



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, July 18, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 29



This-N-That

Good evening Jim,

We're way behind this week.

So much researching on the Philips CPAP recall. And this week we put two new articles on line with links, and there is also a small piece in the top of this Newsletter.

We do have a few documents, but we need to read through them and get them uploaded for everyone to access.

We've added two new pieces of legislation this time, but there are a number still listed, and I know you hate me continually asking, but, please take the time to send each and every one of them.

Still looking to hear from any of our Vets who have been approved for mental health and live a distance from your VA Medical Center and could go to a local clinic, but then have been denied access to the local clinic and told to come to the VA, or been given a financial issue excuse.

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



Recall: Philips CPAP, BiPAP machines

DREAM STATION



Philips Resironics announced a voluntary recall for certain CPAP, BiLevel PAP machines due to issues related to

deterioration of the sound abatement foam used in these devices. This recall affects CPAP and BiLevel PAP devices manufactured prior to April 26, 2021.

If you are a Veteran that uses a Philips Resironics CPAP or BiPAP device, continue to use your device as prescribed. You should register your device at

<https://www.philipssrcupdate.expertinquiry.com>.

Philips Resironics will send you a new device when one is available.

[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.

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

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



Live Whole Health #79: Gratitude to improve your life

Many people are drawn to meditation to help manage those times when things seem down or out of our control. There are many different types of meditation, including visualization, compassion, gratitude, breath, mantra – and the list goes on. These meditations can improve your life by reducing stress and anxiety, and help you feel more grounded and at ease.

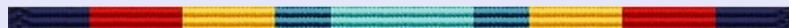
[Read More](#)



Employees' innovative practices at the forefront of patient care

Innovation program provides opportunity for employees to get engaged in their work. It brings new ideas, tools, and experiences to their work setting with the goal of improving Veterans' experiences.

[Read More](#)



VA Rideshare program offers homeless Veterans a lift

Veterans enrolled in VHA's Homeless Program may be eligible for transportation assistance getting to and from their place of employment, health care and home, thanks to VA's new Rideshare program.

Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness can contact the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at (877) 4AID-VET (877-424-3838) for assistance. If Veterans do not have access to a phone or the internet, they should visit their closest VA medical center.

[Read More](#)



Associations between eating disorder symptoms, employment status, and occupational functioning ...

Sienkiewicz ME, Iverson KM, Smith BN, Mitchell KS.
Associations between eating disorder symptoms, employment status, and occupational functioning among female Veterans.


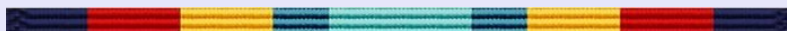
[Read More](#)



Combat exposure and mental health outcomes: The incremental impact of nonsexual harassment on ...

Stanton K, Creech SK, Snyder DK, McKee GB. Combat exposure and mental health outcomes: The incremental impact of nonsexual harassment on women Veterans. Psychol Trauma.


[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**



JAVA to Commemorate 75th anniversary of President Truman's salute to WWII Nisei soldiers

On July 15, 2021, at 12 noon (EST), the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) will commemorate the second annual Day of Affirmation at the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. This date marks the 75th anniversary of President Harry S. Truman's review of the returning 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) on the White House Ellipse on July 15, 1946.

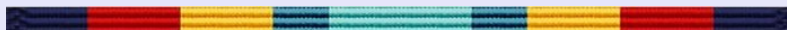
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Vet Center helping to redefine "I'm fine"

Navy Vietnam Veteran Harry Collins always believed he was fine. He stuck to his daily routines and went to work, leading an outwardly normal life. But his "I'm fine" routine never included how to manage his thoughts and emotions following his war time service.

[Read More](#)



Upgrade to a Premium My HealtheVet account by September

Beginning in September 2021, My HealthVet Advanced accounts will be discontinued.

If you have an Advanced account today and do not upgrade to a Premium account, your account will revert to a Basic account. If that occurs, you will lose access to the pharmacy features, including the ability to request and track your VA prescription refills.

That means... it's time to upgrade to a Premium account. Read more on how to get started.

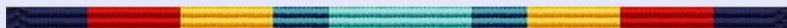
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Cooperative Studies Program (CSP) #572: A Study of Serious Mental Illness in Veterans as a ...

Harvey PD, Bigdeli TB, Fanous AH, Li Y, Rajeevan N, Sayward F, Radhakrishnan K, Huang G, Aslan M. Cooperative Studies Program (CSP) #572: A Study of Serious Mental Illness in Veterans as a Pathway to personalized medicine in Schizophrenia and Bipolar Illness.

[Read More](#)



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 Robert Borrego

During Shark Week, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Robert Borrego, a chief surgical officer during Iraqi Freedom who now treats shark bite victims.

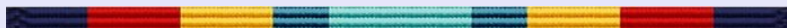
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Post commander champions ATLAS site as the future of care

Veteran Richard Weldon, commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6786, shares his experience with the ATLAS site in his community — and the impact it has had on Veterans living in Eureka, Montana.

[Read More](#)



Live Whole Health #79: Gratitude to improve your life

Many people are drawn to meditation to help manage those times when things seem down or out of our control. There are many different types of meditation, including visualization, compassion, gratitude, breath, mantra – and the list goes on. These meditations can improve your life by reducing stress and anxiety, and help you feel more grounded and at ease.

[Read More](#)



Female U.S. Military Veterans' (Non)Disclosure of Mental Health Issues with Family and Friends: ...

Wilson SR, Hintz EA, Wadsworth SMM, Topp DB, Southwell KH, Spont M. Female U.S. Military Veterans' (Non)Disclosure of Mental Health Issues with Family and Friends: Privacy Rules and Boundary Management.

[Read More](#)



Links to Other Stories

1. [A Lung Doctor Explains What to Know About Pfizer's Upcoming COVID Vaccine Booster Shots](#)
2. [Ailing Vet's visit to DC previews long-awaited return of Honor Flights](#)
3. [Army Vet who faked his death to avoid prison wants trial moved from MS Coast and more](#)
4. [Chicago carjacking: Two teens charged in connection to crime that left Vietnam Vet dead](#)
5. [Former Employee of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Indicted for Stealing More than \\$10 Million worth of HIV Medication](#)
6. [Former NCAA executive confirmed as VA's second in command](#)
7. [Former Owner of Defunct New England Compounding Center Resentenced to 14 Years in Prison in Connection with 2012 Fungal Meningitis Outbreak](#)
8. [Former Pittsburgh-area Doctor Pleads Guilty to Unlawfully Prescribing Opioids, Health Care Fraud and Money Laundering](#)
9. [Georgia combat Veteran working to save homeless shelter, facing roadblocks along the way](#)

10. Georgia Woman and Montgomery Man Plead Guilty to Their Part in Drug Distribution Conspiracy Involving Montgomery Physician
11. Jury Convicts Medical Equipment Company Owners of \$27 Million Fraud
12. Millions of Vets may be eligible for extra GI Bill benefits thanks to court ruling
13. Niece of Veteran Pleads Guilty to Stealing VA Benefits Intended for Her Uncle
14. Owner of Sacramento Area Home Health Care and Hospice Agencies Pleads Guilty to Medicare Fraud
15. Pandemic exposed strain from VA benefit appeals caseloads
16. Philips CPAP Recall
17. Philips CPAP, ventilator machine recalls leave patients unsure what to do
18. President and Employee of Ft. Lauderdale Business Indicted for Procuring Fraudulent Nursing Diplomas and Certificates
19. There's a New Wave of Scammers Targeting VA Home Loans
20. Utica Man Pleads Guilty to Aggravated Harassment of VA Employees
21. VA hospital needs drivers to transport Veterans to medical appointments
22. VA scraps rollout schedule of controversial new electronic medical records project
23. Virginia Diagnostic Testing Lab Agrees to Pay \$1.4 Million to Resolve False Claims Act Allegations
24. Woman Arrested for Fake COVID-19 Immunization and Vaccination Card Scheme



Life after COVID-19: Veteran "thankful to be alive"

Robert Shaw, Marine Corps and Vietnam Veteran, thought he had a sinus infection. It was COVID-19. "His temperature was 102°. We immediately drove to the Montgomery VA Emergency Room."

[Read More](#)



Veterans, employees help bolster trust in VA

To build Veteran trust, VA began really listening to what "customers" need and relying on employees to help meet those needs.

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Take the pledge to help us continue to raise awareness!

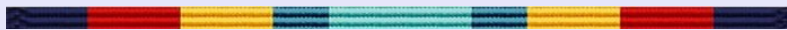
PTSD Awareness Month aims to raise awareness about effective PTSD treatments and resources that are available to Veterans. There are many ways you can get involved and help spread the word, but one way to start is by taking the pledge.

[Take the pledge today](#) and tell us about your individual or organization's local, regional or national involvement in raising awareness. We've also provided a space for you to suggest ideas and community events you find beneficial to those living with PTSD.

Help make a difference in the lives of Veterans and other who have experienced trauma.

Are you ready?

[Take The Pledge](#)



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service (DACOWITS) News [June 2021]

Get the Recruitment & Retention, Employment & Integration, Well Being & Treatment, Servicewomen in the News, Women Veterans, and Upcoming Events DACOWITS news from June 2021.

[Read More](#)



Gender-Specific Risk Factors for Psychopathology and Reduced Functioning in a Post-9/11 Veteran ...

Scoglio AAJ, Shirk SD, Hoff RA, Potenza MN, Mazure CM, Park CL, McKee SA, Porter EA, Kraus SW. Gender-Specific Risk Factors for Psychopathology and Reduced Functioning in a Post-9/11 Veteran Sample.

[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

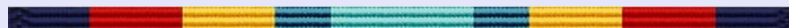
warriorcare.dodlive.mil/

Military One Source

1-800-342-9647

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors [TAPS]

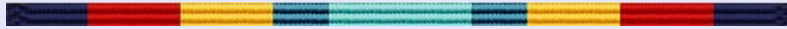
1-800-959-8277



My HealtheVet Advanced accounts will be discontinued

Upgrading your My HealtheVet account takes just a few steps and is free. If you want to upgrade in person or through a video appointment, contact the My HealtheVet Coordinator in your VA facility.

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Milwaukee Veterans Treatment Court

Veterans Treatment Court allows qualified Veterans to minimize or get dismissed legal charges by addressing the problems that led to run-ins with the law. "We focus on treatment rather than punishment."

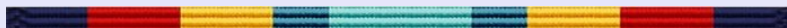
[Read More](#)



Fresh Focus S6 #33: Caring for the mealtime giver

Families and caregivers are the Veteran's support system. They help to prevent or manage chronic illness with healthy eating at mealtime. So, whether you find yourself brand new in that caregiver role, or have been doing it for the last 15 years, we want to support you!

[Read More](#)



Integrated intervention for comorbid posttraumatic stress disorder and fibromyalgia: A pilot

Lacefield K, Samph SP, Orbon S, Otis J. Integrated intervention for comorbid posttraumatic stress disorder and fibromyalgia: A pilot study of women Veterans. Psychol Trauma.

[Read More](#)



Join VA's virtual Internship

Now is the time for you to join VA's virtual internship. There are many opportunities to gain experience while supporting our nation's Veterans!

[Read More](#)



Dr. Richard A. Stone: Farewell, with my deepest gratitude

Dr. Richard A. Stone, acting Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, says farewell and gives his thanks to Veterans and VHA employees.

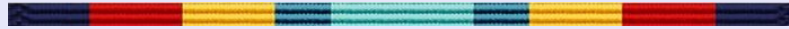
[Read More](#)



Marine security guard dies in Iraq after physical training

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Amanda Nicole Brazeal, 26, from Chunchula, Alabama, dies in Iraq after physical training. We Honor your Service Sister Veteran, Rest in Peace.
#VAWomenVets

[Read More](#)



Perinatal Symptoms and Treatment Engagement in Female Veterans

Anderson EH, Morrow C, Mattocks KM, Shivakumar G.
Perinatal Symptoms and Treatment Engagement in Female Veterans.

[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 **07/03/21**)

Please note, we've added **0** 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
54. Ask Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipt Reform HR-1282
55. HR 1656 TREAT PTSD Act
56. S. 1664, the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Processing Claims Improvement
57. H.R. 2724 — VA Peer Support Enhancement for MST Survivors Act
58. Please Support H.R. 3452 —Veterans Preventative Health Coverage Fairness Act



Startups: A great next mission for Veterans

Shift helps Veterans apply their valuable experiences with careers in technology startups.

[Read More](#)



El Paso VA's PTSD awareness and education event

On June 27, National PTSD Awareness Day, the El Paso VA Health Care System held a walk to raise awareness and increase education about Veterans suffering from PTSD. Also to decrease stigma.

[Read More](#)



Pa. National Guard Veteran crowned Ms. Pennsylvania Senior America

Ms. Pennsylvania Senior America is also Pennsylvania National Guard. Congratulations.

[Read More](#)



Predictors of Unbearability, Unlovability, and Unsolvability in Veterans With Military-Sexual-...

Wiblin J, Holder N, Holliday R, Surís A. Predictors of Unbearability, Unlovability, and Unsolvability in Veterans With Military-Sexual-Trauma-Related Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. J Interpers Violence.

[Read More](#)

SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

TALK:

- Killing themselves
- Feeling hopeless
- Having no reason to live
- Being a burden to others
- Feeling trapped
- Unbearable pain



BEHAVIOR:

- 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

MOOD:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Loss of interest
- Irritability
- Humiliation/Shame
- Agitation/Anger
- Relief/Sudden Improvement



Charleston Fisher House welcomes 2,500th Veteran

The Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center Fisher House reached a milestone in July by serving its 2,500th Veteran family. The Fisher House offers a "home away from home" for Veterans and loved ones.

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With TeleOncology, VA stands shoulder-to-shoulder with Veterans in rural areas to reduce disparities in cancer care

Rural Veteran patients can access TeleOncology for cancer treatment two different ways through the Veterans Health Administration.

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Karuk Woman Becomes States First Native American Woman Commander of the VFW

Congratulations! U.S. Navy Veteran, Dawn "Dusty" Napier becomes the 1st Native American Woman Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. #VAWomenVets

[Read More](#)



Veteran help-seeking behaviour for mental health issues: a systematic review

Randles R, Finnegan A. Veteran help-seeking behaviour for mental health issues: a systematic review.

[Read More](#)



**CONTACT YOUR
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS!**

To Call your Representative:
202-225-2305

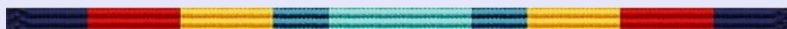
To Call your Senators:
202-224-3841 or 202-224-3553

To call Different Members of Congress:
202-224-3121

TOLL FREE: 866-272-6622

PLEASE... STOP Making Excuses!

www.veterans-for-change.org



**#VeteranOfTheDay Navy Veteran Melissa
Gregg**

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Navy Veteran Melissa Gregg, who served as a military personnel administrator and public health programs manager.

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VA Tribal Veteran outreach throughout Indian country

A 2021 Summer Tribal Women Virtual Veteran series focused on indigenous women Veterans, domestic violence issues and a discussion on "Marrying military and traditional culture."

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7's HERO: U.S. Army reservist crowned Miss Idaho 2021

U.S. Army member crowned Miss Idaho. She is one three women Veterans headed to Miss America Organization. D.C. and Colorado are the other two states. Congratulations Ayriss Torres.

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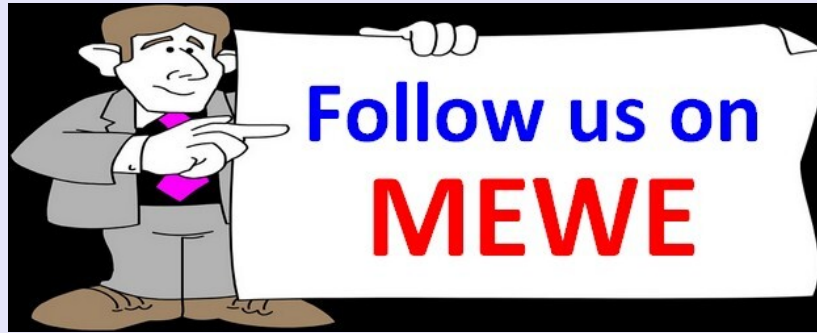


Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Facilities With Programs for Special Populations

Hadland SE, Jent VA, Alinsky RH, Marshall BDL, Mauro PM, Cerdá M. Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Facilities With Programs for Special Populations.

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

We hope you will join us on this new site.

[VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE](#)

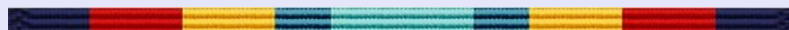
[HOMELESS HEROES PROGRAM OF VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE](#)

[AMVETS GROUP](#)

[VETERANS SOCIAL GROUP](#)

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

[AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY](#)



TeleCritical Care – ICU of the future here today

Shreveport VA has a new form of critical care that expands on the traditional Intensive Care Unit model. This new structure is based on Telehealth and is known as TeleCritical Care.

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Tips for caregivers: How to safely move your loved one

Caregivers are responsible for their loved one's mobility. Here are important factors for caregivers when determining whether to move or transfer their loved one from one position to another.

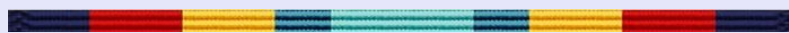
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Fort Carson Soldier Maura Spence Crowned Miss Colorado, Gets Ready For Miss America Pageant

U.S. Army member crowned Miss Colorado. She is one three women Veterans headed to Miss America Organization. Idaho and D.C. are the other two states. Congratulations Specialist Maura Spence.

[Read More](#)



Prenatal Stress Exposure and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Associated With Risk of Postpartum

Holzhauser CG, Kroll-Desrosiers A, Kinney RL, Copeland LA, Bastian LA, Mattocks KM. Prenatal Stress Exposure and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Associated With Risk of Postpartum Alcohol Misuse Among Women Veterans. Womens Health Issues.

[Read More](#)



Office of Inspector General

1. [COVID-19: DOD Has Focused on Strategy and Oversight to Protect Military Servicemember Health](#)
2. [COVID-19: Federal Air Marshal Service Should Document Its Response to Cases and Facilitate Access to Testing](#)
3. [COVID-19: Implementation and Oversight of Preparedness Strategies at Veterans Affairs Medical Centers](#)
4. [COVID-19: TSA Could Better Monitor Its Efforts to Reduce Infectious Disease Spread at Checkpoints](#)
5. [Cybersecurity: HHS Defined Roles and Responsibilities, but Can Further Improve Collaboration](#)
6. [Defense Health Care: Actions Needed to Define and Sustain Wartime Medical Skills for Enlisted Personnel](#)
7. [Firearm Injuries: Health Care Service Needs and Costs](#)
8. [Physician Workforce: Caps on Medicare-Funded Graduate Medical Education at Teaching Hospitals](#)
9. [Prescription Drugs: Medicare Spending on Drugs with Direct-to-Consumer Advertising](#)
10. [VA COVID-19 Procurements: Pandemic Underscores](#)

Urgent Need to Modernize Supply Chain

11. VA Disability Benefits: Actions Needed to Better Manage Appeals Workload Risks, Performance, and Information Technology Statement of Elizabeth H Curda, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security

12. VA Health Care: Additional Data Needed to Inform the COVID- 19 Response in Community Living Centers

13. VA Health Care: Additional Data Needed to Inform the COVID- 19 Response in Community Living Centers

14. VA Medical Center Security: Progress Made, but Improvements to Oversight of Risk Management and Incident Analysis Still Needed Statement of Catina B Latham, Acting Director, Physical Infrastructure

15. VA Real Property: Preliminary Observations on Challenges Limiting VA's Ability to Effectively Manage Its Assets

16. Veterans Community Care Program: VA Took Action on Veterans' Access to Care, but COVID-19 Highlighted Continued Scheduling Challenges

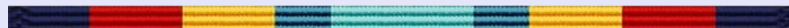
17. Veterans Community Care Program: VA Took Action on Veterans' Access to Care, but COVID-19 Highlighted Continued Scheduling Challenges



Clinical trial explores exercise as pain management technique for lung cancer survivors

An innovative clinical trial out of the Baltimore VA Medical Center called Exercise Rehabilitation in Veteran Cancer Survivors is examining the role of exercise in managing neuropathic pain in lung cancer survivors. Neuropathic pain, which includes numbness, tingling, pins and needles sensations, sensitivity to touch, and/or muscle weakness is common after surgery and chemotherapy in lung cancer survivors.

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#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Mark Delaney

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Mark Delaney, who served in the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade and deployed to Iraq and Syria.

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Naval officer wins Miss D.C. title, heads to Miss America

U.S. Navy Officer crowned Miss District of Columbia. She is one three women Veterans headed to Miss America. Idaho and Colorado are the other two states.

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Promoting learning health system feedback loops: Experience with a VA practice-based research

Golden RE, Klap R, Carney DV, Yano EM, Hamilton AB, Taylor SL, Kligler B, Whitehead AM, Saechao F, Zaiko Y, Pomernacki A, Frayne SM, WH-PBRN-CIH Writing Group.
Promoting learning health system feedback loops: Experience with a VA practice-based research network card study.

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1. [Always Tired? You May Have Sleep Apnea](#)
2. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: July 13, 2021](#)
3. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: July 16, 2021](#)
4. [CURE ID Moves to Automated Data Collection in Light of COVID Pandemic](#)
5. [FDA Approves New Use of Transplant Drug Based on Real-World Evidence](#)
6. [FDA Drug Shortages](#)
7. [FDA Grants First Full Approval for Treatment of Lymphoma in Dogs](#)
8. [FDA notifies Amgen of misbranding of its biological product,](#)

Neulasta, due to false or misleading promotional communications about the product's benefit

9. FDA to Discuss COVID-19's Impact on Medical Product Operations at SBIA REdl Annual Conference

10. FDA Updates and Press Announcements on Nitrosamine in Varenicline (Chantix)

11. Innoveix Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Issues Voluntary Recall of All Sterile Compounded Drug Products Due to A Lack of Sterility Assurance

12. Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc. Issues Voluntary Recall of Specific NEUTROGENA® and AVEENO® Aerosol Sunscreen Products Due to the Presence of Benzene

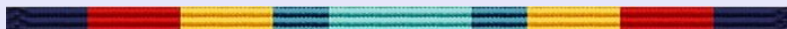
13. Magellan Diagnostics Recalls LeadCare II, LeadCare Plus, and LeadCare Ultra Blood Lead Tests Due to Risk of Falsely Low Results

14. Nitrite "Poppers"

15. One Year Later, the New Era of Smarter Food Safety Blueprint Makes Inroads in FDA's Public Health Mission

16. Outbreak Investigation of Salmonella Typhimurium: BrightFarms Packaged Salad Greens (July 2021)

17. Potential Concerns with NuVasive MAGEC System Implants - FDA Safety Communication



VA pays tribute to Dr. Gary Cohen: 'It is like losing a family member'

Dr. Cohen left his mark on the specialty care clinic staff and on the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center as a whole.

[Read More](#)



Fresh Focus S6 #34: Caregiver Support Program

During a nutrition assessment, your registered dietitian nutritionist will ask your Veteran a lot of questions, but also to you, the caregiver. Being a caregiver comes with a unique set of challenges and the Caregiver Support Program can help.

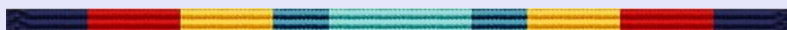
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Army's first Paralympic swimmer credits her military family for success

-#ICYMI The Army's first Paralympic swimmer is a woman!

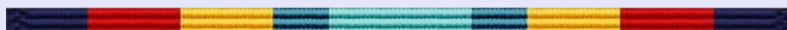
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Psychometric properties and sex differences on the Mayo-Portland Adaptability Inventory

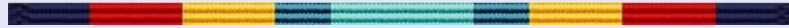
Cogan AM, Weaver JA, Scholten J, Pape TB, Mallinson T. Psychometric properties and sex differences on the Mayo-Portland Adaptability Inventory Participation subscale (M2PI) in Veterans with TBI.

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Morovis National Cemetery inters first Veterans

In Puerto Rico, it is rare for a burial to be a lonely affair. Family ties run deep, and families of the deceased will gather from near and far for wakes and to accompany their loved one to their final resting place.

So it was on July 12 at Morovis National Cemetery, when the first two of what will be tens of thousands of future Veteran interments took place under the warm Puerto Rican sun.

[Read More](#)



Purposeful Parenting: What can you accomplish?

July is Purposeful Parenting Month. As a parent, you're not alone: VA has parenting resources to help you become the best parent you can be.

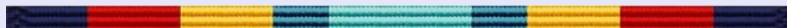
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Dream of all-female Honor Flight turns to reality

1st all women Veterans Honor Flight scheduled for May 2022.

[Read More](#)



Risk of suicide among U.S. Veterans who deployed as part of Operation Enduring Freedom

Bullman T, Schneiderman A. Risk of suicide among U.S. Veterans who deployed as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn.

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Military Health System Transformation Will Improve Care & Innovation

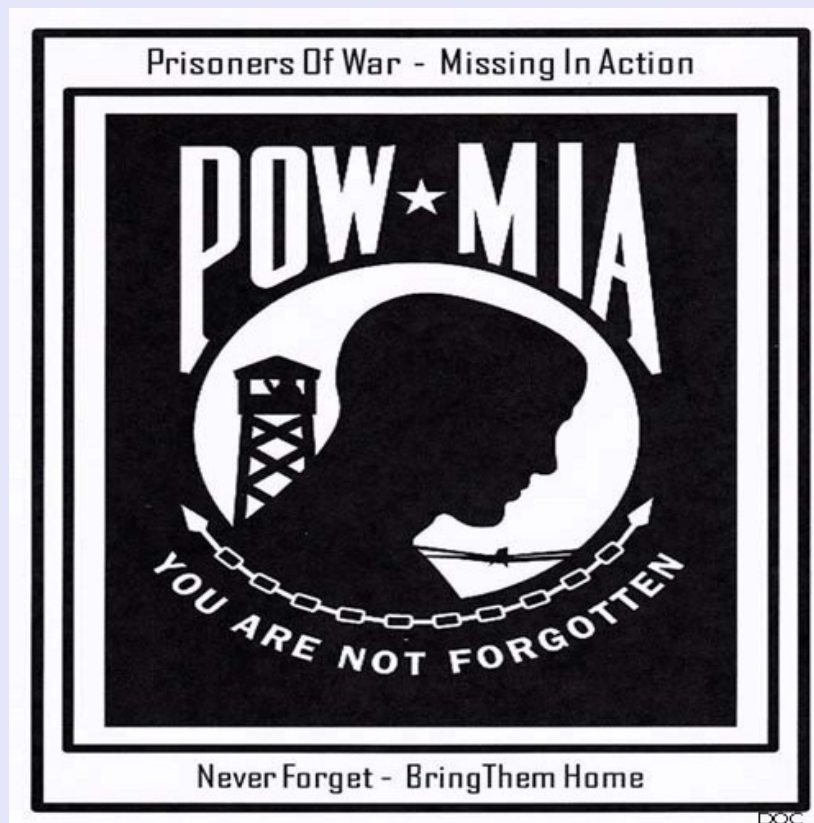
The restructuring of the Military Health System (MHS) will make it easier to spread medical innovation across the force and improve care for warfighters, families and retirees.

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SBP/DIC Offset Repeal Update

The FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was enacted with the long-sought repeal of the SBP/DIC offset, often referred to as the "Military Widows Tax." The repeal was phased in over three years. Surviving spouses receiving the Survivor Benefits Program (SBP) benefits and the Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) should have seen an increase in their January benefits that were deposited on Feb. 1, 2021. Instead of deducting the full DIC payment from the SBP annuity, only two-thirds was deducted (\$905 for the standard DIC) for the first year's implementation of the offset. In 2022, only one-third of the DIC payment will be deducted from SBP. In 2023, the elimination of the SBP/DIC offset will be complete and surviving spouses will receive full SBP annuity and DIC.



#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Walter Bernard Straka

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Walter Bernard Straka, a 101 year old and the last survivor of the Bataan Death March from Minnesota.

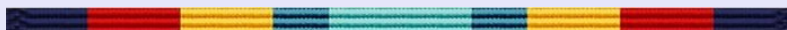
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TRICARE and Marriage: What to Do When Getting Married

It's a big moment when you say "I do." It's also important for your family health coverage. Spouses of service members are eligible for TRICARE coverage. And getting married is a TRICARE Qualifying Life Event (QLE). So, what does this mean and what steps do you need to take?

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For the first time, all four key leaders of Robins Air Force Base are women

Four Key Leaders at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia are Women. Congratulations to these incredible Trailblazing women.

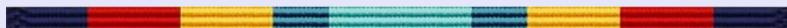
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CHAMP Uses More Predictive Analytics to Improve Beneficiary Health Care

"Being able to have a great dataset and look longitudinally from service members' entrance into the military onto their careers helps us find signals about their fitness in the eight domains."

[Read More](#)



Commission Proposes Sexual Assault Prosecution Changes

The Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military (IRC) released its final report with more than 80 recommendations that includes prosecution of sexual assaults in the military be taken out of the military chain of command. At the direction of President Biden, on Feb. 26, 2021, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III established the 90-day IRC on sexual assault in the military. The IRC was comprised of 12 military and civilian experts from the fields of; civilian criminal justice, victim advocacy, policy and program development for sexual violence, prevention and response, public health, and research. During the 90-day period, the IRC gathered input from different sources. The team met with more than 600 individuals in the U.S. military - including survivors, researchers, current and former service members, commanders, junior and senior enlisted members, and advocates. FRA ADVP Noelle Huffer has monitored this process by attending multiple video conference calls with the members of the IRC.

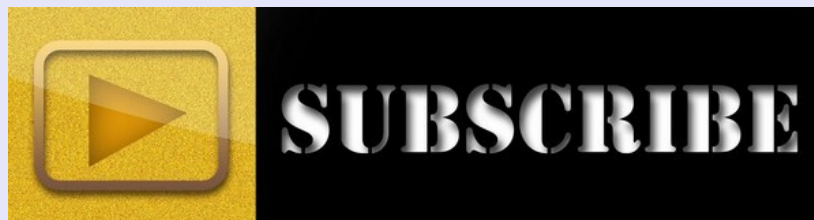
The IRC presented Secretary Austin with its report and

recommendations addressing four broad areas; accountability, prevention, climate and culture, and support and care of victims. A total of 82 recommendations were made. Austin reviewed recommendations made by the IRC and stated he agrees with everything submitted. Based on recommendations from the IRC, Austin has directed that the department will work with Congress to make changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and shift responsibility from military commanders for prosecuting sexual assaults and related crimes, as well as domestic violence offences, child abuse and retaliation. Making changes to the UCMJ, which is part of federal law, requires congressional approval. Austin has directed Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen H. Hicks to prepare a roadmap to implement recommendations from the IRC. Following his approval of that roadmap, he said, "It will be the role of the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness to oversee the implementation of recommendations."

The full report can be found [online](#).



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VA Rideshare program offers homeless Veterans a lift

Veterans enrolled in VHA's Homeless Program may be eligible for transportation assistance getting to and from their place of employment, health care and home following their discharge from care.

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Message From Monica Diaz, Executive Director, VHA Homeless Programs Office

This month, we are sharing critical information about [Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams](#) (HPACTs), an innovative treatment model being implemented at VA medical centers across the country. HPACTs are essential to our efforts to end Veteran homelessness. Additionally, this newsletter provides information about the anticipated impact of the local and national eviction moratoria end date later this summer, as well as information on how we will meet this reality head-on by leveraging the strategies outlined in our [Strategic Plan](#).

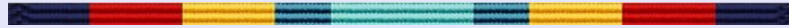
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New policies make it easier for military women to serve and be moms: "I don't have to make a choice"

The War Department was designed "for sort of a 1950s model, right, for a male and a stay-at-home wife. And that has changed now," said Major Alea Nadeem, who chairs the Air Force Women's Initiative Team. "So, we're still working through those changes. But every day, it's getting better."

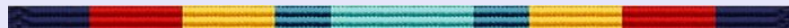
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Mobile Hearing Test System Enables Quicker Diagnosis, Treatment

A new portable hearing test technology advanced by Department of Defense researchers is capable of assessing and diagnosing hearing health far forward on the battlefield, as well as in a clinic setting, vastly improving access to care and enabling quicker diagnosis and treatment of injury.

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House Appropriators Advance Defense Spending Bill

The House Appropriations Committee approved the FY2022 Defense Appropriations bill and sent it to the House floor for further consideration. The still unnumbered bill provides a \$10 billion increase over the current year. Some key provisions in the spending bill include:

- Adequate funding for the Defense Health Agency that will not require any new TRICARE fee increases;
- Provides funding for an active-duty pay increase (2.7%), which keeps pace with civilian pay increases;
- Reduces active-duty end strength (Navy reduced by 1,600 and Marine Corps reduced by 2,700); and
- Provides \$70 million in impact aid for public schools with large military populations.

The FRA submitted written testimony on its Defense spending priorities to the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee in conjunction with the subcommittee budget hearing that was held on May 27, 2021. A copy of the testimony is available [online](#).



Extreme heat assistance available for Veterans experiencing homelessness

As the nation grapples with record setting heat waves, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reminds Veterans and communities of various resources available to Veterans experiencing homelessness during the extreme heat.

[Read More](#)



VA researchers use novel approach to gain insight into suicide risk factors

Dr. Robert Graziano is a postdoctoral fellow in clinical psychology at the Durham VA Health Care System in North Carolina. He led a study on the risk factors among Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans for suicidal ideation, or thoughts of dying by suicide, using an emerging approach in mental health research called network theory.

[Read More](#)



#VeteranOfTheDay Navy Veterans Hawley C. Spradlin and Ruth Marie Nicholson Spradlin Cutla

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay are Navy Veterans Hawley Spradlin and Ruth Marie Nicholson Spradlin Cutlar, who served as aircraft mechanics during World War II. Hawley Spradlin served as an aircraft mechanic during World War II. Spradlin was born in 1922 and joined the Navy during World War II at the age of 20. Ruth Marie Nicholson Spradlin Cutlar also served as an aircraft mechanic during World War II. Cutlar was born in Indianapolis in December 1922.

We honor their service.

[Read More](#)

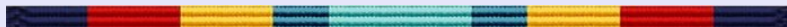


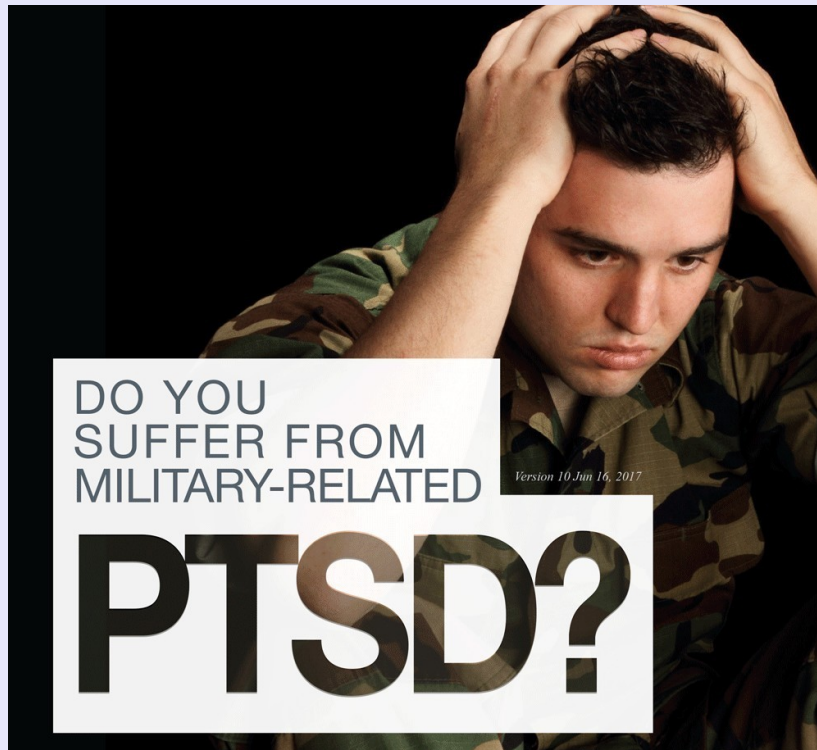
SVAC Oversight Hearing on EHR Implementation

The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee recently held an oversight hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) rolling-out the Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) program, findings of this year's strategic review of the program, and the VA's proposed path forward. This hearing also discussed three recent reports released by the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) concerning issues with the management and deployment of the new program.

The association believes congressional oversight of the ongoing implementation of VA technology upgrades that will provide a joint EHR is vital to ensuring improvements to the system. The FRA wants to ensure adequate funding for Department of Defense (DoD) and the VA health care resource sharing in delivering seamless, cost-effective, quality services to personnel wounded in combat and other veterans and their families.

Witnesses at the hearing included VA Secretary Denis McDonough, VA OIG Deputy Inspector General David Case, and Ellkay's Chief Innovation Officer Marc Probst.





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



Why I get my health care at VA: Juan

Air Force Veteran Juan served from 1962 to 1969. He didn't come to VA for care until many years later when, self-employed and without insurance, health bills depleted his funds.

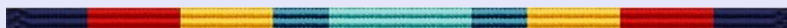
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HPO Staff Spotlight: Morgan Fitzpatrick

When Morgan Fitzpatrick joined VA Puget Sound Health Care System in September 2020, she expected to split her time working with the HPACT in Seattle and the then soon-to-be opened Edmonds Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). When the CBOC's opening was delayed, she jumped at the opportunity to work with Dr. Laxminarsimha Reddy, director of VA Puget Sound's HPACT, spearheading a campaign to vaccinate homeless Veterans against COVID-19. In addition to working with VA's community partners to reach and coordinate a variety of services for Veterans facing housing instability, Ms. Fitzpatrick helps to raise awareness about the important role VA's General Medical Services, HPACT program, and CBOCs play in the continual delivery of efficient, coordinated, compassionate primary care.

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5 inspiring stories honoring Veterans and their journeys, from AARP

Not only does AARP provide practical news and information to help Veterans and military families stay healthy, avoid scams and find employment at [AARP.org/Veterans](https://www.aarp.org/Veterans), AARP also works to share unique stories of service. This month we are highlighting several stories about Veterans and their service experiences.

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House Hearing on VA Police

This week, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing to discuss VA police and potential reforms. Subcommittee Chairman Chris Pappas (D-NH) began his opening remarks identifying changes and reforms that were recommended years ago but have still not been implemented. VA police are often the first individuals veterans see when arriving at VA facilities. They protect and serve the veterans and their health care professionals. The VFW is grateful for the VA police force and the services they provide to everyone within the VA system. [Watch the hearing.](#)



Melvin Bockelman: Technical Genius

Chief Mast. Sgt. Melvin Bockelman served in the Merchant Marines during World War II before commissioning into the Air Force. He worked to computerize the Air Defense Command in Colorado before joining the Kansas City Police Department.

[Read More](#)



TeleCritical Care – 24-hour care at the push of a button

Shreveport VA has a new form of critical care that expands on the traditional intensive care unit. Based on telehealth, it's known as TeleCritical Care.

The technology allows staff to monitor blood pressure, heart rate and lab results. Intensivists can prescribe medications, order tests or procedures, make diagnoses, and discuss health care with patients and family members.

"TeleCritical Care offers 24-hour care at the push of a button," says Kristine Miller, the operations and nurse manager for VA's TeleCritical Care West hub.

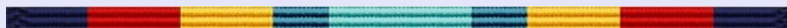
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Live Whole Health #78 – Moving to the Beat

When you hear music playing, do you automatically find yourself swaying, toe tapping, or bursting into dance? Well, you're not alone! Studies have shown that moving to the beat is built into our nervous systems.

[Read More](#)



House Hearing on VA Appeals

This week, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held an oversight hearing on the VA Appeals Program and the state of modernization efforts. Issues discussed included the Board of Veterans Appeals' increase in virtual hearings, efforts to reduce the appeals backlog, and IT improvements. The Government Accountability Office recommended that VA take measures to monitor timeliness, quality, and accuracy of appeals decisions, as well as take into consideration veteran satisfaction. [Learn more](#) about VA's modernized appeals process or check your appeal status. If you filed an appeal before Feb. 19, 2019, visit [VA's legacy appeals webpage](#) for more information or to check the status of your appeal. [Watch the hearing](#) which begins at the 2:20 mark.



#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Joseph Carl Cortea

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Joseph Carl Cortea, who served in the 1st Infantry Division during the Vietnam War.

[Read More](#)



Can exercise manage chronic pain?

Researchers at the Baltimore VA Medical Center are looking at the role of exercise in managing pain in lung cancer survivors.

Exercise may help reduce the perception of pain the same way some medications do. By examining if prescribed exercise can reduce chronic pain, study findings could have a large impact on the quality of life for all cancer survivors.

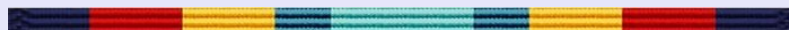
[Read More](#)



A Dyadic Analysis of PTSD and Psychological Partner Aggression Among U.S. Iraq and Afghanistan

Watkins LE, Laws HB. A Dyadic Analysis of PTSD and Psychological Partner Aggression Among U.S. Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans: The Impact of Gender and Dual-Veteran Couple Status.

[Read More](#)



VFW Testifies Before House

On Wednesday, VFW National Legislative Service Deputy Director Tammy Barlet testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health regarding several pieces of pending legislation. Barlet spoke about the Green Alert system, expanded eligibility for student veterans at VA Vet Centers, clarification and improvement of the caregiver program, and increased flexibility for VA's leasing process. "Phase II veterans and their caregivers have been patiently waiting their turn for far too long," Barlet said on the importance of holding VA accountable to open the Caregiver Program Phase II application process. [Watch the hearing](#) or [read the testimony](#).



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced three burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II and Korea:

Army Pfc. Louis N. Crosby, 18, of Orangeburg, South Carolina, was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 1, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Crosby will be buried Aug. 18, 2021, in his hometown. [Read about Crosby.](#)

Army Pvt. Warren G.H. DeVault, 24, of Rhea, Tennessee, was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. His unit was engaged in battle with German forces near Hürtgen, Germany, when he was reportedly killed in action on Nov. 20, 1944. DeVault could not be recovered because of the ongoing fighting, and his remains were not recovered or identified. DeVault will be buried Aug. 14, 2021, in Dayton, Tennessee. [Read about DeVault.](#)

Navy Metalsmith 1st Class Leonard F. Smith, 29, of Albany, New York, 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 Smith. He will be cremated on Sept. 1, 2021. The family has elected to not hold a funeral service. [Read about Smith.](#)



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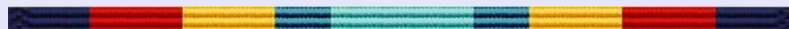
Riverside County, CA

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Jim.Davis@Veterans-for-change.org

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