



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, March 07, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 10



This-N-That

Good evening Jim,

We've finally managed to get nearly 200 new documents uploaded to the website covering several topics and you will be able to notice them quickly as it will have a red flag that says "New". In addition, we have added another 74 new weblinks, also in several categories, and we're still working on adding more links and documents, and hopefully we'll be able to add to the FAQ's page as well.

Lots of new information to be added, just takes us time to process them all.

Seems now that those who served in Desert Storm are susceptible to being diagnosed with prostate Cancer, and as we all know cancer is one thing we don't want to wait or delay taking action. My advice is that if you served in Desert Storm, and even if you have no symptoms of being sick your next appointment, please ask your doctor to at least test you.

This way it can be easily caught and treatment could begin immediately and you'd be better able to fight it off before it becomes too late.

For Veterans who are dealing with any number of illnesses, who are married, possibly have children, and as bad as this sounds, now is the time to begin preparing for your family should anything happen to you.

Further down in this newsletter is a short piece with a web link for a Burial and Benefits kit, please download it now, gather up all your paperwork that would be needed and complete the forms and put them all in a large manila envelope and put in your safe.

Although none of us ever expect the worst to happen, there simply is no way to avoid it, but you can make things a little easier on your family by being prepared, and also no one will have to search and dig for anything, it will all be together.

We've also edited the "**TAKE ACTION**" portion of the newsletter. We didn't catch that we had the same bill listed twice, on the website, and in the newsletter, and that one piece had already closed, so it's duplicate has been removed from the website, and from the newsletter, and new piece have been added.

We encourage everyone to take action, and you don't have to be a Veteran, or even related to a Veteran to participate and help us to get all these pieces passed!

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.

If you've not visited our website, www.veterans-for-change.org or not visited in a while, please be sure to check often for updates on documents, web links, etc., we are a bit slow, but are moving as fast as we can, yet not over-loading to put more work on our Webmaster when we get to the transition into the new look.

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!

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org



Truman VA Vaccinates 10,000th Veteran

Husband and wife Army Veterans Laureen and Jonathan Crews were the 10,000th and 10,001st Veterans to be vaccinated against COVID-19 at the Harry Truman Veterans' Hospital, now vaccinating 2000 weekly.

[Read More](#)



VA updates rating criteria for musculoskeletal and muscle injuries

In late 2017, VA began a multi-year effort to revise and update the VASRD, or VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities. The VASRD's 15 body systems had seen periodic updates, but this continuing effort reflects the first comprehensive review in 70+ years. Today, VA announced its next update: The musculoskeletal system and muscle injuries.

[Read More](#)



Desert Storm Veteran in new battle with prostate cancer

Today at age 56, Atkinson is fighting another battle—this time a case of aggressive prostate cancer. Thanks to treatment at the VA Portland Health Care System, his condition has improved dramatically in recent months through precision oncology—the molecular profiling of tumors to identify targetable alterations that can be treated therapeutically. Most recently, his PSA level had plummeted to 0.2, after a high of 115 in December.

[Read More](#)



Study: PTSD raises suicide risk for those with prostate cancer

Conversely, the researchers concluded that men with prostate cancer and PTSD may have been at lower risk of death from non-suicidal causes due to favorable physical health resulting from greater health care use and early diagnosis of localized—or low-risk—cancer.

[Read More](#)



Physical therapy program reduces chronic pain for older Veterans

California VA physical therapy program combines exercises with instruction on the neuroscience of pain to help older Veterans increase mobility, reduce chronic pain and improve quality of life.

[Read More](#)

The Great American Spit Out – February 25

As part of the Great American Spit Out, VA encourages Veterans to consider what life would be like free of smokeless tobacco and to explore VA's resources for stopping tobacco use.

[Read More](#)



3 easy tips to help you focus your post-military resume

Transitioning Veteran? As you apply for civilian careers, make sure to align resume with the skills listed in the job posting.

[Read More](#)



Links to Other Stories

1. [Arch Family Dentistry Office Managers Charged with Healthcare Fraud](#)
2. [Father and Son](#)

Who
Defrauded
Numerous
State
Affordable
Care
Act
Programs
Sentenced
to
Prison

3. West
Virginia
hospital
to
pay
more
than
\$300,000
for
Medicare
fraud

4. Two
Women
Plead
Guilty
in
Multi-
Million
Dollar
Medicare
Fraud
Scheme

5. Justice
Department
files
lawsuit
against
Creve
Coeur
pharmacist
for
Controlled
Substances
Act
violations

6. Former
VA
Hospice
Nurse
Sentenced
for
Diverting
and
Tampering
with
Morphine
Meant
for
Dying
Veterans

7. New
rollout
tool
notifies
high-

risk
Vets
when
to
expect
their
vaccine

8. Veterans,
military,
families
get
answers
to
COVID-
19
vaccine
questions

9. VA
supports
the
White
Ribbon
campaign

10. Airborne
hazards
exams
probably
saved
their
lives

11. Albert
Alexander:
VA

helped
secure
housing,
economic
stability
for
me
and
my
family

12. Additional
Benefits
for
100
Percent
Disabled
Veterans

13. Oversight
offices
see
glimmers
of
progress
in
DoD,
VA
electronic
health
records

14. Retired
military
may
face

fewer
transition
problems
than
their
peers:
report

15. Retiree's
wife:
Here's
what
to
do
if
you
think
you're
still
covered
under
Tricare
Select

16. Biden's
new
VA
chief
inherits
oversight
office
from
Trump
viewed
as

abetting
corruption

17. VA
extends
existing
moratoriums
on
evictions
and
foreclosures
and
extends
loan
forbearance
opportunities

18. Dependents
of
Some
Disabled
Veterans
Can
Now
Fly
Space-
A

19. Why
there
should
be
a
director
of
military

spouses
at
DoD

20. Disabled
Veterans
advocate
Richard
Star
has
died,
but
his
fight
for
concurrent
receipt
presses
on

21. Doctor
Sentenced
to
Prison
for
Role
in
Unlawful
Distribution
of
Controlled
Substances

22. Two
Doctors
Charged

in
Illegal
Opioid
Distribution
and
Health
Care
Fraud
Conspiracy

23. Fort
Worth
Doctor
Sentenced
to
10
Years
in
Health
Care
Fraud
Conspiracy

24. Howard
University
Employee
Pleads
Guilty
to
Healthcare
Fraud
Government
Continues
Crackdown
on

People
Who
Defraud
Medicaid

25. Bioventus
Agrees
to
Pay
More
Than
\$3.6
Million
to
Resolve
False
Claims
Act
Violations

26. U.S.
Attorney
Scott
Brady
and
Pennsylvania
Attorney
General
Josh
Shapiro
Announce
Indictment
in
Nursing
Home

Investigation

27. Lancaster
County
Pharmacy
and
Pharmacist
Agree
to
Resolve
Civil
Allegations
of
Dispensing
Controlled
Substances
Without
a
Prescription
and
Falsely
Billing
Medicare
for
\$2.9
Million
28. \$834
Million
Order
Entered
in
Hawai'i
State
Court

Against
Bristol-
Myers
Squibb
and
Sanofi
For
Failing
to
Investigate
and
Disclose
Ineffectiveness
of
Plavix®



How to Turn on Automatic Refills for Your TRICARE Home Delivery Prescriptions

Are you looking to get the most out of your TRICARE pharmacy benefit? Make sure you take some time to check out the TRICARE pharmacy automatic refill program. With automatic refills, you won't have to remind yourself to refill your prescription. Before you run out of medication, Express Scripts will refill and ship your prescription to you for up to a 90-day supply, over the course of a prescription written for a 1-year supply.

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



**Vietnam Veterans of America
presents 117th Legislative Priorities
before House/Senate Veterans
Affairs Committee**

Date: March 4, 2021

Time: 10:00 AM

First Panel: The American Legion

Second Panel: Multi-VSOs – Vietnam Veterans of America, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Wounded Warriors Project, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America

Witness list:

Panel 1

Mr. James “Bill” Oxford
National Commander
The American Legion

Accompanied by:

Mr. Vincent James Troiola,
Chairman of the Legislative Commission

Mr. Lawrence Montreuil
National Legislative Director

Mr. Ralph Bozella
Chairman of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
Commission

Mr. Mario Marquez
Director of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Mr. Daniel Seehafer
Chairman of the Veterans Employment and
Education Commission

Mr. Joe Sharpe
Director of Veterans Employment and Education

Panel 2

Mr. John Rowan
National President/CEO
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

Mr. David Zurfluh
National President
Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)

Mr. Jeffrey Sacks
National Commander
Jewish War Veterans (JWV)

Mr. Ernie Rivera
National Commander
Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)

Mr. Michael S. Linnington, LTG (ret), U.S. Army
Chief Executive Officer
Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)

Mr. Jeremy Butler
CEO
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)

The March 4th 10:00 am meeting will be streamed
on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#)

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is A Not-For-
Profit Veterans Service Organization Chartered by
the United States Congress. www.vva.org



How to plan your legacy with the VA Survivors and Burial Benefits kit

After the passing of a loved one who has served this country, many survivors do not know what to do or where to begin to obtain VA assistance. VA has prepared a burial benefits kit to help guide Veterans, service members and their families after the loss of a loved one.

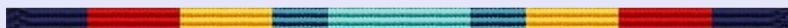
[Read More](#)



Blood donations needed following severe winter storms

Record-breaking cold and winter storms across much of the U.S. have had a significant impact on blood and platelet donations.

[Read More](#)



Innovative cancer treatment offers Veteran's life extension

At the Dallas VA, a new weapon in the fight against cancer in the Veteran population was recently

unveiled. Selective Internal Radiation Therapy (SIRT) was performed on a Veteran with liver cancer.

[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 **1,579** hits per day, and downloads average **2,084** per day with a total **7,150,719** visitors as of Friday evening.

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 **20,336** documents in 233+ Libraries, added **191** new documents on-line (Updated: 03/01/21)

- 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: **10,258**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than **8,016**, Added **74** New Links
(Updated: 03/02/21)

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



New Chief Veterans Experience Officer: VA is building a world class customer experience

VA is building a world class customer experience, says Marine Corps Veteran and new Chief Veterans Experience Officer John Boerstler.

[Read More](#)



Getting Veterans COVID-19 vaccinations high priority, says SecVA

Continuing to get Veterans—especially those in rural and highly rural areas—COVID-19 vaccinations is a high priority, VA Secretary Denis McDonough told reporters Feb. 23.

[Read More](#)



Rural Alaska Veterans get COVID vaccine

Almost 400 miles from Anchorage, Alaska, Veterans on Kodiak Island lined up to get their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine at the Kodiak Area Native Association clinic. Kodiak is reachable only by air.

[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 03/05/21**)

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. FRA and Others asks SecDef Not to Raise TRICARE Fees
5. Concurrent Receipt Legislation Introduced
6. Military Retiree

Survivor
Comfort
Act

7. H.R.
333,
Disabled
Veterans
Tax
Termination
Act

8. S.
89,
Ensuring
Survivors
Benefits
during
COVID-
19
Act
of
2021

9. S.
437,
Take
Action
for
Veterans
Exposed
to
Burn
Pits

10. Support
Bills

to
Expand
Coverage
for
ChampVA
and
TRICARE
Young
Adults



ATLAS site in Virginia provides space for convenient VA care

Veterans who live near Springfield, Virginia, have likely sat idling in traffic on Interstate 395 on their way to receive health care in Washington, D.C. For those Veterans, navigating Washington's heavy traffic is no longer a problem – at least for their VA health care appointments. Thanks to ATLAS (Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations), those Veterans can now meet face to face with their VA providers through video telehealth technology in a private appointment room at American Legion Post 176 in Springfield.

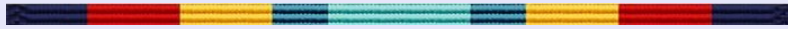
[Read More](#)



VA receives Janssen COVID-19 vaccine

VA received 71,400 doses of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, March 3, authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration under an Emergency Use Authorization.

[Read More](#)



Free cybersecurity competition could win you cybersecurity training

Learn more about cybersecurity through this free competition. Top contestants are invited to cybersecurity training, workshops, labs, competitions, and a job fair.

[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



**Register your SNAP EBT card on
Amazon for exclusive benefits and
discounts**

Amazon.com is now accepting SNAP EBT benefits from 45 states. Free delivery available with minimum purchase and no membership is required.

[Read More](#)



**Secretary orders review of VA's
transgender policies**

Earlier this week, Secretary Denis McDonough ordered a review of VA policies to ensure that

transgender Veterans and employees do not face discrimination on the basis of their gender identity and expression.

[Read More](#)



VA Secretary Urges Congress to Pass COVID-19 Relief

The newly confirmed Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Denis McDonough held a press briefing with White House press secretary Jen Psaki to urge Congress to pass the "American Rescue Act" (H.R.1319 COVID relief package) to provide additional resources for the VA to progress vaccinating veterans and VA staff, as well as potential improvements to bolster the nation's vaccine supply chain. He claimed the bill will give the VA the ability to provide vaccines for every veteran. Since the start of the pandemic, more than 10,605 VA patients have died from COVID-19. To date, 1.4 million "high risk" veterans have been vaccinated by the VA at 258 sites.

The bill includes the following VA provisions:

- \$272 million for the VA to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on the benefits claims and appeals

backlog;

- \$13.5 billion for the VA to provide health care services and related support to eligible veterans, including COVID-19 vaccine distribution, expanded mental health care, enhanced telehealth capabilities, extended support for veterans who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless, and PPE and supplies for clinical employees;
- \$100 million for accelerated deployment of the VA's supply chain modernization initiative to improve the department's preparedness and response to public health emergencies;
- \$750 million for the VA to support COVID-19 response, staff and veteran safety, and preparedness at state veterans homes through one-time payments to support operations and additional construction grants to support shovel-ready projects;
- \$10 million for the VA Office of inspector general to provide oversight;
- \$386 million for up to 12 months of retraining assistance for veterans who are unemployed due to COVID-19 and do not have other veteran education benefits; and
- Providing the VA health care copayment relief by waiving medical debts and billing during the

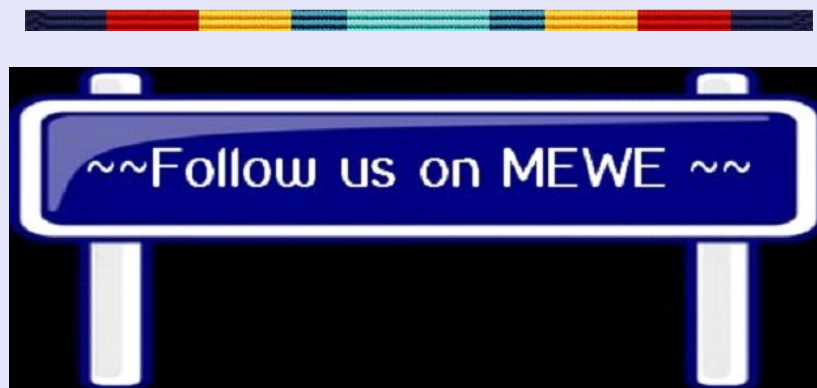
pandemic, as well as costs for COVID-19 testing, treatment and vaccination services at the department.

In January 2021, the VA gave permission for veteran caregivers to also receive the vaccine.

There is no charge for the vaccine. The VA has given priority to veterans already receiving care at the VA and veterans who are age 75 or older.

Some VA facilities are offering vaccines to veterans who are age 65 and older. FRA members interested in getting the vaccine should contact their local VA office.

For more information on which veterans get vaccine [go online](#).



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."



Army Veteran Natasha: Why I get my health care at VA

Army Veteran Natasha was badly injured in Iraq. After separation she began getting her care at a VA women's clinic and says "It's a one stop woman shop."

[Read More](#)



Veterans continue physical therapy via video

Battle Creek VA provides Veterans physical therapy online using Virtual Video Conferencing. They take them through prescribed exercises and educate them on healthy living while the Veteran stays home.

[Read More](#)



Women Veterans have access to VA resources

Women are the fastest growing demographic in the U.S. military and Veteran populations, and VA stands ready to provide resources.

[Read More](#)



Calling all physicians: Help improve Veterans' lives at VA

Want to help improve Veterans' lives? VA physicians provide first-rate health care to the men and women who have bravely served their country.

[Read More](#)



Office of Inspector General

1. **COVID-19 Pandemic: Preliminary Observations on Efforts toward and Factors Affecting the Aviation Industry's Recovery**

2. Tax
Filing:
Actions
Needed
to
Address
Processing
Delays
and
Risks
to
the
2021
Filing
Season
3. Medicare
Part
B:
Payments
and
Use
for
Selected
New,
High-
Cost
Drugs
4. Immigration
Enforcement:
ICE
Can
Further
Enhance

Its
Planning
and
Oversight
of
State
and
Local
Agreements



We Are Not Invisible

The I Am Not Invisible campaign brings awareness to the barriers and challenges that women Veterans face in obtaining health care and other services.

[Read More](#)



VA Researchers Who Served: Dr. Matthew Kinnard

When I reported to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 1959, as good fortune would have it, the placement officer noticed that I had earned a master's degree in biology and offered me the chance to work in a lab designed to conduct Army research.

[Read More](#)



Study: Delaying colonoscopy following abnormal stool test increases risk of colorectal cancer

This is the first study in the United States, the researchers note, to examine the risk of death linked to delays in undergoing a colonoscopy following an abnormal stool blood test.

[Read More](#)



Veterans get new chance to serve on vaccination campaign

The Veterans Coalition for Vaccination (VCV) mobilizes Veterans to deliver vaccines anywhere from the inner city to the most rural outpost in the U.S. and hopefully improve equitable access to vaccinations to all Americans, regardless of geographic or socioeconomic limitations.

[Read More](#)



Fresh Focus #21: Staying hydrated

Water – and staying hydrated – is a crucial tool in your MOVE! program's tool belt to preventing the negative effects of dehydration.

[Read More](#)



Sedra Graves: Giving back through research

VA's Million Veteran Program is one of the world's largest genetics research programs designed to better prevent and treat disease in Veterans. Army Veteran Sedra Graves shares her story for enrolling.

[Read More](#)



CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER !



VA, VFW open ATLAS telehealth access in rural Pennsylvania

It's called ATLAS - Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations. VA opened another one this month at a VFW Post in rural Pennsylvania. It gives Veterans the option to receive VA care closer to home.

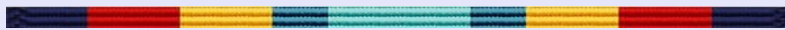
[Read More](#)



Tuskegee Airmen Veterans tell story in 'Red Tail Angels'

Black History Month is a chance to celebrate and honor Black Americans who trailblazed paths for future generations. Among those trailblazers are the Tuskegee Airmen.

[Read More](#)

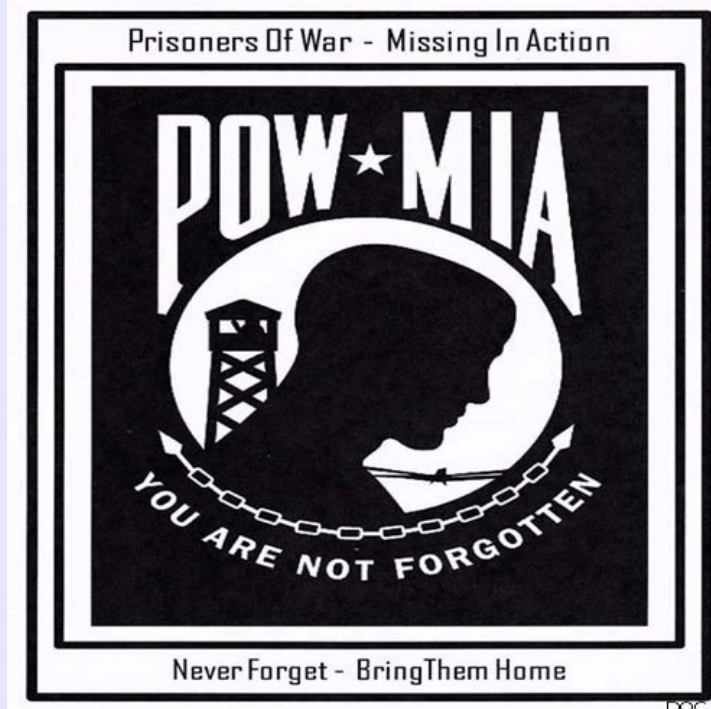


Commission to Review Sexual Assault in the Military

FRA staff Assistant Director Veterans Programs Noelle Huffer participated in a conference call with

Pentagon officials to discuss sexual assault in the military. During the event, it was announced that President Biden ordered a 90-day commission to pursue solutions to sexual assault in the military. Secretary of Defense (SecDef) Lloyd Austin has directed several immediate actions, including the establishment of this 90-Day Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military (IRC) to address sexual assault and harassment in the military. Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen H. Hicks shared limited information about the IRC. The commission will include Military Sexual Trauma (MST) survivors and experts in the field as well as current and former service members. They will review the Uniform Code of Military Justice, consider new accountability measures, and examine the efficiency of the current sexual assault plans in place. All these recommendations will be reported to the SecDef.





Contrasting lives: WWI Black Veterans Everett Johnson and Robert Chase

This is the third installment in a three-part series on the officers and men of the 349th Field Artillery Regiment in World War I, featuring First Lieutenant Everett Johnson, a black officer, and Sergeant Robert Samuel Chase, one of Johnson's non-commissioned officers.


[Read More](#)

Spreading the message – get the

vaccine!

Robert Hancock was "scared" to get the vaccine. Then he had a long talk with a Tampa VA doctor who walked him through the process and explained the benefits of being vaccinated. He got the shot.

[Read More](#)



The Mother Teresa of recreation therapy has retired

Joyce Casey, a Spinal Cord Injury recreation therapist, has saved and changed the lives of thousands of paralyzed Veterans.

[Read More](#)



1. [Coronavirus](#)

(COVID-19)
Update:
FDA
Issues
Authorization
for
Quidel
QuickVue
At-
Home
COVID-19
Test

2. FDA
Approves
First
Treatment
for
Molybdenum
Cofactor
Deficiency
Type
A

3. FDA
Authorizes
First
Robotically-
Assisted
Surgical
Device
for
Performing

Transvaginal
Hysterectomy

4. FDA
Drug
Shortages
5. FDA
Issues
Emergency
Use
Authorization
for
Third
COVID-
19
Vaccine
6. FDA
Statement
on
Vaccines
and
Related
Biological
Products
Advisory
Committee
Meeting
7. Outbreak
Investigation
of
Listeria
monocytogenes
–
Hispanic-

style
Fresh
and
Soft
Cheeses
(February
2021)

8. Rare
Disease
Day
2021:
FDA
Shows
Sustained
Support
of
Rare
Disease
Product
Development
During
the
Public
Health
Emergency

9. The
Quaker
Oats
Company
Issues
Voluntary
Recall
of

Quaker
Rice
Crisps
Sweet
Barbecue
Flavor
Due
to
Undeclared
Soy
Issue

10. Coronavirus
(COVID-
19)
Update:
March
2,
2021

11. Medtronic
Recalls
HVAD
Pump
Implant
Kits
Due
to
Delayed
or
Failed
Restart
After
the
Pump

is
Stopped

12. National
Consumer
Protection
Week:
FDA
Is
Vigilant
in
Protecting
Consumers
Against
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13. Formaldehyde
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14. FDA
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15. FDA's
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16. Outbreak
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Hispanic-
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Fresh
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Soft
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2021)
17. Why
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18. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (03/05/21)
19. FDA Announces New Actions Aimed at Further Reducing Toxic Elements in Food for Babies, Young Children
20. Improper Use of Thermal Imaging Devices: FDA Safety Communication
21. FDA

Alerts
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Warns
Firms
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22. Formaldehyde
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23. Elastomeric
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24. COVID-
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Closure
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and
Component
Changes:
Glass
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and
Stoppers
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25. Federal
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permanent
injunction
against
New
York-
based
dietary

supplement
manufacturer

26. Coronavirus
(COVID-
19)

Update:

FDA

Authorizes

Adaptive

Biotechnologies

T-

Detect

COVID

Test

(03/05/21)



VA stands with Veterans to reduce racial disparities in prostate cancer screenings

Across the U.S., Black men are disproportionately diagnosed with prostate cancer and are more likely to die from the disease than their white counterparts.

[Read More](#)



Where to get "one-stop shop" assistance after a natural disaster

Did you know there is a "one stop shop" for Veterans seeking assistance after an emergency or for when a natural disaster strikes?

[Read More](#)



Winter blast did not deter Shreveport VA staff

Mother Nature's winter storm could not deter Shreveport VA employees who came together to ensure continuity of patient care and hospital operations continued. Many nurses on duty stayed on the job.

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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!



Veteran Eddie Rosenblum, 100, receives vaccine

WWII Veteran "Eddie" Rosenblum, 100, received his vaccine at the VA New York Harbor Healthcare System. A native of Austria, his family fled Europe to America, where he was drafted after Pearl Harbor.

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Minority women at greater risk of

heart disease

Minority women at greater risk of heart disease. VA providers specializing in women's health can give you information about lowering your risk factors. Diet and exercise changes lower your risks.

[Read More](#)



Coming home (for real)

PREP - the Post-deployment Rehabilitation and Evaluation Program - is a one-of-a-kind treatment at the Tampa VA for both Veterans and active duty Servicemembers with a deployment-related concussion or TBI.

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Veterans For Change
Est. 2006

www.veterans-for-change.org



Veterans use aquatic obstacle course for recreation therapy

Marine Veteran who broke his leg improving with new aquatic obstacle course at Cleveland medical center. Helps Veterans improve their balance with increased stability and strengthening to prevent falls.

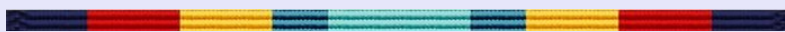
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4 reasons why you should write a cover letter for your VA application

Adding a cover letter to your VA application gives hiring managers further insight into you as a candidate and helps you stand out from the crowd.

[Read More](#)

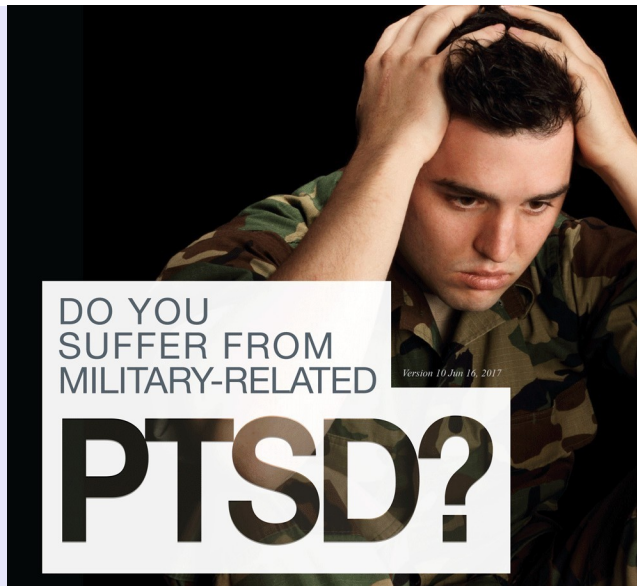


Coast Guard Retirees Now Can Pay TRICARE Enrollment Fees by Allotment

The Defense Health Agency has announced that

Coast Guard (Group A) retirees on TRICARE Select can now pay their monthly fee by allotment. Last year, retirees and their family members enrolled in TRICARE Select were required to set up payment for enrollment fees to keep their coverage this year. Up until recently, the Direct Access Pay System was not able to pay monthly TRICARE fees directly from Coast Guard retired pay. This meant a Coast Guard retiree had to set up payment last year by electronic funds transfer from a U.S. bank account, credit card or debit card for the month of January. Now those receiving retired pay from the Coast Guard Pay and Personnel Center can also set up an allotment.





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



Programs teach military competency, PTSD, suicide best practices

For mental health providers, understanding cultural impacts and service-related experiences can create a safe environment for assessment and treatment for Vets with PTSD or at high-risk for suicide.

[Read More](#)



Studying sleep problems that affect Veterans

Neurologist specializes in treating sleep disorders. Program aims to understand sleep and the impact that poor sleep can have on the brain and body. And how sleep is affected by TBI and PTSD.

[Read More](#)



Truman VA offers new robotic bronchoscopy intervention

Truman VA offers Veteran patients a new robotic-assisted, minimally invasive intervention for acquiring diagnostic biopsies of the lung. Allows pulmonologists to navigate farther for precise biopsies.

[Read More](#)



Trailblazers, advocates and the

anguished: Veteran profiles of the 349th Field Artillery

This series of blogs profiles the World War I service and post-war experiences of three Veterans of the 92nd Division's 349th Field Artillery Regiment, one of the Army's first predominately African-American artillery units.

[Read More](#)



Homebound Pittsburgh Veterans receive COVID-19 vaccine at home

Veteran Bill Schenker received the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in his home. He is enrolled in VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System's Home-Based Primary Care program. As caregiver, his wife qualified also.

[Read More](#)



VA to increase transparency, communication of adverse clinical events

Dr. A. Rani Elwy, a health psychologist and health services researcher at the VA Bedford Healthcare System in Massachusetts, is spearheading the new VA program.

[Read More](#)



Tax & Credit Information



1. New law provides additional flexibility for health FSAs and dependent care assistance programs. Employers may allow participants to

carry
over
unused
amounts

2. 24
new
members
join
the
2021
Taxpayer
Advocacy
Panel
3. Taxpayers
must
report
gig
economy
income
on
their
tax
return
4. Taxpayers
should
beware
of
ghost
preparers
5. As
required
by
law,

all
first
and
second
Economic
Impact
Payments
issued;
eligible
people
can
claim
Recovery
Rebate
Credit

6. Free
File
can
make
taxes
easier
for
seniors
and
retirees

7. Get
ready
for
tax
season
using
IRS
Online

Account

8. Avoid pandemic paper delays:
Use e-file with direct deposit for faster refunds as IRS prepares to open 2020 filing season
9. What taxpayers need to know about claiming the credit for other

dependents

10. People
should
be
on
the
lookout
for
identity
theft
involving
unemployment
benefits

11. Tax
Time
Guide:
How
to
do
taxes
for
free
and
get
refunds
fast

12. All
taxpayers
have
the
right
to
pay

no
more
than
the
correct
amount
of
tax

13. IRS
extends
April
15
and
other
upcoming
deadlines,
provides
other
tax
relief
for
victims
of
Texas
winter
storms

14. Things
taxpayers
should
know
when
choosing
between

standard
and
itemized
deductions

15. IRS
reminds
farmers
and
fishers
of
March
1
tax
deadline

16. Low
Income
Taxpayer
Clinics
represented
over
20,000
taxpayers
dealing
with
an
IRS
tax
controversy;
see
the
latest
program
report

and
the
2021
LITC
grant
recipient
list

17. IRS
reminds
businesses
to
report
large
cash
transactions;
e-
file
encouraged

18. Tax
Time
Guide:
Select
a
tax
return
preparer
with
care

19. Free
electronic
filing
options
for

military
members
and
their
families

20. IRS
issues
alert
on
improper
corporate
domestic
production
activities
deduction
refund
claims



AARP, others offer free tax prep help to Veterans, military and families

AARP Tax-Aide assistance is geared toward people 50 and older or those who have low to moderate incomes, but Tax-Aide is free and open to anyone.

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SOUND OFF!

SHARE YOUR STORIES AND COMMENTS WITH US:

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.

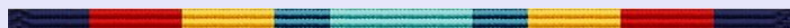
Send your story to JIM.DAVIS@VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE.org and we will get it posted as quickly as we can. And if you have a title for your story that would be fantastic, as we will be providing the story title and link to Congress.



Veterans! Don't post your vaccination card photo on social media

Veterans and their families are cautioned to not post photos of their vaccination cards on social media. You could be inviting identity theft with the data visible on your card.

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Formerly homeless Veteran makes big impact supporting Veterans at Jesse Brown VA

In 2012, Michael Marshall was homeless. Now, thanks to the support he received from the HUD-VASH program, he works at the Jesse Brown Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois, as a certified peer support specialist. The formerly homeless Veteran's job – and his personal goal – is to support Veterans like himself who have experienced homelessness.

[Read More](#)



Army Veteran's life with Multiple Sclerosis

Veteran Nick Mangus has been living with Multiple Sclerosis since 1988. He lives a full and adventurous life. His is a story of adaptability and perseverance...an inspiration to others with MS...and all of us.

[Read More](#)



Find Answers to Your TRICARE Cost Questions

Have you ever received a medical bill that was higher or lower than you expected it to be? If so, you aren't alone. Health care cost language can often be confusing, and it may not always be clear how much you need to pay for a particular health service. The good news is that familiarizing yourself with cost terms and how your TRICARE plan works, can help you get the most out of your coverage and avoid surprises.

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



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Family!**



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