based Products



**Veterans to benefit from
personalized career planning and
guidance**

PCPG will provide transitioning service members, Veterans, and eligible beneficiaries with tailored education and career services, including resume writing, interview skills, and referrals to VA and community resources unique to the participant's career and education goals.

[Read More](#)



Calling all job seekers: Connect with VA recruiters at virtual open houses

Looking to meet with a VA recruiter? Forget the crowded conferences – VA is making it easier to connect with one by taking the traditional job fair online with a virtual open house.

[Read More](#)




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.



Subscribe Now

CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE VFC NEWSLETTER!



Unique lunches for nursing home residents

Columbia VA Health Care System's nutrition and food services wanted to do something special for its Community Living Center Veteran patients. The idea of a "MockDonald" menu was a welcomed change.

[Read More](#)



New rollout tool notifies high-risk Vets when to expect their vaccine

Veterans are wondering when they can receive the COVID-19 vaccine. VA facilities will notify Veterans in high-risk groups about their eligibility and when they can expect to get their vaccine.

[Read More](#)



Veteran succeeds in weight loss in time for class reunion

MOVE! – VA's famous national weight management program that works. Thousands of Veterans have participated and succeeded with the program. Helps you lose weight, keep it off and improve your health.

[Read More](#)



VA physicians lead innovative changes in Veteran cardiac care

VA continues to offer cutting edge cardiac care to Veterans, with many innovative ideas and practices coming directly from health care providers.

[Read More](#)



RallyPoint members pay tribute to Veterans during the pandemic

RallyPoint online community members pay tribute to and visit graves for others who are unable to travel or visit their deceased loved ones. Join this conversation and more on RallyPoint.

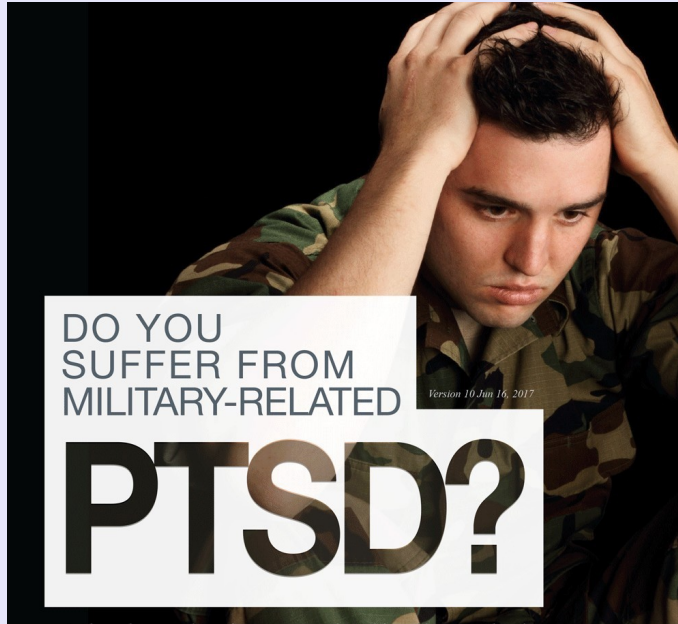
[Read More](#)



Horses, homeless Veterans, learning to connect and trust

Homeless Veterans discover the deep bonds humans and horses form through a unique form of interaction. The language of touch. Here's how the basic emotion of trust helped these heroes.

[Read More](#)



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

VA Researchers Who Served: Nicholas Gatto

Every piece of research done at HERL has the potential to improve the lives of Veterans and other people with disabilities. But the top priority is always on those who have served

[Read More](#)

Black Veterans support group brings fellowship, community, brotherhood

A Seattle based Black Veterans support group helps Veterans with mental health conditions by strengthening community bonds. It's about the importance of staying connected with each other and friends.

[Read More](#)



Veterans use beekeeping to improve well being

Veterans interested in finding an alternative therapy that can help improve well-being have several opportunities through beekeeping programs.

[Read More](#)





Columbia VA supports regional medical center with vaccine freezer

When a regional medical center reached out to the Columbia VA with an urgent need for an ultra-low freezer to store COVID-19 vaccines, VA answered the call to support the request - VA's Fourth Mission.

[Read More](#)



Veterans receive cutting edge virtual reality treatments

Through the VHA IE Extended Reality Network, VHA is using virtual reality to revolutionize how and where Veterans receive care.

[Read More](#)



We know most Veterans have had issues both

current and in the past with the Veterans Affairs, and we'd really like to hear from you!

So now is your chance to voice your concerns, opinions, problems, compliments, advice, etc., anything you'd like to have heard.

We will be creating another category in the "NEWS" section of the website called "SOUND OFF" and instead of us continually sending this type of information in fax blasts to all 535 members of Congress, we will be adding to the website as we know many members of Congress do watch us, and this makes it a lot easier for us to track the number of people reading the issues.

In addition, it might even open the door for your fellow Veteran's to see they're not alone, and they too might voice their concerns.

Your story can be as long or as short as you'd like to express what you have to say, we can post as anonymous, or if you want we can post your name to the article, just tell us how you would like for us to post your story and we will adhere to your request.

We only ask that you keep it clean from foul language, and we will edit only to correct grammar,

and if need be to edit out any foul language as that is an almost immediate cut off from Congress to pay attention.

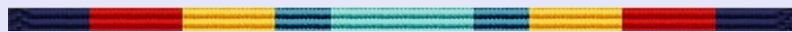
Send your story to JIM.DAVIS@VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE.org and we will get it posted as quickly as we can. And if you have a title for your story that would be fantastic, as we will be providing the story title and link to Congress.



Three Diffusion of Excellence practices impacting Veteran lives across the country

By finding, supporting, spreading, and adapting practices at VA, Diffusion of Excellence is bringing the best care and practices to more and more Veterans.

[Read More](#)



VA seeks executives to lead Veteran care in Michigan and more

You can make a big impact and help shape Veterans' health care as a VA Medical Center executive director or chief of staff.

[Read More](#)



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

Army Cpl. Paul W. Wilkins, 19, of Bellwood, Pennsylvania, 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. Wilkins will be buried in his hometown. The date is yet to be determined. [Read about Wilkins.](#)

Navy Fireman 1st Class James W. Davenport, Jr., 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 Davenport. Interment services are pending. [Read about Davenport.](#)

Navy Ship's Cook 3rd Class Robert Goodwin, 20, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Goodwin. Interment services are pending. [Read about](#)

[Goodwin.](#)

Navy Seaman 2nd Class David Clark, Jr., 18, 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 Clark. Interment services are pending. [Read about Clark.](#)

Navy Boilermaker 1st Class William E.

Blanchard, 24, 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 Blanchard. Interment services are pending. [Read about Blanchard.](#)

Navy Seaman 1st Class Wallace G. Mitchell, 20, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained

multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Mitchell. Interment services are pending. [Read about Mitchell.](#)



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