



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, August 22, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 34



This-N-That

Good evening Jim,

Kansas City is finally getting their own VA Medical Center to help prevent the need to drive to main campus. It's will have various specialty clinics, labs, radiology and from what I've been told so far it's own pharmacy.

Anyone who lives in the area, please do let me know what you think hoe the process is going, or if you see any problem areas. Need all the information I can get my hands on.

The Senate passes a bill S.1031 to assess disparities in benefits based on color, same medical reasons, etc. and I do know we've been hammering on this since 2008 to the point we'd actually provided cases showing the disparity and how

unfair it's been to our Veterans. Now my question is will they use this as a way to drag it out decades more or will they accomplish something in the next few months.

The National Home was founded in 1925 as a place where the families left behind by war could remain together. Today's families face many different and difficult circumstances, so the National Home has evolved to help meet those needs. The community is open to the families of active-duty military personnel, veterans, and relatives of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members. If you would like to speak with someone, please call 1-800-313-4200.

Keep pushing on all the TAKE ACTION items, the harder we push on a weekly basis, the better the changes of getting a few more passed soon!

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.

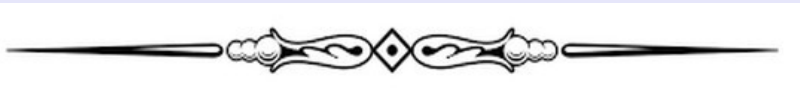
On behalf of our Volunteers nationwide and myself, we wish you and your family good health!

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org



News Flash



New toxic exposure bill HR 5026

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Representatives Marie Newman (D-IL-03) and María Elvira Salazar (R-FL-27) introduced legislation to provide federal

benefits to veterans who served in or near the Panama Canal Zone and may have been exposed to deadly herbicide, also known as Agent Purple or Agent Orange, which was used by the military in this area during the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's. This legislation, championed by Slidell, Louisiana based Military-Veterans Advocacy (MVA), will recognize that veterans within the Panama Canal Zone were exposed to lethal herbicide.

Under the Panama Veterans Herbicide Relief Act, veterans who served in or near the Panama Canal Zone would be granted presumptive herbicide exposure status, meaning they could receive federal benefits and disability compensation from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). The bill would expand presumptive coverage to these veterans similar to the coverage for those who served in Vietnam, along the Korean DMZ and on the base perimeters in Thailand.

"Hundreds of veterans who honorably served our nation in Panama have come home with major health issues after being

exposed to Agent Orange and Agent Purple," said Congresswoman Newman. "To this day, not any of these men and women have received benefits or disability compensation from the federal government as a result of their exposure to these deadly tactical herbicides.

"This is personal to me because I come from a family who served in the military," Newman said. "It has always been my belief that our government has a fundamental obligation to honor our veterans by providing them with the care they need and deserve. That is why I urge all members of Congress to support the Panama Canal Zone Veterans Act so we can further ensure our nation lives up to that promise." MVA has requested the VA to issue rules granting the presumption of herbicide exposure to Panama Canal veterans. To date, no response has been received.

Throughout the Vietnam War, thousands of veterans served in the Panama Canal Zone. However, the VA does not currently provide benefits to those veterans because the agency incorrectly claims that tactical herbicide was not used in the area, despite the fact that at least 400 Americans who served have now developed cancer, heart disease or other health issues consistent with herbicide exposure. While proving exposure is nearly impossible due to a lack of record-keeping and the inability to know the precise location of spraying, what records exist corroborate the presence of herbicide in the Panama Canal Zone during the 1950s through the 1970s.

Commander John B. Wells, USN (ret), Chairman of MVA said: "This legislation is long overdue. We have over 150 pages of shipping documents showing that the herbicide was shipped to Panama, as well as pictures of herbicide spraying within the Canal Zone. As late as February 2020, empty herbicide barrels

were used by the Panamanian government to block access to the old base at Fort Sherman, Panama."

According to the United States' own records, both Agent Purple and Agent Orange were shipped to Panama from 1958 until at least December 1977. These herbicides were used routinely on military bases in the area as well as to kill poison ivy, poison oak and sumac where troops were deployed.

By passing the Panama Veterans Herbicide Relief Act, Congress can provide thousands of American veterans who were potentially exposed to deadly herbicides with the care and benefits they need and deserve.

For more information on Military-Veterans Advocacy go to www.militaryveteransadvocacy.org

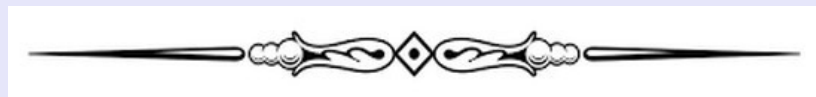
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Media Contact:

James Hartman

504.458.4600

james@jameshartman.net



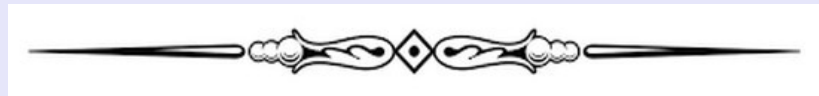
Military Veterans Advocacy

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



How Job Corps Can Support Your Career

Job Corps is the largest career program in the U.S. Job Corps helps youth who may not have the resources to plan for and start their careers.

[Read More](#)



USPS is hiring nationwide, Veterans and families get preference

USPS wants to fill the more than 100K open positions with Veterans and their families.

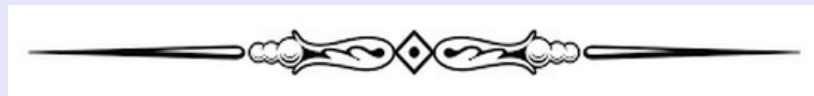
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Creative arts therapy promotes healthy self-expression for Veterans

Art therapy is one way many Veterans and families are dealing with challenges. VA's Recreation Therapy Service helps Veterans manage stress and substance abuse, and cope with symptoms of PTSD and TBI. Here are some creative examples of how it works for these Veterans.

[Read More](#)

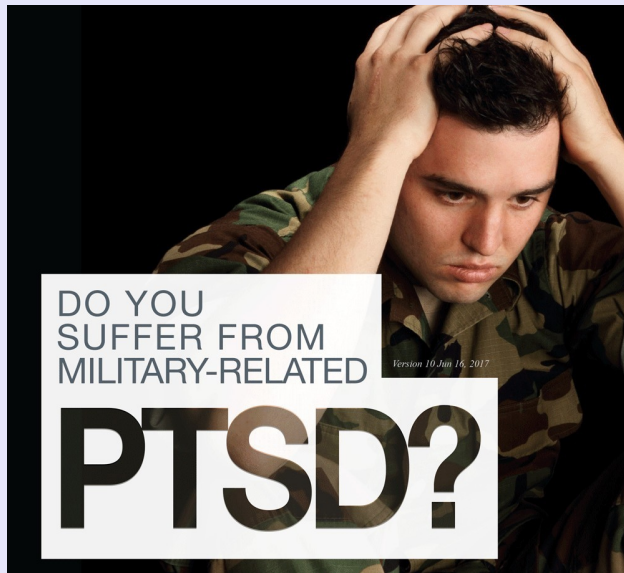


Caregivers: VA is coming to you

VA Caregiver Support Program is hosting Caregiver and Family Resource Fairs at every VA facility to reach caregivers across the country, including those who live in rural areas.

For more information on the Caregiver & Family Resource Fair, contact your local VA medical center.

[Read More](#)



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



Fast Facts About the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)

Curious about Section 8 housing? Below are five fast facts to better understand the Housing Choice Voucher Program to help you on your path of finding government assistance.

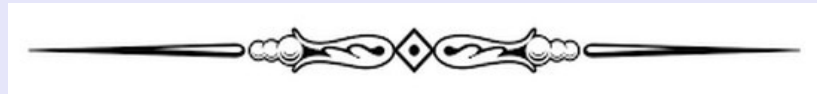
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Golden Age Games competitor fulfills promise to father

Veteran and retired VA employee Mary Bader first became interested in the Golden Age Games when her Korean War Veteran father participated.

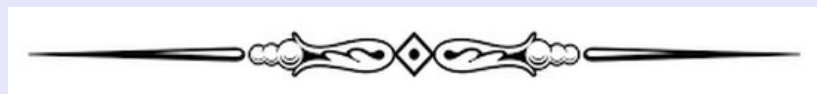
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Fly Girls: Ann Baumgartner

United States Army Air Forces pilot Ann Baumgartner made history as the first American woman to fly the Bell YP-59A jet fighter during World War II. She was a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program.

[Read More](#)



A day of competition and camaraderie: Veterans swing away in wheelchair softball

The Mets, Nets, Giants, Islanders, and Yankees competed last week at Randall's Island Park in New York City. The Islanders captured the gold medal, the Nets the silver, and the Yankees the bronze. VA and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) co-presented the wheelchair games from Aug. 7 to 14.

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Know the Warning Signs **It Matters.**

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

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

The presence of the following signs requires immediate attention:

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

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



Don't Hesitate: Vaccinate Today for School

Back-to-school time is here already, and many parents are required to show proof of vaccinations before their children can return to in-person classes.

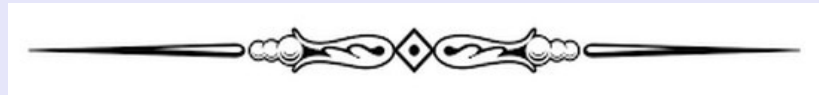
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New VA outpatient clinic opens in Tulsa

The new outpatient clinic in Tulsa has opened its doors for Veterans in Eastern Oklahoma. The new clinic will serve 36,000 Veterans.

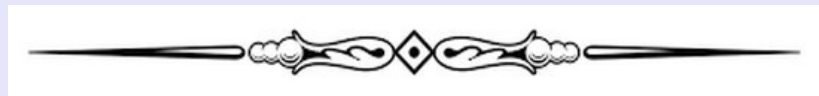
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Kansas City VA's new clinic largest in health care system

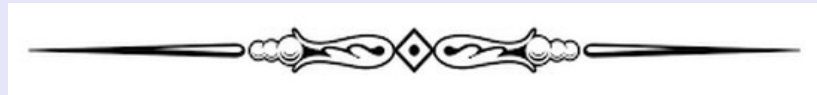
New Kansas City VA clinic will provide multiple primary care and specialty services for Veterans. Reduces need to travel to main campus.

[Read More](#)



Congress Passes Dog Training Pilot Program

The Senate passed VFW-supported [H.R. 1448](#), the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act. This legislation would establish a pilot program on dog training therapy for veterans diagnosed with PTSD and require VA to provide service dogs for those veterans, including veterinary insurance. In recent congressional statements for the record submitted to both the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs, VFW National Legislative Service Deputy Director Tammy Barlet noted that studies and anecdotal evidence indicate veterans diagnosed with PTSD who have service dogs experience increased participation in social settings and overall satisfaction with life. The bill, which passed the House in May, now heads to the president's desk for signature.



[Links to Other Stories](#)

- 1) 'A new low': TRICARE cuts services for children with autism, concerning military families
- 2) Cost of caring for Iraq, Afghanistan Vets could top \$2.5 trillion: report
- 3) Federal and State Authorities Reach Settlement with Blessing Hospital Over Medicare and Medicaid Fraud Claims
- 4) Grand jury indicts doctor for illegally prescribing controlled substances and other charges
- 5) Grand jury indicts individual for health-care fraud and drug offenses
- 6) Hartford Optician and Business to Pay More Than \$678K to Resolve False Claims Act Allegations
- 7) Husband and Wife Sentenced in Large-Scale Fraud and Bribery Scheme Involving Two South Florida VA Hospitals
- 8) Journalist Joe Galloway, chronicler of Vietnam War, dies
- 9) Nevada Medical Practice Agrees to Pay \$1 Million to Resolve Allegations of False Medicare Reimbursement Claims
- 10) Ninth Defendant Pleads Guilty in TRICARE Scheme
- 11) Nurse Practitioner Charged in Alleged \$2.3 Million Health Care Fraud Scheme
- 12) Pharmacist Arrested for Selling COVID Vaccination Cards Online
- 13) Retired Navy SEAL calls for resignations of top Biden admin officials: 'They've abjectly failed'
- 14) Suburban Chicago Nursing Facility to Pay \$360,000 To Resolve False Claims Act Allegations
- 15) VA Certificate of Eligibility requirements: What to know
- 16) Veterans Affairs employee pleads guilty to theft of medical equipment
- 17) Vietnam Vet repays family of fallen Plymouth soldier for battlefield loan



Keep Your Kids' Physicals & Immunizations Up to Date

It's BacktoSchool season! Have you scheduled your child's preventive health exams and immunizations?

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#VeteranOfTheDay Air Force Veteran John Alfred Ringhofer

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Air Force Veteran John Alfred Ringhofer, who served as a teletype cryptographic equipment repairman.

[Read More](#)



Emotions run high as Veterans visit 9/11 memorial on eve of 20th anniversary of attacks

Nearly 3,000 Americans perished on Sept. 11, 2001, in the deadliest attack ever on U.S. soil. The chilling day is simply known as 9/11.

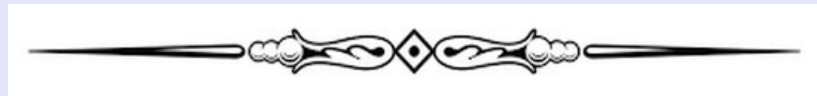
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#VeteranOfTheDay Marine Corps Veteran Brian L. Lane

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Marine Corps Veteran Brian L. Lane, who fought in the Battle of Kuwait International Airport during Desert Storm.

[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

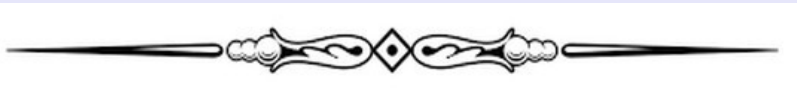
InTransition
1-800-424-7877

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

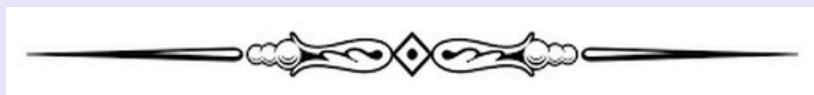


Stay on Top of Back-to-School Health With TRICARE

If you've put off routine appointments for your children due to the pandemic, it's important to schedule them now.



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Dog and Veteran team visits Vets, spreads joy

Lou Lewis and Petey are a popular team with lots of Vets. Petey, a 9-year-old greyhound, joins Lewis on animal visitations with Veterans.

[Read More](#)



Live Whole Health #84: Hip hinge to strengthen your lower back

Strengthening and protecting your lower back is one of the best things you can do for your body every day. Here's how the hip hinge can help.

[Read More](#)



VA engineers make health care better for Veterans and providers

Seeing Veterans and health providers reap the benefits of well-executed engineering projects is a reward that's unique to VA engineers.

[Read More](#)



Senate Passes Bill to Assess VA Benefit Disparities

The Senate passed VFW-supported [S. 1031](#), which would require a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by VA. The Government Accountability Office would be tasked with assessing disparities in compensation benefits, with particular focus on disability evaluations based on pain and rejection of fully developed claims. Understanding race and ethnic disparities and correcting those wrongs within VA can help ensure all veterans are properly compensated for their injuries.



Talking About Afghanistan – We're Here to Help

Current events in Afghanistan have left many in our community feeling understandably upset. The mental, physical and emotional wounds are deep. You may be wondering about the impact of your sacrifice and service, or the service of those who deployed there.

You are not alone. Remember that what is happening now does not minimize or negate the experiences of all who served there. Countless answered the call of duty and did what was asked of them. Service is never for naught. Think about the times when valor and courage changed lives for the better. Or, focus on the present and what feels meaningful to you in this moment.

If you're feeling this way, it will take time to process your feelings. Talking can be very therapeutic, whether it's to a local chaplain, psychologist or someone you served with in the military. Do what feels right for you. There is not one way to think or feel or act. The important thing is to take advantage of available mental health care resources.

Remember that this is one moment in time and regardless of what comes next, we will get through it together.

The following resources are available:

- The [Real Warriors Campaign](#) aims to break down the stigma associated with mental health care and encourages service

members to reach out for help when they need it. Find articles with support resources, video profiles with service member and veteran stories, and materials to download or order.

- The [Psychological Health Resource Center](#) is available 24/7 for service members, veterans, and family members with questions about psychological health topics. Trained mental health consultants can help callers access mental health care and community support resources in their local area. Click on the link or call 866-966-1020 for assistance.
- The [inTransition Program](#) is a free confidential program that provides specialized coaching and assistance for service members, National Guard members, reservists, veterans, and retirees who need access to mental health care when relocating to another assignment, returning from deployment, transitioning between active duty and reserve component, preparing to leave military service, or any other time they need a new mental health provider, or need a provider for the first time. Click on the link or call 800-424-7877.
- The [Military Crisis Line](#), text-messaging service, and online chat provide free VA support for all Service members, including members of the National Guard and Reserve, and all Veterans, even if they are not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care. Click on the link to chat, call: 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, or text: 838255.
- [TRICARE](#) offers mental health care to all its enrollees. Click to find out how and to find other links to mental health providers through the TRICARE network.
- [Military Medical Treatment Facilities](#) often provide mental health services, including integrated behavioral health clinics. Contact your primary care manager to see if this resource is available at your local MTF. If it is, you can schedule an appointment same day.
- [Military One Source](#) can provide access to confidential

Military Family Life Counselors in your community. Click on the link or call 1-800-342-9647.

- **Military OneSource** also provides resources so you can manage stress and access benefits and tools that will help you stay strong in body and mind. This page provides access to self-care mobile applications developed within the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and other partners. All mobile applications are free and for iOS and/or Android devices.
- Visit these [Health.mil](#) and [Tricare.mil](#) Military Health System web pages for more information.

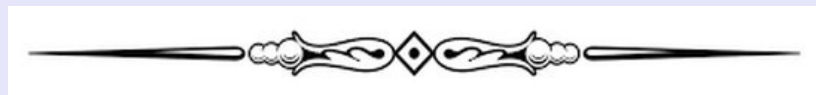
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Vet credits Whole Health for return to full life

Marine Veteran loves his wife, his church, and his bowling league. Thanks to Whole Health from VA, he is there for all of them again.

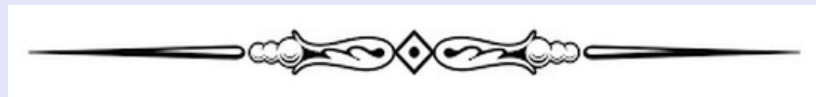
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Once seriously wounded, Army Vet finds hope in basketball, weightlifting at wheelchair games

Roy Wilkins was a football and basketball star at his North Carolina high school and competed in the same two sports at Clemson University, a big-time Division I program in South Carolina. Playing defensive back, he contributed to Clemson's 1981 football team that finished 12-0 and won the national championship. Then, in an instant, Wilkins lost his athletic superiority – or so he thought.

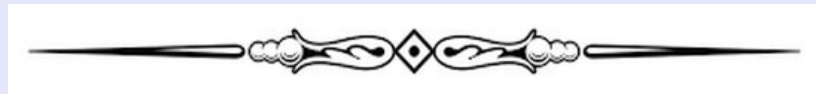
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VA provides student volunteers classes in life-saving skills

Knowing life-saving techniques is an important skill. VA provides South Carolina teenagers hands-on CPR and AED training.

[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 **08/22/21**)

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

1. [HR 1014 - Furnish Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy \(HBOT\) to a Veteran who has a Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\) or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTS\)](#)
2. [HR 109 will establish an advisory committee on the implementation by the DVA of an electronic health record](#)
3. [Concurrent Receipt Legislation Introduced](#)
4. [Expand Concurrent Receipt](#)
5. [FRA and Others asks SecDef Not to Raise TRICARE Fees](#)
6. [H.R. 333, Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act](#)
7. [H.R. 344, Support the Women Veterans TRUST Act](#)
8. [H.R. 914, the Dental Care for Veterans Act](#)
9. [Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act](#)
10. [Oppose TRICARE fee Increases](#)
11. [S. 134/H.R. 637, the Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2021](#)
12. [S. 437, Take Action for Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits](#)
13. [S. 89, Ensuring Survivors Benefits during COVID-19 Act of 2021](#)
14. [STOP TRICARE Fee Increases](#)
15. [Support Bills to Expand Coverage for ChampVA and TRICARE Young Adults](#)
16. [Veterans Economic Recovery Act Introduced](#)
17. [Support Bipartisan Bill to Expanding COVID-19 Vaccine Access for Veterans and Families](#)
18. [H.R. 855, the Veterans Expedited TSA Screening \(VETS\) Safe Travel Act](#)

19. HR 1355 and S 454. These companion bills will provide health care and benefits to Veterans who were exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces at Karshi Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan.
20. Support Repeal of TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee
21. HR 1585 & S 565- Provide for the treatment of Vets who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as Radiation Exposed
22. Please Support S. 344, the Major Richard Star Act
23. Support the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act
24. S. 810 & H.R. 1972, the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
25. HR 109 Establish an Advisory Committee on Implementation by the DVA of an electronic health record
26. HR 2372 and S 952 will Provide for Presumption of Service Connection for certain diseases associated with exposure to toxins
27. Please Ask you Senator to support S.952 the Warfighters Act
28. Support Improving VA Homelessness Program
29. S. 976, Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
30. H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act
31. H.R. 912, American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans Mental Health Act
32. S. 976, the Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
33. HR 2269 and S 657 cover herbicide exposure in Thailand
34. Bipartisan Bill Introduced to Help Military Survivors
35. Legislation asks for Study of Involuntary Discharges for Women
36. H.R. 2436, the Veterans Burn Pit Exposure Recognition Act
37. H.R. 958—the Protecting Moms Who Served Act
38. HR 2127 and S 927, the TEAM bills Veterans Exposed to

Toxic Substances

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

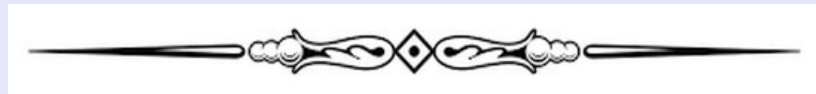
57. H.R. 2724 — VA Peer Support Enhancement for MST Survivors Act

58. Please Support H.R. 3452 —Veterans Preventative Health Coverage Fairness Act

59. HR 2192, The Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2021

60. Ask your member to support S.657 and H.R. 2269, the Agent Orange in Thailand Act

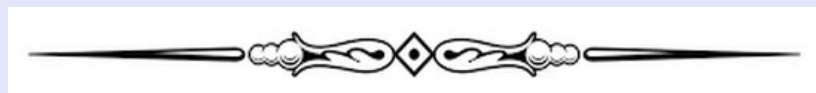
61. Ask your Senator and Congressman to support S 2189 and HR 1014 will direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to furnish hyperbaric oxygen therapy



Lt. Gen. Place and Command Sgt. Maj. Gragg on Getting Vaccinated

Army Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Ron Place, DHA director; and Army Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Gragg, DHA's senior enlisted leader, talk about how getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is more important than ever.

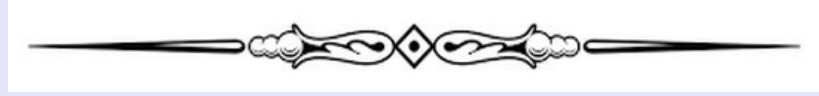
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Army Veteran resupplies the International Space Station

From Private to Colonel to NASA Project Support Manager, Greg Cusimano uses his military experience to help support the advancement of science and space exploration.

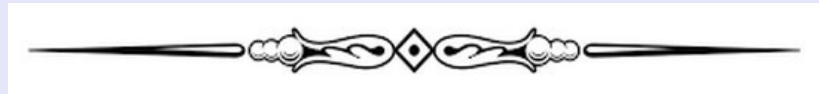
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Live Whole Health #84: Hip hinge to strengthen your lower back

While we may not think about it, the lower back plays a role in just about every movement we make throughout the day. Activities such as getting in and out of a car, carrying laundry, picking up a child or pet, and even brushing our teeth use the muscles in our lower back.

[Read More](#)



#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Louis C. Graziano

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Louis C. Graziano, who was part of the third wave of landings in Normandy during World War II.

[Read More](#)



VFW National Home for Children

The National Home was founded in 1925 as a place where the families left behind by war could remain together. Today's families face many different and difficult circumstances, so the National Home has evolved to help meet those needs. The community is open to the families of active-duty military personnel, veterans, and relatives of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members. If you would like to speak with someone, please call 1.800.313.4200 or [learn 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



Still On the Fence About Getting Vaccinated?

The evidence is clear. COVID-19 vaccines save lives.

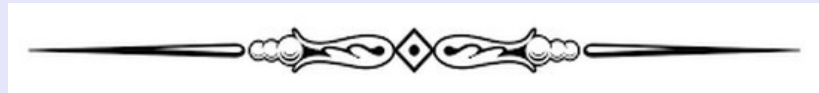
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#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Tom Rice

On National Airborne Day, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Tom Rice, a World War II paratrooper who landed in Normandy on D-Day.

[Read More](#)



Vet credits Whole Health for return to full life

Whole Health helped Joe Morgan find his groove again. Morgan is a people person who loves being active in his church and with his bowling league. Those two things had become almost impossible for Morgan due to severe pain in his body.

[Read More](#)



Meet the 21 military Veterans representing Team USA at the Paralympic Games

The 2020 Paralympic Summer Games kick off with opening ceremonies on Aug. 24 in Tokyo, Japan. Competition begins Aug. 25 and concludes Sept. 6. Nearly 4,400 athletes, representing 100 countries will compete in the Paralympics.

[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



**Services Will Make Call on Religious
Exemptions to COVID-19 Vaccines**

In a memorandum released Aug. 9, 2021, the secretary of defense explained how he will ensure the continued health and safety of the U.S military through the use of the available COVID-19 vaccines.

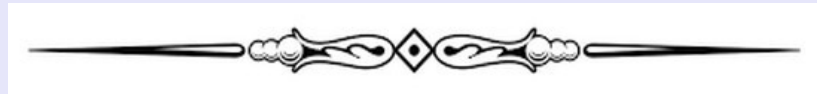
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"Iron-woman" Navy Veteran finds inner strength

Navy Veteran finished her Ironman Triathlon. She didn't expect her body to shut down. Runners will understand the drama at the finish line.

[Read More](#)

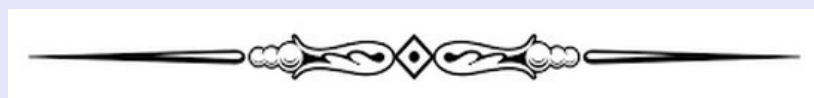


#VeteranOfTheDay Marine Corps Veteran Samuel Sandoval

On Code Talker's Day, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Marine Corps Veteran Samuel Sandoval, a Navajo who fought during World War II. Born in 1922 in Nageezi, New Mexico, Samuel Sandoval attended a Methodist school in western New Mexico for 12 years. They discouraged him from speaking his native Navajo language.

We honor his service.

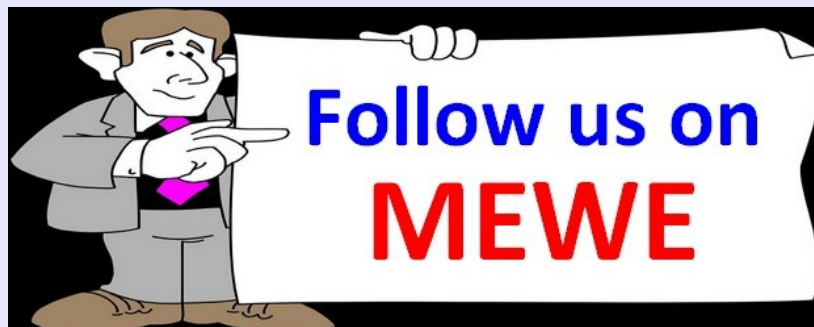
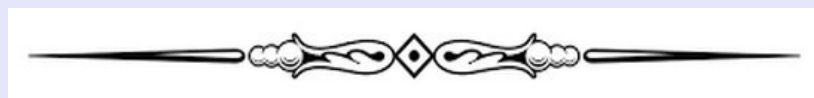
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Veterans, family members have single page to get started for VA benefits, services information

Veteran and family member can access to benefits and services at www.va.gov/getstarted and through two handbooks on the page.

[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.

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[AMVETS GROUP](#)

[VETERANS SOCIAL GROUP](#)

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

[AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY](#)



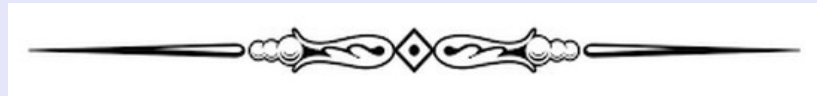
**TRICARE Dental Program Covers Braces.
But Does it Cover Clear Aligners?**



Are you wondering if you can get clear aligners with the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP)? That's a common question many TDP enrollees

have—and we've got the answer for you. The TDP covers clear aligners the same way it covers regular braces. See if you're eligible.

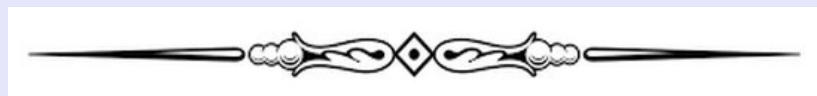
[Read More](#)



'STARPORT' trial probes new approach for aggressive prostate cancer

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Veterans in VA. It accounts for nearly a third of cancer diagnoses. Prostate cancer is often found early and cured with treatments such as surgery or radiation. But some patients' cancer spreads and becomes life-threatening.

[Read More](#)



40th National Veterans Wheelchair Games: Army Vet competes in wheelchair rugby for 1st time in 15yrs

Johnny Holland was a wanted man – for playing wheelchair rugby, that is. Organizers of the 40th National Veterans Wheelchair Games, which are now underway in New York City, sought him and his athletic skills to help fill out the sport with competitors. Holland gladly accepted, helping the "Team Richmond" rugby squad win the gold medal.

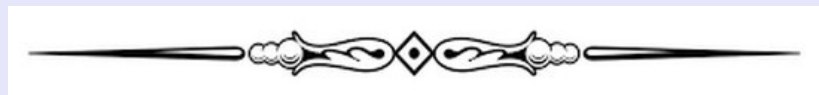
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Veterans can help survivors plan ahead

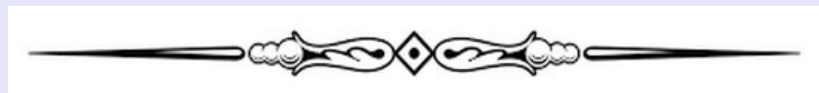
There are certain steps and helpful tools Veterans can take to plan ahead and help their survivors navigate VA when the inevitable comes.

[Read More](#)



Office of Inspector General

- 1) [Federal Debt Management: Treasury Quickly Financed Historic Government Response to the Pandemic and is assessing Risks to Market Functioning](#)
- 2) [Military Families: Additional DOD Actions Could Better Support Military Foster and Adoptive Families](#)



Protect Yourself from COVID-19 Variants

As scientists and health experts work to learn more about COVID-19, they're urging you to keep your guard up. The virus that causes COVID-19 continues to change through mutation, which has caused new variants of the virus to appear in many places around the world. The variant of most concern right now in the U.S. is the Delta variant.

[Read More](#)



Borne the Battle #252: Marine Corps Veteran John Ligato, Battle of Hue City, Undercover FBI Agent

This week's Borne the Battle episode features Marine Corps Veteran John Ligato, who discusses Vietnam combat at Hue City to becoming a deep undercover Special Agent with the FBI.

[Read More](#)



Adaptive fitness competition debuts at 40th National Veterans Wheelchair Games

Today, the Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist is putting her experience in strength and fitness toward leading the first-ever live-virtual adaptive fitness competition at the 40th National Veterans Wheelchair Games, which are underway in New York City.

[Read More](#)



- 1) [5 Things You Need to Know about the COVID-19 Vaccine for Adolescents 12 through 17](#)
- 2) [Bioequivalence Studies With Pharmacokinetic Endpoints for Drugs Submitted Under an ANDA Guidance for Industry](#)
- 3) [BlackBerry QNX Cybersecurity Vulnerabilities May Affect Drug Manufacturing Equipment](#)
- 4) [Cardinal Health Issues Nationwide Recall of Select Monoject™ Flush Prefilled Saline Syringes](#)
- 5) [Cardinal Health Recalls Argyle UVC Insertion Tray Due to Missing Instructions for Use for the Safety Scalpel N11](#)
- 6) [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: August 20, 2021](#)
- 7) [FDA Announces Crowdsourcing Challenge to Solicit Input on Research Questions to Inform Pediatric Drug Development is Extended through September 3, 2021 - Drug Information Update](#)
- 8) [FDA Drug Shortages](#)
- 9) [Frito-Lay Issues Limited Voluntary Recall on Undeclared](#)

Milk in Wavy Lay's Original Potato Chips Distributed in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia

10) Jimmy's Cookies LLC Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Peanuts in Marketside Chocolate Candy Cookie Cake Lot# 1133

11) Office of Pharmaceutical Quality

12) Outbreak Investigation of Salmonella Weltevreden: Shrimp (April 2021)

13) Pfizer Expands Voluntary Nationwide Recall to include Four Additional Lots of CHANTIX® (varenicline) Tablets Due to N- Nitroso Varenicline Content

14) Recalls, Outbreaks & Emergencies

15) RMH Foods, LLC Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Wheat and Tuna in Gordon Choice® Deli Style Tuna and Chicken Salads

16) Stop Using All Eco-Med Ultrasound Gels and Lotions Due to Risk of Bacterial Contamination – Letter to Health Care Providers

17) UPDATE: Caution with Robotically-Assisted Surgical Devices in Mastectomy: FDA Safety Communication



Patriot Boot Camp Partners with Berkeley College to help the military community grow tech startups

Patriot Boot Camp, a 501(c)3, is providing a 2-day virtual fall program presented by Berkeley College on October 14 - 15, 2021. Applications are now open for the October 2021 2-day virtual program that mentors future entrepreneurial leaders. Patriot Boot Camp is partnering with Berkeley College to help the military community grow more tech startups.

[Read More](#)



Veterans Memorial & Education Center Project

By Diane Sherwood

We are working on a Veterans Memorial project in Luverne, Minnesota. In addition to a Vietnam Wall monument, monuments for 9/11, Iraq & Afghanistan and other conflicts, we will have an Education Center. The Education Center will house displays, dioramas, classrooms, videoconferencing, a chapel, restaurant, gift shop and more

The classes, programs and collaborations in the Education Center will make this a special and unique project. We have met with Dakota State University about a possible collaboration with their Cyber Security program for classes, coding and internships. We will also address PTSD, TBI, burn pits in Iraq & Afghanistan and more in the Education Center. We want to do the best job possible in the design/build process

There is information on our website and a military tribute video available at the link below

Have the volume on so you can hear the music:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ko5TNEI5WuNJ_L_c20Bghbl1b8TSZSPb/view?usp=sharing

www.rememberrally.org

Thanks

Diane

Remember Rally

Luverne, MN



Let's talk about Afghanistan: Resources for Veterans and their families

Due to Veterans from all eras reacting to the events in Afghanistan, such as withdrawal and take over by the Taliban, VA is working quickly to share resources, call center information, peer support and other community services.

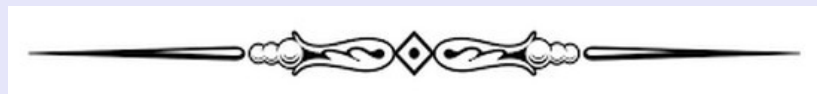
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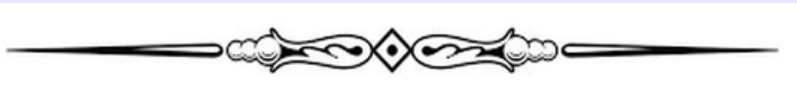
"Iron-woman" Navy Veteran finds inner strength

Navy Veteran Brea Northup, a valued member of the VA workforce in Spokane, recently finished her third Ironman Triathlon. She knew it wouldn't be easy, but this time, what she didn't count on was having her body shut down on her during the race.

[Read More](#)



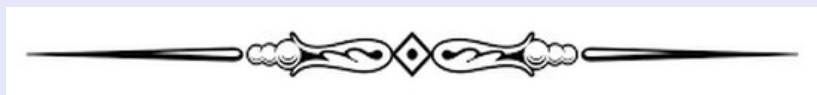
CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER !



Live Whole Health #83: Breathing in the Moment

Deep breathing in the moment can reduce and stabilize your heart rate. It can provide a focus point which allows you to feel more grounded and present. When we are grounded in the present moment, we are less likely to dwell on other thoughts.

[Read More](#)



Revolutionizing VHA's Workforce to Innovate for Veterans

Bringing innovative people together and supporting them so they can improve Veteran care. That's the goal of the Veterans Health Administration Innovation Ecosystem (VHA IE), and it has delivered. VHA IE is supporting innovators from across VHA, creating a culture of innovation that positively impacts as many Veterans' lives as possible. Now, that effort has [...]

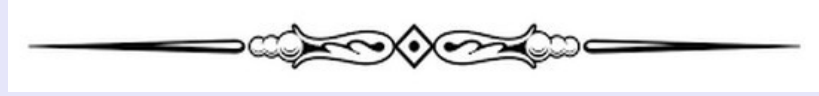
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Connect to opportunities with Fairstream

Fairstream provides access to free events, jobs, and other learning opportunities for all communities including Veterans, military spouses, families, and friends.

[Read More](#)

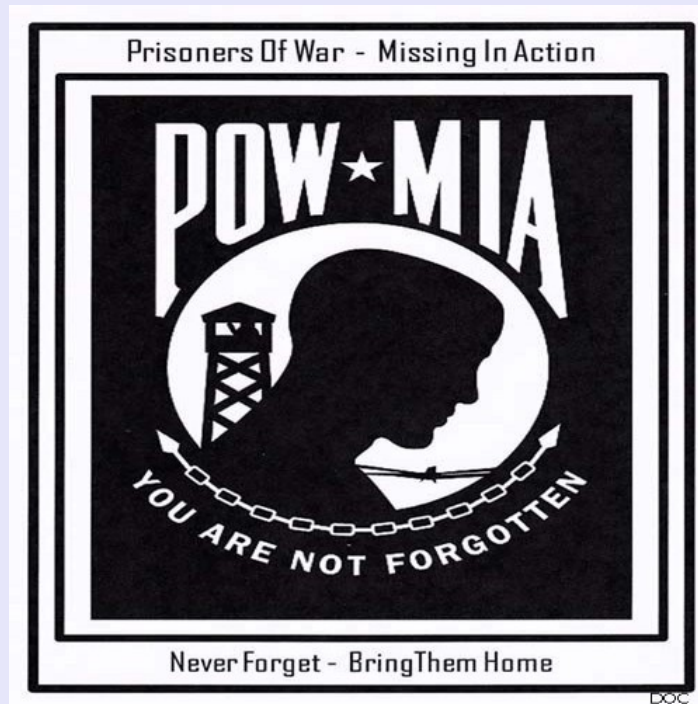


Golden Age Games competitor fulfills promise to father

The path to competing in the Golden Age Games is different for each competitor. Veteran and retired VA employee Mary Bader has found something that makes staying in shape fun. A Veteran of both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, Bader recently competed in her fourth National Veterans Golden Age Games event, earning a silver medal in bowling, and placing fourth overall in the One-Mile Power Walk.

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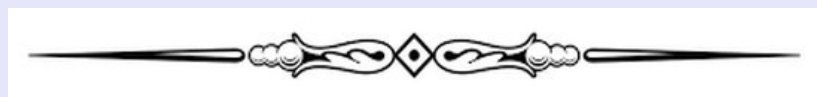


#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Herman Floyd Wagner

On National Purple Heart Day, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Herman Floyd Wagner, who received a Silver Star and Purple Heart during Vietnam. The Army drafted Herman Floyd Wagner Nov. 6, 1962. He completed his basic training and infantry training at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

We honor your service, Herman!

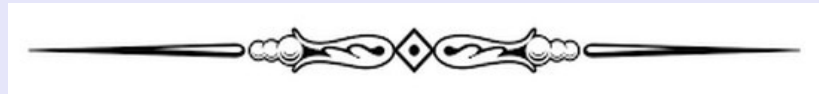
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Afghanistan: How spouses, caregivers can support Veterans with PTSD

The third part of this series focuses on spouses and caregivers, who are often on the front lines of helping a Veteran deal with posttraumatic stress disorder, or PTSD.

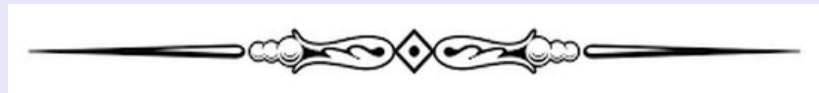
[Read More](#)



#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Keith Allen Campbell

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Keith Allen Campbell, who was killed in action as he was saving the life of a wounded soldier.

[Read More](#)



Dog and Veteran team visits Vets, spreads joy

Lou Lewis of Nashville is retired from the Army and has a very popular dog. Petey, a 9-year-old, 80-pound greyhound, works with Lewis to provide animal visitation with Veterans as part of the Pet Partners organization. "I had a visit yesterday, and one of the Veterans said, 'I could just talk to Petey all day long,'" Lewis said.

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If you received this newsletter as a courtesy or a forward from a friend or relative, you can sign up to receive in your E-mail every week.



[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE VFC NEWSLETTER!](#)



VA brings more appointees aboard

The latest Biden-Harris administration appoints three more leaders to the Department of Veteran Affairs. Welcome to Raphael Chavez-Fernandez, deputy assistant secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs; James Albino, executive director, Center Minority Veterans and our very own, Lourdes Tiglao, executive director, Center for Women Veterans.

[Read More](#)



In vitro fertilization/assisted reproductive program helped this couple's dream come true

Veteran Air Force Major Jacob Kremmel and his wife Christina wanted a family. Fortunately, VA's in vitro program was perfect for them.

[Read More](#)



Medical education at VA: It's all about the Veterans

VA is the largest health care training system in the USA, providing medical education to 120,000 trainees in more than 40 disciplines each year.

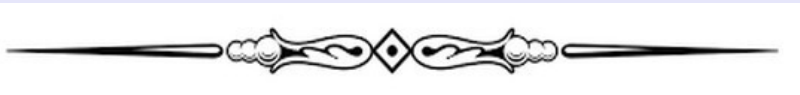
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VA women leaders join women Veterans in research

Women leaders across VA enrolled in a national research program looking at health and illness in Veterans. They invite you to join them.

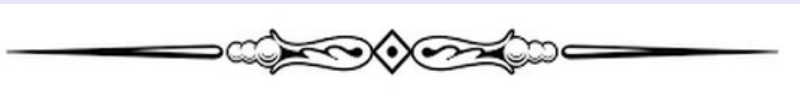
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**Our values
match yours.**

www.veterans-for-change.org

CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE VFC WEBSITE!



Paralyzed Veterans of America honors Spokane VA

Local PVA Executive Director and Veteran Brent King honored the Spokane VA with a special, personal tribute: "Stood tall even when exhausted."

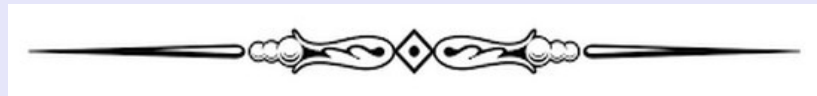
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#VeteranOfTheDay Navy Veteran Stephanie J. Nearing

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Navy Veteran Stephanie J. Nearing, who served as a boatswain's mate from 1988 to 1996.

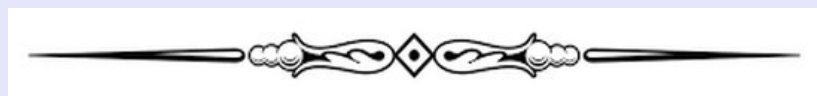
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Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits expanding for Veterans and service members

The GI Bill® – and its derivatives like the Post-9/11 GI Bill – continues to help Veterans, service members, family members and dependents achieve their academic and vocational goals.

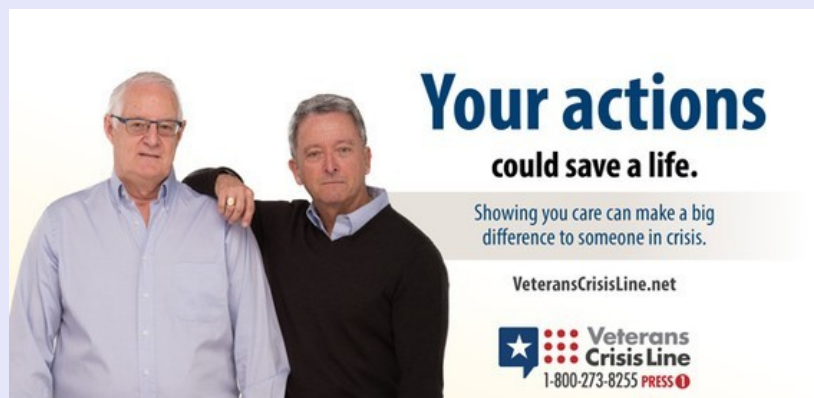
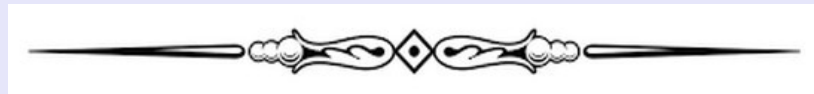
[Read More](#)



National Veterans Wheelchair Games motivates first-time competitor

Army Veteran Kristie Townsend is competing for the first time at the The National Veterans Wheelchair Games, which kicked off Aug. 7 in New York. Veterans are also competing virtually from their homes through Aug. 18.

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#VeteranOfTheDay Marine Corps Veteran Samuel Sandoval

On Code Talker's Day, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Marine Corps Veteran Samuel Sandoval, a Navajo who fought during World War II.

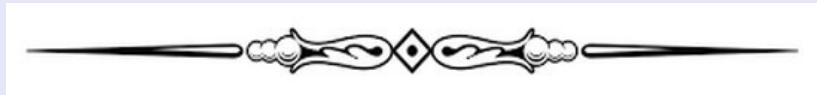
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Marine Veteran shares history of family of Veterans

Veterans whose dad always got you started at 5 a.m. will relate to this Marine Veteran's story. He's a VA hospital director.

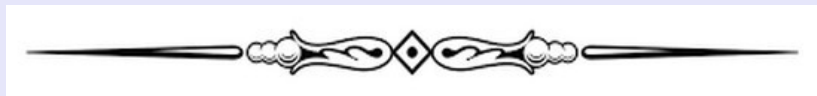
[Read More](#)



Caregiver & Family Resource Fair coming to a location near you

Caregiver and Family Resource Fairs are being held at every VA facility to reach caregivers across the country, including rural areas.

[Read More](#)



Patriot Boot Camp Partners with Berkeley College to help the military community grow tech startups

Patriot Boot Camp, a 501(c)3, is providing a 2-day virtual fall program presented by Berkeley College on October 14 - 15, 2021. Applications are now open for the October 2021 2-day virtual program that mentors future entrepreneurial leaders. Patriot Boot Camp is partnering with Berkeley College to help the military community grow more tech startups.

[Read More](#)



VA Access to Care site provides vaccine equity data, transparency

VA's Access to Care site supports our commitment to transparency. The data has helped to combat myths around COVID-19 vaccinations.

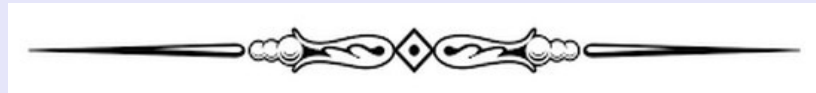
[Read More](#)



VA Secretary Denis McDonough's statement on Afghanistan to Veterans, their families, survivors, and caregivers

To America's Veterans, their families, survivors, and caregivers: I know it is painful to see the images from Kabul and elsewhere in Afghanistan, especially for the hundreds of thousands of Veterans who have served there since that fateful day in September 2001. When our country was attacked, you and your loved ones made the heroic choice to run towards the fight. That courageous sacrifice matters and has made us safer, no matter what happens today or any other day.

[Read More](#)



Independence Fund opens Veteran eligibility to Afghan Interpreters entering U.S. under Special Immigrant Visa (SIV)

The Independence Fund is proud to announce the inclusion of Afghan and Iraqi combat interpreters who served alongside American troops in programming eligibility. The Independence Fund serves catastrophically wounded, injured and ill Veterans and their families to help them regain their independence and assist in adapting to being home after war.

[Read More](#)

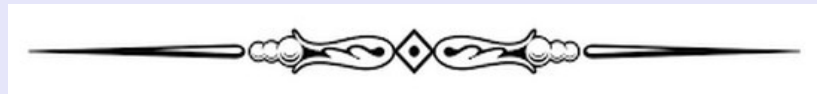


Marine Veteran continues legacy of service by serving Veterans

David B. Isaacks is a Marine Corps Veteran and Director of the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System. He shares what service means to him as a former service member with strong family ties to the military.

"Having served and now knowing what it means to be a service member," says Isaacks, he works for VA because America "must continue its promise to Veterans. And I believe that the best and only place I can fulfill that promise is with VA."

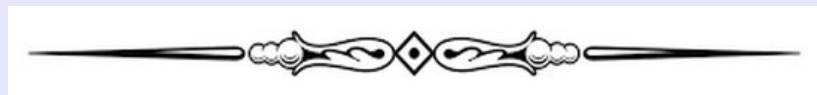
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VA aims to empower Veterans on National Financial Awareness Day

National Financial Awareness Day is devoted to teaching achievable financial principles to help you manage your finances efficiently. VA is dedicated to ensuring that our Veterans are empowered and aware of all available financial tools and resources.

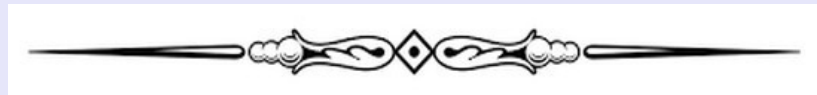
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Coping with current events in Afghanistan

The events in Afghanistan may also trigger reactions among Veterans who fought in other conflicts because it reminds them of their own similar experiences. If your distress is prolonged or you are unable to function well, consider seeking help. There are competent and caring professionals available who can help you with the most common responses such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, moral injury, and complicated grief. It is a good idea to try meeting with a mental health professional at least once. The sooner you get help, the sooner you will feel better.

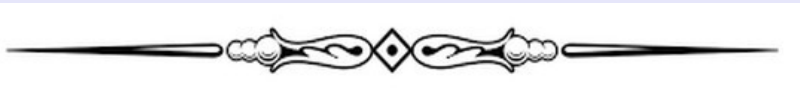
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Once seriously wounded, Army Vet finds hope in basketball, weightlifting at wheelchair games

Roy Wilkins was a football and basketball star at his North Carolina high school and competed in the same two sports at Clemson University, a big-time Division I program in South Carolina. Playing defensive back, he contributed to Clemson's 1981 football team that finished 12-0 and won the national championship. Then, in an instant, Wilkins lost his athletic superiority – or so he thought. Serving as a command sergeant major in the Army's special forces. Wilkins was riding in an armored vehicle that went over a roadside bomb in Afghanistan in November 2004.

[Read More](#)



VA's in vitro fertilization program helps couple become parents

Air Force Veteran Jacob Kremmel and his wife Christina wanted a family. In 2017, they were referred to VA's In Vitro Fertilization/Assisted Reproductive Technologies program and services.

"We're forever grateful to VA. Without them we wouldn't have our daughter," said Kremmel. "We're happy, we're healthy and we're a family, thanks to VA."

[Read More](#)



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one burial update and five new identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II:

Naval Reserve Seaman 1st Class James C. Williams, 20, of Portland, Oregon, 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 Williams. He will be buried on Sept. 10, 2021, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. [Read about Williams.](#)

Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Henry D. Mitchell, 22, was assigned to the 48th Fighter Squadron, 14th Fighter Group, 15th Air Force in the European Theater. On July 8, 1944, he was piloting a P-38 Lightning fighter on a mission outside of Vienna, Austria. His squadron encountered enemy aircraft as it was returning from the target. Mitchell indicated he was alright following the combat, but was never heard from or seen again. With no evidence that Mitchell had survived his disappearance, a presumptive finding of death was issued on July 9, 1945. Interment services are pending. [Read about Mitchell.](#)

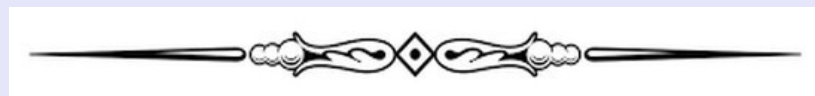
Army Sgt. Larry S. Wassil, 33, was assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, 8th Infantry Division. On Dec. 28, 1944, his unit was part of the Hürtgen Forest offensive, near Hürtgen, Germany. Wassil was leading a three-man reconnaissance team scouting enemy positions when they started taking enemy machine gun fire and were forced to scatter. When the gunfire stopped, Wassil could not be found. A presumptive finding of death was issued on Dec. 29, 1945. Interment services are pending. [Read about Wassil.](#)

Navy Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Herman Schmidt, 28, 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 Schmidt. Interment services are pending. [Read about Schmidt.](#)

Marine Pfc. Charles R. Taylor, 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 Taylor. Interment services are pending. [Read about Taylor.](#)

Navy Machinist's Mate 1st Class Harold F. Carney, 23, 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 Carney. Interment services are pending. [Read about Carney.](#)



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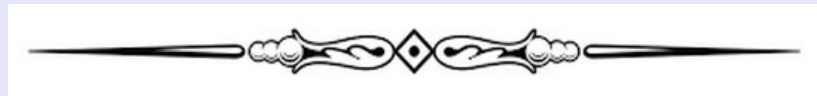
Riverside County, CA

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