



# **Veterans-For-Change Newsletter**

*A Voice of the Veterans*

Week Ending Sunday, September 19, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 38



## **This-N-That**

Good evening Jim,

This week and for the next three to four weeks I will be publishing the newsletter, but in abbreviated format only highlighting the very important information and actions needed to be taken.

I've concentrated so much time to the newsletter, I've faltered on adding new documents and weblinks as well as the FAQs to the website and that makes me feel like I'm not doing my best to provide information many of you need.

For some this might make you happy, others unhappy, but since I'm still a once man show, I need to spread my time a little more equally.

All special items pieces will be added as normal and as they arrive, but I do hope to be back to a little more normal within the month, or at least a little bit closer.

We currently have more than 60 items under the TAKE ACTION section of the newsletter and I know how cumbersome and sometimes time consuming it can be to attack each of them to get the pre-written letters sent out using their system which identifies your individual Rep and Senators for you.

But without your help, none of us are any good at making things happen, and it's YOU who helps! So please keep that in mind when you get to that portion of this newsletter.

As you know we've been working with Military Veterans Advocacy™ for a very long time now and in this newsletter I've incorporated their newsletter so you can see what is going on all across the board with their agency.

I do recommend if you are able to, to support them as much as possible. Commander Wells spends a lot of time in DC campaigning on your behalf.

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)



## **House NDAA Scheduled to Move Forward**

The House plans to debate floor amendments and approve its version of the FY2022 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R.4350) next week. The FRA is supporting two amendments to the NDAA; [Concurrent Receipt](#) and the [Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act](#). Members are strongly urged to use the FRA Action Center to weigh in on these amendments.

The Senate Armed Services Committee has approved its version of the FY2022 NDAA and the full Senate is expected to debate floor amendments and approve its version later this year. Once both chambers approve their bill, a conference committee will be appointed to resolve the differences between the two bills and then submit a final bill to be voted on in the House and Senate. If the bill is approved, it shall be sent to the president to be signed into law or vetoed.



**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)



## **VA Report: Veterans Suicides Declining**

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently released its 2021 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. The report shows a decrease from 2018 to 2019 in the total number of veteran suicide deaths (6 percent) and a decrease in the rate of veteran suicides. Specifically, the VA reported that there were 6,261 veteran suicide deaths in 2019 - 399 fewer than in 2018. Of the 17 veterans who died by suicide per day on average in 2019, approximately ten of them had no recent interaction with the VA health care system. The data also revealed that the female veteran suicide rate decreased by almost 13 percent, which is the largest rate decrease for female veterans in 17 years.



## House NDAA Includes PFAS Chemical Provisions

As reported in the Sept. 3, 2021, NewsBytes, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) marked up and approved the FY2022 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R.4350). Among the many provisions added to the bill, are provisions requiring the Department of Defense (DoD) to clean up per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, contaminated sites on military installations. The cleanup must comply with state standards. Additional PFAS requirements added to the bill include:

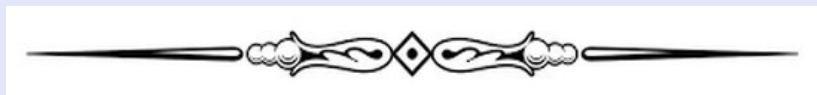
- Requiring the DoD to offer PFAS exposure evaluation and testing for service members who want that as part of their annual examination;
- Requiring the agency to publish the results of drinking and ground water PFAS tests conducted on or near military installations or former defense sites; and
- Requiring the DoD to report by March 1, 2022, progress it's making identifying firefighting foams that don't contain PFAS, but can effectively address the high-risk jet fuel and other fires with which military bases deal.

The FRA is a member of the TEAM (Toxic Exposure in the American Military) coalition that is working to establish a comprehensive framework to address past, present, and future toxic exposures in the military at locations both domestic and abroad.



## **Congress is Leaving Veterans Behind**

Congress is voting now on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2022. Amendments have been added to the NDAA for [H.R. 1115 / S. 535](#), the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act, and [H.R. 1282 / S. 344](#), the Major Richard Star Act. Post-9/11 veterans deserve to be honored with a GWOT memorial on the National Mall and Purple Heart recipients deserve to receive all the benefits they earned. Now is the time to move these two important pieces of legislation forward. Contact your members of Congress TODAY and demand they pass this crucial legislation. **TAKE ACTION!**



## **VA Extends Presumptive Period for Gulf War Illness Disability Claims**

VA has extended the time limit for veterans of the Persian Gulf War to make disability claims for presumptive conditions associated with Gulf War Illness. Since military operations in Southwest Asia continue and there is scientific uncertainty as to the causes and onset time of symptoms, the presumptive period has been extended from Dec. 31, 2021, to Dec. 31, 2026. Public comments on this amendment by VA may be submitted to the [Federal Register](#) through Oct. 14, 2021.



## VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" Now Open

Scholarship applications for the spring 2022 semester are being accepted now through Nov. 15. Veterans can face many challenges while furthering their education, and even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic. Let Sport Clips and the VFW help you succeed in reaching your educational goals. This scholarship can help ease the financial burden by providing up to \$5,000 of assistance per semester, per family, for service members and veterans in the rank of E-5 and below. [Apply now.](#)



**Your actions**  
**could save a life.**

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

VeteransCrisisLine.net

 **Veterans  
Crisis Line**  
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

The advertisement features two men, one in a light blue shirt and glasses, and another in a dark sweater, with the latter's arm around the first. The text is in blue and black, with a white background for the text area.

## Online Suicide Prevention Training



VA has collaborated with PsychArmor Institute to provide the public with a 25-minute online training course in suicide prevention awareness. The free training video, [S.A.V.E.](#) (Signs, Ask, Validate, Encourage and Expedite), covers suicide as a public health issue, signs of suicide risk, and what actions can be taken. [Read more](#). For any veteran in crisis, you are not alone. The Veterans Crisis Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by phone (1.800.273.8255, press 1), text (838255), or online chat by visiting [VeteransCrisisLine.net](#).



## **VFW Celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month**

The VFW is proud to celebrate our nation's service members and veterans of Hispanic heritage during National Hispanic Heritage Month from Sept. 15 - Oct. 15. More than 230,000 Hispanic and Latino people serve in the armed forces. Since the Revolutionary War, Hispanic Americans and Latin American immigrants have served in large numbers in every conflict up to present day. Among them, 61 were awarded the Medal of Honor. The VFW salutes all service members, veterans, comrades, and their families of Hispanic heritage for their indelible contributions to our freedom and our way of life.



## **Gold Star Families Remembrance Week**

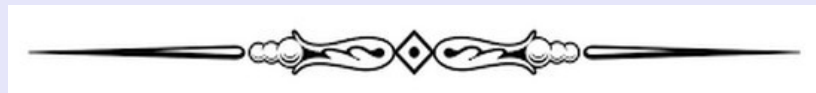


In 2018, Congress designated Sept. 23 - Sept. 29 as Gold Star Families Remembrance Week to honor and recognize the sacrifices made by the families of members of the armed forces who made the ultimate sacrifice. This year, Gold Star Mother's and Family Remembrance Day will be observed on Sept. 26. All Americans are encouraged to perform acts of good will and celebrate the families of those who gave their lives for our freedom.



**Here are 5 mobile security tips to help keep your information safe**

- 1) Secure and strong passwords — Choose at least eight characters and leverage multi-factor authentication whenever possible (e.g., password plus a second form of authentication, such as a texted pin code).
- 2) Avoid public Internet connections — If you are not required to enter a password to connect, the Internet connection is not secure. Whenever possible, avoid using these types of public network connections, especially when performing activities involving personal and/or sensitive information.
- 3) Keep your applications up to date — Keeping your operating system and applications current ensures that you receive security updates and improvements to keep your mobile device secure.
- 4) Review application permissions — Be cautious about granting applications permissions they do not need. If you no longer need or want an application to have access to your files and camera, for example, removing that access is another way to minimize your security risk.
- 5) Take precautions when sharing devices — If you must use a personal mobile device for work, especially if that device is shared with others in your household, make sure to take extra precautions. Ensure you close your remote sessions down before sharing the computer with other members of the household, and consider creating different login accounts for each user in the household.





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 09/13/21)

Please note, we've added 0 new items to the TAKE ACTION list.

1. [HR 1014 - Furnish Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy \(HBOT\) to a Veteran who has a Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\) or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTS\)](#)
2. [HR 109 will establish an advisory committee on the implementation by the DVA of an electronic health record](#)
3. [Concurrent Receipt Legislation Introduced](#)
4. [Expand Concurrent Receipt](#)
5. [FRA and Others asks SecDef Not to Raise TRICARE Fees](#)
6. [H.R. 333, Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act](#)
7. [H.R. 344, Support the Women Veterans TRUST Act](#)
8. [H.R. 914, the Dental Care for Veterans Act](#)
9. [Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act](#)
10. [Oppose TRICARE fee Increases](#)
11. [S. 134/H.R. 637, the Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2021](#)
12. [S. 437, Take Action for Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits](#)

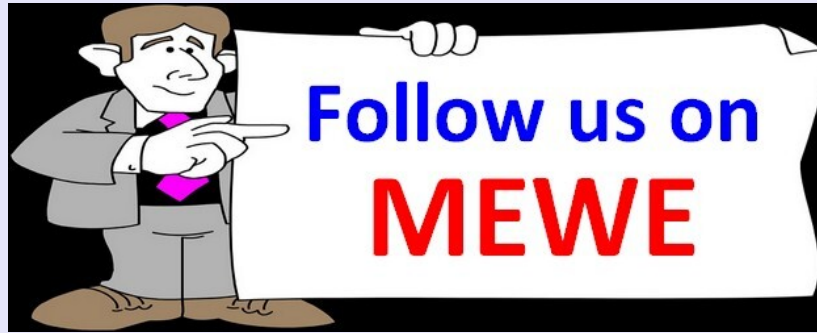
13. S. 89, Ensuring Survivors Benefits during COVID-19 Act of 2021
14. STOP TRICARE Fee Increases
15. Support Bills to Expand Coverage for ChampVA and TRICARE Young Adults
16. Veterans Economic Recovery Act Introduced
17. Support Bipartisan Bill to Expanding COVID-19 Vaccine Access for Veterans and Families
18. H.R. 855, the Veterans Expedited TSA Screening (VETS) Safe Travel Act
19. HR 1355 and S 454. These companion bills will provide health care and benefits to Veterans who were exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces at Karshi Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan.
20. Support Repeal of TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee
21. HR 1585 & S 565- Provide for the treatment of Vets who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as Radiation Exposed
22. Please Support S. 344, the Major Richard Star Act
23. Support the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act
24. S. 810 & H.R. 1972, the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
25. HR 109 Establish an Advisory Committee on Implementation by the DVA of an electronic health record
26. HR 2372 and S 952 will Provide for Presumption of Service Connection for certain diseases associated with exposure to toxins
27. Please Ask you Senator to support S.952 the Warfighters Act
28. Support Improving VA Homelessness Program
29. S. 976, Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
30. H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act
31. H.R. 912, American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans

## Mental Health Act

32. S. 976, the Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
33. HR 2269 and S 657 cover herbicide exposure in Thailand
34. Bipartisan Bill Introduced to Help Military Survivors
35. Legislation asks for Study of Involuntary Discharges for Women
36. H.R. 2436, the Veterans Burn Pit Exposure Recognition Act
37. H.R. 958—the Protecting Moms Who Served Act
38. HR 2127 and S 927, the TEAM bills Veterans Exposed to Toxic Substances
39. Ask your Senator to Support S.1520 Military Justice Improvement Act
40. Ask your member to support S.810 and H.R. 1972 The Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
41. Ask your member and senator to support HR 2580 and S 1151 to provide for a presumption of service connected disability for certain Veterans who served in Palomares, Spain, and for other purposes
42. "Bold New Plan" for Veterans Toxic Exposure (S. 927/H.R. 2127)
43. Ask your Senator to Support S.1520 Military Justice Improvement Act
44. HR 855, VETS Safe Travel Act
45. HR 3368, the Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Island bill
46. H.R. 2521, Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Affairs Act of 2021
47. H.R. 1273, the Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act
48. H.R. 2968, the Military and Veteran Student Loan Relief Act
49. H.R. 845, the VA Billing Accountability Act

50. Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Bill Introduced in House
51. S. 1031, Legislation Requiring a Study to Look at Disparities in VA Claims
52. Action Alert: Tell Congress to Support the COST of War Act and the Honoring our PACT Act!
53. HR 303 and S 1147 The Retired Pay Restoration Act
54. Ask Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipt Reform HR-1282
55. HR 1656 TREAT PTSD Act
56. S. 1664, the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Processing Claims Improvement
57. H.R. 2724 — VA Peer Support Enhancement for MST Survivors Act
58. Please Support H.R. 3452 —Veterans Preventative Health Coverage Fairness Act
59. HR 2192, The Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2021
60. HR 5026, The Panama Canal Zone Veterans Act of 2021
61. HR 3368, HR 5026, HR 2269, S 657 are all Toxic Exposure Bills that need special attention and more pressure to get passed!
62. H.R. 4627, Veterans' Culturally Competent Care Act of 2021
63. S. 2172, Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness
64. H.R. 4571, the SERVICE Act of 2021
65. S. 796, Protecting Moms Who Served Act





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We hope you will join us on this new site.

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**Office of Inspector General**



- 1) Chronic Health Conditions: Federal Strategy Needed to Coordinate Diet-Related Efforts
- 2) Veterans Justice Outreach Program: Further Actions to Identify and Address Barriers to Participation Would Promote Access to Services



- 1) 5 Things to Know about Delta-8 Tetrahydrocannabinol – Delta-8 THC
- 2) All Ultrasound Gels and Lotions Manufactured by Eco-Med Pharmaceutical, Inc. Recalled Due to Risk of Bacteria Contamination
- 3) Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: September 17, 2021
- 4) Eight Medical International Recalls Recirculator 8.0 Disposable Lavage Kits due to Potential Exposure to High Levels of Aluminum
- 5) Enforcement Policy for Face Masks, Barrier Face Coverings, Face Shields, Surgical Masks, and Respirators During the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency (Revised)
- 6) FDA Advances Data, IT Modernization Efforts with New Office of Digital Transformation
- 7) FDA alerts patients and health care professionals not to use compounded products intended to be sterile from Prescription Labs Inc. dba Greenpark Compounding Pharmacy
- 8) FDA authorizes bamlanivimab and etesevimab monoclonal

antibody therapy for post-exposure prophylaxis (prevention) for COVID-19

- 9) FDA Continues Collaboration with Drug Compounders as Second Anniversary of Compounding Quality Center of Excellence Approaches
- 10) FDA Drug Shortages
- 11) FDA Updates and Press Announcements on Nitrosamine in Varenicline (Chantix)
- 12) Federal Court Enters Consent Decree Against Florida Compounder, Prohibiting Manufacture and Distribution of Drugs Due to Insanitary Conditions
- 13) Federal Court Enters Consent Decree Against Florida Compounder, Prohibiting Manufacture and Distribution of Drugs Due to Insanitary Conditions
- 14) Frequently Asked Questions | Clozapine REMS Modification
- 15) Global Generic Drug Affairs
- 16) Jacobus Pharmaceutical Company Inc. Issues Voluntary Worldwide Recall of Ruzurgi® (amifampridine) 10 mg Tablets Due to Yeast, Mold, and Bacterial Contamination
- 17) Pfizer Expands Voluntary Nationwide Recall to include All Lots of CHANTIX® (Varenicline) Tablets Due to N-Nitroso Varenicline Content
- 18) Philips Respironics CPAP, BiPAP, and Ventilator Recall: Frequently Asked Questions
- 19) Potential for False Positive Results with Abbott Molecular Inc. Alinity m SARS-CoV-2 AMP and Alinity m Resp-4-Plex AMP Kits - Letter to Clinical Laboratory Staff and Health Care Providers
- 20) Potential Risk of Aluminum Leaching with Use of Certain Fluid Warmer Devices - Letter to Health Care Providers
- 21) Smiths Medical Recalls NORMOFLO Irrigation Fluid Warmers and Warming Sets Due to the Possibility of Harmful

## Levels of Aluminum Leaching into the Fluid Path of the Warmers

22) Velvet Ice Cream Voluntarily Recalls Raspberry Fudge Cordial Ice Cream Due to Undeclared Peanuts



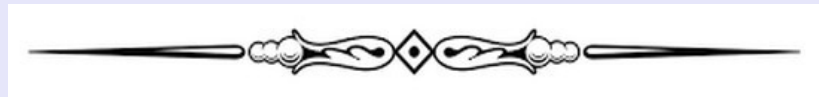
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CAN MAKE  
**ALL THE DIFFERENCE!**



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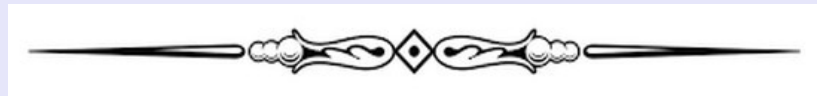
Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today

[www.Veterans-For-Change.org](http://www.Veterans-For-Change.org)

Serving those who served!

**Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends and Family!**



**Please do not reply to this E-Mail, this is an unattended E-Mail address, please send all correspondence to:**

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

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