



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, April 18, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 16



This-N-That

Good evening Jim,

Tricare is and has been doing their level best to put out new programs, trials, as well as doing research on how they can better serve the Veteran and Family community.

I don't have any in-depth details as of yet, but as soon as they come out, I will certainly share what I learn with all of you.

I've also not heard from very many over the past

three months on how well they are serving individual Veterans and/or their families, but, if you are experiencing any issues in dealing with them, I'd really like to hear from you.

Anything you choose to share with me will as always remain highly confidential, but will help us to better fight for you. Just send to my E-Mail address below.

From what I am seeing now, Women Veterans are getting more and more specialized programs and services, many of which are noted throughout this newsletter.

If any of our Women Veterans are using any of the programs, or having specific issues with VA Healthcare, we'd also like to hear from you too!

Doesn't matter if what you share is good or bad, we'd like to know you too are being treated well and receiving services and benefits needed, and whatever you choose to share with us also will be treated as highly confidential, we just need to know what more we can do to help you.

The one most important thing we strongly suggest to all our Veterans is to set an appointment for your

annual physicals. Annual Physical Exams are the first step in prevention or finding out things you need to know that are important to your health and well-being. Please don't take this for granted.

We've added more to the **"TAKE ACTION"** menu and we sincerely hope everyone who receives our newsletter to please participate in encouraging our members of Congress to act on each and every piece of legislation put forth so far for our Veterans.

We are asking you to please do these weekly, and some are duplicates, we know this, but they're from different organizations, so yes, please do use each one of them, and as a reminder to our Civilian friends you too can participate, you need to be a Veteran or even a family member to help.

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 Commander John Wells and his hard-working team continue to fight for all of our Veterans!

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



Military Veterans Advocacy

Military Veterans Advocacy is offering some free memberships for those who are struggling to get their claims through, are having financial difficulties. Annual dues are \$25.00 per year. Our organization includes special sections, Blue Water Navy, Veterans of Southeast Asia, Central Pacific Islands, Veterans of Panama Canal Zone, and Okinawa. We have gift members available which can be paid by your fellow brother or sister Veterans. Gift members are kept confidential. Go to this link and help a Veteran.

https://www.militaryVeteransadvocacy.org/.../c2/yearly_dues

You may contact Robin at
robin.barr@mvadvocacy.org



You Asked, We Answered: After COVID-19 Vaccination

You Asked, We Answered: VA is listening to your questions about the COVID-19 vaccine and hosting a blog series with answers for Veterans.

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Projects test new approaches to improve health care quality, outcomes

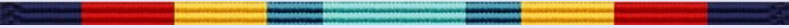
TRICARE has more than a half-dozen pilots and demonstration projects underway that offer new and innovative medical services, treatments, and approaches, and that have the potential to become part of its permanent health care coverage.

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Complete the VFW's 2021 COVID-19 Health Survey

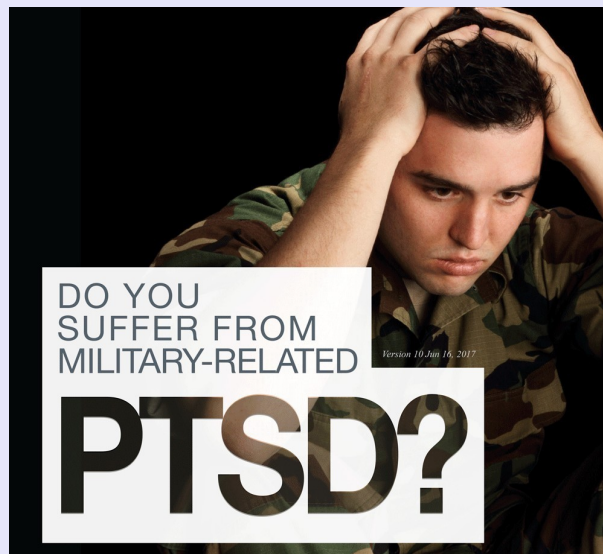
Last April the VFW tallied responses to our COVID-19 survey and used that data to advocate for veterans with Congress and VA. The VFW has developed a follow-up survey to evaluate your health care experiences, how your health care may have changed in the last 6 months, and your perceptions of your overall physical and mental health over the past 30 days. Your feedback is vital to our advocacy efforts and to compile a report on this important topic. Help the VFW hold VA and Congress accountable by taking this short survey regarding your experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Take the survey.](#)



Veterans with chronic pain are replacing opioid pain medications

Veterans with chronic pain are replacing opioid pain medications with yoga, acupuncture, and other Whole Health approaches to care. Report reveals promising findings associated with Whole Health.

[Read More](#)



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



Floods: Turn Around, Don't Drown!

While early spring can be a welcome break from winter weather, it brings with it an increased risk of floods. They are among the most frequent and costly natural disasters that occur each year.

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VA mourns Dr. Donald Custis

Dr. Donald Custis died in March 2021 at the age of 103. As Chief Medical Director for what was then the Veterans Administration from 1980 to 1984, he helped shape today's VA health care system.

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Tele-critical care will play increased COVID-19-response role in 2021

The Military Health System's success in adapting and expanding tele-critical care programs for critically ill patients in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic will play an essential role in bringing the virus under control in 2021.

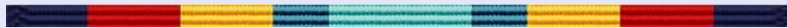
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2021 Oregon Women Veterans Conference

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs is excited to announce the return of the Oregon Women Veterans Conference in a robust, virtual format that will make the event even more accessible to women Veterans in every corner of the state. The one-day event will take place on Saturday, May 22, 2021.

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Links to Other Stories

1. [20 Months in Prison for Memphis Area Man Offering Kickbacks](#)
2. [AG Balderas Secures Prison Sentence of Former Personal Care](#)
3. [Air Force claims federal law bars compliance with Michigan PFAS rules](#)
4. [Army Begins Clinical Trials on Vaccine That May Be Effective Against All Coronaviruses](#)
5. [Behavioral Health Provider Pays \\$273K to Settle](#)

Improper Billing Allegations

6. Bristol-Myers Squibb to Pay \$75 Million to Resolve False Claims Act Allegations of Underpayment of Drug Rebates Owed Through Medicaid
7. Bronx Man Charged with Offering a Bribe to a Government Official
8. Change allows extra GI Bill benefits for some disabled Vets
9. Colorado Physician Charged for Misappropriating Thousands from Three Different COVID Relief Programs
10. Connecticut Army National Guard Soldier and Rikers Correction Officer Charged with Defrauding the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the New York City Department of Correction
11. Doctor Sentenced to 9 Years in Prison in Widespread Scheme to Defraud Medicare and Other Health Insurance Providers of Millions of Dollars
12. Dominican National Admits to Trafficking Fentanyl, Health Care Fraud, ID Theft
13. Exchange shopping approved for more than half a million DoD, Coast Guard civilians
14. Florida Counseling Center Owner and Provider Convicted of Medicaid Fraud, Conspiracy, False Statements, And Identity Theft

15. Health Net Federal Services Pays over \$97M for Overstated Billings to the VA
16. Israeli National Sentenced to 30 Months in Prison for Bail Jumping and Participating in Conspiracy to Distribute Unlicensed Prescription Drugs
17. Jon Stewart accuses VA of being 'an obstacle' to burn pits medical care
18. Louisiana Doctor Sentenced to Prison for Conspiring to Receive Health Care Kickbacks
19. Mandeville Man is Charged with Health Care Fraud and Aggravated Identity Theft
20. Owners and Former Employee of Health Care company Facing Federal Charges for Allegedly Paying Kickbacks to Homeless Patients and Fraudulently Billing Medicaid
21. Patient Recruiter Sentenced to Prison for \$3.3 Million Cancer Genetic Testing Fraud Scheme
22. Raleigh County Man Sentenced for Conspiracy to Obstruct Justice
23. Rick Perry Urges Study into Using 'Magic Mushrooms' to Treat Veterans with PTSD
24. Sleep Disorders Are Skyrocketing Among US Military Personnel, Study Finds
25. South Carolina's Largest Urgent Care Provider and its Management Company to Pay \$22.5 Million to Settle False Claims Act Allegations

26. Troops exposed to Agent Orange outside of Vietnam could be in line for Presumptive Benefits
27. United States Intervenes in False Claims Act Lawsuit Against Connections Community Support Programs, Inc.
28. VA Disability Ratings for Scoliosis



Face-to-face visits for Community Living Center Veterans

The Coatesville VA resumed allowing face-to-face visits for Community Living Center Veterans. Resident John Anker was nervous to see his wife for the first time in a year, saying it felt "like a first date."

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WWI Veterans to be honored during online ceremony featuring Gary Sinise

World War I Veterans will be honored during First Colors, a 90-minute virtual, free broadcast 10 a.m. Eastern April 16. Actor Gary Sinise hosts the inaugural flag raising at the Memorial site and virtual program, held only online at <https://firstcolors.worldwar1centennial.org/>.

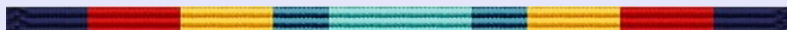
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Ektropy lunch sessions designed for end users

A series of brown bag lunch trainings is being held from now until the end of June to assist users of Ektropy — an information technology tool used across the Defense Health Agency to support program and portfolio management.

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Challenge America Veteran Arts Community, a new national arts initiative for Veterans

Even in the best of times, Veterans often find it difficult to replace the feelings of belonging and purpose they felt during their time in service. And this is most certainly not the best of times. This is why the national nonprofit, Challenge America, joined forces with the Heartstrings Foundation to create the Challenge America Veteran Arts Community, CAVARTS.org.

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Suicide Prevention Resources for Military and Veterans

Military & Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255, Press 1
Text 838255, 24/7

Vets 4 Warriors 855-838-8255

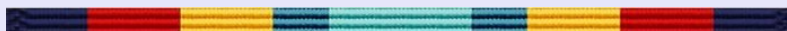
InTransition 1-800-424-7877

Office of Warrior Care Policy

warriorcare.dodlive.mil/

Military One Source 1-800-342-9647

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors [TAPS] 1-800-959-8277



**Search and add WWI Veterans on
RollofHonor.org**

Search, add, and honor WW1 Veterans for free on Rollofhonor.org – a great place to learn about those who served in The Great War.

[Read More](#)



Find your next job with the help from an American Corporate Partners mentor

ACP works with post-9/11 Veterans to help them find meaningful employment after military service. In ACP's most recent study of participants in its one-year mentorship program, the average starting salary for Veterans who utilized ACP was more than \$86,000, and importantly, more than 86% of Veterans are still at their same company one year later. The program not only helps Veterans find great jobs, but the right jobs for them.

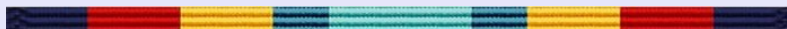
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A month of prevention and intervention for a lifetime

There were one thousand, six hundred and ninety-six 'justifications' Navy-wide in 2019 — 90 in the Pacific Northwest — why Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) is annually held in April.

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[Veterans-For-Change Website](#)

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, whatever 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 **2,893** hits per day, and downloads average **4,050** per day with a total **7,268,241** visitors as of Saturday afternoon.

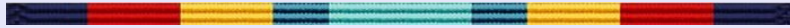
If you subscribe you will have full access to the entire website and best of all it's **FREE of CHARGE!** You just need a valid E-mail address so the system can send us a notification to approve your account. Once received, and we approve, the system will send you an E-Mail letting you know your account 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 **19,535** documents in 237+ Libraries, added 235 new documents on-line (Updated: 03/18/21)
- FAQ's on-line with **1,843** FAQs 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: **10,420**)
- 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



Joining Forces Initiative Relunched

Last week, First Lady Jill Biden announced the priorities of the recently relaunched Joining Forces initiative. The focus will be on military spouse unemployment and underemployment, increasing access to health care, particularly mental health, and strengthening education for military children. "We must understand and account for the lifelong impact of service on military-connected children and ensure that children in veteran families, caregiving families and surviving families will also be included in the initiative's work," Biden said.

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Borinqueneer Veterans honored during event

Veterans from the U.S. Army's 65th Infantry Regiment—known as the Borinqueneers—received special recognition during an event at the National Press Club April 13.

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Black women more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes

Celebrating Black Veteran Mothers: Black Maternal Health Week. Black women more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes. VA covers full maternity care from the first positive pregnancy test.

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Big Spring VA fulfills VA's 4th Mission

Texas National Guard soldiers and West Texas VA Health Care System teamed up with local leaders in Big Spring, Texas, to distribute vaccines to rural residents. Part of VA's Fourth Mission.

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VA scholar, Guard member, deploys to battle COVID-19

VA nurse, PhD candidate and Air National Guard reservist Jose Gutierrez was called to the front lines to battle the global COVID-19 pandemic. He used his skills to care for patients in the Boston area.

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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





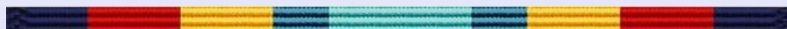
Jim, below are links to all currently active pre-written E-Mails to many pieces of legislation. We ask that you go to each one, and send the pre-written E-Mails, and to also call your Reps or Senators and ask for their support on a weekly basis!

Jim you don't need to be Active Duty or a Veteran, in fact we ask all Veteran friends to also help!
(Updated 04/17/21)

1. [HR 1014 - Furnish Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy \(HBOT\) to a Veteran who has a Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\) or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTS\)](#)
2. [HR 109 will establish an advisory committee on the implementation by the DVA of an electronic health record](#)
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

21. HR 1585 & S 565- Provide for the treatment of Vets who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as Radiation Exposed
22. Please Support S. 344, the Major Richard Star Act
23. Support the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act
24. S. 810 & H.R. 1972, the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
25. HR 109 Establish an Advisory Committee on Implementation by the DVA of an electronic health record
26. HR 2372 and S 952 will Provide for Presumption of Service Connection for certain diseases associated with exposure to toxins
27. Please Ask you Senator to support S.952 the Warfighters Act
28. Support Improving VA Homelessness Program



Awareness Connecting Veterans with Free Telephone Captioning Services

Did you know Veterans and others with hearing loss can receive FREE assistive technology for captioned telephone service from participating providers of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on their home phones, mobile

phones and other communication apps?

These services provide real-time transcriptions of communication which are a vital need for those who rely on their phones to stay connected with family and friends, and to communicate with health care professionals and emergency responders.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), veterans are 30% more likely than non-Veterans to have a hearing impairment, which is the fastest growing post-war disability. Currently, nearly 3 million veterans with hearing loss and tinnitus receive benefits from VA, with over 600,000 veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars alone returning home with permanent hearing loss.

Clear2Connect Coalition, has been raising awareness and educating The White House, Congress, the VA, and the DoD about the critical importance of quality, accurate Captioned Telephone Services (CTS).

What is Captioned Telephone Service?

Captioned telephone service enables people with hearing loss to speak during a phone call and then read the other person's response in real time as

transcriptions appear directly on their telephone or an app. This service is known as Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service (IP CTS), and it uses a combination of automatic speech recognition (ASR) technology and skilled transcribers, or ASR technology.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that captioned telephone service be “functionally equivalent” to communication technology used by individuals without hearing loss. This service is overseen by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Who is Eligible for Captioned Telephone Service and What does it Cost?

This technology service is free to service members and Veterans, including their loved ones and anyone with hearing loss.

Vietnam Veteran and captioned telephone user Ronald Drach says this service is “invaluable” and “life-changing.”

Vietnam Veteran Robert Richardson agrees, saying, “This technology, above all others, has had a major impact on my quality of life. I’d say it’s a

lifesaver. I use it to communicate with my children, and I use it to communicate with my friends and my doctors and other healthcare providers. I use it to stay engaged in my community. I may be retired from work, but not from life.”

How to Get Free Captioned Telephone Service

Several providers offer captioned telephone service. When registering for this service with providers, the FCC requires individuals to self-certify that they have hearing loss necessitating telephone captioning. Some providers may require professional certification from a physician, audiologist or other hearing-health professional.

The Clear2Connect Coalition, which is comprised of Disability and Veterans Service Organizations, advocates on behalf of the deaf and hard of hearing communities to have access to quality, accurate communication technology.

For more information on how to access free captioned telephone service, to learn about Clear2Connect Coalition and advocacy efforts, and to sign up for their updates, visit the Clear2Connect Coalition website at www.clear2connect.org.



Direct deposit puts Veterans in control of benefit payments

If you receive VA benefit payments through a pre-paid debit card or paper check, there is a simpler, quicker way to receive the benefits you have earned.

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Early screening for lung cancer saves lives

Vietnam Veteran found out he had lung cancer when he took part in a nationwide VA program to boost the number of Veterans screened for lung cancer. He got treatment through a VA clinical trial.

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Finding Unemployment and Other Resources in Your State

In recent months, many citizens have applied to receive unemployment benefits and are curious about what other state-run benefit programs are available to help.

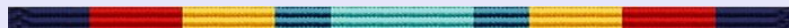
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Finding Financial Assistance on Benefits.gov

Financial responsibilities can be difficult to manage, but depending on your circumstances, you may be eligible for financial assistance to help with your needs. Benefits.gov is here to help you understand the financial assistance resources available to you, your family, and your business.

[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



**Researchers take first step in understanding
disparities in community participation for
people with TBI**

Researchers found minimal differences in community participation between white and minority service members and Veterans, contrary to results in non-military samples. They suggested that the study results may have been influenced by supportive resources available to service members and Veterans, like employment assistance.

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Get ready for your VA job interview with these 10 tips

You've searched, you've applied and you've tinkered with your resume countless times. Now, you've landed that coveted job interview! Just one last box to tick before you can begin your dream career at VA.

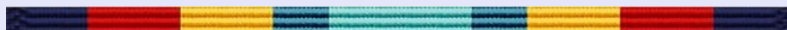
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Hiring Our Heroes: Grassroots to household name in 10 years

Hiring Our Heroes is celebrating 10 years of hiring events and linking transitioning service members, Veterans, military spouses, and caregivers with employment opportunities.

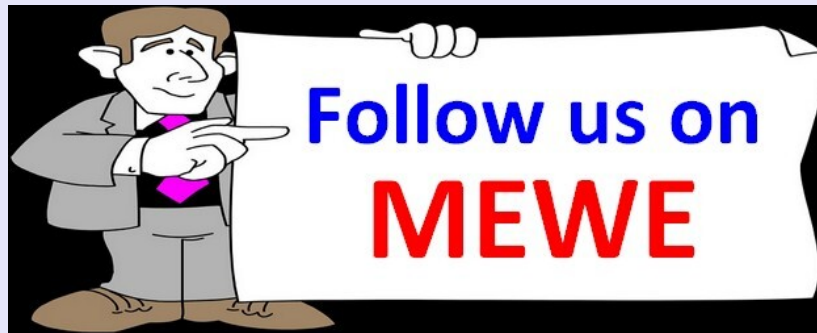
[Read More](#)



Cognitive Processing Therapy with an Older Woman Veteran During COVID-19: A Case Study

Sitz AL, Cogan CM, Davis JL. Cognitive Processing Therapy with an Older Woman Veteran During COVID-19: A Case Study. Cogn Behav Pract. 2021 Mar 14. doi: 10.1016/j.cbpra.2021.02.001. Online ahead of print. PMID: 33746499

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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](#)

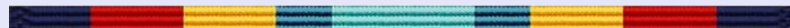
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[{USAVET} SUPPORTING GOD & ALL WHO
SERVED OUR GREAT NATION](#)

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Live Whole Health #67: Body scan

When was the last time you paid attention to your right big toe or thumb? Like really paid attention to it? We often move throughout our day without really noticing our body or its various parts unless we are dealing with acute pain, it's almost like we are on autopilot. When we really pay attention to what our body is experiencing in the moment, we can be more present, and we can notice how our physical experience is often connected to our emotional experience. This is called body scan.

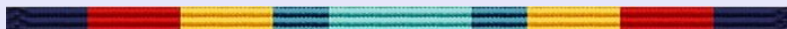
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Isakson and Roe Act enhances Veteran education benefits

The Isakson and Roe Act of 2020 features 32 provisions that impact the administration and oversight of education benefits.

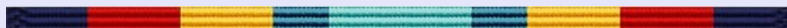
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Navy pediatrician rises from humble beginnings to make history

Navy captain and board-certified pediatrician Lynelle Boamah confidently stands with feet firmly planted atop two recent significant months: February's Black History Month and March's Women's History Month.

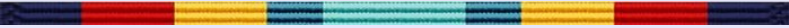
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Do sports/energy drinks enhance individual performance?

Sports drinks claim that they "increase performance," "rehydrate," and "refuel."

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Effects of Emotion Dysregulation on Post-treatment Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and Depressive ...

Lopez CM, Gilmore AK2, Brown WJ, Hahn CK, Muzzy W, Grubaugh A, Acierno R. Effects of Emotion Dysregulation on Post-treatment Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and Depressive Symptoms Among Women Veterans With Military Sexual Trauma. *J Interpers Violence*. 2021 Mar 27;8862605211005134. doi: 10.1177/08862605211005134. Online ahead of print. PMID: 33775153

[Read More](#)



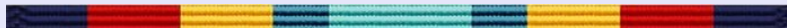
Office of Inspector General

1. Passengers with Disabilities: Airport Accessibility Barriers and Practices and DOT's Oversight of Airlines' Disability-Related Training
2. COVID-19: Efforts to Increase Vaccine Availability and Perspectives on Initial Implementation
3. Military Readiness: Department of Defense Domain Readiness Varied from Fiscal Year 2017 through Fiscal Year 2019
4. VA Health Care: Efforts Needed to Ensure Effective Use and Appropriate Staffing of Suicide Prevention Teams



COVID-19 Funeral Expense Reimbursement

Due to the American Rescue Plan Act and other COVID-19-related legislation recently passed into law, FEMA will be able to provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses acquired after Jan. 20, 2020. Although applications are not yet being accepted FEMA anticipates beginning later this month and is working on establishing a toll-free phone number for applying for assistance. People who have incurred COVID-19-related funeral expenses are being advised to keep and gather documents, like an official death certificate that shows the death is COVID-19 related and funeral expense documents. FEMA will also need proof of funds received from other sources such as VA, to determine the amount of your benefit. BEWARE of scammers – FEMA will not contact people prior to them registering for assistance. [Learn more.](#)



Independent Review Commission on Military Sexual Assault

FRA Assistant Director Veterans Programs Noelle Huffer participated in the Independent Review Commission (IRC) on Military Sexual Assault video conference call. The 90-day investigation began on March 24th. The IRC will focus on four priority areas

including accountability; prevention; climate and culture; and victim care and support. The commission is comprised of a total of 12 members with three members in each of the four priority areas. The commission will focus on evaluating military policies, programs, and processes related to sexual assault. It will also review and assess the best practices from industry, academia, and other organizations.

Commissioners focusing on accountability will assess the role of the Uniform Code of Military Justice in addressing the prevalence of sexual assault and harassment, survivor likelihood of reporting, and the ability to appropriately bring alleged perpetrators to justice. The prevention working group will assess the services' ongoing prevention efforts so they may identify potential gaps there. They also will attempt to identify where additional resources might be needed. To address climate and culture regarding sexual assault, that working group will review the implementation of existing support policies and resources across the department. They will also propose new approaches to improve climate and culture that can better ensure all service members feel comfortable reporting sexual assault and using existing services.

Finally, the victim care and support working group will review both clinical and non-clinical victim services currently in place to ensure comprehensiveness and availability to all victims regardless of how those victims report.

Individuals such as victims and survivors, their family members, or friends who have personal stories relevant to the IRC's work are encouraged to provide feedback to the IRC using the Military Feedback Form on the [DoD Safe Helpline website](#).



Sexually transmitted infections are at all-time high

While sexually transmitted diseases affect people of all ages, these infections take a particularly heavy toll on young people. If you are sexually active, here are a few things you need to know.

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Study sheds light on interplay among PTSD, combat experience, alcohol use

However, combat experience was not strongly linked to drinking to cope when the researchers adjusted for a person's total number of PTSD symptoms.

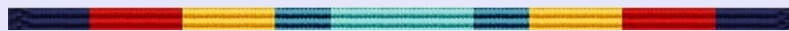
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COVID-19 reflection & healing at the San Antonio VA

Employees at the San Antonio VA gathered to reflect on the last year of the COVID-19 pandemic, begin healing and honor those both lost and saved.

[Read More](#)



Institutional betrayal and help-seeking among women survivors of military sexual trauma

Monteith LL, Holliday R, Schneider AL, Miller CN1, Bahraini NH, Forster JE. Institutional betrayal and help-seeking among women survivors of military sexual trauma. Psychol Trauma. 2021 Mar 25. doi: 10.1037/tra0001027. Online ahead of print. PMID: 33764096

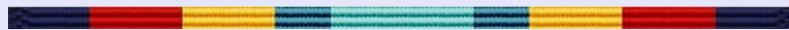
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A Stepwise Approach for Preventing Suicide by Lethal Poisoning

Carpenter JE, Lee T, Greene E, Holovac E. A Stepwise Approach for Preventing Suicide by Lethal Poisoning. Fed Pract. 2021 Feb;38(2):62-67. doi: 10.12788/fp.0087. PMID: 33716481

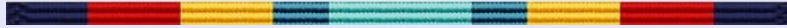
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Association of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Incident Ischemic Heart Disease in Women Veterans

Ebrahimi R, Lynch KE, Beckham JC, Dennis PA, Viernes B, Tseng C, Shroyer ALW, Sumner JA. Association of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Incident Ischemic Heart Disease in Women Veterans. JAMA Cardiol. 2021 Mar 17. doi: 10.1001/jamacardio.2021.0227. Online ahead of print. PMID: 33729463

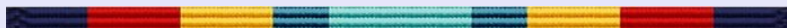
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Exploring Posttraumatic Stress Disorder as a Cardiovascular Risk Factor in Women Veterans: The ...

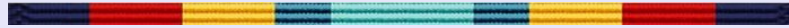
Cohen BE. Exploring Posttraumatic Stress Disorder as a Cardiovascular Risk Factor in Women Veterans: The Heart of the Matter. JAMA Cardiol. 2021 Mar 17. doi: 10.1001/jamacardio.2021.0236. Online ahead of print. PMID: 33729434

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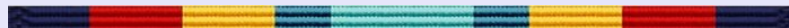
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VA medical, pharmacy copayments cancelled through Sept. 30, 2021

The American Rescue Plan cancels all copayments for medical care and pharmacy services provided from April 6, 2020, through Sept. 30, 2021, along with any fees or interest.

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How VA supports Veterans experiencing IPV during Sexual Assault Awareness Month and beyond

During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, VA is emphasizing its ongoing work to ensure that Veterans and their partners who are experiencing or engaging in IPV are provided with the necessary resources and services through VA's Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program (IPVAP) and other programs.

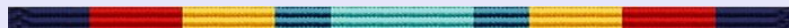
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Drawing blood, giving back life: Techs support medical readiness

There's an art, a science, a system, and a network to the military's collection, storage, and dissemination of life-saving blood products.

[Read More](#)



Factor Structure of the Suicide Cognitions Scale in a National Sample of Female Veterans

Holliday R, Schneider AL, Miller C, Forster JE, Monteith LL. Factor Structure of the Suicide Cognitions Scale in a National Sample of Female Veterans. Arch Suicide Res. 2021 Mar 9;1-13. doi: 10.1080/13811118.2021.1892003. Online ahead of print. PMID: 33689600

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I'll Do it Until I Can't See Anymore'

Knitted slippers for homeless Vets and deployed troops.

[Read More](#)





VA cares for homebound Veterans during pandemic

Hines VA nurse Forres Barnes has provided care for Veterans in their homes for years through VA's Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) program. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed his role.

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Vietnam Veterans get vaccine and belated thank you

Texas VA Home and Community Based Care team visited three Vietnam Veterans to provide them with their second dose of vaccine and their official 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War lapel pin.

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DOD surpasses 2 million COVID-19 vaccines worldwide

The Department of Defense has now administered more than 2 million COVID-19 vaccinations to more than 1.3 million service members and beneficiaries, just a month after hitting the 1 million mark.

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Defusing Danger Soldier sets Guinness World Record

Guinness World Record set by U.S. Army Capt., Kaitlyn Hernandez.

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HerSPACE: Project to provide temporary housing for women Veterans in Florida

HerSPACE is temporary housing for women Vets in Jacksonville, FL.

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1. Medtronic Recalls HeartWare HVAD Battery Cables, Data Cables, Adapter Cables and Controller 2.0 Ports Due to Risk of Damage to Controller Ports
2. A Year Into the Pandemic: How the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health is Prioritizing its Workload and Looking Ahead
3. FDA Drug Shortages
4. Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions
5. Snak King Corporation Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Milk Allergen in Trader Joe's Restaurant Style White Corn Tortilla Chips - Expanded to Include 8/11/21 Code Date
6. Urgent: Torn & Glasser Recalls Dark Chocolate Espresso Beans Because of Undeclared Walnut Allergen
7. FDA Provides Guidance on Remote Interactive Evaluations for Oversight of Drug Facilities During COVID-19

8. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
(04/13/21)
9. Smisson-Cartledge Biomedical, LLC Recalls
ThermaCor 1200 Disposable Sets for Risk of
Patient Contact to Aluminum
10. NS NY Distributor Inc Issues Voluntary
Nationwide Recall of Premium OrgaZen 7000 and
Ginseng Power 5000 Due to Presence of
Undeclared Sildenafil and/or Tadalafil
11. Medtronic Recalls Evera, Viva, Brava, Claria,
Amplia, Compia, and Visia Implantable Cardioverter
Defibrillators (ICDs) and Cardiac Resynchronization
Therapy (CRT-Ds) Due to Risk of Shortened
Battery Life
12. Voluntary Recall of Hostess® SnoBalls® Due to
Undeclared Allergen
13. Vaccine Ready: Addressing COVID-19 Health
Disparities among Racial and Ethnic Minority
Communities
14. FDA Authorizes Marketing of First Device that
Uses Artificial Intelligence to Help Detect Potential
Signs of Colon Cancer
15. Medtronic Recalls Valiant Navion Thoracic
Stent Graft System Due to Risk of Stent Fractures
and Type III Endoleaks
16. FDA Recommends Transition from Use of
Decontaminated Disposable Respirators - Letter to

Health Care Personnel and Facilities

17. FDA Approves First Immunotherapy for Initial Treatment of Gastric Cancer
18. Investigation of Acute Non-viral Hepatitis Illnesses – “Real Water” Brand Alkaline Water (March 2021)
19. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Revokes Emergency Use Authorization for Monoclonal Antibody Bamlanivimab
20. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: April 16, 2021



Sign Up For COVID-19 Vaccine at VA

Veterans, spouses, caregivers, or CHAMPVA recipients need to **sign up** to let VA know you would like to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Once signed up, you will be contacted by VA as soon as a vaccine is available for you. Be advised that availability will differ by location. VA encourages everyone to take the first opportunity you have to receive the vaccine.



Resources for Veterans with Parkinson's Disease

April is Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month. VA Parkinson's Disease Research Education & Clinical Centers serve Veterans affected by Parkinson's through state-of-the-art clinical care.

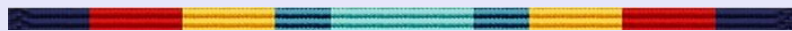
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Public health remains an integral part in the fight against COVID

Although they may not be the ones putting needles in arms, public health personnel continue to play a crucial role in the ongoing battle against COVID-19.

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Pennsylvania Commission for Women honors 19 Veterans

19 women #Veterans from Pennsylvania were honored "for their brave service and selfless contributions to Pennsylvania and to the nation."

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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!



Mass COVID-19 vaccination event in Yuma, Arizona

Months of planning and support of Arizona Western College staff let Tucson VA bring the COVID-19 vaccine to Yuma. Over 400 Veterans were spared the four-hour drive to the medical center.

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Innovative Collaborations for Veterans at the Forefront During Federal Entrepreneurship Day Panel

Collaboration has always been an important component to the success of the VHA Innovation Ecosystem (VHA IE). Designing and developing innovative solutions takes not only diverse perspectives, but the talents and skills of many to implement and impact Veteran lives. Collaborations and partnerships were on the agenda during last month's National Entrepreneurship Week. VHA Innovators Network (iNET) Director of Operations, Allison Amrhein participated in a panel during Federal Eship Day to tell stories of successful VHA IE collaborations and opportunities for the entrepreneur community to help VA improve Veteran care. During the panel, Amrhein was joined by representatives from the ...

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Veterans to receive assistance through proposed American Jobs Plan

Veterans would see improved infrastructure, more jobs and small business assistance in the proposed American Jobs Plan, VA Secretary Denis McDonough said April 15. Speaking during a White House press call, the secretary said the plan would give VA more resources to help Veterans.

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Be proactive in looking for early signs of testicular cancer

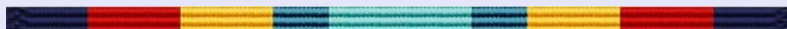
Testicular Cancer Week is an important time to remind service members to be proactive in their health.

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MHS GENESIS has successful launch at Naval Medical Center San Diego

MHS GENESIS launched at Naval Medical Center San Diego in February, but little did the team know a critical patient would arrive the very first weekend.

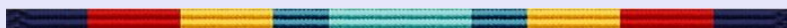
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National World War I Memorial honors 4.7 million Veterans

Visitors to Washington, D.C., pass many memorials during their trips. Among those are memorials dedicated to wars throughout the nation's history. The black granite of the Vietnam War Memorial. The fountains and columns of the World War II Memorial. The 19 stainless steel statues of the Korean War Veterans Memorial. One war—dubbed "The Great War"—has been the only one missing. That changes April 16, 2021, with the First Colors ceremony unveiling the National WWI Memorial.

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SoCal Nonprofit Now Accepting Mother's Day Gifts to Give to Female Veterans

Mother's Day Gifts to Give to Female Veterans are being collected by a local nonprofit.

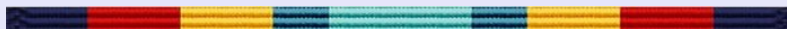
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Through Our Eyes

Read women Veteran stories called "My Life, My Story," online at VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System. Or stop in to see and read them in person. #VAWomenVets #BringWomenVeteransHome2VA

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Your actions
could save a life.

Showing you care can make a big difference to someone in crisis.

VeteransCrisisLine.net

 **Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**



Blood donations remain vital for service member care

When it comes to the need for donated blood, soldiers on the battlefield understand.

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Activate Your New TRICARE Prescriptions with Remote Pharmacy Check-In

Do you get your prescriptions filled at a military pharmacy? If so, make sure you look into Remote Pharmacy Check-In. It's a new text messaging service being used at a select group of military pharmacies. It lets you activate your new prescription with a simple text from your phone.

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



How VA supports Veterans experiencing IPV during Sexual Assault Awareness Month and beyond

During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, VA is emphasizing its ongoing work to ensure that Veterans and their partners who are experiencing or engaging in IPV are provided with the necessary resources and services, including VA's Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program (IPVAP) and other programs.

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VFW recognizes Missouri Veteran's volunteer work during pandemic

United States Air Force #Veteran Lisa Thompson was recognized by Veterans of Foreign Wars for her volunteer work during the pandemic.

#WomenVeteranTrailblazers

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Schedule Your COVID Vaccine Appointment with DHA Appointing Portal

When it's your turn to get the COVID-19 vaccine, you may be able to book an appointment at a military hospital, clinic, or vaccination site with the new Defense Health Agency Appointing Portal (DAP). Check out this convenient new vaccine scheduling tool from the Defense Health Agency.

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



Hire Veterans? Be recognized with a 2021 HIRE Vets Medallion Award

The U.S. Department of Labor is now accepting applications for the 2021 HIRE Vets Medallion Award, presented annually to employers that meet rigorous criteria around recruiting, employing and retaining America's military Veterans. Application deadline is April 30, 2021.

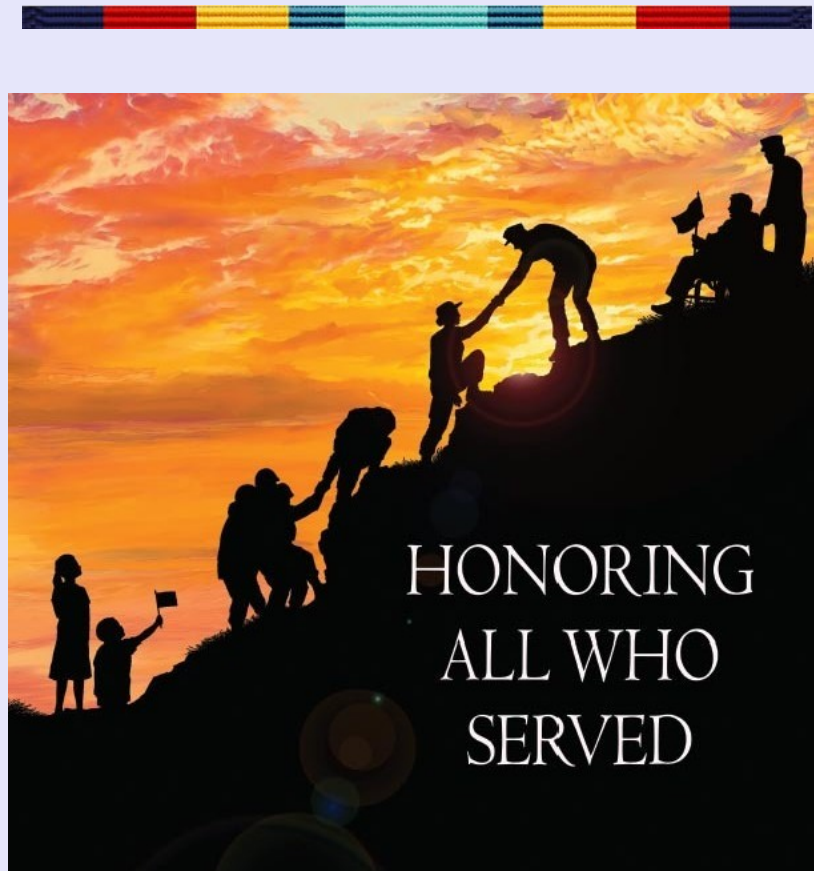
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CWE to launch \$250,000 grant program for women Veterans

Veteran Woman Entrepreneur Grant will open on April 14, 2021 and a completed online application must be submitted before 5:00 p.m., May 14, 2021. Winners will be announced on June 12, 2021.
#WomenVeteransDay

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4 strategies for Veterans rebounding from a rejection letter

While it may be disappointing, getting a rejection letter can actually help you in your job search. It offers you an opportunity to learn from the process and improve upon certain areas for the next dream job that crosses your path.

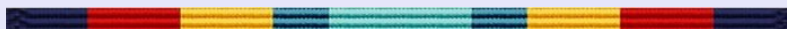
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White Ribbon VA partnership – Harassment-free environment

White Ribbon VA aims to eliminate sexual harassment, sexual assault, and domestic violence in VA facilities and surrounding communities and to promote positive change in organizational culture.

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Community providers: Learn about Veteran suicide prevention and lethal means safety

This live, knowledge-based webinar will educate health care teams on risk factors of suicide and provide clinical resources on lethal means safety counseling and suicide prevention safety planning.

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Woman at the top in tech: Huntsville leader is a veteran, boss, mentor

Let's talk Top Women in Tech. Meet U.S. Navy #Veteran Kathy DeWeese, she leads Alion Science and Technology's space and missile systems programs. #WomenVeteranTrailblazers

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The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

announced one burial update and one new identification for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

Navy Seaman 2nd Class Howard S. Magers, 18, of Merry Oaks, Kentucky, 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 Magers. He will be buried on May 29, 2021, in Smith's Grove, Kentucky. [Read about Magers.](#)

Navy Mess Attendant 1st Class Octavius Mabine, 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 Mabine. Interment Services are pending. [Read about Mabine.](#)



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