



# **Veterans-For-Change Newsletter**

*A Voice of the Veterans*

Week Ending Sunday, March 21, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 12



## **This-N-That**

Good evening Jim,

It's been somewhat of a busy week. We did some serious clean-up on the website, removed many outdated and obsolete documents, and we've added another 235 but at the same time we discovered a small glitch and notified our webmaster a minor repair needs to be done.

All the documents we added you can locate when you log into the site, then under the library "Medical

Reports” then under the sub-library “Alzheimer’s” even though the category says zero documents there are actually 235 that were added in the past couple of days.

In addition, we’ve added a few more pieces of legislation we need everyone to take action on, and even if you’ve done them already, we ask that every week you take the same action so we can ride those in Congress to jump on these bills, bring to the floor for a vote, passage and sent to the Senate for their vote and passage.

There is also a lot of new information in this newsletter for all our Veterans some will be useful to some, and others might be useful to all, but at minimum educational.

Even though in most areas of the country the weather is getting better, but we are still facing one crisis that seems Congress as well as the Veteran Affairs doesn’t address, or has shoved it on the back burner, our Homeless Veterans!

So, at this time I would like to ask that everyone who can, go through your closets, drawers, etc. and pull out all your gently used clothing and shoes and make a donation to the DAV (Disabled American

Veterans) as they seem to be the best at helping to address this issue. And by the way, this is tax deductible in 2022 for your 2021 Income Taxes.

Then, take maybe fifteen minutes and call your Rep and both Senators and ask them to please address the issue of our homeless Veterans.

Nationwide many VAMC's have "excess" land which could easily and relatively cheaply be converted into Veteran Villages, also making sure that those who are helped with housing are very close by for any medical care or emergency they may have, and can also set-up for visiting nurses, physical therapists, as well as provide mental health care.

I know it's been a nightmare with all the COVID restrictions, and some states have lightened up on them while others are more dictatorial, but, we want 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](http://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](http://www.militaryVeteransadvocacy.org). They helped all our Blue Water Navy Veterans, and are still working on BWN and now many other issues, and Commander John Wells and his hard-working team continue to fight for all of our Veterans!

And I would like to offer my heartfelt and most serious thanks and appreciation to Susie from Military-Veterans Advocacy for helping me to finalize the assembly of the fax list for Congress!

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](mailto:Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org)

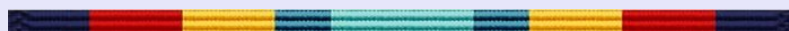


## **How women Veterans can get help addressing their needs through VA programs**

U.S. Army Veteran Loretta White didn't know she was eligible for VA benefits when she left the military in 1989 because of a domestic violence situation.

Believe it or not, many women Veterans do not self-identify as Veterans. According to Dr. Laura Miller, psychiatrist and medical director of reproductive mental health for VHA, this is due in part to the misconception that if you did not engage in combat, you are not considered a Veteran.

[Read More](#)



## **Commander-In-Chief Virtual Joint Congressional Hearing**

VFW National Commander Hal Roesch will testify via video teleconference on March 18 at 10 a.m. (EDT) before a special joint hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs. "Now more than ever, Congress needs to hear the voice of our veteran community," Roesch said. "The pandemic has overwhelmed all of us and changed the way we do business. Regardless of the setting or format, the VFW will continue to press for the full support of Congress on our key priorities and look forward to the discussion on how to best address the issues affecting veterans and their families."

[Watch the testimony.](#)



## **Blood Donations Remain Vital for Service Member Care**

When it comes to the need for donated blood, soldiers on the battlefield understand. For Marines witnessing a member of their unit in danger of losing life or limb, it locks in quickly. They instinctively begin lining up to give because they see the human face behind the small needle sting and the hanging bag of blood. Those in charge of military blood banks want stateside donors to see this face, too.

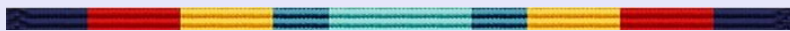
To learn more, [read the article](#).

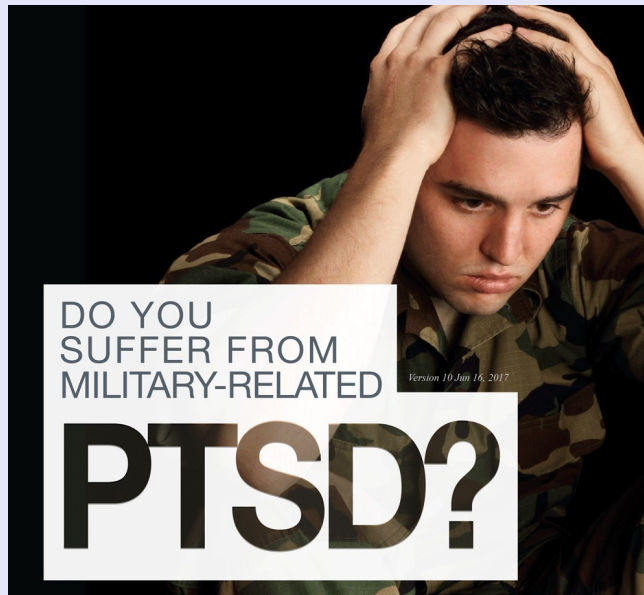


## **Earthquake preparedness: Drop, cover and hold on!**

Here are the steps to stay safe before, during and after an earthquake. These tips will make you, your family or your workplace better prepared to survive and recover quickly.

[Read More](#)





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



## **Lung cancer diagnosis and treatment should be "stigma-free"**

Navy Veteran cancer survivor's relatives: "Well, you knew this was coming." Today, he is speaking out to try to end the stigma of lung cancer. He says patients should be treated with empathy.

[Read More](#)



## **Veteran recovers from COVID-19, coma at VA Las Vegas**



A Marine Corps Veteran went to a VA ER in March 2020 with a mild fever and some trouble breathing. He was the first case of COVID-19 in Nevada. One year later, he came back to get vaccinated.

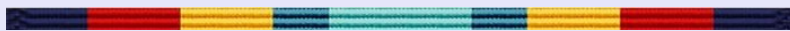
[Read More](#)



### **Free captioned telephone service for those with hearing loss**

Veterans and others with hearing loss can receive free assistive technology for captioned telephone service from participating providers.

[Read More](#)



### Links to Other Stories

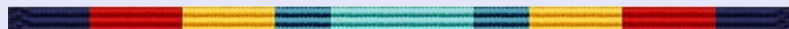
- [1. Chiropractor charged with falsely billing for procedure learned via YouTube](#)
- [2. Ohio Treatment Facilities and Corporate Parent Agree to Pay \\$10.25 Million to Resolve False Claims Act Allegations of Kickbacks to Patients and Unnecessary Admissions](#)
- [3. Owner and Employees of Alleged Pill Mill Facing](#)

## Federal Indictment for an Oxycodone Distribution Conspiracy

4. Doctor Admits Role in Genetic Testing Kickback and Bribery Schemes
5. Pharmacist Sentenced to More Than 14 Years in Federal Prison for a Drug Distribution Conspiracy and for Murder for Hire
6. CEO Sentenced to Prison in \$150 Million Health Care Fraud, Opioid Distribution, and Money Laundering Scheme
7. South Bay Doctor Settles Federal Lawsuit Alleging He Accepted Illegal Kickbacks for Patient Referrals to Gardena Hospital
8. Owner of Tennessee Drug Screening Lab Sentenced to 36 months on Federal Health Care Fraud Charge
9. North Philadelphia “Pill Mill” Doctor Sentenced to Five Years in Prison for Illegal Opioid Distribution
10. Licensed Pharmacist Pleads Guilty to Making False Statements to The DEA About Controlled Substances
11. Allergy and Asthma Associates in Roanoke Pleads Guilty to Criminal Charge; Enters into Civil Resolution Over Health Care Fraud Allegations
12. North Carolina Durable Medical Equipment Corporation Sentenced for \$10 Million Healthcare Fraud Scheme, and the Company and Its Owner

## Agree to Pay Millions to Resolve Related Civil Claims

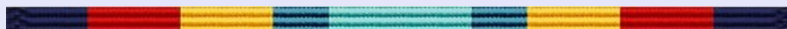
13. How Do I Increase My VA Disability Rating?
14. How Do I Prove Unemployability?
15. National Guard vaccinating tens of thousands of civilians daily
16. Bomb blast exposure may raise risk of Alzheimer's, Army-funded research finds
17. House Passes Bill Allowing All Veterans, Caregivers to Get Vaccinated at VA
18. A Marine Vet returns to Mount Airy to grow a garden — and winds up growing a community
19. The number of Veterans experiencing homelessness rose slightly even before the coronavirus pandemic
20. FDA Approves VA-Made 3D-Printed Hearing Device for South Carolina Veteran



**Why I get my health care at VA: Kim**

Army National Guard Veteran Kim wants others to know about VA health care: "I don't think a week goes by that I don't meet a female Veteran who is unaware of the services she can get through the VA."

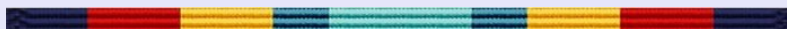
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### **Women Veterans can get help addressing their needs through VA programs**

Women Veterans like Army Veteran Loretta White are succeeding after enrolling in the Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program.

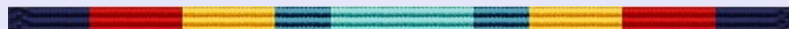
[Read More](#)



### **How the American Rescue Plan aids VA in helping Veterans**

The COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding economic crisis have had a tremendous impact on the health and economic wellbeing of millions of Veterans. Now, the American Rescue Plan will help them further recover.

[Read More](#)



**Suicide Prevention Resources for Military and Veterans**

<b>Military &amp; Veterans Crisis Line</b> 1-800-273-8255, Press 1 Text 838255, 24/7	<b>Office of Warrior Care Policy</b> <a href="http://warriorcare.dodlive.mil/">warriorcare.dodlive.mil/</a>
<b>Vets 4 Warriors</b> 855-838-8255	<b>Military One Source</b> 1-800-342-9647
<b>InTransition</b> 1-800-424-7877	<b>Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors [TAPS]</b> 1-800-959-8277



**Soldiers' Angels Baby Brigade brings virtual baby showers to Veteran, military families**

Soldiers' Angels Baby Brigade brings virtual baby showers to Veteran and military families who are expecting. Eligible families should register to receive support.

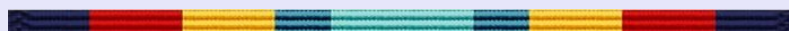
[Read More](#)



## **Dallas VA team's virtual high blood pressure symposium awarded**

In 2018 more than a third of Veterans in VA health care were diagnosed with high blood pressure. A team at the Dallas VA organized a virtual symposium to educate Veterans and their caregivers on HBP.

[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 **3,362** hits per day, and downloads average **4,707** per day with a total **7,188,782** 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](http://www.Veterans-for-change.org)

- Documents Library with over **19,535** documents in **237+** Libraries, added **235** new documents on-line (Updated: 03/18/21)
- 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: 10,331)
- 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](mailto:Jim.Davis@Veterans-for-change.org)



## **American Rescue Plan Becomes Law**

On Thursday, President Biden signed into law [H.R. 1319](#), The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This legislative package addresses the economic and health issues facing America due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Included is specific funding for veteran state homes, veteran rapid retraining, and prohibition of VA copays and cost sharing for veterans during the emergency related to COVID-19. [Learn more.](#)



## **Military researchers gain new insights into brain injuries**

Military researchers have recently found that headache, dizziness and cognitive dysfunction occur far more frequently among military personnel with mild traumatic brain injury than in those without injury.

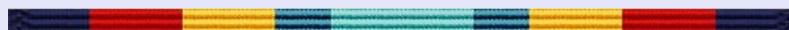
[Read More](#)



## **Specialized team assists Navajo Nation COVID-19 response**

Naval Medical Center Portsmouth's Rapid Rural Response Team (RRRT) from Portsmouth, Virginia recently deployed to the Chinle Comprehensive Care Facility in Albuquerque, New Mexico to help the Navajo Nation in the fight against the COVID-19.

[Read More](#)



## **What to Know About Applying for Medicaid and CHIP in Your State**

Are you considering enrolling in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)? In this article, you will learn about the differences between each program, how to check your eligibility on Benefits.gov, and how and where to apply.

[Read More](#)



## **Facts to Help Determine Your COBRA Eligibility**

COBRA allows for healthcare benefits to temporarily continue for workers and families during times of transition, job loss, and more.

[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

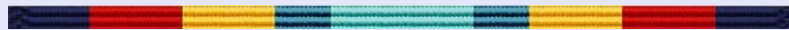
Senators and ask for their support on a weekly basis!

Jim you don't need to be Active Duty or a Veteran, in fact we ask all Veteran friends to also help!

**(Updated 03/19/21)**

1. Ask your Member of Congress and Senators to co-sponsor HR 1014
2. Ask your Member of Congress and Senators to co-sponsor HR 109
3. Concurrent Receipt Legislation Introduced
4. Expand Concurrent Receipt
5. FRA and Others asks SecDef Not to Raise TRICARE Fees
6. H.R. 333, Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act
7. H.R. 344, Support the Women Veterans TRUST Act
8. H.R. 914, the Dental Care for Veterans Act
9. Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act
10. Oppose TRICARE fee Increases
11. S. 134/H.R. 637, the Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2021
12. S. 437, Take Action for Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits
13. S. 89, Ensuring Survivors Benefits during COVID-19 Act of 2021
14. STOP TRICARE Fee Increases

15. Support Bills to Expand Coverage for ChampVA and TRICARE Young Adults
16. Veterans Economic Recovery Act Introduced
17. Support Bipartisan Bill to Expanding COVID-19 Vaccine Access for Veterans and Families
18. H.R. 855, the Veterans Expedited TSA Screening (VETS) Safe Travel Act
19. HR 1355 and S 454. These companion bills will provide health care and benefits to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces at Karshi Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan.
20. Support Repeal of TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee



**NMRTC Bremerton nurse supports the  
COVID-19 vaccine effort**

During a recent weekend, Navy Lt. Andrea Mauter, a Navy Nurse Corps officer at Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) Bremerton, was instrumental in overseeing several hundred 75-year and older beneficiaries being administered their initial dose of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

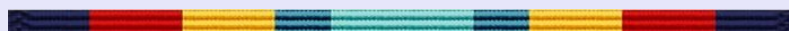
[Read More](#)



### **Balancing rest, activity key to recovering from concussion**

A newly revised suite of tools and resources for military health care providers will help improve the treatment of service members with concussions, and ensure their safe return to full duty, according to the Defense Health Agency's Traumatic Brain Injury Center of Excellence.

[Read More](#)



### **Health surveillance advances military medicine over past 30 years**

Military health surveillance has seen dramatic changes and improvements since the Persian Gulf War ended in 1991.

[Read More](#)



## **Match Day 2021: Training for new medical residents**

VA - the nation's largest education and training platform for health professionals - nearly 70% of all U.S. physicians at some point in their careers. Nearly 75,000 medical students and residents.

[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!**

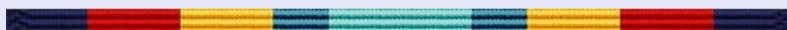
**[www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)**



**Q&A: Are COVID-19 Vaccines Safe and Effective?**

As the fight against COVID-19 continues, vaccination is one way to slow the spread and protect yourself. Chances are you know someone who's already been vaccinated. Still, you may be concerned about safety—and wondering when to schedule the vaccine for yourself. If you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, here are some answers.

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

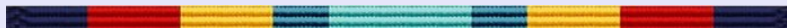




## **Army reserve nurse assists with federal COVID response in Arizona**

Although more and more Americans are receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, a number of military medical professionals are being mobilized to augment hospitals across the nation that continue to have a high number of COVID-19 patients.

[Read More](#)



## **VA seeks deputy executive directors at 16 sites**

Are you looking to make a meaningful impact on the lives of Veterans? We're hiring deputy executive directors to help lead medical care delivery for our nation's heroes at more than a dozen medical facilities.

[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](#)

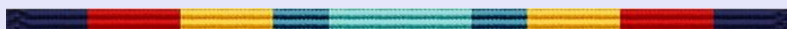
[HOMELESS HEROES PROGRAM OF  
VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE](#)

[AMVETS GROUP](#)

[VETERANS SOCIAL GROUP](#)

[{USAVET} SUPPORTING GOD & ALL WHO  
SERVED OUR GREAT NATION](#)

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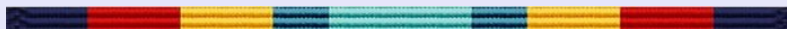
**"History is not there for you to like or dislike. It is there for you to learn from it. And if it offends you, even better. Because then you are less likely to repeat it. It is not yours to erase. It belongs to all of us."**



### **Congress Removes "90/10 Loophole"**

This week Congress closed the "90/10 loophole" in the American Rescue Plan. The "90/10 loophole" allowed certain predatory schools to target service members and veterans without any regulation.

"Closing this loophole has been a legislative priority and resolution of the VFW for many years. This loophole closure is a good step in the right direction to help prevent predatory schools from going after student veterans," said VFW National Legislative Director Patrick Murray.



**Veteran gets back on his feet, thanks to HUD-VASH and the Biloxi VA**

When Army OIF Veteran Casey Gauthier entered the Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program in Biloxi, Mississippi, in 2017, he was homeless.

[Read More](#)



### **More Veterans getting VA care than ever before – and they like it**

VA has dramatically improved Veterans' health care access. The total amount of care delivered is up. The number of visits with VA's community care providers is up. Veteran satisfaction is up.

[Read More](#)



### **Army Wounded Warrior perseveres despite COVID-19**


The COVID-19 pandemic introduced changes and challenges that continue to affect the way of life for everyone.

[Read More](#)



## Office of Inspector General

1. Freedom of Information Act: Actions Needed to Improve Agency Compliance with Proactive Disclosure Requirements
2. Covid-19 In Nursing Homes: HHS Has Taken Steps in Response to Pandemic, but Several GAO Recommendations Have Not Been Implemented



### **Veterans excelled under the Paycheck Protection Program**

A Paycheck Protection Program study shows how the program affected Veterans and their access to financing over the pandemic. Veterans received more and larger loans than non-Veterans.

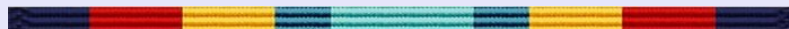
[Read More](#)



### **Patient safety a primary concern at VA**

Patient safety is always a primary concern for everyone involved in patient care at VA medical centers. "The people caring for our Veterans are the ones who ensure high quality and safe patient care."

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## **VET TEC graduates are finding meaningful employment**

Veterans who go through VA's Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) pilot program are finding good jobs.

[Read More](#)



## **The Low-Income Housing Energy Assistance Program**

If you or a loved one are struggling to pay energy bills, Benefits.gov can direct you to federal and state energy assistance programs and the next steps to power your home through this difficult time.

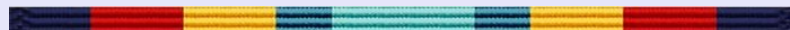
[Read More](#)



## 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](http://www.va.gov/homeless) to learn about VA programs for Veterans who are homeless and share that information with others.

NRD.GOV



**Secretary McDonough: VA is committed to diversity, equal opportunity; no room for harassment and discrimination**

As VA secretary, I will ensure that VA operates in a culture that celebrates and draws strength from our country's great diversity.

[Read More](#)



### **Dr. Margaret Craighill: First woman doctor to receive military commission**

Dr. Margaret Craighill was the first woman doctor to receive a commission during World War II and the first VA female physician and consultant on the medical care of women.

[Read More](#)



### **Women Veterans bravely served during Vietnam War**

During the Vietnam War, more than 265,000 American women served the military and 11,000 women served in Vietnam, with 90% working as volunteer nurses.

[Read More](#)





## Tips for Saving on Home Energy Costs this Winter

The mission of Benefits.gov is to make it easier for citizens to access critical benefit and assistance program information. Browse the information below to find ways to save on heating costs this winter.

[Read More](#)



*CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER !*



## Battle Creek VA gets vaccine to rural Michigan Veterans

Battle Creek VA is providing easy access to the COVID-19 vaccine for rural Veterans. Hospital Director: "We are taking the COVID-19 vaccine on the road and offering walk-in clinics."

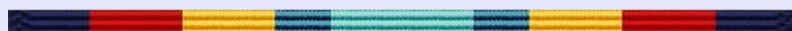
[Read More](#)



### **El Paso VA vaccinating Home-Based Primary Care Veterans**

Many Veterans in the Home-Based Primary Care program are elderly and extremely vulnerable to communicable diseases. Nurses and nurse practitioners volunteered to work the weekend to vaccinate them.

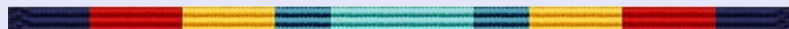
[Read More](#)



### **Long dormant Old Main soldiers home readying for homeless and at-risk Veterans**

Historic Milwaukee Soldiers Home slated to open as permanent housing for Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The local community is donating supplies to make units a home.

[Read More](#)



**Senate Holds Hearing on Toxic Exposures**

On Wednesday, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a hearing highlighting the effects of toxic exposures in the military. Veterans' groups called for legislation to create a permanent and comprehensive framework to address all toxic exposures, consistent with the VFW's legislative priority goals. The VFW looks forward to working with Congress on this very important issue. The [hearing](#) begins at the 22:34 minute mark.



## **VA scholarship program pays tuition and salary while you're in school**

The VA National Education for Employees Program (VANEED) covers your education costs and also pays your replacement salary while you attend school full-time.

[Read More](#)



## **Course improves patient care by identifying cause of errors**

How do we make – and keep – our military medical treatment facilities safer?

[Read More](#)



1. [Risk of Device Component Breaking in Patients with Stryker’s STAR Ankle: FDA Safety Communication](#)
2. [FDA Drug Shortages](#)
3. [FDA Approves First Treatment for Disease That Causes Recurrent Inflammation in Sac Surrounding Heart](#)
4. [FDA authorizes revisions to fact sheets to address SARS-CoV-2 variants for monoclonal antibody products under emergency use authorization](#)
5. [FDA’s Ongoing Use of Inspectional Tools for Ensuring Access to Safe, Quality Food and Medical Products During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

6. CDER Scientific Review Documents Supporting Emergency Use Authorizations for Drug and Biological Therapeutic Products | COVID-19
7. ACIST Recalls Kodama Intravascular Ultrasound Catheter Due to Risk of Broken O-Ring Pieces Flushing into Arteries During Use
8. FDA Permits Marketing of First SARS-CoV-2 Diagnostic Test Using Traditional Premarket Review Process
9. PNHC, LLC d/b/a Heal the World Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Heal the World Hand Sanitizer Packaged in 9.6 Ounce Bottles Because They Resemble Small Water Bottles
10. FDA's Partnership with Mexico's Regulators Strengthens Food Safety Protections
11. Investigation of Acute Non-viral Hepatitis Illnesses – “Real Water” Brand Alkaline Water (March 2021)
12. Leveraging Real World Evidence in Regulatory Submissions of Medical Devices
13. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (03/18/21)
14. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA takes steps to streamline path for COVID-19 screening tools, provides information to help groups establishing testing programs
15. FDA and Duke-Margolis Host Workshop on

## Scientific and Ethical Considerations for Including Pregnant People in Clinical Trials

16. Investigation of Acute Non-viral Hepatitis Illnesses – “Real Water” Brand Alkaline Water (March 2021)
17. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: March 19, 2021 (03/19/21)
18. Mindo Chocolate Makers Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Milk in “Coffee Toffee Chocolate Bar”
19. Western Mixers Produce & Nuts, Inc. Recalls Gelson’s Yogurt Raisins Because of Possible Allergen Health Risk



### **Join March 25 Webinar for Introduction to TRICARE For Life**

Will you soon be eligible for Medicare and TRICARE For Life (TFL) coverage? If yes, be sure to join the TRICARE webinar, "TRICARE For Life: Coverage Basics, Eligibility, and Costs," on March 25, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET to learn important information on how TFL works. The webinar will include a presentation and Q&A. You must [register](#) if you want to participate.

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



## **Combining science and service as a VA genetic counselor**

VA's Million Veteran Program is one of the world's largest genetics research programs, innovating health care for Veterans. Genetic counselor Morgan Danowski shares her story as part of the program.

[Read More](#)



## **Reflection, respect for namesake of David R. Ray Branch Medical Clinic**

Navy Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class David R. Ray would have been 76 years old this year.

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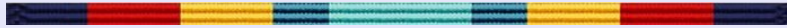


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## **VA, partner host program for Veterans with Parkinson's disease**

Veteran Jay Phillips, who has Parkinson's disease, encourages Veterans, their families and caregivers who have questions about Parkinson's to join a free online program March 20 from 9 a.m. - noon ET.

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## **Arizona VA clinic addresses Veteran vaccine concerns**

Dr. Bianca Gray talks to Veterans about apprehensions in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. She describes the data behind the vaccine and addresses their concerns. Most patients then elect to receive it.

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## METC trains dietician techs to build, support a Medically Ready Force

Good nutrition is the mainstay of health.

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## VA VACCINE Act Passes the House

On Tuesday, the House passed VFW-supported [H.R. 1276](#), the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans' and Caregivers' COVID-19 Immunizations Now Expanded Act of 2021 (VA VACCINE Act of 2021). The bill would expand VA's authority to provide COVID-19 vaccines to all veterans, their caregivers, and overseas veterans. Vaccinations help protect individuals as well as their community. [Learn more.](#)



## **FRA NP Fulton Testifies Before Joint Veterans Affairs Committees**

The FRA's National President Michael J. "Mick" Fulton testified before a virtual joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee expressing FRA member concerns on veteran's issues. National President Fulton thanked Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Tester and Rep. Gus Bilirakis for re-introducing the Major Richard Star Act, expanding concurrent receipt to include Combat Related Special Compensation veterans who are medically retired with less than 20 years of service. NP Fulton expressed support for the "Saves Lives Act" and "VA Vaccines Act" that would order the VA to vaccinate any veteran for COVID. He also urged both committees to pass veterans toxic exposure legislation this year.

Shipmate Fulton thanked both committees for enacting the Agent Orange Blue Water Navy Act and expanding the presumptions for benefits under the Act in the last session of Congress. The Agent Orange legislation helped vets that served during the Vietnam conflict and now Congress needs to protect those veterans who more recently served or are currently serving. That is why FRA wants to

ensure that no veteran who had exposure to burn pits or other environmental toxins goes without access to VA health care benefits.

He urged the Committees to provide oversight of the ongoing implementation of VA technology upgrades that will provide a joint Electronic Health Record (EHR) that is vital to ensuring improvements to the system. FRA wants to ensure adequate funding for Department of Defense (DoD) and the VA health care resource sharing in delivering seamless, cost-effective, quality services to personnel wounded in combat and other veterans and their families. The cost and the long time for implementation notwithstanding, FRA believes there is a tremendous opportunity with the two departments using the same EHR.



### **DODs Patient Safety Program works to eliminate preventable harm**

The goal of the Department of Defense's Patient Safety Program technological programs and systems is to — eliminate preventable patient harm.

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## **Naval Air Facility El Centro administers COVID-19 vaccine**

Michael McDonnell with the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) talked with leaders of the Mayo Clinic and the Defense Health Agency (DHA) on April 21, 2015. McDonnell explained ...

[Read More](#)



## **Senate Passes Veteran Vaccine Bill**

The Senate passed the "Strengthening and Amplifying Vaccination Efforts to Locally Immunize all Veterans and Every Spouse (SAVE LIVES) Act" (S.682) that would allow the VA to provide no-cost COVID vaccination services to all veterans, veteran spouses, caregivers, and Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) recipients to the extent that such vaccines are available. The legislation also urges the Department of Health and Human Services to adjust VA's vaccine allocation based on this increased eligibility pool, as much as the supply chain allows. The bill now moves to the House for further consideration.

Similar legislation (H.R.1276) sponsored by House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano (Calif.) has passed the House. This bill provides vaccines to veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system, and veteran caregivers.

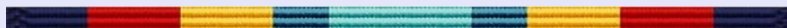
[Action Center](#) to weigh in on these proposals.



**Special Feature: Emma Miller – VHA's First Female Employee – Forged a Path for Today's Women Leading HPO Programs**

For Women's History Month, the Homeless Programs Office remembers Emma Miller. When she became the first employee of the National Asylum for Disabled Veterans, the first iteration of the Veterans Health Administration, the precedent was set for commissioning women to perform the important work they had done as volunteers in times of war. Mrs. Miller's dedicated service to Veterans paved the way for the women across VHA and the Homeless Programs Office who are leading programs critical to VA's mission to prevent and end homelessness for Veterans and their families.

[Read More](#)



**Virtual Wall of Faces almost complete,  
needs remaining photos**

As Vietnam War Veterans Day nears March 29, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation's Wall of Faces is nearly complete but needs help from the public to track down the last few dozen photos.

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## **Hearing on Military Privatized Housing**

Two subcommittees (Readiness and Military Personnel) of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) held a joint oversight hearing on implementation of housing reform provisions (Tenant's Bill of Rights) in the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and the frustration on the slow progress on implementation by private military housing companies.

Readiness Subcommittee Chairman Rep. John Garamendi (Calif.) said "I want to make sure the base commanders are held responsible for the well-being of all personnel on their base." Garamendi pledged to include provisions in the upcoming FY2022 National Defense Authorization Act to ensure service members and their families have safe and clean housing. Military Personnel Subcommittee Chairwoman Rep. Jackie Speier



(Calif.) said some of the companies have failed their primary responsibility to provide personnel with safe and secure housing.

The FRA will work to ensure service members and their families have safe, quality homes and communities. The Association is supporting an increase in the accountability of privatized housing companies by putting more oversight authority in the hands of local military leaders.

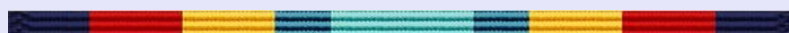
Weigh in on this issue by going to the [Action Center](#).



## **Social Workers are Essential to Ending Veteran Homelessness**

Social workers supporting VHA homeless programs and services are often Veterans' first connection point for help with exiting or avoiding homelessness. The 2021 National Social Work Theme is "Social Workers are Essential." This theme was selected to inform the public about the past and present role of social workers in helping the most vulnerable people in society.

[Read More](#)



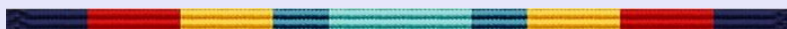
## Tax & Credit Information



1. [IRS provides guidance for employers claiming the Employee Retention Credit for 2020, including eligibility rules for PPP borrowers](#)
2. [Here's what taxpayers should do if they have missing or incorrect documents](#)
3. [IRS Online Account can help taxpayers get ready to file their tax return](#)
4. [Interest rates remain the same for the second quarter of 2021](#)
5. [Tax Time Guide: Didn't get Economic Impact Payments? Check eligibility for Recovery Rebate](#)

## Credit

6. Here's why people filing taxes for the first time should use Free File
7. Tax Time Guide: Make IRS (dot) gov first stop for tax help
8. Tips to help take the stress out of tax season
9. Tips to help taxpayers spot and avoid tax scams
10. IRS provides resources and services for visually impaired taxpayers
11. Tax Time Guide: Make protecting tax and financial information a habit
12. Tax Time Guide: Get credit for IRA contributions made by April 15 on 2020 tax returns
13. Here's how people can request a copy their previous tax return
14. What employers need to know about repayment of deferred payroll taxes
15. Low Income Taxpayer Clinic 2021 supplemental application period now open
16. Update on mandatory electronic filing for Form 990-T
17. IRS begins delivering third round of Economic Impact Payments to Americans



**Pregnancy, Breastfeeding, and the COVID-19 Vaccine**

VA released information about the COVID-19 vaccine specific to moms-to-be, and mothers who are breastfeeding. Following the CDC's recommendations, individuals who plan to be pregnant, are pregnant, or breastfeeding should receive the COVID-19 vaccine when available. Pregnant women who test positive for COVID-19 are at an increased risk of severe illness and/or complications such as preterm birth.

[Read more](#)



## **Nurse returns from retirement to help heal Veterans**

Dr. Thérèse Duggan retired seven years ago. Now she is back at VA as an unpaid volunteer physician ambassador. "Health care workers get into this line of work because we like to help people."

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## **HPO Staff Spotlight: Eileen Devine**

From conducting outreach on the street, to helping Veterans navigate the VHA's systems, to leading programs that provide Veterans with the services and resources they need, social workers play a vital role in helping Veterans exit homelessness. In this month's issue of the newsletter, we interview Health Care for Homeless Veterans' (HCHV) National Director Eileen Devine, a licensed clinical social worker who has worked for VA since 2003. In this Q&A, Eileen shares how social workers' training and skills help Veterans exit homelessness, how her background has helped her lead a national program dedicated to helping Veterans, and what led her to this work.

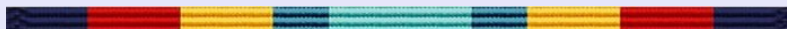
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**Women Veterans can access on-demand  
Women's Health Transition Training**

Transitioning servicewomen and recently separated women Veterans have access to information about VA women's health services through the Women's Health Transition Training course. The online, self-paced instruction is available at [TAPevents.org/courses](https://TAPevents.org/courses) and is designed to complement VA's Transition Assistance Program (TAP). [From Vantage Point]

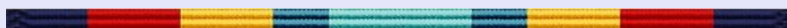
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## **Secretary McDonough on International Women's Day**

Today, March 8th, is the 110th anniversary of International Women's Day. It is the perfect time to pause, recognize and honor the enormous contributions and accomplishments of women from all walks of life who have long served as champions of social change and equal rights for all Americans. [From Vantage Point]

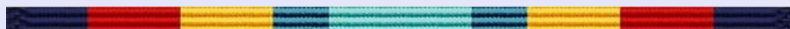
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**Face of Innovation: Kalyn Essex**

It's all about people for Kalyn Essex. Whether they be her fellow airmen, fellow Veterans, fellow employees, or her students, it's the connection she makes with people that she has always enjoyed – that human connection that led her to VA and eventually to becoming an Innovation Specialist at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. [From VAntage Point]

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## **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. There are currently more than 2 million women Veterans—and that number continues to rise, according to the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. In fact, women are expected to make up more than 16% of the U.S. Veteran population by 2043. [From VAntage Point]

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## Sedra Graves: Giving back through research

Sedra Graves is from a big family in a small Louisiana town nestled between green farmland and the marshy bayou. She dreamed of one day leaving to get an education and travel the world. As for so many others, the Army was her ticket to both.

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The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced three 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:

**Navy Seaman 2nd Class Michael Malek**, 17, 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 Malek. Interment Services are pending. [Read about Malek.](#)

**Navy Signalman 3rd Class Austin H. Hesler, 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 Hesler. Interment Services are pending. [Read about Hesler.](#)

**Army Chaplain (Capt.) Emil J. Kapaun,** of Pilsen, Kansas, returned to active duty in the U.S. Army after serving during World War II and served in the Korean War with the 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. On Nov. 2, 1950, his unit was near Unsan when they came under heavy fire from Chinese forces and received orders to withdraw. Approximately a quarter of the unit's soldiers made their way back to friendly lines. The others, including many wounded soldiers, became trapped. Kapaun volunteered to stay with the wounded and

was soon captured and taken to a Chinese-run prison camp on the Yalu River's south bank known as Camp 5. Due to prolonged malnutrition, he died on May 23, 1951, after which the other POWs buried him in one of the camp's cemeteries. At a White House ceremony on April 11, 2013, President Barack Obama posthumously awarded Kapaun the Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism and selflessness. Interment Services are pending. [Read about Kapaun.](#)



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