



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, October 24, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 43



This-N-That

Good afternoon Jim,

First off, this week I'd like to remind everyone to get your DEERS (Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System) updated with all current information.

TRICARE is also hosting a Webinar on enrollment on November 4th. It would be a good idea to register and participate.

Veterans Benefits Guide is now also available, and there is a link further down in this newsletter so you can access the guide.

By now I'm sure you all are aware that General Colin Powell

has passed away due to complications of the COVID vaccine.

Our hearts and prayers go out to the Powell family.

We're adding another **TAKE ACTION** item to the list and we desperately need everyone to participate in each on so we can get them to the floor for a vote and passage in both houses.

Many Veterans and their families are counting on all of us to help them. And as I've said many times, some might not help you, but will others, and when the time comes, I'm sure they in turn will help get legislation passed that will help you!

Please help us to help you and your families today!

I had fully intended to upload another 200+ documents, but we ran into a surprise where many had a number of blank pages that needed to be removed to make the files smaller and take up less space on the server. But we are still working on that group and looking forward to being able to upload in the next 7-10 days.

We also have another large batch of web links to add, but for now the focus is on adding the new documents first.

If you don't have an account on our website, please do create an account so you will have access to thousands more documents. Just please keep in mind to Provide at least a First name and Last initial, and don't use your E-Mail address as a user ID.

And allow me 24 hours to manually approve and notify you. We've developed another hiccup and since our webmaster is hard focused on the new design, we're not making any repairs

for now.

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.

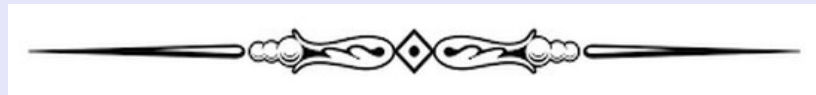
On behalf of our Volunteers nationwide and myself, we wish you and your family good health!

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org



Are You Ready for Open Season? Don't Forget to Update DEERS

We're less than a month away from TRICARE Open Season. That means it's time to start thinking about your and your family's health care needs for next year. Are you planning to make changes to your TRICARE plan? Will you be enrolling in a new plan for the first time or staying in your current plan? Regardless of your situation, make sure you show up as eligible for TRICARE in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

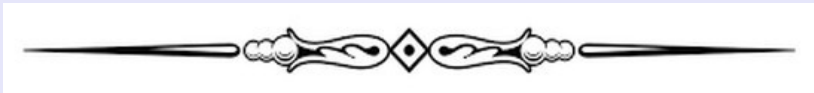
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Register to Join Nov. 4 Webinar on TRICARE Open Season

TRICARE Open Season is almost here. So, get ready. Starting Nov. 8, you have a chance to make changes to your TRICARE health plan for the upcoming plan year. If you have questions about open season, join the TRICARE webinar, "Making the Most of the TRICARE Open Season," on Nov. 4 at 1 p.m. ET to learn more about your coverage options for 2022.

[Read More](#)



Military Veterans Advocacy

Military Veterans Advocacy is offering some free memberships for those who are struggling to get their claims through, are having financial difficulties. Annual dues are \$25.00 per year. Our organization includes



special sections, Blue Water Navy, Veterans of Southeast Asia, Central Pacific Islands, Veterans of Panama Canal Zone, and Okinawa. We have gift members available which can be paid by your fellow brother or sister Veterans. Gift members are kept confidential. Click [HERE](#) and help a Veteran.

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



Live Whole Health #93 – Yoga Stretch

Do you feel discomfort, pain or stiffness from sitting or being in one position for too long? We spend a lot of time using computers or handheld devices, driving or cooking with our hands and arms in front of us, and our heads bent forward in a slouched position. Being aware of our posture – and stretching to ease tight muscles – with yoga stretch can help restore balance.

[Read More](#)



VA Women's Health Transition Training

The Women's Health Services Office at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), is hosting a Women's Health Transition Training #WHTT. The training will provide servicewomen with a deeper understanding of the women's health services available to them within the VA health care system.

[Read More](#)



Mobile Apps: Beyond MST

The Beyond MST app was created for survivors of military sexual trauma (MST). MST is VA's term for sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. Veterans of all genders and backgrounds have experienced MST. The app offers information and resources to help survivors cope with challenges related to MST and improve their health, relationships and quality of life.

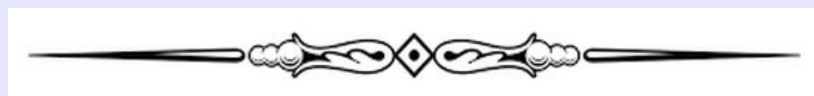
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Mobile apps make it easier for Veterans to manage their health

If you're looking for easy, convenient ways to help boost your health, you might want to check out the many free mobile apps available to Veterans. The apps are either from VA directly or from third-party developers whose Veteran-facing apps go through VA quality checks for efficacy, security and safety. Check out all the apps available to you. They're free, optional and secure.

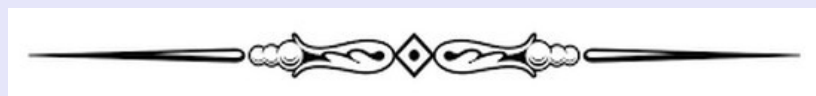
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Fresh Focus S7 #36: How to grow herbs on your own at home

Ever tasted a dish and thought to yourself how flavorful it was? Herbs are often used to enhance a dish and raise the flavor profile to a new level. Herbs are sometimes an afterthought when it comes to meal planning and preparation.

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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**

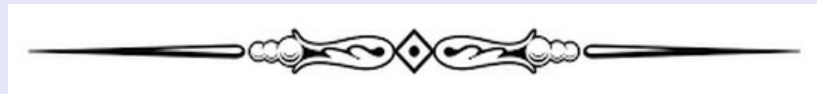
An advertisement for the Veterans Crisis Line. It features two men, one in a light blue shirt and glasses, and another in a dark sweater, with the latter's arm around the first. The text reads: "Your actions could save a life. Showing you care can make a big difference to someone in crisis." Below this is the website "VeteransCrisisLine.net" and the logo for "Veterans Crisis Line" with the phone number "1-800-273-8255" and "PRESS 1".

#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Rocio Garcia

During Hispanic Heritage Month, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Rocio Garcia, who served as a human resources specialist in Iraq. Born in Mexico, Rocio Garcia moved to San Francisco, California, at the age of 14. Graduating high school in 2002, Garcia joined the California National Guard. In November 2002, she completed basic training in Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

We honor your service, Rocio!

[Read More](#)



America250: Navy Veteran Joy Bright Hancock

This week's America250 salute is Navy Veteran Joy Bright Hancock, who served in both World Wars and was director of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES). In 1918, Joy Bright Hancock decided to enlist in the Navy. As a yeoman first class, she was among the first group of women to serve in the Navy.

[Read More](#)



'She is a sweet soul': World War II Women's Reserve vet celebrates 100th birthday in Ocala

U.S. Marine Corps #WWII Vet, Helen Bonomini, turns 100.
Happy Birthday Helen.

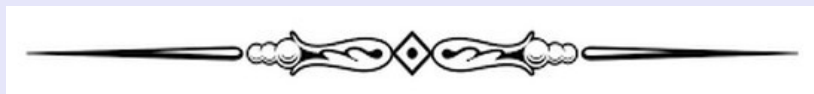
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Forgotten Vets interred at Quantico National Cemetery

U.S. Navy CDR Christine Reilly, 1943-2021, Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Otis Corum, 1957-2019, U.S. Army Pfc. George Komarowski, 1952-2020, and Sgt. Jackie Bryant, 1953-2020 momentarily forgotten, were given a proper interment at Quantico National Cemetery, thanks to the efforts of the Missing in America Project.

[Read More](#)



Take charge of your self-care with Annie App for Veterans

Sometimes we need some extra support while working toward health goals. VA created the Annie App for Veterans for that purpose. Annie sends automated text messages to Veterans to help them focus on self-care. The texts may include health-related notifications, reminders or motivational messages based on your goals or health conditions.

[Read More](#)



Veterans Benefits Guide now available in both print and digital formats

VBA partnered with Stars and Stripes to create a special edition insert for the publication called "The Veterans Benefits Guide." The print and digital publication, which highlights VA benefits and services available for transitioning service members and their families, is available now.

[Read More](#)



Know the Warning Signs

It Matters.

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

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

The presence of the following signs requires immediate attention:

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

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



#VeteranOfTheDay Air Force Veteran Andrew Ho

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Air Force Veteran Andrew Ho, who served as a cook for seven years, including in Kuwait and Niger. Andrew Ho joined the Air Force in 2010. He served as a cook during two deployments in Kuwait and Niger. During his seven years of dedicated service, he earned Senior Airman Below the Zone, an early promotion for outstanding Airmen.

We honor your service, Andrew!

[Read More](#)



#VeteranOfTheDay Marine Corps Veteran Baldomero López

During Hispanic Heritage Month, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Marine Corps Veteran Baldomero López, a Korean War Medal of Honor recipient. Baldomero López was born in August 1925 in Tampa, Florida, and grew up in Ybor City, just northeast of downtown Tampa. Named after his father, who immigrated to the U.S. from Spain, López attended Hillsborough High School, where he excelled in basketball.

We honor his service.

[Read More](#)



Agustín Ramos Calero: The Borinqueneers' "One Man Army"

Agustín Ramos Calero is the most decorated Hispanic Veteran of World War II and was a member of the Borinqueneers. Born in 1919, Agustín Ramos Calero grew up in Isabela, Puerto Rico. Coming of age during the Great Depression was difficult, and many Puerto Ricans enlisted in the United States Army to earn a secure income. Calero volunteered in 1941.

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Links to Other Stories

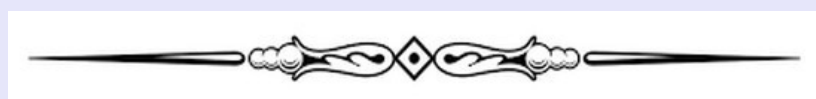
- 1) 300 Veterans Lay Fellow Soldier to Rest Who Had No Immediate Family
- 2) At 100, a San Antonio-area D-Day Veteran can finally talk about the war
- 3) Carterville Nurse Sentenced on Felony Drug and Health Care Fraud Charges
- 4) Civilian-owned company that won millions in contracts for disabled Veteran-owned businesses will pay back \$5 million
- 5) Local Providers Agree to Settle Allegations of Improper Billing for Electro-Acupuncture Devices
- 6) Military Veteran who downloaded child pornography while working aboard NOAA research vessel sentenced to two years in prison
- 7) North Carolina nurse sentenced for defrauding Veteran with dementia of \$90k in benefits
- 8) Pearl Harbor survivor and WWII Veteran wants cards for his 100th birthday
- 9) VA secretary vows to eliminate LA's 'Veterans row' homeless encampment by November
- 10) VHA still experiencing 'severe' staffing shortages in critical fields: watchdog
- 11) When Is Space-A Coming Back for Veterans and Military Families?



Operation Protect Veterans offers tips to identify donation scams

With wildfires in the west, storms like Hurricane Ida in the Gulf coast and northeast, and humanitarian crises like the Afghan refugee situation, there are plenty of worthwhile causes to donate to – and no one knows how to give back quite like Veterans. Unfortunately, scammers often target the generosity of donors by trying to trick them into donation scams and fake causes.

[Read More](#)

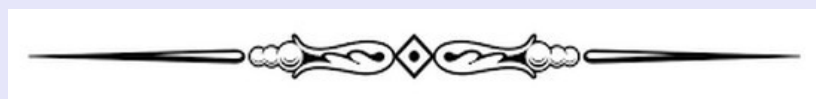


#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran David L. Flores

During Hispanic Heritage Month, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran David L. Flores, who served as a reconnaissance patrolman in the Vietnam War. David L. Flores was born in February 1949 in Santa Ana, California. His family moved to Long Beach shortly after he was born. After graduating high school in June 1967, Flores attended Long Beach City College.

We honor your service, David!

[Read More](#)



**VA proudly supports education, careers, care for
Hispanics**

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, here's a look at VA's programs that support educational and career opportunities for Hispanic minorities. VA's Office of Academic Affiliations offers many educational opportunities through its affiliations with more than 1,800 colleges and universities, including nearly 200 minority-serving institutions.

[Read More](#)



#OperationSong Wayne Dugger: Miss America

The song is about the longing for home in every Veteran's experience while serving in foreign countries. Through each singer's story of how each branch of the military contributes to America's freedom, we learn how much America means to the five Veterans who helped write the lyrics to this song.

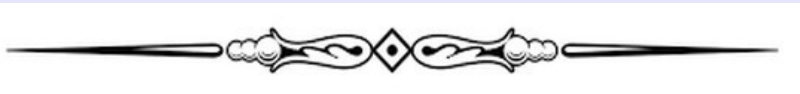
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#VeteranOfTheDay Marine Corps Veteran Phil Klay

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Marine Corps Veteran Phil Klay, who served for four years as a public affairs officer and is now an author.

[Read More](#)



Why I get my health care at VA: Candace

Air Force Reserve Veteran Candace wanted to serve other Veterans. Now she works at a Vet Center, helping Veterans and their family members.

[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



America250: Army Air Forces Veteran Thomas McGuire Jr.

This week's America250 salute is Army Air Forces Veteran Thomas McGuire Jr., who was one of the two highest-scoring aces in American military history.

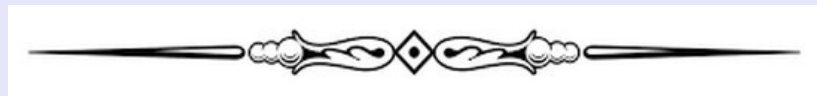
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VA secretary talks claims backlog, homelessness, COVID-19 vaccinations during press conference

Veteran disability claims, homelessness and COVID-19 vaccines were topics VA Secretary Denis McDonough spoke about during a press conference Oct. 20 in Washington D.C.

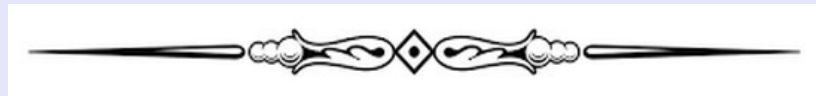
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Message From Monica Diaz, Executive Director, VHA Homeless Programs Office

National Case Management Week is a time to recognize case management professionals for their important roles in helping clients achieve optimum wellness and independence. We celebrate U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) case management professionals across the country for their untiring dedication and compassion in helping Veterans achieve their medical, occupational, and financial goals, and so much more. Their importance in connecting Veterans facing housing crises to the benefits and services they have earned and deserve cannot be overstated. VA case management professionals are integral in leading Veterans facing housing instability down the pathway to permanent housing, skills enhancement, improved income prospects, and greater self-determination.

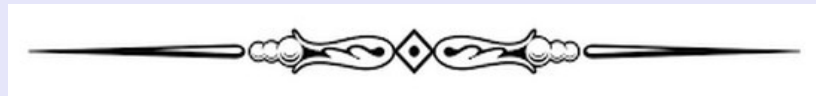
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Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program Update - Shallow Subsidy Expansion

As eviction bans and other COVID-19 related renter protections end, tenants across the country may be at increased risk of eviction. VA recently expanded the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program's Shallow Subsidy Initiative, which has awarded \$200 million to 234 nonprofits nationwide. This initiative will provide rental assistance to eligible low-income Veteran households to help address the widening gap between incomes and housing costs. Visit va.gov/HousingResources for the latest information and resources on eviction prevention, rapid rehousing, and homelessness avoidance.

[Read More](#)

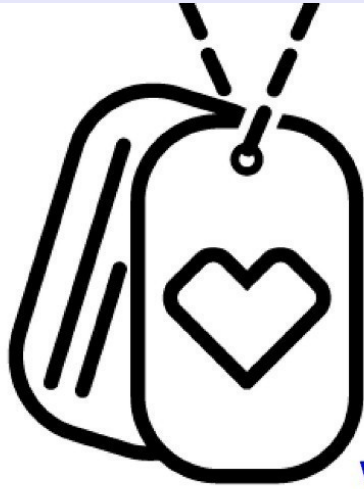


Public Health Prevents Disease in Pods

As part of Operation Allies Refuge, the Public Health team at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, is continuously out in the evacuee camps sharing tips and enforcing regulations to keep Airmen, volunteers and evacuees healthy.

[Read More](#)





**Our values
match yours.**



www.veterans-for-change.org



International Partnerships Foster Improvements in Military Health Care

"Sharing experiences and knowledge helps us to build capacity for innovating and delivering great health outcomes," said Dr. David Smith, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense for health readiness policy and oversight.

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Naval Medical Forces Atlantic Supports Operations Around the Globe

In October, Naval Medical Forces Atlantic surged support to Operation Allies Refuge, Defense Security Cooperation Agency missions, humanitarian assistance in Haiti, and COVID-19 vaccinations at commands from Mississippi to Bahrain.

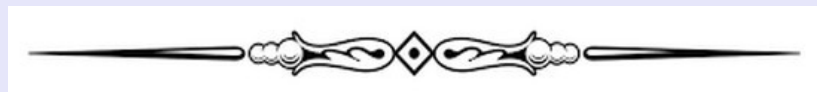
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Task Force Liberty Partners with Local Clinic to Provide Dental Care

The team partnered with the local community in September to provide routine dental care for the first time to Afghans at Liberty Village on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

[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 10/24/21)

Please note, we've added 1 new item 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

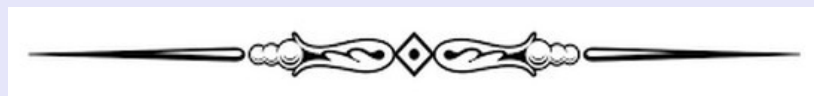
55. HR 1656 TREAT PTSD Act

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
66. H.R. 4732, Protect Individual Unemployability Benefit for All Disabled
67. S. 1937, the Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Act of 2021
68. S. 2283 and H.R. 5073—the Crisis Hotline REACH for Veterans Act
69. HR 852 and S 221, United States - Israel PTSD Collaborative Research Act
70. Ask Congress to Preserve Arlington National Cemetery
71. HR 4949 and S 692, the Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021
72. HR 2963, the VOW to Hire Heroes Extension Act of 2021
73. S 1970, The Clean Water for Military Families Act

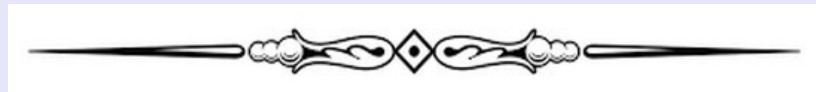


**Veterans Can Apply to Become Wildland
Firefighters**

Squads work on fire mitigation and fuels reduction projects on public lands, giving back to the surrounding communities. Veterans must be flexible, adaptable and able to work in a fluid, changing work environment.

The program is open to Veterans ages 18-35 who can meet a host of qualifications. Veterans must also pass a three-mile hike with 45 pounds in 45 minutes. Training locations are in Georgia and Tennessee. Applications are open thru December or until positions are filled.

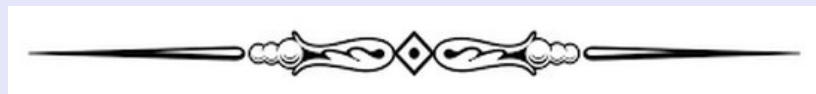
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Tips for How to 'Train Right' and Avoid Injuries During Sports and PT

Sports, recreation and physical training are key to service members' health – physical, mental, and spiritual. But those activities also often lead to the military's single biggest health problem: musculoskeletal injuries.

[Read More](#)



Top Medical Workplace Injuries – And Some Tips to Prevent Them

The top four occupational hazards medical workers face are slips, trips and falls, needle sticks; repetitive motion injuries; and lifting and handling injuries.

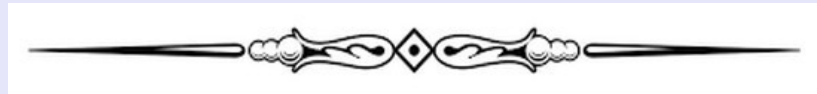
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Train Your Brain for Injury Recovery and Peak Performance

Neuroplasticity, also known as brain plasticity, is your brain's ability to change itself in both structure and function in response to your environment, any experience, feeling, or injury.

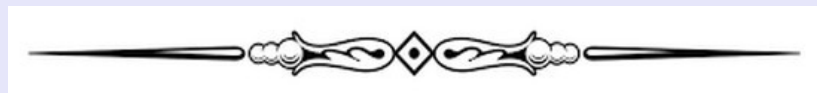
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Flu Shots Are Available Now and Are More Important Than Ever

This year's flu season could pose unique risks as COVID-19 outbreaks continue around the world. It is possible to catch both the flu and COVID-19 simultaneously.

[Read More](#)



SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

TALK:

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



BEHAVIOR:

- Increased use of alcohol or drugs
- Looking for a way to end their lives
- Withdrawing from activities
- Isolating from people
- Sleeping too much or too little
- Visiting or calling people to say goodbye
- Giving away possessions
- Aggression
- Fatigue

MOOD:

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



Peer support specialist shares his recovery story to help others

For Marine Corps Veteran Vince Bryant, the biggest injury he's had to find healthy ways to manage is the wound our eyes can't see: chronic PTSD. He uses his story of personal recovery in his role as a peer support specialist at the Houston VA to empower other Veterans to get help.

"Being a peer support specialist allows me to provide this same recovery opportunity to other Veterans," said Bryant. "By being an open book, I'm reaching out to other Veterans and ensuring they get the very best possible health care from VA."

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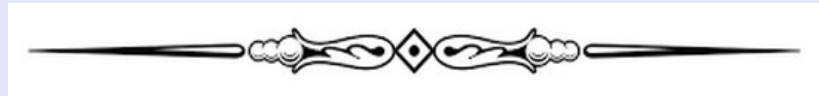


Take these steps to protect your liver

The liver is not only one of the largest organs in your body, but it also has many important jobs. These jobs include: filtering your blood and removing toxins, making proteins needed to help you heal, regulating your hormones and much more.

Keep your liver functioning properly by taking some simple steps to avoid liver damage.

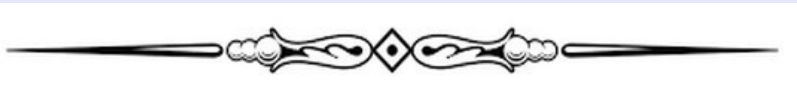
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VFW Remembers General Colin Powell

The VFW is mourning the passing of retired former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, retired U.S. Army General Colin L. Powell, who was also a Life member of the VFW Department of Maryland. “On behalf of the entire 1.5 million-member VFW family, our deepest condolences go out to the entire Powell family, and we salute this extraordinary man whose life of selfless service is a stalwart example for all of us,” said VFW National Commander Matthew “Fritz” Mihelcic.

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VFW Urges Navy to Honor Hero

VFW National Commander Matthew “Fritz” Mihelcic sent a letter urging Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro to name the newest commissioned surface ship the “USS Telesforo Trinidad” after a sailor who earned the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions on Jan. 21, 1915. Fireman Second Class Telesforo de la Cruz Trinidad is the only Filipino in the U.S. Navy to have received this award. “The high honor of naming United States Navy ships is the prerogative of the Secretary of the Navy,” Mihelcic wrote, “and there is no ship in the United States Naval fleet with a name that recognizes the Asian Pacific Islanders legacy and their unique alliance forged in war and peace.”

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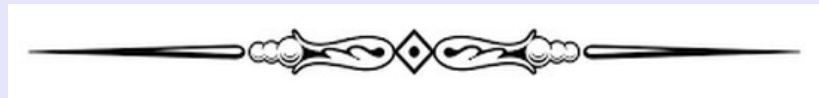
House Holds Hearing on Pending Legislation

The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing on pending legislation focused on survivor benefits, VA disability claims for military sexual trauma, and fiduciary program improvements. Included in the discussion was [H.R. 3402](#), the Caring for Survivors Act of 2021. This bill concerns a VFW priority issue and would increase the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) to 55%, making it the same as what other federal survivor programs offer. [Read VFW testimony.](#)



Veterans Oral Health Survey

Veterans oral health is chronically under-served. Preventive dental care can significantly impact a veteran's overall health and quality of life, including job security. The VFW is collaborating with CareQuest Institute for Oral Health on a survey to gain an understanding of the barriers and challenges veterans face concerning their dental care. This survey can be completed by all veterans and service members. You do not need to be enrolled in VA or TRICARE Health Programs. [Take the survey.](#)



Senate NDAA Pending on Senate Floor

The House recently passed its version of the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA-H.R. 4350) and the Senate is expected to follow suit soon. The Senate bill (S. 2792) is pending on the Senate floor for a final vote and will soon consider floor amendments. Several of these amendments are supported by FRA. These amendments include:

- Sen. Jon Tester (MT) amendment with the provisions of the "Major Richard Star Act" (S. 344) that expands concurrent receipt to include Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) beneficiaries who are medically retired with less than 20 years of service;
- Sen. Rob Portman (OH) amendment with provisions of the "Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act" (S. 1669) that would authorize the retention of the full final month's retired pay by the surviving spouse for the month in which the member was alive for at least 24 hours; and
- Sen. Richard Blumenthal (CT) amendment to require a joint report from DoD and the VA to designate the next national cemetery that affords full military honors as Arlington National Cemetery reaches capacity and directs DoD to not change ANC eligibility until after the report is submitted.

Once the Senate passes its version of the NDAA, a conference committee will be appointed to resolve the differences between the two bills. That final bill will be submitted to the House and Senate for a vote. If approved by both chambers, the bill will go to the President to be signed into law or vetoed.

Everyone is strongly urged to use the FRA Action Center to ask their Senators to support these important amendments by going to:

<https://www.votervoice.net/FRA/campaigns/89054/respond>

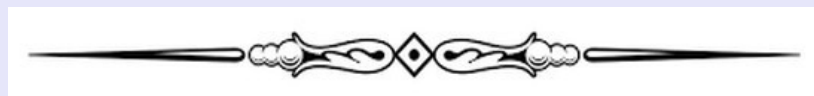


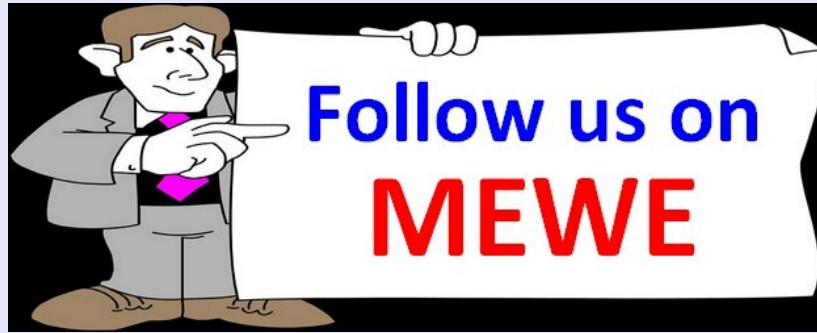
Navy to Review Recent OTH Discharges

The U.S. Navy has recently agreed to review more than nine years' worth of other-than-honorable (OTH) discharges given to thousands of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder or certain other trauma-related health conditions. That announcement follows preliminary court approval of a settlement of a 2018 lawsuit alleging that a Navy board had improperly denied a Marine Corps veteran's request for a better discharge status.

The suit was filed by Tyson Manker and the National Veterans Council for Legal Redress. Manker, who served from 1999 to 2003 and earned multiple awards and commendations, received an other-than-honorable discharge for smoking marijuana. The settlement would require the Navy to review discharge status upgrade applications made to the Naval Discharge Review Board between March 2, 2012, and October 12, 2021.

The review applies to Navy and Marine Corps veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan era who were given OTH discharges and were partially or fully denied upgrade relief, the Navy said in a statement. The settlement also expands reapplication rights for eligible applicants who were discharged and received an adverse review board decision between October 7, 2001, and March 2, 2012. In addition, the Navy agreed to provide discharge review board members and staffers with annual training in PTSD, traumatic brain injuries, military sexual trauma and other behavioral or mental health conditions, according to the settlement.





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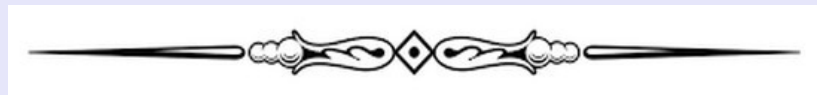
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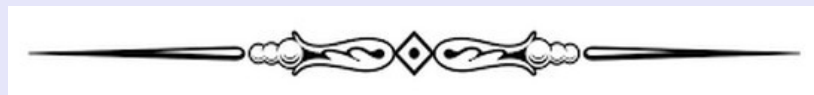


VA Still Seeking VHA Boss

According to press accounts, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has abandoned its initial search for someone to lead its huge health care system (Veterans Health Administration) and is starting the process all over again. The VA is establishing another commission to help choose a candidate for the role of undersecretary for health - a position that oversees hundreds of hospitals and clinics that comprise the largest health care system in the country. Whoever takes the job will be responsible for hundreds of thousands of employees and an annual budget of about \$61 billion.

The VA has been without a confirmed leader of the Veterans Health Administration for more than four years, since the position was held by David Shulkin. Shulkin left the position in February 2017 after he was nominated by then-President Donald Trump as the VA secretary.

Dr. Richard Stone served as the acting undersecretary for nearly three years and led the VA's reply to the coronavirus pandemic. Stone resigned in June, once it was clear that the initial commission charged with finding an undersecretary did not select him to stay in the role on a permanent basis.



Office of Inspector General

- 1) [COVID-19 Pandemic: Observations on the Ongoing Recovery of the Aviation Industry](#)



- 1) [Abbott Molecular, Inc. Recalls Alinity m SARS-CoV-2 AMP Kit and Alinity m Resp-4-Plex AMP Kit for Potential False Positive SARS-CoV-2 Test Results](#)
- 2) [Bryant Ranch Prepack Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Methocarbamol 500mg Bottles Due to Mislabeling With the Incorrect Strength](#)
- 3) [Cook Medical Issues Voluntary Recall of Transseptal Needle and Transseptal Needle with Catheter](#)
- 4) [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Takes Additional Actions on the Use of a Booster Dose for COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- 5) [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: October 19, 2021](#)
- 6) [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: October 22, 2021](#)
- 7) [Data Standards for Drug and Biological Product Submissions Containing Real-World Data](#)
- 8) [FDA Approves Cyltezo, the First Interchangeable Biosimilar to Humira](#)
- 9) [FDA approves naloxone injection to counteract opioid overdoses](#)
- 10) [FDA Drug Shortages](#)
- 11) [FDA Issues Landmark Proposal to Improve Access to Hearing Aid Technology for Millions of Americans](#)
- 12) [FDA Permits Marketing of New Oral Tobacco Products through Premarket Tobacco Product Application Pathway](#)
- 13) [Federal Judge Enters Consent Decree with Utah-based Dietary Supplement Manufacturer](#)

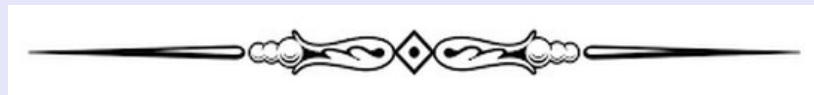
14) Hearing Aids and Personal Sound Amplification Products:
What to Know

15) Merck Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of CUBICIN®
(Daptomycin for Injection) 500 mg, Lot 934778, Due to
Presence of Particulate Matter Identified as Glass Particles

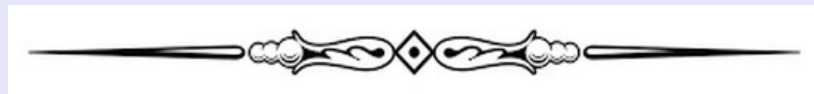
16) Outbreak Investigation of Salmonella Oranienburg: Whole,
Fresh Onions (October 2021)

17) Public Meeting on the Recommendations for Biosimilar
User Fee Act (BsUFA) Reauthorization

18) Smilin' Bob's Issues Allergy Alert On Undeclared Egg In
Smilin' Bob's Smoked Fish Dip Products



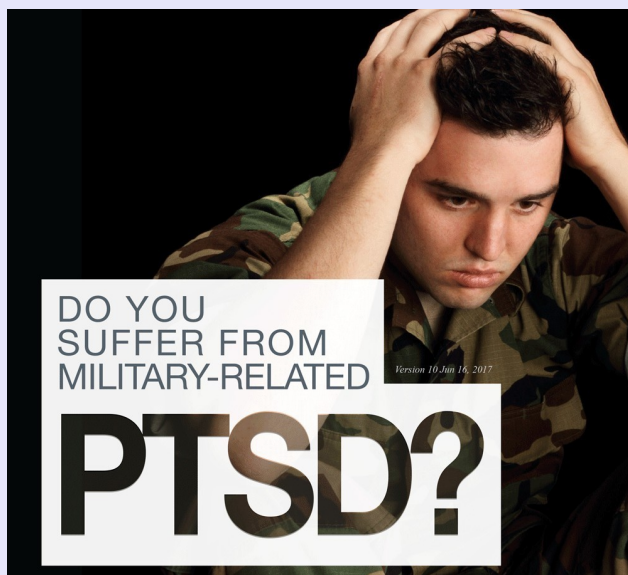
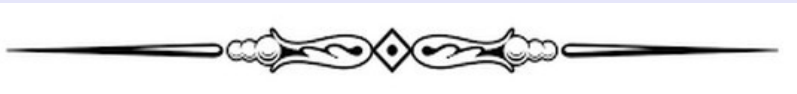
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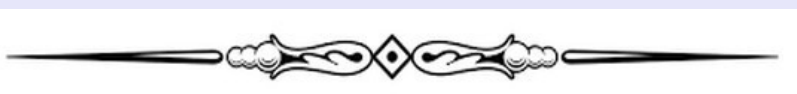
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- 1) Electronic Filing Mandate for Form 990-EZ
- 2) How self-employed individuals and household employers repay deferred Social Security tax
- 3) IRS holds special weekend events to help people who don't normally file taxes get Child Tax Credit payments and Economic Impact Payments
- 4) IRS provides answers for certain transportation companies eligible for Treasury grants
- 5) IRS provides guidance for multiemployer retirement plans receiving assistance from the PBGC
- 6) IRS readies nearly 4 million refunds for unemployment compensation overpayments
- 7) IRS Security Summit announces summer campaign to raise awareness among tax pros about identity theft; urges practitioners to boost security immunity
- 8) IRS.gov: The 24/7 summertime spot for tax help
- 9) IRS: Monthly Child Tax Credit payments begin
- 10) IRS: Online Child Tax Credit eligibility tool now available in Spanish; other multi-lingual materials help families see if they qualify for advance payments
- 11) Making payments for deferred tax reported by third party payers
- 12) Security Summit partners urge tax pros to use multi-factor authentication; critical step to boost protection against data theft
- 13) The Child Tax Credit Update Portal allows families to update direct deposit information or unenroll
- 14) What organizations should understand about applying for tax-exempt status





The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced seven burial updates and three new identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II and Korea. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

Army Staff Sgt. William R. Linder, 30, Piedmont, South Carolina, was assigned to Company E, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 16, 1944, after his unit was part of the Hürtgen Forest offensive, near Hürtgen, Germany. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. He will be buried Oct. 29, 2021, in Anderson, South Carolina. [Read about Linder.](#)

Army Pvt. Emmet W. Schwartz, 24, of Dover, Ohio, was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment, 8th Infantry Division. He was reported killed in action on Dec. 27, 1944, by an artillery blast while his unit was part of an effort to capture Obermaubach, Germany. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. He will be buried Nov. 18, 2021, in New Philadelphia, Ohio. [Read about Schwartz.](#)

Navy Fireman 1st Class James O. McDonald, 25, of

Levelland, Texas, 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 McDonald. He will be buried Jan. 19, 2022, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. [Read about McDonald.](#)

Navy Seaman 1st Class Walter C. Stein, 20, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, 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 Stein. He will be buried on March 23, 2022, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. [Read about Stein.](#)

Army Cpl. Robert C. Agard, Jr., 19, of Buffalo, New York, was assigned to 2nd Platoon, 24th Reconnaissance Company, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 19, 1950, while conducting a night recon patrol with his unit near Tejon, South Korea. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. He will be buried May 30, 2022, in Elmira, New York. [Read about Agard.](#)

Navy Mess Attendant 1st Class Octavius Mabine, 21, of Portsmouth, Virginia, 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 Mabine. He

will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Mabine.](#)

Navy Ship's Cook 1st Class Rodger C. Butts, 47, of Portsmouth, Virginia, 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 Butts. He will be buried in Newton, Pennsylvania. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Butts.](#)

Navy Fireman 2nd Class Edward E. Casinger, 21, 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 Casinger. Interment services are pending. [Read about Casinger.](#)

Navy Fireman 1st Class Hal J. Allison, 21, 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 Allison. Interment services are pending. [Read about Allison.](#)

Army Sgt. Howard R. Belden, 19, was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 31st Infantry

Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 1, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Belden.](#)



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