



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, May 02, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 18



This-N-That

Good evening Jim,

This past Thursday I spent some time on the phone talking with a Veteran who got his Mental Health Social Worker, and now works for a private company who provides service to Veterans.

We had discussed a couple of issues, one which has been resolved, and was a personal issue for him. He had applied for disability benefit and like almost everyone else had to fight for them, and

finally did receive his letter of approval for 100% disability, but, took more than ten years to actually get his benefits and finally only because he used an attorney.

I have spoken to many Vets who too were approved, various percentages of ratings, received a letter, but didn't begin to receive benefits for as much as five years.

I would love to hear from any of our Veterans who have been approved, received your letter of approval telling me your circumstances and current status of your benefits.

Another issue we spoke about were Veteran who were granted benefits for Mental Health, referred to an outside source for care, then told you had to wait for "X" number of weeks, there weren't sufficient funds or any other excuse given.

Both issues are very important to me, and not that I will be able to get them resolved, but I can at least put my foot in the door and say hey, Houston, we have a problem! And see where it takes me into helping get more answers for our Veterans.

We've also begun a fax blast to the Senate asking

for their support and for a YES vote on 22 pieces of legislation now in their possession. And that will be the starting point to keep on them to pass all of them as quickly as possible. (They are all noted below in the press release from VVA)

Your help is also needed, most are listed in the **TAKE ACTION** portion of the newsletter, please help us to help you. Send each one out, again some might be duplicates, but they are from different organizations so it's an added push.

We've also changed the **TAKE ACTION** section just a little bit, and will note how many are being added to the list and this decision was made based on communications with another Veteran. So, if we note two were added, then they'd be the last two items in the list.

Monday, May 3rd is Constitution Memorial Day, maybe that would be a great day to remind your Rep and Senators of their obligation to keep their oath of office to protect and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

A week from Sunday, May 9th is Mother's Day! Whatever you do, don't forget your mother!

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.

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



Bill Promotes Gender Equality in the Cost of Uniforms

Congresswomen Julia Brownley (Calif.), Jackie Speier (Calif.), and Elise Stefanik (N.Y.) introduced the "Equal Pay for Servicewomen Act" (H.R.2502), which would direct the Department of Defense (DoD) to ensure gender equity in the cost of uniforms, a measure that ensures equal pay for all who serve in our nation's military. The bill would incorporate the four legislative recommendations of

a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on the parity of military uniform costs.

The FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act directed the GAO to analyze gender disparities in out-of-pocket uniform costs for men and women servicemembers. Brownley's amendment required GAO to compare out-of-pocket uniform costs for men and women servicemembers in each of the Services of the Armed Forces, as well as past required uniform changes that have affected one gender more than the other. This language was retained in the final agreement, which was signed into law.

In February 2021, the GAO released the required report which found that across all branches of service and ranks, women in the military pay several times more than men in out-of-pocket costs for uniforms, a violation of DoD's principles of equal pay for equal work. In addition, DoD does not collect uniform data for officers because officers pay for their uniforms out-of-pocket. However, in the past 10 years, the services have made 18 changes to uniforms that disproportionately increased out-of-pocket costs for female officers. Because these disparities add up to hundreds or thousands of dollars over time, women are being paid less than

men across the military. You may read the [GAO report online](#).



VA's academic affiliations increase workforce diversity

VA proudly joins other federal agencies recognizing National Minority Health Month. Time to raise awareness about the health disparities that continue to affect racial and ethnic minority populations.

[Read More](#)



Veteran restaurant business owners eligible for \$28.6 Billion Restaurant Revitalization Fund

The U.S. Small Business Administration will begin registrations at 9 a.m. April 30 and open applications at noon May 3 for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund. For the first 21 days that the program is open, the SBA will prioritize funding applications from Veterans, along with businesses owned and controlled by women and socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. All eligible applicants are encouraged to submit applications as

soon as the portal opens. Following the 21 days, all eligible applications will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis.

[Read More](#)



Economic Impact Payments disbursed to non-filer VA beneficiaries

More than 25 million Economic Impact Payments were disbursed last week. Many of the payments went directly to Veterans and their beneficiaries.

[Read More](#)

Financial fraud: Safeguarding Veteran benefits

Now more than ever, your financial wellness and security are important. Veterans and their benefits are often targets of scams and financial fraud. While VA is working to prevent these events from happening, educating yourself about fraud and safeguarding your benefits is the best line of defense. Identifying and avoiding scams Scams come in many forms. You can find them in the mail, over the telephone and on the internet. Knowing what to expect is important. Mail. Some scam mail targeting Veterans may offer the opportunity to refinance VA loans at extremely low rates. Other scams may offer lump-sum payments ...

[Read More](#)



VVA National President testifies before Senate Veterans Affairs Committee

On April 28, 2021, at 3:00 pm (EST) John Rowan, VVA National President will present testify before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, on legislation pending before the committee. The hearing will be streamed live at

<https://www.veterans.senate.gov/> and full testimony will be available at <https://vva.org/category/vva-testimony/> at 3:00pm on Thursday.

Pending legislation to be addressed at April 28
SVAC hearing

1. S.
89
Ensuring
Survivor
Benefits
During
COVID-
19
Act
of
2021
2. S.
189
Veterans'
Disability
Compensation
Automatic
COLA
Act
of
2021
3. S.
219
Aid
and

Attendance
Support
Act
of
2021

4. S.
437
Veterans
Burn
Pits
Exposure
Recognition
Act
of
2021

5. S.
444
AUTO
for
Veterans
Act

6. S.
454
K2
Veterans
Care
Act
of
2021

7. S.
458
Veterans
Claim

Transparency
Act
of
2021

8. S.
565
Mark
Takai
Atomic
Veterans
Healthcare
Parity
Act
of
2021

9. S.
657
A
bill
to
modify
the
presumption
of
service
connection
for
veterans
who
were
exposed
to
herbicide

agents
while
serving
in
the
Armed
Forces
in
Thailand
during
the
Vietnam
era,
and
for
other
purposes

10. S.
731
Department
of
Veterans
Affairs
Information
Technology
Reform
Act
of
2021

11. S.
810
Fair
Care

for
Vietnam
Veterans
Act
of
2021

12. S.
894
Hire
Veteran
Health
Heroes
Act
of
2021

13. S.
927
TEAM
Act

14. S.
952
Presumptive
Benefits
for
War
Fighters
Exposed
to
Burn
Pits
and
Other
Toxins

Act
of
2021

15. S.
976
Caring
for
Survivors
Act

of
2021

16. S.
1031
A
bill
to
require
the
Comptroller
General
of
the
United
States
to
conduct
a
study
on
disparities
associated
with
race

and
ethnicity
with
respect
to
certain
benefits
administered
by
the
Secretary
of
Veterans
Affairs,
and
for
other
purposes

17. S.
1039
A
bill
to
amend
title
38,
United
States
Code,
to
improve
compensation
for

disabilities
occurring
in
Persian
Gulf
War
veterans,
and
for
other
purposes

18. S.
1071
VA
AID
Act
of
2021

19. S.
1093
A
bill
to
amend
title
38,
United
States
Code,
to
establish
in
the

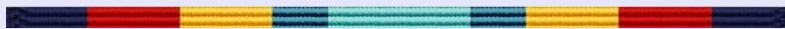
Department
the
Veterans
Economic
Opportunity
and
Transition
Administration,
and
for
other
purposes

20. S.
1095
Colonel
John
M.
McHugh
Tuition
Fairness
for
Survivors
Act
of
2021

21. S.
1096
Fry
Scholarship
Enhancement
Act
of
2021

22. S.
1188
SFC
Heath
Robinson
Burn
Pit
Transparency
Act

To view the above bills please go to <https://vva.org/what-we-do/veterans-advocacy/legislative-action-center/> and click on view key legislation.



VA celebrates 10 years of genetic research

VA's Million Veteran Program is the largest genetics research program to date, studying genes, lifestyle behaviors, and military exposures impact on health and illness. MVP talks Genetics on DNA Day.

[Read More](#)



VA health executive: We are listening to our Veterans

Dr. Steve Lieberman is VA's Acting Deputy

Undersecretary for Health. In this episode, he talks about the 18-hour days of VA frontline staff dealing with the pandemic and the great health care provided to Veterans.

[Read More](#)



Grant program for women Veteran entrepreneurs

The Center for Women Entrepreneurs Texas Woman's University has created a grant program to help women Vets get the financial resources to start or expand their small business.

[Read More](#)



Links to Other Stories

1. [Lost for Decades, a Marine World](#)

War
II
Hero
Finally
Comes
Home

2. The
VA
Is
Testing
an
Implant
That
Could
Allow
Paralyzed
Veterans
to
Walk
Again

3. Georgia
Veteran
loses
beloved
cane
—
but
finds
American
patriotism

4. 'Another
chapter':
Homes

For
Our
Troops
begins
home
build
for
local
U.S.
Navy
Veteran
Ryan
Sykes

5. New
proposal
to
lower
Medicare
age
to
50
could
be
a
lifeline
to
millions

6. Multiple
Defendants
Sentenced
in
a
Major

Compounding
Pharmacy
Fraud
Conspiracy

7. Two
Inglewood
Women
Get
Prison
Sentences
for
Health
Care
Fraud
and
Fraudulently
Billing
Medi-
Cal
for
Substance
Abuse
Counseling

8. Mississippi
Man
Indicted
for
Wire
Fraud
and
Health
Care
Fraud

9. Owner
of
Child
Autism
Services
Agency
Pleads
Guilty
to
Health
Care
Fraud

10. Fayetteville,
North
Carolina
Physician
Agrees
to
Pay
\$300,000.00
to
Resolve
Allegedly
Fraudulent
Medicare
and
Medicaid
Claims
Involving
Autonomic
Nervous
System
Tests

11. Final
four
sentenced
in
\$189M
Health
Care
Fraud
Scam

12. Five
People
Charged,
Two
Others
Admit
Guilt,
in
\$93
Million
Health
Care
Fraud
Scheme

13. Owner
of
Diving
School
Admits
Wire
Fraud

14. Portsmouth
Woman
Pleads

Guilty
to
Fraud
Schemes
Targeting
Veterans

15. Co-
conspirator
charged
with
stealing
\$470,000
from
VA,
Michigan
Treasury

16. Veteran-
Owned
Food
Businesses
Get
Priority
in
New
Cash
Assistance
Program

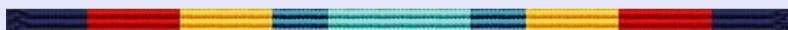
17. Veteran
finds,
returns
long-
lost
shadowbox

to
soldier's
family

18. New
VA
Clinic
to
open
in
June
19. SeaWorld
offering
free
admission
for
Veterans
and
their
families
20. Protecting
Veterans'
digital
accounts
with
a
free
service
offer
and
book
from
GoodTrust
21. It's

time
to
solve
the
puzzle
for
Veterans
exposed
to
toxic
hazards

22. Gold
Star
Spouses
Who
Remarry
Face
Losing
Survivor
Benefits.
This
Bill
Would
Change
That



Improvements to Veterans Training Law Passes the House

The House approved a bill (H.R.2523) to retrain veterans out of work as a result of the COVID-19

pandemic. This legislation, sponsored by Rep. Mike Levin (Calif.) would make changes to the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program that became part of the American Rescue Plan Act (H.R.1319, P.L.117-2). The bill provides as much as 12 months of assistance to veterans who are unemployed because of the pandemic to receive training for high-demand jobs or in high-technology programs. The measure would also add requirements and penalties for schools that participate in VA educational programs. The bill now goes to the Senate for further consideration.



Teen awarded \$20,000 scholarship for volunteer work

Brooke Jackowski, 17, has dedicated the past 5 years to serving Veterans at the Erie VA Medical Center. She will receive a \$20,000 scholarship for tuition, fees, and books at the college of her choice.

[Read More](#)



VEText: From local innovation to national COVID-19 support

Thanks to VEText, a text message appointment reminder system for Veterans with the potential to decrease no-shows developed through VHAIE, VA already had systems in place to begin doing just that.

[Read More](#)



Bettie J. Morden: A driver for women's rights

Veteran Bettie J. Morden was an advocate for women's rights in the military and later became a quintessential historian, sharing her stories on and off the field. Bettie J. Morden dedicated her life to the U.S. Army in active service and beyond. She was born in August 1921 in Huron, St. Clair County, Michigan. She grew up with her parents, William James Morden and Leah Marie "Bonney" Morden, and five siblings.

[Read More](#)



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

4 WAYS TO HELP HOMELESS VETERANS

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

NRD.GOV

VA expands Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits for dependents

The Isakson and Roe Act allows service members to transfer all or part of their Post-9/11 GI Bill entitlement to their ward or foster child.

[Read More](#)



And The Wind Blew©

In each and every man, still remains the little boy,
he once was.

A boy who wishes to be free to fly, the wind blowing
on his face.

His kite climbing ever higher to the heavens above.

To sit upon a horse's back, or the fender of a
tractor.

To feel the exhilaration of God's breath upon his
face.

His pulse is quickened, to an ever faster pace.

He lay in field or meadow, as clouds begin, to build
and billow.

With gales and gusts, trees swaying, flowers
bending.

The earth below, lovingly provides his pillow.

He dreams and yearns to fly away,
to the home he no longer quite remembers.
The home he came from so long ago.

Back then, where angels were his friends
and flew together, when all was right.

And the wind blew and took that man, that little boy.

Back Home, from whence he came.

By: Richard Schuster

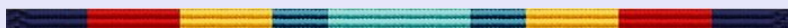


Transitional housing for homeless female veterans and their kids to open in Canton

Housing in the Akron-Canton area is now available for homeless female veterans and their children.

"Women are the most visible in uniform and the most invisible out of uniform," said Kristine Stanley, a retired veteran and assistant director of Veterans Services of Family & Community Services.

[Read More](#)



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 **3,270** hits per day, and downloads average **4,578** per day with a total **7,316,889** visitors as of Saturday evening.

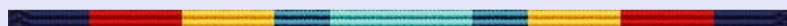
If you subscribe you will have full access to the entire website and best of all it's **FREE of CHARGE!** You just need a valid E-mail address so the system can send us a notification to approve your account. Once received, and we approve, the system will send you an E-Mail letting you know your account has been approved. Be sure to check your junk and spam folders just in case you don't receive it in your In-Box.

www.Veterans-for-change.org

- Documents Library with over **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: **10,474**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than **8,094**, Added 78 New Links (Updated: 04/20/21)

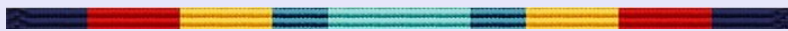
If you have a submission for the memorial pages, E-Mail: Jim.Davis@Veterans-for-change.org



First Woman Four-star in U.S. Coast Guard

President Joe Biden has nominated Coast Guard Vice Adm. Linda Fagan to the role of vice

commandant, making her the first woman to achieve a fourth-star in the U.S. Coast Guard. Fagan, the head of the Coast Guard's Pacific area of operations, would replace Adm. Charles Ray, who has been the Coast Guard's number two officer since May 2018. The appointment requires Senate confirmation.



Virtual VA Veterans Experience Action Center in Arkansas helps 657 Veterans

VA partnered with the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs, United Way 211, and other community partners to host the latest V-VEAC in Arkansas April 6-8, 2021. This event provided immediate action on the needs of 657 Veterans.

[Read More](#)



DHA Appointing Portal simplifies signing up for COVID-19 vaccination

When a new online and easy-to-use COVID-19 vaccine appointment portal was launched as a pilot program at 28 military medical treatment facilities last December, the hope was to expand it globally

in the first few months of 2021.

[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 05/01/21)

Please note, we've added 2 new items to the TAKE ACTION list.

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

29. S.
976,
Caring
for
Survivors
Act
of
2021

30. H.R.
303,
the
Retired
Pay
Restoration
Act

31. H.R.
912,
American
Indian
and
Alaska

Native
Veterans
Mental
Health
Act

32. S.
976,
the
Caring
for
Survivors
Act
of
2021
33. HR
2269
and
S
657
cover
herbicide
exposure
in
Thailand
34. Bipartisan
Bill
Introduced
to
Help
Military
Survivors
35. Legislation


asks
for
Study
of
Involuntary
Discharges
for
Women

36. H.R.
2436,
the
Veterans
Burn
Pit
Exposure
Recognition
Act

37. H.R.
958
—
the
Protecting
Moms
Who
Served
Act

38. HR
2127
and
S
927,
the
TEAM


bills
Veterans
Exposed
to
Toxic
Substances



VHA Homeless Programs Office releases five-year strategic plan

The Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) Homeless Programs Office (HPO) has released its newest five-year strategic plan.

[Read More](#)



Everything You Need to Know About the Lost Wages Assistance Program

In light of the declared national emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the President authorized the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide up to \$44 billion from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Disaster Relief Fund for lost wage payments.

[Read More](#)



My Life, My Story #8: Hank, getting focused

A common theme that pops up in our My Life, My Story stories is perseverance. Anyone who lives a long life will, of course, go through hard times at some point. But for many of the combat Veterans we've interviewed, hard times are thrust upon them at an early age. That was the case for "Hank," whose story we hear in this episode.

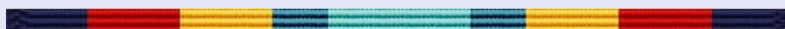
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METC NDT trainees learn about brain disorders & care

Neurodiagnostic Week, April 18-24, is an annual campaign that serves to bring attention to and acknowledge the efforts of neurodiagnostic professionals around the world.

[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



**Discover the benefits of a VA psychiatry
career at the APA virtual meeting**

VA will host a virtual career booth at the American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting, May 1-3 for those interested in a VA psychiatry career.

[Read More](#)

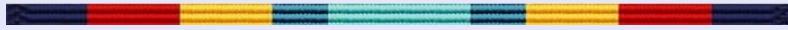


**Federal Financial Assistance for Small
Businesses**

Our nation's small businesses are facing many challenges due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. If you are a small business owner and need help overcoming these challenges,

Benefits.gov offers information on Small Business Administration (SBA) resources.

[Read More](#)



Face of InnoVAtion: Matthew Knight

Face of InnoVAtion is a regular series from the VHA IE focusing on VA employees who are working to break health care boundaries to improve Veteran care.

[Read More](#)

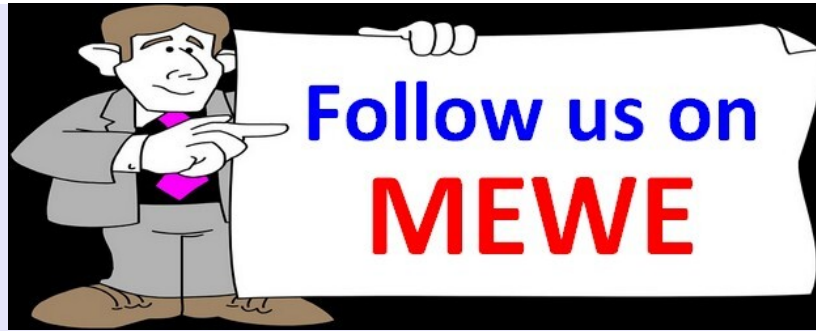


Recovering airman finds a new path with OWF support

Internships give recovering service members the opportunity to test out a potential career field.

[Read More](#)





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

[AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY](#)



**Major Veteran Groups Say Time for Toxic
Exposure Legislation is Now**

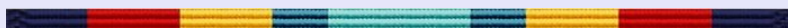
The leaders of the VFW, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) have written an op-ed calling for comprehensive toxic exposure legislation. There are currently multiple bills that address the issue of toxic exposure, and the VFW's recommendation is to combine all these bills into a large comprehensive package. "The time to pass toxic exposure legislation is now," said Hal Roesch, VFW national commander. "Veterans have waited long enough for our elected officials to act on their behalf. If Congress waits until the next conflict to address this issue, they are already too late." [Read the op-ed](#) and [watch the upcoming Senate hearing](#).



12 reasons to consider a VA career as a long-term care nurse

Working as a long-term care nurse at VA, you'll help provide a home away from home for Veterans needing around-the-clock skilled nursing care.

[Read More](#)



DHA stands up new market in Tidewater

region of Virginia

Army Lt. Gen. Ronald Place, director of the Defense Health Agency, visited Naval Medical Forces Atlantic at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, to participate in a socially distanced establishment ceremony to mark the standup of the Tidewater Market, April 28, 2021.

[Read More](#)



Our Protectors, Our Veterans©

The lives of some known and many not, have touched us. There's little difference than found in any other war, with caskets holding their bodies, now come home they to rest. They were our protectors, it is their duty they have done, and they did their best, and again, lives of some known and many not, have touched us. How many times has the “story of stories” been repeated, by millions of families throughout the ages since first spoken? “He gave His only Begotten Son”, rings on and on. May that sacrifice never be forgotten. Likewise, millions of other sons and daughters have been given, as our Protectors, in their service; to God, to country, to family, to community. They, too, gave up their

begotten children, their loved ones, for us, for all of us, to never be forgotten. As was His sacrifice, is theirs, our protectors, for the ever living hope of futures bright, we join in humble gratitude, to honor and to comfort all who need. May our protectors, our veterans, never be forgotten.

In addition to the horrors and ravages of war itself, during each era of our protectors, our veterans, have had to face such issues as we have seen; issues such as radiation, psychedelics, agent orange, chemicals, biological agents and unproven experimental vaccines. It is my belief that it is our ultimate responsibility to do what we can to minimize these types of issues that were unnecessary to have occurred in the first place. We owe our protectors this, too, for all current and future generations. If we do not protect our protectors, our veterans, who indeed, will protect them?

The health and well being issues of our protectors, our veterans of all eras and of the reserves, guards, and active duty military of today are real. This should be our focus, this should be our purpose, this should be our commitment, and this is what we owe to our protectors, our veterans.

If we do not protect our protectors, our veterans,
who indeed will protect us?

By:

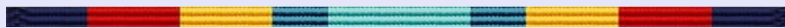
Richard Schuster



Office of Inspector General

1. Defense
Health
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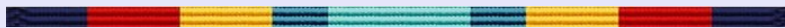
CBP
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Field
Testing
of
Suspected
Illicit
Drugs



Why I get my health care at VA: Mike

After 6 years in the Marine Corps, Mike found transition to civilian life difficult. He ended up homeless, living in his car, but turned his life around with VA programs for homeless Vets.

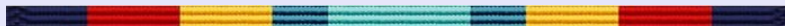
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Mobile mental health apps for Veterans aim to reduce suicide risk

VA Pittsburgh staff are working to reach more Veterans using mobile mental health apps. Project seeks to increase Veterans' access to mobile apps to improve mental health coping and reduce suicide risk.

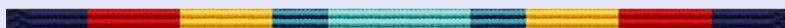
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U.S. Army medical team administers COVID-19 vaccines in Guam

A team of U.S. Army medical professionals began administering COVID-19 vaccine doses to members of the local community in Mangilao, Guam on April 16.

[Read More](#)



1. [The](#)

Nonprescription
Drug
Facts
Label
in
a
Changing
Consumer
Marketplace
2021

2. Nonclinical
Testing
of
Individualized
Antisense
Oligonucleotide
Drug
Products
for
Severely
Debilitating
or
Life-
Threatening
Diseases
Guidance
for
Sponsor-
Investigators
3. Coronavirus
Disease
2019
(COVID-

19)
(04/30/21)

4. FDA
Takes
Action
For
Failure
to
Submit
Required
Clinical
Trial
Results
Information
to
[ClinicalTrials.Gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov)
5. Investigation
of
Acute
Non-
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Hepatitis
Illnesses
–
“Real
Water”
Brand
Alkaline
Water
(March
2021)
6. Basic
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Issues
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on
Undeclared
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in
Caramel
Rice
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7. FDA
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8. Scentsational
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Benzene
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Acetaldehyde

9. FDA
Drug
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10. FDA
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to
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Opioid

Overdose

11. Pacific
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Solutions)
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Infusion
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to
Possible
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or
Separated
Bezel
Repair
Posts

12. FDA
Approves
Higher
Dosage
of
Naloxone
Nasal
Spray
to

Treat
Opioid
Overdose

13. FDA
Approves
Treatment
for
Chronic
Kidney
Disease

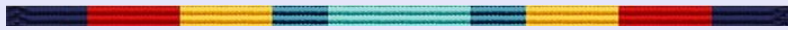
14. Coronavirus
(COVID-
19)
Update:
April
30,
2021



VFW Joins Forces with Team RWB

The VFW announced on Thursday that it has [joined forces](#) with Team Red, White & Blue (Team RWB). Focused on increasing veterans' access to a combined health and wellness network, Team RWB offers camaraderie and support from fellow service members, veterans, and their families. The organization is comprised of nearly 200 chapters and communities, made up of over 217,000 members, called Eagles, the majority of whom are

post-9/11 veterans. “Camaraderie, commitment and service are core values to both our organizations, and together, we’ll be unstoppable in our quest to ensure a better quality of life for every American veteran,” said Hal Roesch, VFW national commander.



VA engineering research center's newest invention: prosthetic hook mouse

It's yet another example of ingenuity on the part of the Human Engineering Research Laboratories (HERL), a collaborative effort between the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System and the University of Pittsburgh. HERL researches, develops, and tests a variety of technologies, including wheelchairs, and uses 3D printers with advanced manufacturing to design and create prostheses and other assistive devices.

[Read More](#)



Moving the Body and Calming the Mind

"Motion is lotion. If you're sitting still, you're feeling the pain, but if you keep moving, it helps you to deal

with it." Veteran learns skills to manage pain through Whole Health.

[Read More](#)



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TRICARE Dental Program Offers Ways to Protect Your Child's Teeth

Did you know tooth decay is one of the most common childhood diseases? According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1 in 5 children ages 5-11 have at least one untreated decayed tooth. This decay, also known as cavities, can cause pain and infections that may affect a child's ability to eat, speak, play, or learn.

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

Female Veterans wanted for leadership trainee program

VA encourages female Veterans to apply for a 24-month management trainee program in environmental management services with non-competitive placement.

[Read More](#)



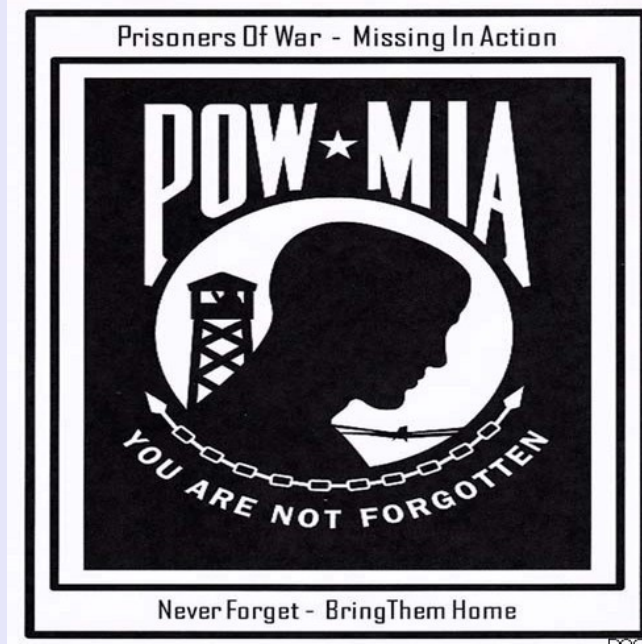
Why I get my health care at VA: Mike

After 6 years in the Marine Corps, Mike found transition to civilian life difficult. He ended up homeless, living in his car, but turned his life around with VA programs for homeless Vets.

"There are resources available at VA. And if you don't use it, shame on you. It's there. That's why it's there. And I finally woke up to that. And my motivation was my son. When you look at your kid, I don't want him to end up living the way I'm living," said Mike.

[Read More](#)





VFW Participates in House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Roundtable

On Wednesday, VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Tammy Barlet participated in a [roundtable discussion](#) hosted by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The purpose was to discuss the role of VSOs in helping to eliminate sexual harassment and assault across VA. Barlet cited the recent proposal of VFW-SVA Legislative Fellow Cameron Zbikowski in which the Patient Advocate Tracking System Replacement tool would be available for veterans to track their complaints. Chairman Takano stated that he is hopeful VA Secretary McDonough has set a positive tone by personally taking the [White Ribbon Pledge](#). White Ribbon VA encourages taking the pledge to stand

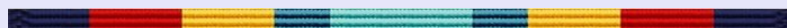
against sexual harassment, sexual assault, and domestic violence, by promoting a positive change in culture.



Nutrition essential for managing kidney disease

The VA partnership with American Kidney Fund adds to existing VA programs and services that support Veterans through early identification of kidney disease and referral for appropriate treatment.

[Read More](#)



VA baby showers help Veterans amid the pandemic

VA baby showers are not new to VA. The traditionally indoor and in-person events have been held for over a decade at different medical centers prior to the onset of COVID-19. This year, VA medical centers adapted their events to the current climate by converting to either drive-thru or virtual platforms.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has truly brought out the best in our communities in terms of its support of our nation's heroes. We are grateful for the partnerships that allow us to proudly support Veterans through community donations. It's a helpful addition to the provision of VA health care," said Sabrina Clark, director of Voluntary Services.

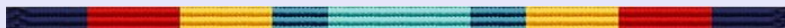
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As seen on CBS This Morning: Protecting Veterans' digital accounts with a free service offer and book from GoodTrust

For a limited time all Veterans will at no cost receive the GoodTrust Premium service plan for one year (value \$70). Use promo code "GoodTrustVeteran".

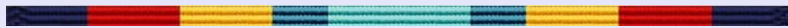
[Read More](#)



VA.gov site becomes central login for accessing benefits

Veterans and their families may begin accessing their Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits and services on the new and user-friendly VA.gov website starting April 30.

[Read More](#)



Lung cancer stories for healing and connection

"Lung cancer is no longer a death sentence," said Emily Eyres, chief program officer for the GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer. "There's an opportunity to live with the disease or even, if caught early, you can be cured. We want Veterans to know that they have options."

VA partnered with the GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer to leverage resources to increase awareness about lung cancer screening options to improve outcomes for Veterans.

[Read More](#)



VA and Parkinson's Foundation hosting virtual event

The Parkinson's Foundation and VA will host a virtual event on April 28 titled "Veterans and Parkinson's: Social Connection & Empowerment." Here's information on how to register.

[Read More](#)

Beyond MST mobile app for military sexual trauma survivors

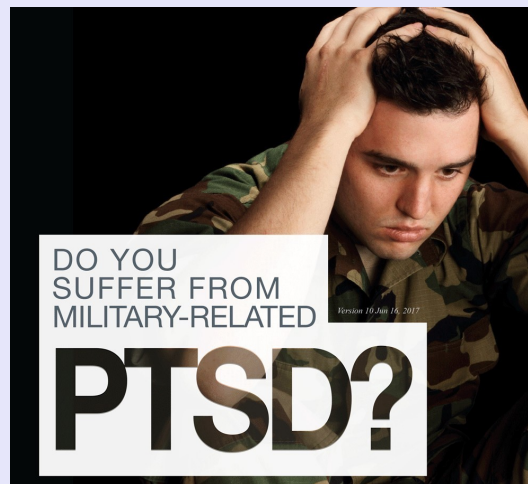
VA is committed to supporting Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma. The new, free Beyond MST mobile app is designed specifically to support MST survivors' healing and recovery.

[Read More](#)

COVID-19 remote patient monitoring pilot makes initial successes

March 2021 marked a grim milestone: the one-year anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read More](#)



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

Guitars for Vets offers lessons, guitar for Veterans

Established in 2007, Guitars for Vets, a non-profit organization, came together when Marine Corps

Veteran Dan Van Buskirk took months of guitar lessons from Patrick Nettesheim. Through their lessons, Van Buskirk was able to learn to play the guitar and since then, the two became friends. Both realized that these lessons created an outlet for expression as well as provided a positive interaction.

[Read More](#)



American Astronaut: Eileen Collins

Air Force Veteran Eileen Collins is a NASA astronaut who was the first female pilot and commander of a space shuttle.

[Read More](#)

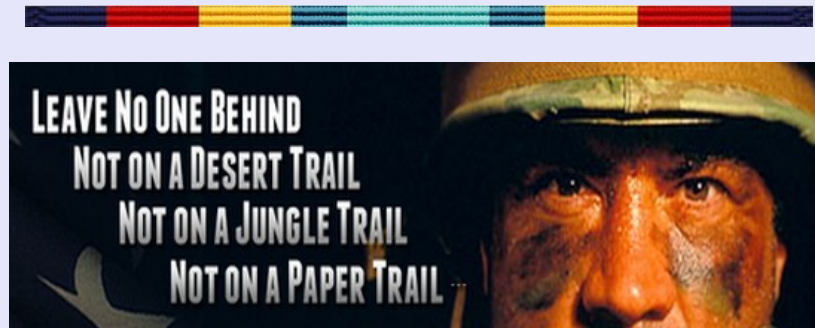


DHA's immunization health care specialists support vaccine rollout

The Defense Health Agency's Immunization Healthcare Division has been instrumental in ensuring that all the Department of Defense's military medical treatment facilities guarantee safety protocols during the complex process of receiving,

distributing, storing, and administering COVID-19 vaccinations.

[Read More](#)



Get career-ready with a paid VA internship

Through the federal Pathways Internship Program, you can get real-world experience doing work that makes a difference at VA.

[Read More](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine: I heard the COVID-19 vaccine will...

Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccination? Does the COVID-19 vaccine affect my DNA? Find the answer to these and other questions in the latest edition of *You Asked, We Answered*.

[Read More](#)



From coast to coast, Navy personnel helping stop COVID-19 spread

Navy Medicine Readiness Training Command Bremerton has sent several staff members across the continent to aid the Department of Defense Community Vaccination Center support.

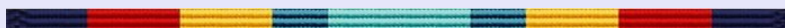
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American Rescue Plan to enable modernization, reduce claims backlog

The American Rescue Plan ensures Veterans have continued access to COVID-19 protections, quality healthcare and needed economic relief.

[Read More](#)



Using genetics, researchers identify potential drugs for early treatment of COVID-19

Dr. Juan P. Casas, a physician epidemiologist at

the VA Boston Healthcare System, led the study. The research included collaborators from the University of Cambridge and the European Bioinformatics Institute in England, and Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia in Italy.

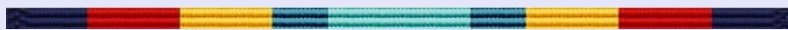
[Read More](#)



All-Female 82nd Airborne Team Jumps Out of Woman-Crewed Air Force Cargo Plane

Women from the 437th Airlift Wing and the 315th Airlift Wing located at Joint Base Charleston, S.C., in conjunction with women from the Army 82nd Airborne Division located at Pope Army Airfield, N.C., celebrated Women's History Month with an all-female flight and airdrop, April 13, 2021.

[Read More](#)



MIA Update



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

Navy Radioman 3rd Class Theodore Q. Jensen, 22, of Delta, Utah, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. 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 Jensen. He will be buried on June 2, 2021, in his hometown. [Read about Jensen.](#)

Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. William H. Melville, 20, of Minneapolis, was a pilot assigned to the 36th

Fighter Squadron, 8th Fighter Group. On Oct. 28, 1943, he was on a combat mission over the island of New Guinea, Australian Territory of Papua, when his aircraft and two others disappeared after encountering severe weather. Search and recovery efforts in the days following were unable to find any of the aircraft. Melville will be buried July 16, 2021, in his hometown. [Read about Melville.](#)

Army Pfc. Philip T. Hoogacker, 23, was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment. He was reported missing in action on July 27, 1950, after his unit was attacked near Anui, South Korea. He was last seen after receiving first aid for a minor shrapnel wound. DPAA historians believe Hoogacker was captured by the Korean People's Army and forcibly marched to Seoul and then on to Pyongyang, where he died as a prisoner of war. Interment services are pending. [Read about Hoogacker.](#)

Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Ernest N. Vienneau, 25, was a pilot assigned to the 340th Bombardment Squadron, 97th Bombardment Group, 15th Air Force, based out of Amendola, Italy. On Nov. 6, 1944, the bomber on which he was serving as co-pilot came under heavy anti-aircraft fire while on a mission over Maribor, Yugoslavia, in present-day

Slovenia. During the barrage, a piece of flak penetrated the cockpit and struck Vienneau in the head, mortally wounding him. Interment services are pending. [Read about Vienneau.](#)

Navy Water Tender 1st Class Charles E.

Hudson, 39, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. 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 Hudson. Interment services are pending. [Read about Hudson.](#)

Navy Seaman 1st Class Walter C. Stein, 20, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. 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 Stein. Interment services are pending. [Read about Stein.](#)

Navy Fireman 1st Class Kenneth E.

Doernenburg, 23, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island,

Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. 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 Doernenburg. Interment services are pending. [Read about Doernenburg.](#)



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