



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, June 27, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 26



This-N-That

Good afternoon Jim,

I'm truly thrilled to announce that Military Veterans Advocacy along with I'm sure a countless number of people got the [HR 711 West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act of 2021](#) passed and signed into law.

I have uploaded the legislation copy which was provided to me by Commander John Wells USN (Ret.) and it's John and his entire team who are constantly working long hard endless hours to help all Veterans.

Kudo's to the entire team of Military Veterans Advocacy!

I know for many years now we've been fighting to have our

Homeless Veterans in Los Angeles taken care of, many promises, and zero action.

I never trust the VA when it comes to quoting numbers on various issues, the latest numbers they have been touting are roughly 8,000+ Homeless Veterans, and they still claim 40,000 nationwide. Why I don't know other than to make themselves look good.

Back when I was deep into it, up to my eyeballs and we were checking numbers on a weekly basis nationwide we were coming up with numbers continually averaging 1.2 million.

I did turn over copies of my contacts to a couple Veteran's widows who help out from time to time to see if they can come up with fresh numbers closer to reality, soon as I know I will make sure to pass along the information.

In **TAKE ACTION** this week, one item was removed as it was passed and sent to be signed into law. And one new one has been added. But please, take action on all of them even if that piece of legislation doesn't help you, it will help your brothers and sisters, and when things come around for you, I'm sure they in turn will help you too!

There is a lot of new information again this week, so be sure to browse through, you might find some interesting and of value, some you may not.

If you're not currently a [subscriber](#) to our newsletter, maybe think about subscribing today!

Or if you'd like you can also follow us on [Twitter](#), or join us on [MEWE](#) too!

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



Fighting invisible battles & finding peace

US Navy Veteran James Seddon learned about his grandfather's traumatic war experiences when his grandfather finally sought therapy. And a year after Seddon himself returned from deployment, he knew deep down that he was not the same man who had left home. "My temper was far worse. My family walked on eggshells around me. Hyperaware, I startled very easily," he recalls.

"My VA therapist listened to my skepticism but was convinced she could help me. Her confidence in the outcome, if I followed the program, kept me going. During my treatment, I mentioned my grandfather. She said she wished she could have treated him."

[Read More](#)



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.

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



VA celebrates Cancer Survivor Month

June is National Cancer Survivor Month, and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is celebrating Veteran cancer survivors and their journeys.

[Read More](#)



Governor Larry Hogan Proclaimed June 12 as Women's Veteran's Day in Maryland

MD Celebrates #WomenVeteransDay. Governor Larry Hogan proclaimed June 12 as Women Veteran's Day in Maryland. He also announced the establishment of the Women Veteran's Inclusion Program to support women Veterans.

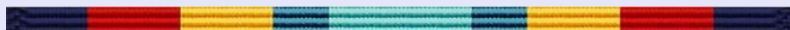
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Veteran changes his life with support of Whole Health coach

After foot surgeries, sciatic nerve issues and years of smoking, Veteran James Mitchell was using a walker, was stressed out, and life was at its lowest point. Then he started his Whole Health journey.

[Read More](#)





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



Mobile VA hosts drive-thru food distribution, vaccination clinic

Mobile Outpatient Clinic employees and volunteers distributed nearly 200 boxes of grocery items during a June 16 event designed to support Veterans and their families experiencing food instability.

[Read More](#)



Veterans get fit at the National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic at Home

Free Fitbit for first 250 Veterans to register and complete the program!

VA is accepting applications from Veterans interested in participating in the 2021 National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic at Home. The deadline to register is June 30. The deadline to submit medical exam forms is July 15.

Veterans can experience surfing, kayaking, sailing, cycling and adaptive fitness, and choose from offerings of yoga, meditation, nutrition, cooking and creative arts at more than 30 in-person locations across the country.

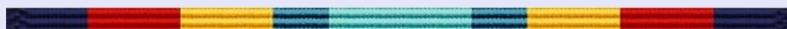
[Read More](#)



Home for women Veterans opens in Clark County

"Anna's House" in Lexington, KY is run by Lady Veterans Connect. This weekend they opened a facility with 32 beds with plans to build cottages outside the center for women Veterans with children. #EndVeteranHomelessness

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Know the Warning Signs

It Matters.

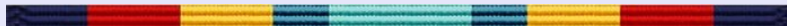
Sometimes, a crisis may involve thoughts of suicide. Learn to recognize these warning signs:

- Hopelessness, feeling like there's no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug abuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends

The presence of the following signs requires immediate attention:

- Thinking about hurting or killing themselves
- Looking for ways to kill themselves
- Talking about death, dying or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse

..... Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net) or text to 838255



#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Pedro Munoz

During Caribbean-American Heritage Month, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Pedro Munoz, who was killed in action while serving in Afghanistan.

[Read More](#)



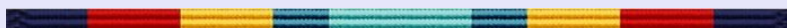
Mission Continues collecting 9/11 stories, share yours

This year will mark the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Mission Continues is collecting the stories of those who were inspired to serve, or to continue serving, in the wake of 9/11.

Mission Continues is inviting you and everyone who was impacted by that day—including Veterans, active-duty service members, military family members, caregivers, survivors and civilians—to share the story of where you were, how it impacted you, and how you will honor 9/11 through service.

The campaign runs through Veteran's Day.

[Read More](#)



Indiana nurse during the Korean War helped inspire "M*A*S*H"

Korean War nurse Margaret Catherine "Cathy" (McDonough) Drake who helped inspire 'M*A*S*H' dies at 96. We Honor your Service!

[Read More](#)



Links to Other Stories

1. [‘Social Security doesn’t even cover my entire rent.’ How retirees say Congress should change benefits](#)
2. [7 Reasons Why Marines Love Chesty Puller So Much](#)
3. [A Black WWII Veteran who was denied the Purple Heart due to racism finally receives the honor at 99](#)
4. [Acting U.S. Attorney Hairston and AG Stein Announce \\$330,000 Health Care Fraud Settlement with Triad Doctor](#)
5. [Asheville VA one of 50 VA centers participating in national study on effects of statins](#)
6. [Department of Veterans Affairs 'moving ahead' to provide gender-affirming surgery to transgender Veterans: report](#)
7. [Dominican National Pleads Guilty to Identity Theft Charges](#)
8. [Dominican National Pleads Guilty to Misusing a Social Security Number](#)
9. [Former Cedar Rapids Hospital Employee Sentenced for Accessing Ex-Boyfriend’s Medical Records](#)
10. [GOP slams Biden admin for using tax funds on gender-transition surgery for Veterans](#)
11. [Here's How Much the Pentagon Has Spent So Far to Treat Transgender Troops](#)
12. [Jefferson County Doctor Sentenced to Federal Prison for Health Care Fraud Violations](#)
13. [Justice Department Reaches Settlement Agreement with Physicians Group in El Paso Over Allegations of Violating the False Claims Act](#)
14. [Oklahoma City Doctor Pays \\$325,000 to Settle Civil Penalty Claims](#)
15. [Pair Plead Guilty to Kickback Scheme](#)

16. [Seven charged for roles in a \\$110 million compound drug scheme](#)
17. [Tennessee Doctor Pleads Guilty to Hydrocodone Distribution Resulting in Death](#)
18. [US military leaders weigh in on plan to overhaul military justice system](#)
19. [Utah Veteran, a Purple Heart recipient, fulfills skydiving dream on 90th birthday](#)
20. [Years in the making, new Leo C. Chase Jr. VA clinic opens its doors in St. Augustine](#)



Fresh Focus S6 #31: Speech Therapy

As a caregiver or someone in a Veteran's support system, you may notice your loved one having difficulty chewing or swallowing certain food items. Although there are suggestions your VA Registered Dietitian Nutritionist will make, we often pair up with Speech Therapy for a comprehensive team approach.

[Read More](#)



Borne the Battle: Fighting Veteran Suicide

Veterans Nate McDonald and Cindy McNally share how Irreverent Warriors has helped them and many other Veterans, active duty and reserves on the road to mental health recovery.

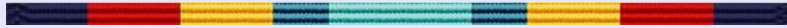
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Support available for women Veterans in the Brazos Valley

Brazos Valley Texas wants women Veterans to know - Support is available.

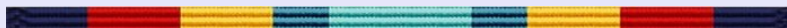
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Expanding access to specialty cancer care through TeleOncology

The VA National Oncology Program is expanding TeleOncology access to Veterans across the nation with the National TeleOncology Program.

[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



Face of InnoVAtion: Ashley Crooks

Face of InnoVAtion is a regular series from the VHA IE focusing on VA employees who are working to change and save Veteran lives through innovation.

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Our Military Kids provides grants for children of Post-9/11 combat Veterans

Our Military Kids supports military children by funding sports, arts and other enrichment activities when their parents are deployed or recovering from severe injuries sustained in a post-9/11 overseas mission. These activities help military kids cope with stress and build self-confidence during an otherwise difficult time in their lives.

[Read More](#)



1st transitional housing facility to exclusively serve homeless female Vets to open in Central GA

Genesis JOY House Homeless Shelter, Inc. opens the first transitional housing facility for Homeless Women Veterans. #EndVeteranHomelessness

[Read More](#)



#VeteranOfTheDay Air Force and Army Veteran Kyle St. John

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Air Force and Army Veteran Kyle St. John, who served in Afghanistan, Kuwait and Iraq and is now a VA police officer.

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[Veterans-For-Change Website](#)

The Veterans-For-Change website has been around since 2009, We've been around since May 2006. 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 **3,087** hits per day, and downloads average **4,321** per day with a total **7,482,102** visitors as of Sunday afternoon.

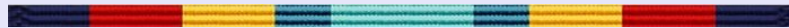
If you subscribe you will have full access to the entire website and best of all it's **FREE of CHARGE!** You just need a valid E-mail address so the system can send us a notification to approve your account. Once received, and we approve, the system will send you an E-Mail letting you know your account 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 **19,536** documents in 237+ Libraries, added 1 new documents on-line (Updated: 06/27/21)
- 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: **10,674**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than **8,192**, Added 39 New Links (Updated: 06/25/21)

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



Veteran changes his life with support of Whole Health coach

"I was a walking billboard for pain before I met Ms. Dobson," says Reverend James Mitchell of Bluefield, West Virginia.

After several foot surgeries, sciatic nerve issues and 40 years of smoking, Army Veteran Mitchell was using a walker, was stressed out and his quality of life was at its lowest point. Then he started his Whole Health journey with Nicole Dobson, Whole Health coach at the Beckley VA Medical Center in West Virginia.

He committed to the hard work of setting goals, weekly coaching sessions, acupuncture and yoga. Mitchell has been 18 months smoke-free and no longer uses a walker or even a cane.

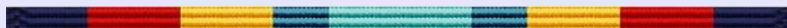
[Read More](#)



Hope floats: Veterans launch boat they built

Veterans in VA's recreation therapy program built a Caravelle skiff, a rowing and sailing dory-skiff. They worked on it for 1½ years as part of outpatient therapy. "The camaraderie is outstanding."

[Read More](#)



Gov. Bill Lee proclaims June 12 as "Women's Veterans Day"

Tennessee Celebrates #WomenVeteransDay. In a proclamation by Gov. Bill Lee, Women's Veterans Day was officially recognized in the state after being signed into law on May 17, 2021.

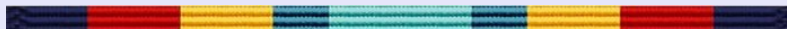
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Fighting battles, finding peace – my grandfather and me

A retired officer describes his grandfather's struggles with PTSD, then his own battles with the same condition after Afghanistan. Reflecting on their similar trials, he is grateful for his treatment.

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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 **06/26/21**)

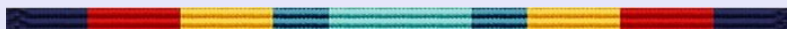
Please note, we've added **1** new items to the **TAKE ACTION** list.

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
39. Ask your Senator to Support S.1520 Military Justice Improvement Act
40. Ask your member to support S.810 and H.R. 1972 The Fair

Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021

41. Ask your member and senator to support HR 2580 and S 1151 to provide for a presumption of service connected disability for certain Veterans who served in Palomares, Spain, and for other purposes
42. "Bold New Plan" for Veterans Toxic Exposure (S. 927/H.R. 2127)
43. Ask your Senator to Support S.1520 Military Justice Improvement Act
44. HR 855, VETS Safe Travel Act
45. HR 3368, the Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Island bill
46. H.R. 2521, Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Affairs Act of 2021
47. H.R. 1273, the Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act
48. H.R. 2968, the Military and Veteran Student Loan Relief Act
49. H.R. 845, the VA Billing Accountability Act
50. Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Bill Introduced in House
51. S. 1031, Legislation Requiring a Study to Look at Disparities in VA Claims
52. Action Alert: Tell Congress to Support the COST of War Act and the Honoring our PACT Act!
53. HR 303 and S 1147 The Retired Pay Restoration Act



**5 questions you should ask before going
back to school**

If you're on the fence about whether to continue your education, consider these five questions before taking the leap back into school.

[Read More](#)



SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

TALK:	BEHAVIOR:	MOOD:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Killing themselves• Feeling hopeless• Having no reason to live• Being a burden to others• Feeling trapped• Unbearable pain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased use of alcohol or drugs• Looking for a way to end their lives• Withdrawing from activities• Isolating from people• Sleeping too much or too little• Visiting or calling people to say goodbye• Giving away possessions• Aggression• Fatigue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depression• Anxiety• Loss of interest• Irritability• Humiliation/Shame• Agitation/Anger• Relief/Sudden Improvement 



Pittsburgh VA legacy – help for 3,455 homeless Veterans

VA's 75th Anniversary: VA Pittsburgh looks back on those who pioneered its Homeless Veterans Program and Domiciliary. Its continued success shows some problems can be solved without medicine.

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3 reasons why you should continue your job search this summer

Summer is a great time to apply for a job at VA, where we're always on the lookout for top talent to help us care for Veterans.

[Read More](#)



Women Veterans Appreciation Day

Andrew Carroll the director of the Center for American War Letters Archives nominated Chief Petty Officer Sandy Mitten during #WomenVeteransDay to the Women In Military Service For America Memorial for a special recognition.

[Read More](#)



Instant Loan Approval for insurance loans is here

The new Instant Loan Approval service streamlines and automates online processes that eliminate human intervention for providing decisions for loan requests.

[Read More](#)



Senate Hearing on Pending Legislation

On Wednesday, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs conducted a hearing on pending legislation. VA representatives responded to questions on VA's policies and procedures regarding rural veterans, maternity care, service dog training grants for veterans with PTSD, "Buddy Check" week, medical cannabis research, and in vitro fertilization. In a statement submitted for the record, VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Tammy Barlet cited results from two VFW surveys regarding maternity care and the VFW resolution on medicinal cannabis research. [Watch the hearing](#), which starts at the 33:20 minute mark or [read the testimony](#).



**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



**#VeteranOfTheDay Marine Corps Veteran
Robert Kirkham**

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Marine Corps Veteran Robert Kirkham, who served in aviation in the Pacific during World War II.

[Read More](#)



#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Rupert Starr

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Rupert Starr who became a prisoner of war (POW) in Germany during World War II and later became a well-known LGBTQ+ activist.

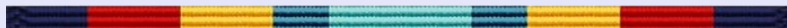
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Veterans get fit this summer at National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic at Home

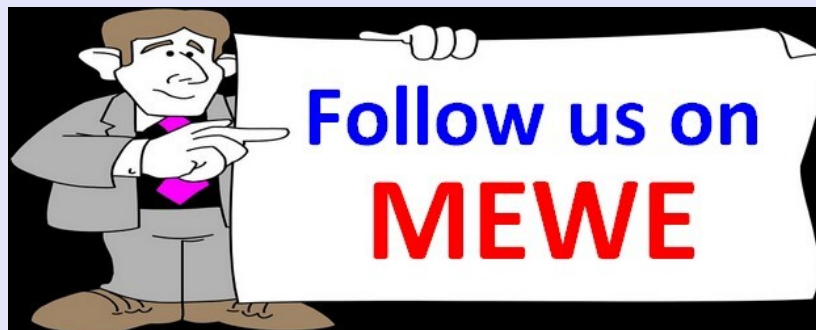
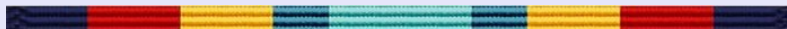
VA is accepting applications from Veterans interested in participating in the 2021 National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic (NVSSC) at Home.

[Read More](#)



Rural Mental Health Bill Passes Senate

On Thursday, the Senate passed VFW-supported [S.1468](#), the Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act of 2021. This legislation would require VA to report an assessment of health needs for rural and highly rural veterans, provide an account of VA's outpatient mental health care and residential programs, and VA's Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement (RANGE) program cost savings. The bill now heads to the president's desk for signature.



Follow us on [MEWE](#)! The support staff at [MEWE](#) is responsive, open to suggestions and works very hard to protect your personal information.

We hope you will join us on this new site.

[VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE](#)

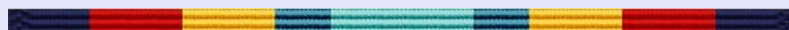
[HOMELESS HEROES PROGRAM OF VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE](#)

[AMVETS GROUP](#)

[VETERANS SOCIAL GROUP](#)

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

[AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY](#)



Overton Brooks VA couple share life-saving bond

Brandy and Levar Allen share more than a marriage license. The Shreveport couple will soon share a kidney. Levar Allen is a match for his wife Brandy and a kidney transplant is set for next month.

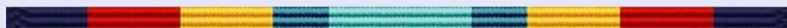
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Brushing away the potential for a deadly illness

Not taking care of teeth can lead to plaque and bacteria. Bacteria can go down the throat to the lungs causing pneumonia infection. That can lead to sepsis which can be fatal to vulnerable patients.

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Women Veterans honor fellow women who served on Women Veterans Day

The WACVA-Women's Army Corps Veteran's Association Genevieve Chapter 94 hosted a Women Veterans Day celebration to honor Sister Veterans. #WomenVeteransDay

[Read More](#)



Health Care Professionals Webinar: Caring for LGBTQ+ Veterans

Attend VA's next provider webinar on June 24, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. ET to learn about the unique health care needs of LGBTQ+ Veterans. Discover the health care challenges and barriers of LGBTQ+ individuals.

[Read More](#)



Office of Inspector General

1. Retirement Savings: Federal Workers' Portfolios Should Be Evaluated For Possible Financial Risks Related to Climate Change
2. Software Development: DOD Faces Risks and Challenges in Implementing Modern Approaches and Addressing Cybersecurity Practices
3. COVID-19: Federal Air Marshal Service Should Document Its Response to Cases and Facilitate Access to Testing
4. Firefighting Foam Chemicals: DOD Is Investigating PFAS and Responding to Contamination, but Should Report More Cost Information
5. Independence Day Celebrations: Estimated Costs and COVID-19 Protective Measures for 2020 Fourth of July Events
6. Physician Workforce: Caps on Medicare-Funded Graduate Medical Education at Teaching Hospitals



The Greenhouse Initiative continues to break boundaries

Four new innovative companies/teams have joined the Greenhouse Initiative, bringing their boundary-breaking solutions to VA and Veterans.

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**Prioritize your mental health with help from
VA**

To give the important aspects of your life your all and be the best version of yourself, you must make your mental health a priority. VA has resources to help Veterans manage their mental health.

[Read More](#)

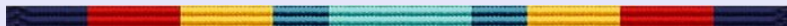


#VeteranOfTheDay Navy Veteran Sharolyn Walcutt

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Navy Veteran Sharolyn Walcutt, who served as a nurse on the hospital ship USS Repose during the Vietnam War. Born in May 1939 in Ohio, Sharolyn Walcutt joined the Navy after becoming friends with a former Navy nurse who spoke of her service with great excitement and enthusiasm.

We honor your service, Sharolyn!

[Read More](#)



Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act Passes House

On Thursday, the House passed VFW-supported [H.R. 239](#), the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act. This bill would provide women veterans access to the same no-cost contraceptive care as their non-veteran counterparts.





1. [Aducanumab \(marketed as Aduhelm\) Information](#)
2. [Avid Medical Recalls Medical Convenience Kits for Risk of Fungal Contamination](#)
3. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Authorizes Drug for Treatment of COVID-19](#)
4. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: June 22, 2021](#)
5. [Cuisine Solutions Issues Voluntary Recall of Flavored Plant-Based Bites](#)
6. [DeRoyal Industries Recalls Surgical Procedure Packs for Mislabeled Lidocaine](#)
7. [FDA Advises Consumers Not to Purchase or Use Nitrite “Poppers”](#)
8. [FDA Approves a Nasal Antihistamine for Nonprescription Use](#)
9. [FDA Approves First Oral Blood Thinning Medication for Children](#)
10. [FDA Drug Shortages](#)
11. [FDA’s Budget: Advancing the Goal of Ending the Opioid Crisis](#)
12. [FDA’s Budget: Maternal and Infant Health and Nutrition](#)
13. [Flexible Bronchoscopes and Updated Recommendations for Reprocessing: FDA Safety Communication](#)
14. [How to Report Seafood-Related Natural Toxin Illness](#)
15. [List of Off-Patent, Off-Exclusivity Drugs without an Approved Generic](#)

16. [Outbreak Investigation of Salmonella Weltevreden: Shrimp \(April 2021\)](#)
17. [Prairie Wolf Spirits, Inc. Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Prairie Wolf Distillery Hand Sanitizer Packed in 16.9 Oz. and 20 Oz Bottles Because They Resemble Drink Containers](#)
18. [Public Health Alert Concerning A Possible Listeria Contamination of Little Hatch's Ready To Eat Foods](#)
19. [Purple Book Database of Licensed Biological Products](#)
20. [Sanit Technologies Adds Label Clarification to Existing Voluntary Hand Sanitizer Recall](#)
21. [Smiths Medical Issues Worldwide Notification Regarding the Recall of Jelco® Hypodermic Needle-Pro® Fixed Needle Insulin Syringe With Skewed Graduation Markings](#)
22. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: June 25, 2021](#)



COVID-19 Vaccine: What does an EUA mean for vaccine safety?

I've heard that COVID-19 vaccines have been authorized under EUA. What is an EUA, exactly? Learn answers to this and other questions in the latest You Asked, We Answered blog.

[Read More](#)



GI Bill: 77 years in the making

The GI Bill, which continues to provide Veteran education and training benefits, as well as loan guaranty services, celebrates its 77th anniversary.

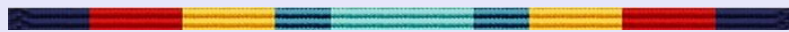
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Unpacking the Story of Transgender Veterans

TA-NET is a therapeutic approach for Gender Diverse and Transgender Veterans that puts emphasis on sharing personal narrative holistically.

[Read More](#)



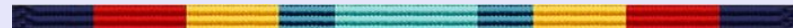
VA Secretary Wants to Keep Telehealth Appointments

This week while testifying before the Senate Committee on Appropriations, VA Secretary Denis McDonough stated that VA wants to maintain access to telehealth appointments. He noted that usage of online video appointments are about 18 times higher now than at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Health officials have predicted a sharp rise in the need for health care services as veterans who have delayed care during the pandemic will now need to catch up. McDonough said, “We want to maintain it, because it’s ease of access for vets who don’t need to be seen in person.”

[Read More](#)



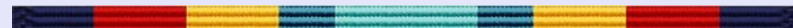
CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER !



How Vision and Hearing Contribute to Service Members' Readiness

Readiness implies that a military service member can fulfill a mission from all aspects, including having trained properly to master the skills to undertake a given mission, as well as being in the right state of physical, psychological, and overall health.

[Read More](#)



Live Whole Health #76: Are you sitting down?

When we work towards improving our health and well-being, we often focus on making substantial lifestyle changes such as eating more fruits and vegetables, becoming more active, dedicating time to meditation or yoga, or building our social support system. While all of these are valuable, we can also improve our health through smaller actions. For example, by sitting down.

[Read More](#)

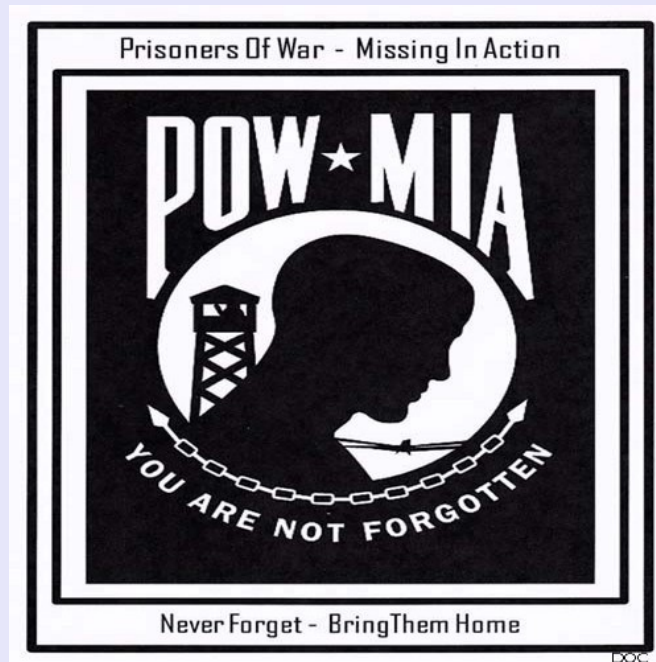


#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Francis Cunningham

On his 100th birthday, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Francis Cunningham who served as a cable splicer during World War II and served in North Africa and Italy.

[Read More](#)

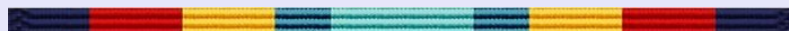




Researchers Find Key Senses Impact Readiness, Survival

Proper hearing in an operational environment is vital to mission success. The loss of this key sense can not only impact unit readiness, but also result in negative consequences for the individual.

[Read More](#)



Live Whole Health #76: Are you sitting down?

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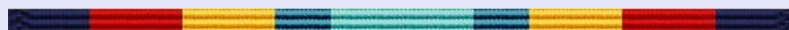
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Standing Ready #6: Competitive Adaptive: History of sports in VA

The Standing Ready season one finale, "Competitive Adaptive: A History of Sports in the VA," looks at the past, present and future of VA adaptive sports.

[Read More](#)



2021 Women's AppreSHEation Day

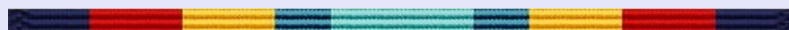
On June 12th, TREA's National President, Justin Jump was proud to participate in a ceremony commemorating the 73rd Anniversary of the Women's Armed Service Integration Act. He joined President CW5 Phyllis Wilson, OptumServe CEO and 43rd United States Army Surgeon General LTG Patricia Horoho, Acting Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Support with the Veterans Health Administration Ms. Deborah Kramer, and Congresswoman Julia Brownley.



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!



Vision Care Coordinators Support Ocular Care Damage

Eye injuries that impact readiness come in all shapes and sizes – from minor shrapnel injuries, to getting hit with an object, to toxic chemicals splashed into the eyes.

[Read More](#)



From Marine to (role) model: Wounded warrior strikes a pose to benefit fellow Veterans

Woman Veteran Amputee Role Model. "It's emotional to look at yourself and still see the same person that you were, even though there's something different," she said. "People like to see other people embracing their differences. Hopefully this encourages other people to embrace it."

[Read More](#)



June 21st is Child Tax Credit Awareness Day

The Child Tax Credit, part of the American Rescue Plan, is here to help families raising children make ends meet.

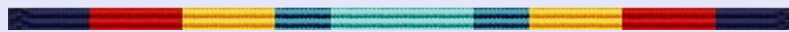
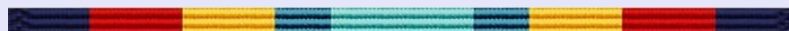
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Legislative Update

Over the last several months, Washington has begun to settle in, to include many official appointments in the Biden Administration and new leadership in the U.S. Congress. Most notably, TREA has welcomed Mr. Denis McDonough as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Senators Jon Tester and Jerry Moran as Chairman and Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, and Congressmen Mark Takano and Mike Bost as Chairman and Ranking Members of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. In addition, TREA was pleased to welcome retired Gen. Lloyd Austin as Secretary of Defense.

TREA has maintained strong relationships within VA, DoD, as well as both Committees on the Hill and has secured several legislative accomplishments we are proud to report to you.



**Why I get my health care at VA: Air Force
Veteran Tom**

When Tom was struck down by Guillain-Barre, he came to VA for care. He was very impressed by his experience, and credits VA with saving his life and bringing him back from almost complete paralysis.

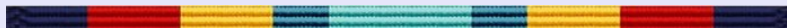
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Female Veterans get support with opening of the Christopher House

The Capital District Women Veterans cut the ribbon Saturday on the Christopher House in Troy, NY. "We will be providing things like helping them access VA benefits, trying to get the GI bill if they want or any other training or education programs, I'm a nurse so what's important to me is helping them access health care."

[Read More](#)



Borne the Battle #247: Irreverent Warriors

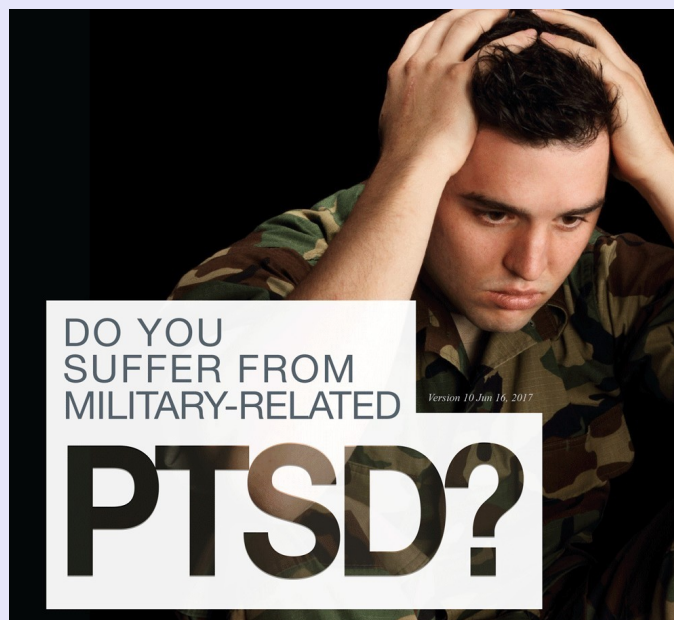
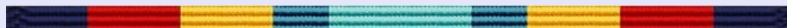
This week's episode of Borne the Battle features Texas Army National Guard Veteran Cindy McNally and Marine Corps Veteran Nate McDonald, the President and Vice President of Irreverent Warriors.

[Read More](#)



Toxic Exposures, Burn Pits, and Agent Orange

TREA continues to be a leading advocate on Toxic Exposures related legislation and was at the forefront during the historic introduction of two consequential healthcare bills in both the House and Senate. In the Senate, The Cost of War Act was introduced, with TREA shown as a lead advocate on the bill by Chairman Jon Tester's office (pictured below). In addition, TREA has supported the introduction of The PACT Act in the U.S. House, which incorporates similar provisions as its Senate counterpart that TREA has worked on with the Toxic Exposures in the American Military (TEAM) Coalition for nearly two years.



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



Franklin Kameny: LGBTQ+ Rights Movement Leader

Franklin Kameny served in the Army during World War II. After being fired from his job for his sexuality, he became a prominent LGBTQ activist.

[Read More](#)



Unpacking the Story of Transgender Veterans

Tim* (he/him) is a Veteran. As a young adult, he joined the military to both serve his country and strive for a better life. Tim is also transgender. He was assigned female at birth and grew up in an abusive household. During his service, transgender people were not permitted to serve openly in the military, so Tim hid his gender identity to serve.

[Read More](#)



Veterans Legacy Memorial – It's Personal

The re-launch of the Veterans Legacy Memorial before Memorial Day weekend saw more than 4,000 tributes, images, biographies, milestones, and documents posted to Veterans' pages.

[Read More](#)



Concurrent Receipt (Fixing VA Disability Pay + DOD Retirement Pay Offset)

H.R. 1282 / S. 344, The Major Richard Star Act: TREA is proud to report that both H.R. 1282 and S. 344 were successfully re-introduced in both the U.S. House and Senate. Since then, TREA has been hard at work securing cosponsors in both chambers to ensure successful passage this year, with now 50 cosponsors in the Senate, and 105 cosponsors in the House! As you may know, this bipartisan legislation would finally provide combat-injured veterans that were forced to medically retire with less than 20 years of military service their full benefits, meaning they would receive both their earned DoD Retirement Pay, and their earned VA Disability Pay, with no offset. This legislation is a very positive step in correcting the larger concurrent receipt issue.



**#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Clayvonne
Antonnette Davis**

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Clavonne Antonnette Davis, who served during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars during a 25-year career.

[Read More](#)



Sheri Swokowski: American Hero

Retired Army Col. Sheri Swokowski is the highest-ranking, out transgender U.S. Veteran in the United States. Today, she advocates for LGBTQ+ Veterans. Growing up in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, Sheri Swokowski knew that she wanted to continue her family's military legacy of protecting and serving others.

[Read More](#)



Music as medicine for Veterans

For many Veterans, music can be a powerful form of therapy. Music therapy is the process of using songs and instruments to help achieve therapeutic goals in a clinical setting. Here's Peter's story.

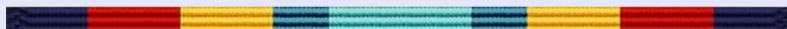
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Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

H.R. 1448 / S. 613, The PAWS For Veterans Therapy Act

On May 13th (pictured below) TREA's Director of Legislative Affairs and Communications Bill McCabe stood with Congressman Steve Stivers, Senator Thom Tillis, Congresswoman Kathleen Rice, Congressman Mike Waltz, Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin, Congressman John Rutherford, Semper K9 Assistance Dogs (pictured center at the podium), K9s For Warriors, and others in celebration of H.R. 1448, "the PAWS Act" passing the U.S. House. Passage of this bill is a big win for veterans who are suffering from the invisible wounds of war who wish to seek scientifically proven alternatives of treatments, such as for PTSD, at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



Patient advocates care about you and your health care

Patient advocates are available at VA medical facilities to listen, document and manage your feedback, including compliments, concerns, complaints, and customer service-related issues.

[Read More](#)



#VeteranOfTheDay Marine Veteran Megan Leavey

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Marine Veteran Megan Leavey, who served two tours during Operation Iraqi Freedom as a K-9 handler. Megan Leavey was born in October 1983 in Valley Cottage, Rockland County, New York. She graduated from Nyack High School in 2001. Leavey then attended the State University of New York at Cortland.

We honor your service, Megan!

[Read More](#)



#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Stanley Lane

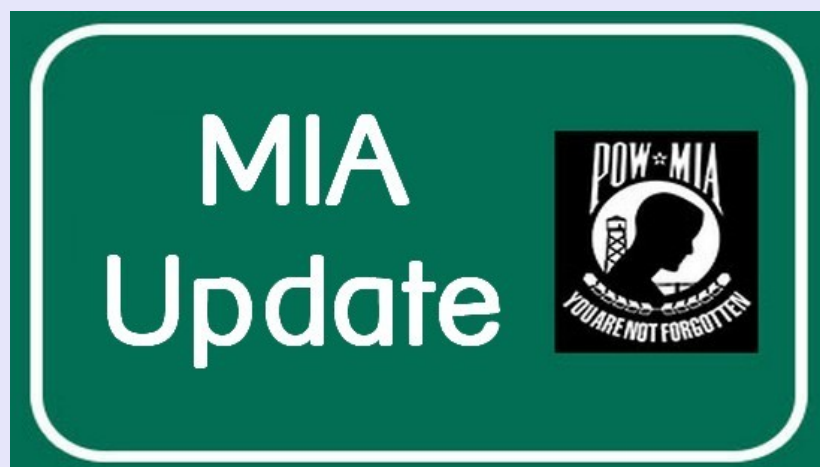
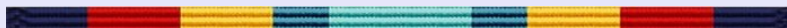
Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Stanley Lane, who served in various jobs during World War I, World War II and the Korean War.

[Read More](#)



Military Families

S. 781, The Elaine M. Checketts Military Families Act: On April 21st, TREA sent an official letter of support and press release endorsement to Chairmen Jack Reed and Adam Smith, and Ranking Members Jim Inhofe and Mike Rogers of the U.S. House and Senate Armed Services Committees requesting that S. 781 be included in the FY22 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). As quoted by TREA's National President, Justin Jump: "No servicemember should have to return to work the day after losing their child. The Elaine M. Checketts Military Families Act would rightfully provide commanders the necessary authority to support military families who are grieving tragic loss. TREA applauds this bipartisan effort and firmly believes that family readiness is essential to the overall readiness of the total force." To read our letter of support and learn more about the bill from our press release, you may view it on our website under the legislative tab, in our e-newsletter, or on our social media platforms.



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:

Army Sgt. John E. Hurlburt, 26, of Madison, Connecticut, was a member of the 105th Infantry Regiment, 27th Infantry Division. He was killed July 7, 1944, during a massive Japanese attack against the 105th on the island of Saipan. His remains were not known to have been recovered. Hurlburt will be buried Aug. 14, 2021, in New Haven, Connecticut. [Read about Hurlburt.](#)

Army Pfc. Philip T. Hoogacker, 23, of Detroit, 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. Hoogacker will be buried July 23, 2021, in Livonia, Michigan. [Read about Hoogacker.](#)

Navy Seaman 1st Class Donald A. Stott, 19, 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 Stott. Interment Services are pending. [Read about Stott.](#)

Navy Chief Machinist's Mate Ralph A. Derrington, 42, 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 Derrington. Interment Services are pending. [Read about Derrington.](#)

Army Sgt. Bernard J. Sweeney, Jr., 22, was assigned to Company I, 330th Infantry Regiment, 83rd Infantry Division. His unit had been engaged in battle with German forces near Strass, Germany, in the Hürtgen Forest, when he was reported missing in action on Dec. 16, 1944. His body was not recovered. Interment Services are pending. [Read about Sweeney.](#)

Army Cpl. Charles E. Lee, 18, was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 20, 1950 after his unit was forced to retreat from the vicinity of Taejon, South Korea. He was never found, nor were any remains recovered that could be identified as Lee. He was declared non-recoverable in January 1956. Interment Services are pending. [Read about Lee.](#)

Navy Fireman 1st Class Walter S. Belt, Jr., 25, 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 Belt. Interment Services are pending. [Read about Belt.](#)



**ONE VOICE
CAN MAKE
ALL THE DIFFERENCE!**



Veterans-For-Change, Inc.

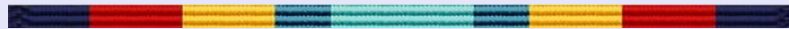
Riverside County, CA

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Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends and Family!



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