



# Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

*A Voice of the Veterans*

Week Ending Sunday, August 08, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 32



## This-N-That

Good evening Jim,

If you're one of the thousands of Veterans who have and need to use CPAP in order to be able to sleep at night and breath properly, please note down in the newsletter some links with more information.

If your doctor or equipment distributor isn't handling the issue for you, I now have a link to register your CPAP to a) see for sure if your machine is one of the one's affected, b) file your claim simply click [HERE](#).

If you find that your machine is affected, please, if your doctor hasn't instructed you to stop using it, please do, no one on

earth deserves cancer! And having been through it already, it's not pleasant at all!

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind people to check your credit annually, all three reports are available free. [Experion](#), [Credit Karma](#), these are two recommended sites you can create an account on free of charge. They do offer more services for a monthly or annual fee, but I don't think you need that, but is a choice only you can make.

I usually bring up the credit info about June or July, but I had forgotten to do so until I just got nailed for credit card fraud. How they got the card info I haven't a clue as I shred everything. But it is a royal pain to have to cancel bank debit cards, credit cards, etc. and have to wait up to 14 days to get new cards.

This week we are adding one new TAKE ACTION item, but all are still important and all really need for all of us to send them out weekly. The more we stay on them the better the chances are!

If you've not visited our website, [www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org) or not visited in a while, please be sure to check often for updates on documents, web links, etc., we are a bit slow, but are moving as fast as we can, yet not over-loading to put more work on our Webmaster when we get to the transition into the new look.

On behalf of our Volunteers nationwide and myself, we wish you and your family good health!

Respectfully,  
Jim Davis

Founder

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



## Take Action Now on VFW-Supported Toxic Exposure Bills

In June, the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs introduced comprehensive legislation on toxic exposure addressing the VFW's top legislative priority. The House bill is the Honoring our PACT Act and the Senate bill is the COST of War Act. If you haven't already done so, we encourage all veterans, family members, friends, and supporters to [Take Action Now](#). Spread the word so that as many people as possible will contact their senators and representatives to support these important pieces of legislation!



## 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. Click [HERE](#) and help a Veteran.

You may contact Robin Barr at [robin.barr@mvadvocacy.org](mailto:robin.barr@mvadvocacy.org)



## **Homeless Veterans grants for groups in Hawaii and Guam**

Homeless Veterans and families in Hawaii have help on the way. Millions of dollars in grants have been awarded to curb Veteran homelessness.

[Read More](#)



## **Rocky Mountain Network leaders describe a year of COVID-19 decisions**

VA's Rocky Mountain Network leaders share what they learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and describe the way forward.

[Read More](#)



## **Responding to disasters and preparing our kids for a brighter future**

Disasters can leave children and teens frightened, confused and insecure. They cannot adjust on their own when the people, places and routines they depend on for safety and wellbeing are affected by upheaval. Here's how to help them when disaster strikes.

[Read More](#)



## **Losses Led to Recovery**

While serving in the prestigious 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army, Daniel used drugs and alcohol in an attempt to cope with the suicide of his best friend. Several years later, it was the death of another loved one that moved Daniel to regain control of his life.

[Read More](#)



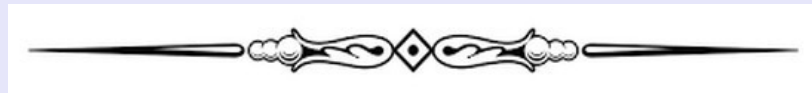


# Your actions

could save a life.

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

VeteransCrisisLine.net



## **VA Processing Disability Claims for Certain Conditions Related to Particulate Matter**

NED Chris Slawinski participated in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) virtual press conference for VA to announce that effective Aug. 2, 2021, the VA has begun processing disability claims for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis on a presumptive "fast-track" basis, based on presumed particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas - if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service.

The VA conducted a review of scientific evidence to support the rulemaking, which recommended the creation of new presumptions of service connection for respiratory conditions based on the VA's evaluation of a National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine report, and other evidence.

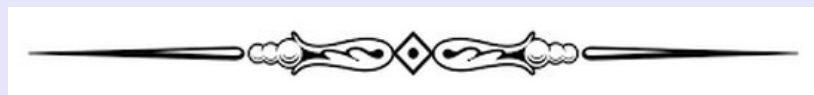
The process concluded that particulate matter pollution is associated with chronic asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis for veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of

operations beginning Aug. 2, 1990, to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001, to the present. The VA's review also concluded that there was sufficient evidence to presume that these veterans had been exposed to particulate matter.

The Southwest Asia theater of operations refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and the airspace above these locations.

Veterans and survivors who believe they may be eligible for the newly established presumptive conditions are encouraged to apply. They should file a [VA Form 21-526EZ](#) if applying for the first time or a [VA Form 20-0995](#) if they are reapplying for these conditions. For more information on the new presumptive conditions, visit the [VA website](#).

To apply for benefits, veterans and survivors may visit [VA.gov](#) or call toll-free at 800-827-1000.



## **#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Panya Laona**

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Panya Laona, who deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan during his service.

[Read More](#)



## **Study yields insight on factors predicting response to PTSD treatments**

Dr. Sheila Rauch, director of mental health research and program evaluation at the Atlanta VA Health Care System, led the study. Despite the surprising finding, she says Veterans with PTSD should not delay treatment thinking that their symptoms will improve over time.

[Source](#)



## **VA dentist marks 51 years of service to Veterans**

VA dentist Dr. Joseph Hancock started at VA in 1970 when "WWII Veterans were the 'young' ones." His career of service has lasted 51 years.

[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** .....



## **Memory Club helps Veterans reflect on memories from their past**

Medical center's memory club is reminiscence therapy that keeps Veteran minds active and helps them remember the good ol' days.

[Read More](#)



## **Virtual Veterans Experience Action Center reaches 383 Veterans in Kentucky**

From July 13th through 15th, VA partnered with the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, United Way 211, and other community partners to host the latest V-VEAC in Kentucky. This event provided immediate action on the needs of 383 Veterans.

[Read More](#)



## **#VeteranOfTheDay Navy Veteran Cody Hitson**

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Navy Veteran Cody Hitson, who served as a journalist and deployed to Afghanistan.

[Read More](#)



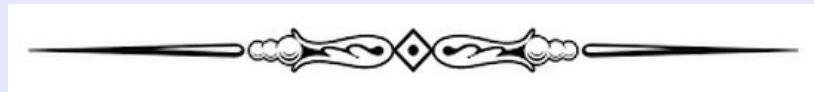
## **VA leaders on lessons from COVID-19 and the future of Veteran health care**

Clinicians and leaders across VA continue to work tirelessly to

care for Veterans enrolled in VA health care to control the spread of COVID-19.

Watch this reflective mini-documentary which captures the COVID-19 response by the VA Rocky Mountain Network and explores the path ahead for Veteran health care.

[Read More](#)



## ***Links to Other Stories***

1. [VA unemployment benefit would be protected under this plan](#)
2. [Cashier helps pay Veteran's grocery bill as a token of appreciation](#)
3. [DoD](#)

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6. Maryland  
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8. Mail-  
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16. Brotherhood  
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17. 7-  
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raise  
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homeless  
Veterans:  
'Help  
home  
first'



## **VA Online Scheduling (VAOS) lets eligible Veterans request community provider appointments**

VA Online Scheduling (VAOS) allows eligible Veterans to schedule in-network community care appointments online.

[Read More](#)



## **VA to start processing disability claims for certain conditions related to particulate matter**

VA will begin processing disability claims Aug. 2 for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis on a presumptive basis based on presumed particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas — if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service.

[Read More](#)



## **Military Sexual Trauma survivors see increased claim grant rates**

VBA grant rates for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) related to sexual trauma increased by approximately 22 percentage points since 2015.

[Read More](#)



## **Caring Letters Program sends messages of hope to Veterans**

VA's Caring Letters Program is a suicide prevention program that involves sending periodic messages with simple expressions of care to Veterans who use VA health care and services. To date, more than 100,000 Veterans have received a caring letter, with over 530,000 letters mailed so far.

One Veteran recipient enrolled in the program said, "It felt good and comforting to know that my fellow brothers were there for me."

[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/](http://warriorcare.dodlive.mil/)

### **Military One Source**

1-800-342-9647

### **Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors [TAPS]**

1-800-959-8277



## DoD Preparing for Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccinations



The Department of Defense will soon require service members to get vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine. The details and timing have not been released, but President Biden issued a strong declaration. "Since many vaccinations are required for active-duty military today, I'm asking the Defense Department to look into how and when they will add COVID-19 to the list of vaccinations our armed forces must get," Biden said July 29 as he outlined steps the government was taking to slow the rise in COVID-19 cases. "Our men and women in uniform who protect this country from grave threats should be protected as much as

possible from getting COVID-19."

After a steep decline, the U.S. is trying to fend off an increase in COVID-19 cases across the country caused largely by the highly transmissible delta variant of the virus and a decline in vaccinations, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The president's statement occurred one day after the DoD reinstated stricter mask rules indoors for service members, civilian employees, and visitors - regardless of vaccination status - on DoD installations and facilities in areas with "substantial or high community transmission" of COVID-19.

According to the CDC, areas with "substantial" community transmission have at least 50 new cases per 100,000 people in the past week. Areas with more than 100 new cases per 100,000 people in the last week are in the "high" transmission category.



## **Nearly every death from COVID-19 is preventable: SecVA**

Nearly every COVID-19 death in the Veteran community and U.S. as a whole is entirely preventable through getting a vaccine, VA Secretary Denis McDonough said July 31 at the DAV National Convention in Tampa. With COVID-19 cases rising with the Delta variant, McDonough said 99% of those dying from COVID-19 right now are unvaccinated.

[Read More](#)



## **Fort Worth VA clinic reopens after epic Texas ice storm**

VA North Texas, with 12 facilities, was not spared the wrath of low temperatures and ice. Water lines burst flooding clinic first floor.

[Read More](#)



## **Manage your community care appointment online**

Veterans eligible for community care can now use VA Online Scheduling (VAOS) to request routine appointments with an in-network community care provider. While VA is excited to offer this additional convenient scheduling option for community care, Veterans can always choose to receive care from a VA medical facility.

For information on how to request appointments with your local VA facility or in-network community provider, please visit click [HERE](#).

[Read More](#)





## **VA Begins Processing New Presumptive Conditions for Toxic Exposures**

VA has announced that starting Aug. 2, 2021, it began processing disability claims for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis based on presumed particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and other areas. The Southwest Asia theater of operations refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and the airspace above these locations. Additionally, this includes veterans who served in Southwest Asia beginning Aug. 2, 1990, to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001, to the present. These conditions must have manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service. Veterans and survivors should [contact a VFW Service Officer](#) for assistance in applying or reapplying for service-related benefits. [Read more](#) on the new presumptive conditions.



## **Live Whole Health #82: Managing neck pain with acupressure**

Neck pain can interfere with many aspects of your daily life and disrupt activities you enjoy. Acupressure can help relieve neck pain.

[Read More](#)



## **COVID-19 testing: VA studying 3D-printed nasal swabs to guard against future declines in traditional swabs**

VA researchers are studying the safety and effectiveness of 3D-printed nasal swabs, in case of another urgent nationwide need to test patients for COVID-19 or other infectious diseases.

[Read More](#)



## **Veteran homeless grants awarded to Hawaii and Guam**

Local organizations in Hawaii and Guam were awarded millions in grants to provide support in curbing Veteran homelessness.

This means homeless Veterans or Veterans at risk of becoming homeless and their families residing in the VA Pacific Islands Health Care area will now have access to crucial services and resources.

[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 **08/07/21**)

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

1. [HR 1014](#)  
-  
[Furnish Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy \(HBOT\) to](#)



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Veteran  
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2. HR  
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7. H.R.  
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8. H.R.  
914,  
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9. Military  
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27. Please  
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28. Support  
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29. S.  
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30. H.R.  
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31. H.R.  
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32. S.  
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33. HR  
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34. Bipartisan  
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35. Legislation  
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36. H.R.  
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Camp  
Lejeune  
Justice  
Act  
of  
2021





## **#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Randall Ching**

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Randall Ching who fought with the 5th Ranger Battalion during World War II.

[Read More](#)



## **Borne the Battle #250: Marine Corps Veteran Billy Mills, Olympic Gold Medalist, Lakota Warrior**

In this 250th episode of Borne the Battle, Marine Corps Veteran and Olympic Gold Medalist and Lakota Warrior Billy Mills talks service, Olympics, and current work with Running Strong for American Indian Youth. He talks about his life's many highs and lows.

[Read More](#)




## **40th National Veterans Wheelchair Games swing into action**

VA and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) co-present the event, with VA NY Harbor Healthcare System hosting the 2021 Wheelchair Games—the world's largest annual wheelchair


sports event solely for Veterans. Veterans will be participating in 21 adaptive sports and recreational events in the "Big Apple" and at-home from their communities across the nation. The games mark a major milestone of 40 years of empowering the nation's Veterans to live happy and healthy lives through adaptive sports and recreation.

[Read More](#)



## SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

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



## Major Medical Facility Bill Signed into Law

President Biden signed into law the Major Medical Facility Authorization Act of 2021. This change will authorize VA to carry out specific major medical facilities projects and also increase the amount of money that can be spent on each project. The VFW applauds the passage of this legislation and

calls on Congress and the Administration to continue rigorous oversight of VA's infrastructure needs. The VFW has testified numerous times on VA infrastructure and the need for proper attention to aging VA facilities. This new law will be a step in the right direction.

[Read More](#)



## **VA launches VETSmile dental pilot program in New York, New Jersey**

VETSmile is VA's community dental partnership, improving access to dental services for VA-enrolled Veterans ineligible for VA dental services.

[Read More](#)



**CONTACT YOUR  
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS!**

To Call your Representative:  
202-225-2305

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

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

TOLL FREE: 866-272-6622

**PLEASE... STOP Making Excuses!**

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



**Live Whole Health #82: Managing neck pain  
with acupressure**

Neck pain can interfere with many aspects of your daily life and disrupt activities you enjoy. Acupressure can help relieve neck pain.

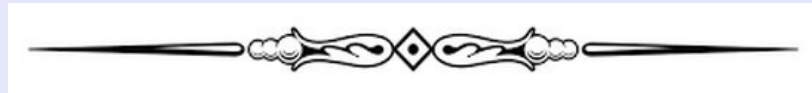
[Read More](#)



**Homeless Veterans grants for groups in  
Hawaii and Guam**

Homeless Veterans and families in Hawaii have help on the way. Millions of dollars in grants have been awarded to curb Veteran homelessness.

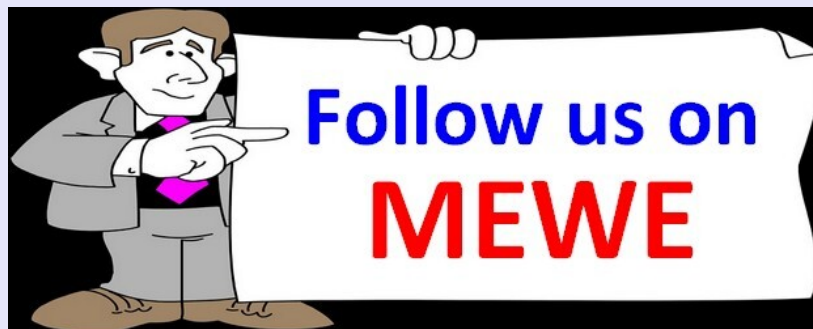
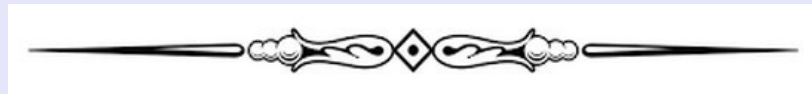
[Read More](#)



## **Veterans and service members can learn about paying for college in a free seminar**

The newest Wellness Wednesday free seminar, on August 18, is all about personal education. Want to learn more about paying for college?

[Read More](#)



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

We hope you will join us on this new site.

[VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE](#)

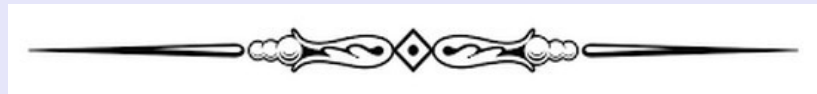
[HOMELESS HEROES PROGRAM OF VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE](#)

AMVETS GROUP

VETERANS SOCIAL GROUP

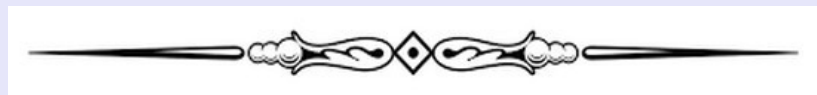
{USAVET} SUPPORTING GOD & ALL WHO SERVED OUR  
GREAT NATION

AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY



## **Military In-Home Child Care Pilot Program Begins**

A five-year pilot program to help military families pay for childcare in their homes started in July. The new program is offered in five regions that have the longest wait list for Child Development Centers (U.S. capitol region; Hawaii, San Diego, Norfolk and San Antonio). Child Care Aware of America started contacting parents who do not have access at a military installation and have requested in-home care. Those who are currently on the wait list in the five regions are eligible. For more information [go online](#).



## **Police officer at Bedford VA saves stranger's life**

VA police officer Anthony Harris was driving home when he saw a man on a bridge, ready to jump. He talked him down and saved his life.

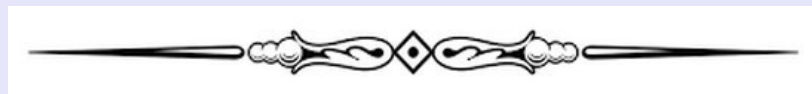
[Read More](#)



## **#VeteranOfTheDay Air Force Veteran Kenneth Cordier**

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Air Force Veteran Kenneth Cordier, who was a pilot and prisoner of war during the Vietnam War.

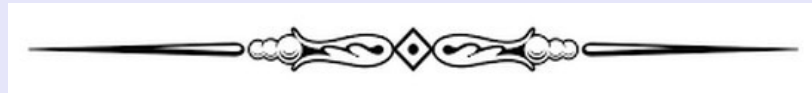
[Read More](#)



## **Questions about COVID-19 vaccine, "You Asked, We Answered"**

We've received questions from Veterans, family members and caregivers about COVID-19 vaccines. Here's a compilation of our answers.

[Read More](#)



## **Veteran VA Employee talks prosthetics, programs to help amputees**

In Bill Van Aken's eight years in the prosthetics department, he has seen a lot of changes. A change that directly impacted him? Doorknobs.

[Read More](#)



1. [BD to Begin Remediation for BD Alaris™ System Software](#)
2. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: August](#)



3,  
2021

3. Eco-Med  
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## **DUMP Opioids Act Becomes Law**

In 2019, almost 70,000 Americans died from drug overdoses. Properly disposing of unneeded and unused opioids is one way to battle the opioid epidemic. President Biden has signed [S. 957](#), DUMP Opioids Act, into law. This law expands on VA's program to dispose of controlled substances introduced in the [Isakson Roe Act of 2020](#). It will make VA's drop boxes accessible to the general public with a community information campaign announcing designated times for disposal in an effort to improve medication safety in homes.



## **New scanning technology could help diagnose Alzheimer's disease using light**

This scanning method could become a simple, completely non-invasive method of early Alzheimer's detection, according to the researchers, and also has potential as a way to assess the effectiveness of treatment.

[Read More](#)



## **Stay on Top of Back-to-School Health with TRICARE**



It's time for students to return to the classroom. As a parent, you may be busy buying school supplies, backpacks, and clothes for the fall. You can also prepare for the school year by scheduling preventive health exams and immunization appointments for your child. TRICARE covers many [preventive health care services](#) with no out-of-pocket costs to you.

[Read More](#)



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## **Why I get my health care at VA: Jason**

When Army Veteran Jason came to VA for help recovering from an IED injury, he didn't realize he would find a purpose in life.

[Read More](#)



## **#VeteranOfTheDay Coast Guard Veteran Robert Goldman**

On the Coast Guard's 231st birthday, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Robert Goldman, who earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart during World War II.

[Read More](#)

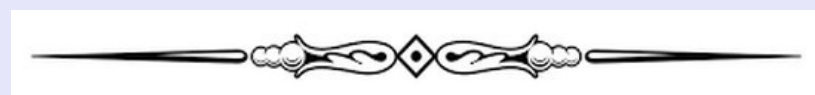
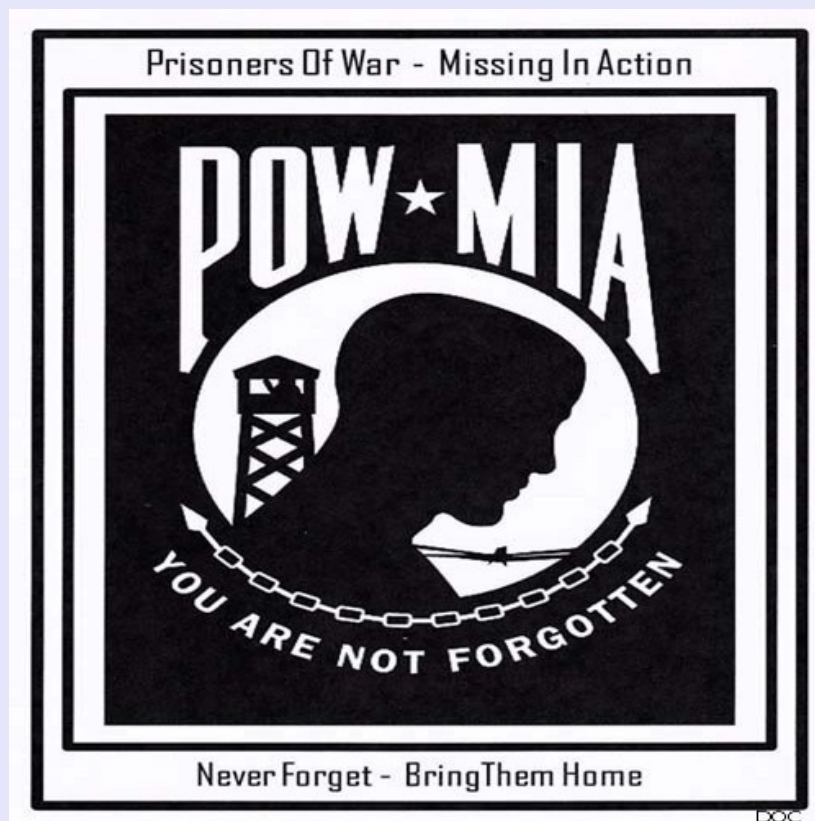


## Explore TRICARE Coverage Options for Your College Student



Is your son or daughter heading off to college this fall? If so, congratulations. As your child prepares for college, you may have questions about how it affects their TRICARE coverage.

[Read More](#)



## **Study reports on experiences of LGB Vietnam-era Veterans**

Veterans are at high risk for experiencing potentially traumatic events during military service. Evidence also suggests that sexual minorities are at greater risk of PTEs, compared with heterosexual peers. However, few studies have documented how traumatic experiences may differ by sexual orientation among Veterans.

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## **Center of Balance clinic for Veterans with vertigo and dizziness**

Center of Balance at Northport VA is a specialty clinic providing evaluation of Veterans with complaints of vertigo and dizziness.

[Read More](#)



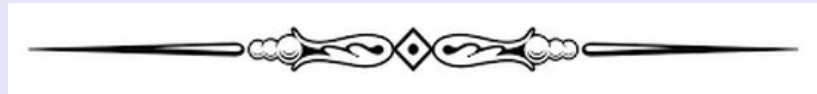
## **Student Veterans: Back-to-School and Mental Health**

Many Veterans decide to further their education after returning to civilian life. Whether you recently left active duty or have been a Veteran for many years, going to college can be exciting and present new possibilities — but it can also be



challenging. It's important to be aware of the difficulties you may have and the steps you can take to overcome them.

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## **VA in new research agreement with National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases**

VA signed a memorandum of agreement with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) on June 28 to expand collaborative research.

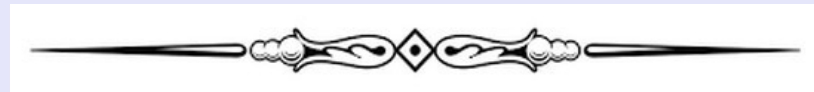
[Read More](#)



**Men's MST Resources**

Veterans can have difficulties in the years following military sexual trauma (MST). VA providers understand this and are here to support you as you recover, no matter how long it's been.

[Read More](#)



## **VA to Start Processing Disability Claims for Certain Conditions Related to Particulate Matter**

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will begin processing disability claims on August 2, 2021 for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis on a presumptive basis based on presumed particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas — if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service.

VA conducted the first iteration of a newly formed internal VA process to review scientific evidence to support rulemaking, resulting in the recommendation to consider creation of new presumptions of service connection for respiratory conditions based on VA's evaluation of a National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine report and other evidence.

The process concluded that particulate matter pollution is associated with chronic asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis for Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations beginning Aug. 2, 1990 to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001 to the present. VA's review also concluded that there was sufficient evidence to presume that these Veterans have been exposed to particulate matter.

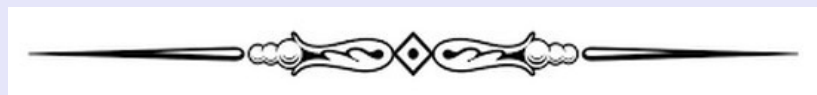
"I announced my intent to initiate rulemaking on May 27 to consider adding respiratory conditions to the list of chronic disabilities," said Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "Through this process I determined that the evidence provided was sufficient to establish presumptions of service connection for these three respiratory conditions. This is the right decision, and VA will continue to use a holistic approach in determining toxic exposure presumptives moving forward."

The Southwest Asia theater of operations refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and the airspace above these locations.

VA will conduct outreach to impacted Veterans and survivors to inform them about their eligibility and will provide information on how to apply. Veterans and survivors who believe they may

be eligible for the newly established presumptive conditions are encouraged to apply. They should file a [VA Form 21-526EZ](#) if applying for the first time or a [VA Form 20-0995](#) if they are reapplying for these conditions. For more information on the new presumptive conditions, visit our website at [Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures - Public Health \(va.gov\)](#).

To apply for benefits, Veterans and survivors may visit [VA.gov](#) or call toll-free at 800-827-1000. Within the next week, you can view the interim final rule at [www.regulations.gov](#).

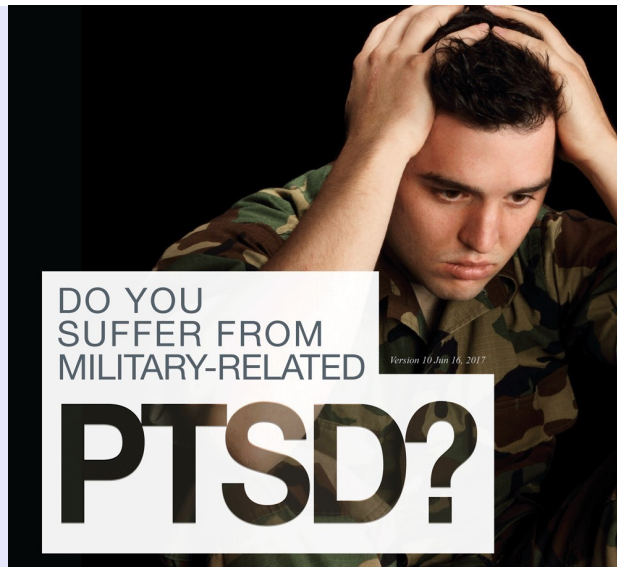


## **Daniel Daly: The Devil Dog**

Marine Corps Veteran Daniel Daly fought during World War I, and at age 44, nearly earned a third Medal of Honor at the Battle of Belleau Wood.

[Read More](#)





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



## **Afghanistan: How Veterans can reconcile service**

Major news outlets for the past few months have focused on the nation's longest war: Afghanistan. With a high of more than 100,000 U.S. troops in 2010, the number of troops continued to shrink over the past decade. While news coverage debates the decision to cease combat operations, the highest-ranking enlisted service member in the military said Veterans from the war should remember the positive to help reconcile their service.

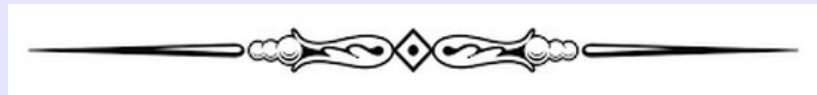
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## **#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Derek Randall Sutton**

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Derek Randall Sutton, who served as a combat engineer during Operation Iraqi Freedom

[Read More](#)



## **August 31 Is International Overdose Awareness Day**

Overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S. Using opioids, prescribed or not, comes with a significant risk of overdose. It's important for Veterans, and their family members and caregivers, to know what to do in an overdose emergency.

[Read More](#)



## **VA engineers help keep our hospitals running. Apply today!**

Throughout VA, engineers are hard at work ensuring that our facilities and equipment are in top-notch shape for Veterans receiving health care. This month, as part of our celebration of VHA's 75th anniversary, we're turning the spotlight on this vital career field. With many Baby Boomers retiring, there are

openings across the VA system for...

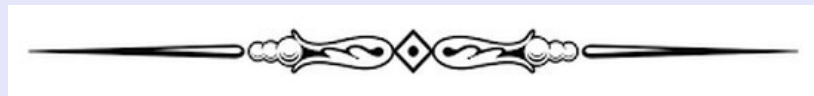
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## **Veterans Crisis Line reaches out with caring letters**

Caring Letters Program sends messages with simple expressions of care and concern to Veterans who use VA health care and contact crisis line.

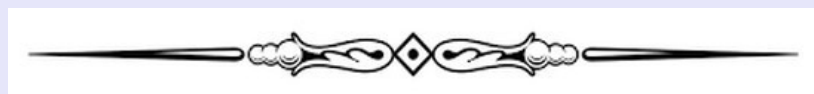
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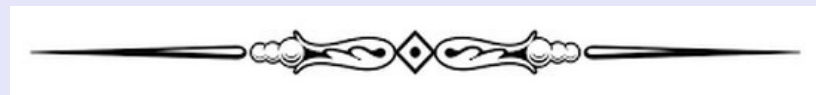


## **A Chance at Redemption**

Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) offers Veterans who have been involved with the justice system the chance to seek mental health or substance use treatment. Hear from three Veterans who found treatment, secured jobs, and turned their lives around with the help of a VTC.

[Read More](#)

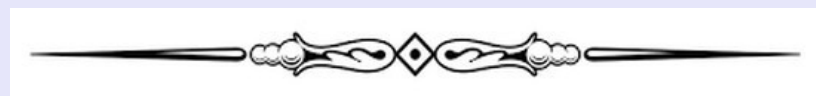




## **#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Douglas Bonnot**

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Douglas Bonnot, who served as a cryptanalyst in the Army Security Agency during Vietnam.

[Read More](#)



## **VA and NARA to digitize federal records for Veterans**

VA's plan to digitize federal records will improve service to Veterans and their families at both VA and NARA.

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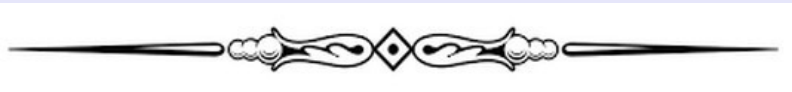




## Social Anxiety

Most people feel anxious in some social situations some of the time, but for people with social phobia, that anxiety is strong and long-lasting. Social phobia can keep people from doing things they want to do. VA offers support and resources for Veterans with social anxiety.

[Read More](#)



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced two burial updates and 11 new identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II and Korea:

**Army Pvt. Charles Andrews**, 25, of Rochester, New York, was assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 8th Infantry Division. His unit was engaged in battle with German forces near Brandenburg, Germany, in the Hürtgen Forest, when he was declared missing in action on

Dec. 4, 1944. Andrews could not be recovered because of the ongoing fighting, and his status was changed to killed in action on Jan. 29, 1945. He will be buried on Aug. 28, 2021, in his hometown. [Read about Andrews.](#)

**Navy Fireman 2nd Class William K. Shafer**, 20, of Alhambra, California, 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 Shafer. He will be buried on Oct. 14, 2021, in Marana, Arizona. [Read about Shafer.](#)

**Army Cpl. Dale W. Wright**, 19, of Flint, Michigan, was a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Wright.](#)

**Marine Corps Sgt. Fred Farris**, 19, of Hillsboro, Texas, was a member of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands, in an attempt to secure the island. Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded, while the Japanese were virtually annihilated. Farris died on the first day of battle, Nov. 20, 1943. Interment services are pending. [Read about Farris.](#)

**Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Harold W. Hayden**, 19, of

Norwood, Ohio, was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands, in an attempt to secure the island. Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded, while the Japanese were virtually annihilated. Hayden died on the third day of battle, Nov. 22, 1943. Interment services are pending. [Read about Hayden.](#)

**Marine Corps Pfc. Royal L. Waltz**, 20, of Cambria, California, was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 18th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands, in an attempt to secure the island. Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded, while the Japanese were virtually annihilated. Waltz died between the first and second day of the battle, Nov. 20-21, 1943. Interment services are pending. [Read about Waltz.](#)

**Army Sgt. William E. Cavender**, 20, of Leslie, Michigan, was a member of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 28, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Cavender.](#)

**Army Staff Sgt. Gerald R. Helms**, 29, was assigned to Company E, 325th Glider Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. In 1944, he was reported missing in action near

Katerbosch, Netherlands, during Operation Market Garden after he failed to return from a lone scouting mission. His body was never found by his unit, and there was no evidence he had ever been captured. A presumptive finding of death was issued Oct. 3, 1945. Interment services are pending. [Read about Helms.](#)

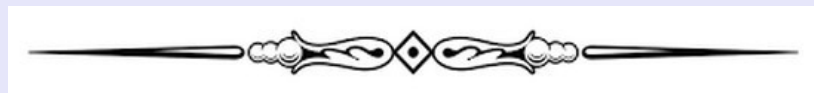
**Army Pvt. Emmet W. Schwartz**, 24, was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment, 8th Infantry Division. His unit was part of an effort to capture Obermauch, Germany, near the town of Hürtgen, when he was reported killed in action by an artillery blast on Dec. 27, 1944. His body was unable to be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Schwartz.](#)

**Marine Corps Pfc. Glenn F. White**, 19, was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands, in an attempt to secure the island. Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded, while the Japanese were virtually annihilated. White died on the third day of battle, Nov. 22, 1943. Interment services are pending. [Read about White.](#)

**Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. Frank A. Norris**, 23, of Quinlan, Texas, was a pilot assigned to the 345th Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group (Heavy), 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Norris was serving crashed as a result of enemy anti-aircraft fire during Operation Tidal Wave, north of Bucharest, Romania. His remains were not identified following the war. Interment services are pending. [Read about Norris.](#)

**Army Air Forces Capt. Nando A. Cavalieri**, 24, was assigned to 324th Bombardment Squadron, 91st Bombardment Group, 8th Air Force in the European Theater. On Feb. 3, 1945, the B-17G Flying Fortress bomber on which he was serving was flying a mission over Berlin when it was struck by enemy anti-aircraft fire. It was one of 21 bombers to be lost during the mission. Interment services are pending. [Read about Cavalieri.](#)

**Navy Seaman 1st Class Biacio Casola**, 26, 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 Casola. Interment services are pending. [Read about Casola.](#)



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Riverside County, CA

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[Jim.Davis@Veterans-for-change.org](mailto:Jim.Davis@Veterans-for-change.org)

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