



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, February 27, 2022

Volume 13, Issue 09



This-N-That

Good morning Jim,

I don't pretend to be a mind reader, but when it comes to our politicians in DC I truly wish I had that ability to find out the real reason why most, if not all treat all our Veterans as political pawns in their own private game.

Every one of you wrote a check payable to the United States of America for an amount up to and including your life, and I truly and sincerely respect each and every one of you for making that sacrifice!

But I don't feel that price should be paid long after you've left the service based on radiation, agent orange, burn pits and all the other horrible things that many of you are now paying the

ultimate price for. For not knowing, not being told, then having to truly fight just as hard in our own country as you did on the battle field to be provided healthcare and benefits, and should the time come, taking care of your families.

You should be treated like Kings and Queens, not pawns to be treated as someone else pleases!

There is currently a watered-down bill that would provide benefits and healthcare but on a smaller scale and to me this goes far beyond insane.

I know I don't have a great deal to do with any legislation being passed in its original form and not watered down, or to have legislation voted against, especially by those who serve in Congress who are Veterans as well. But, from the bottom of my heart, I am deeply and sincerely sorry. You earned, and deserve to be treated much better than this.

I can tell you and promise you that I will continue to push on all legislation, provide support to those who present legislation and to be a serious thorn in the sides of every politician in DC to get what's long overdue, very much earned, not to mention very well earned!

I know alone I can't accomplish a lot, but I can do the one thing I've been doing and that's to continue to fax blast members of Congress and asking for their support and vote to pass all legislation without question.

And all I ask of you is to please help me, and your fellow Veteran and send out all the pre-written E-Mails noted in the TAKE ACTION section of the newsletter asking your Rep and Senators for their support too, regardless of their party

affiliation.

The more we ride them, the better the chances are, you never know, you could be the **ONE VOICE** that makes the ultimate decision in favor of passage.

I have received a few E-Mails which I still owe replies to, please know I am not ignoring you.

Week before last I had surgery, then of all the things I never expected, this last week I got nailed in a six-car pile-up, and ended up spending a couple days on my back so I could get back to work sooner. But I will reply to everyone in the next few days.

We've also added one new piece of legislation to the **TAKE ACTION** items list. So please be sure to read that section, complete as many as possible, preferred is all of them since we really need to push hard on Congress to get them all passed!

If you have not registered for an account on our website, please do so, it will give you access to thousands more documents a non-subscriber doesn't see.

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



Advances in Breast Cancer

Screening and Treatment Get Personal

Scientists are discovering ways to personalize screening and treatment for breast cancer.

[Read More](#)



Importance of Heart Health

With Valentine's Day around the corner and hearts on the mind, there is no better time to think about the importance of heart health! Along with the resources on Benefits.gov, here are some important steps to keep your heart healthy.

[Read More](#)



**Air Force Veteran a leader in VA research on
traumatic brain injury**

I have had a series of mentors over the years. Air Force Brigadier General Charles "Chuck" Yeager, the first pilot to fly faster than the speed of sound, took me on my first flight in an F100F fighter in 1958. Air Force Colonel Henry Godman, a pilot in the first full squadron to fly the B-17 Flying Fortress during World War II and later the head of Strategic Air Command, taught me to fly a propeller AC.

[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@madvocacy.org



American Legion Serves Healthy Food and Fellowship

Van Buren, Indiana American Legion kitchen manager supports Whole Health by serving food and fellowship. Karen Kirkpatrick offers healthy menu and a chance for Veterans to socialize and connect.

[Read More](#)



Veterans Homelessness Declining

The Department of Housing and Urban Development recently released a report on homelessness on Feb. 7, 2022. The report is based on data collected in January 2021. Each year, HUD releases a Point-in-Time count of unhoused people across the United States, including veterans, however this survey was interrupted during the pandemic. The annual report informs how Congress legislates and allocates resources to best respond to and prevent veteran's homelessness.

This report found a ten percent decrease in sheltered veteran homelessness since 2020 - the biggest single year decrease since 2016. Data also shows that Black veterans continue to be overrepresented among veterans experiencing homelessness, making up 33 percent of the sheltered homeless veterans, but only 12 percent of the veteran population overall. Black veterans also saw one of the highest rates of decline in homelessness last year with a 13.9 percent drop. Overall, the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in the U.S. has declined by nearly half since 2011 with more than 920,000 veterans and their family members permanently housed or prevented from becoming homeless.

The FRA has supported initiatives for the VA and other agencies to enhance and invest on efforts to ensure that veteran's homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring. Although progress has been made, more still needs to be done. That is why FRA supports the Improving Housing Outcomes for Veterans Act (S.612, H.R.876) sponsored by Sen. Rob Portman (Ohio.) and Rep. Anthony Gonzalez (Ohio) respectively, that would provide needed care for veterans experiencing homelessness. The bills follow a May 2020 Government Accountability Office report, which found shortcomings in VA's programs to support veterans experiencing homelessness in collaboration with local partners and other federal agencies. [Please weigh in](#) on this issue online.



VA adopts race-free test to determine kidney health

VA's Kidney Medicine Program requires all VA labs to use race-free formula to determine kidney health to improve the health of all Veterans.

[Read More](#)





Your actions

could save a life.

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

VeteransCrisisLine.net



Tips to Prevent Winter Injuries

It isn't quite spring yet, and dangerous winter weather hasn't quite gone away. Cold-weather injuries such as hypothermia, frostbite, and falls can occur if you aren't careful. What can you do to stay safe? Follow these tips to help prevent winter injuries, and know your TRICARE options for getting care in case an injury occurs.

[Read More](#)



Veteranswers

My name is Jack Bosma and I would like to welcome you to our events(s).

<https://www.crowdcast.io/e/veteranswers>

Simply save my spot and follow. Our Crowdcasts are designed to promote our personal and professional content. Many of our participants will also have the added opportunity of participating as a content creator, for the first time and learning a new skill. We welcome military veterans globally.



Helping veterans by helping veterans!

<https://www.facebook.com/Veteranswers-331983490234727>



Dear Fellow Caregiver

Dear Fellow Caregivers -

My family's new journey began two and a half years ago when my husband, Jeff, started a new job at the Pentagon after a three-year tour in Japan. He was active-duty Air Force, and we'd just relocated to Virginia for a Permanent Change of Station. And when I say we'd just relocated, I mean my husband had been in his new position for precisely three weeks, and our house for three days.

On the same day we moved into our new house, we received my husband's bicycle. Three days later, my husband decided to go for his usual morning bike ride. As always, he put on his safety gear: helmet, gloves, and bike light, except this time Jeff didn't return home.

I started to worry as more time passed and checked my Find My Phone app. To my shock his location read INOVA Fairfax Hospital.

My heart sank. I called Jeff's phone, and a police officer answered. The police officer told me to get to the hospital immediately as my husband, "John Doe," was in critical condition. I loaded up our two kids, 12 and 14 years old, and drove to the hospital. Upon arrival, we were told that Jeff had suffered a severe traumatic brain injury (TBI). They were not able to tell us anything except that he was non-responsive.

Jeff would stay in the Intensive Care Unit in Fairfax, Virginia, for roughly two weeks before he was transported to Shirley Ryan Mobility Lab, a rehabilitation center in Chicago, Illinois. Due to the severity of his injury, he was not able to be omitted to any Virginia hospitals.

So, there I was with two kids in Virginia who were about to start a new school and a husband severely injured at a hospital in Chicago. I will forever be grateful to Jeff's family, who helped during this time, and to the Air Force, who made it all easier.

We started to move from the Shirley Ryan facility in Chicago to a more permanent home. He was relearning all daily living skills. We knew at this point that his career in the Air Force and being a pilot was over.

I researched TBI and poly-trauma facilities and found out that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has some of the top facilities in the country. Armed with this knowledge and family in the area, I sold our house in Virginia and moved to Minnesota. Shortly after that, Jeff was transferred to the VA hospital in Minneapolis to continue his treatment until he

arrived home. All of this was happening as the COVID-19 pandemic began.

While at the VA hospital, the children and I received training in caring for Jeff at home. The VA staff was very supportive of us and always there to answer questions and teach us as a family, even during the height of COVID. When you are in a new and challenging situation, you don't always know what questions to ask, but the VA poly-trauma staff anticipated answering all of our questions.

Finally, the day came when Jeff was going home. All the training VA gave us was now going to pay off.

So many aspects of VA have helped us as a family. The VA technology department has played an active in improving our lives at the house, as Jeff still has no use of his hands. The VA Caregiver Support Program helped us navigate [VA Home Health](#), including informing me of the respite program. Our respite support social worker, Molly, would call and check in on us frequently to see how we were doing. Molly kept reminding and encouraging me to use the Respite Care program before getting burned out. At that time, I was not feeling burned out, just excited that I had my husband home at our house. But little by little, tiny things started creeping up, and I began to acknowledge my stubbornness.

When it started to dawn on me, it was difficult for me to give up control over my husband's care for my own care. It is easy to say, "if you don't care for yourself, you cannot care for someone else," but it is easier to care for others, especially when you feel they need it more than you.

As I was getting used to certified nursing assistants who I

trusted to give me some extra time, I started thinking about the other respite care resources that I could use. With two busy children, now 14 and 16, both heavily into sports, we began to use the respite care for Jeff so I could attend their tournaments. During COVID and over holidays, it wasn't easy to pin down nursing homes that could help. Still, the dedicated VA Respite Care staff did it. During this time, we were also connected with the [Wounded Warrior Project](#) who were willing and able to add some assistance in Jeff's treatment. Throughout this time, VA provided me with a counselor who helped navigate family relationships and life after a traumatic event.

We are still in the early stages of Jeff's recovery after two and a half years. I don't know what the future will hold for us, but I do know that without the support of VA, we wouldn't be where we are. I also thank the staff who kept contacting me even when I thought I was doing great, and at times I was great, and being there when the walls eventually came down.

Thank you,
Sofi Alexander



**11 VSOs Agree—It's time to pass Chairman
Takano's Honoring our PACT Act**

Comprehensive legislation to honor pact to address toxic exposures heads to House floor

WASHINGTON, D.C —Today, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Mark Takano (D-Calif.) announced widespread Veteran Service Organization (VSO) support for the monumental [Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2021](#) or the [Honoring our PACT Act](#), which will come to a vote on the House floor when Congress is back in session next week. Leaders from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), The American Legion (TAL), Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Blinded Veterans Association (BVA), Minority Veterans of America (MVA), and Burn Pits 360 showcased their support for the comprehensive bipartisan package. The [Honoring our PACT Act](#) will finally recognize toxic exposure as a cost of war and currently has 94 cosponsors. Source: [11 VSOs Agree—It's time to pass Chairman Takano's Honoring our PACT Act | The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs](#)



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**



VA Celebrates Black History Month

February is Black History Month and VA is proud to join our country in celebrating the extraordinary legacy of Black Americans. There are more than two million Black Veterans in the United States who have made incredible sacrifices for our country.

[Read More](#)



The FRA Coin Bill Introduced

At the request of FRA, Reps. Gus Bilirakis (Fla.) and John Garamendi (Calif.) proudly introduced legislation (H.R.6663) that will create a 100th anniversary commemorative coin for the Fleet Reserve Association. This bipartisan legislation would direct the Department of Treasury to mint a coin to commemorate the centennial of the foundation and charter of the FRA in 1924, all at no cost to American taxpayers.

"For one century, the FRA has served as a strong voice in Washington," said Congressman Gus Bilirakis. "The organization has been instrumental in advocating for Sea Service Members and their families, including successfully fighting back against proposed cuts to benefits and supporting enhanced eligibility and benefits for veterans. The organization has been a valued partner in my fight to rectify the injustice of concurrent receipt. Together, I am optimistic that we will be able to ensure all veterans finally receive the full benefits they've earned and deserve. I am honored to help commemorate this prestigious organization's tireless work and legacy of success."

Everyone is strongly urged to [ask their legislators](#) to co-sponsor this legislation.



**Nurses needed to fill critical roles in Veteran care
at Clarksburg VA**

Nurses are needed to fill critical roles in Veteran care at the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center (VAMC) in Clarksburg, West Virginia.

[Read More](#)



[Links to Other Stories](#)

- 1) [At Least 1 Million Vets Could Get VA Health Care Under Scaled-Back Exposures Bill](#)
- 2) [Biden says burn pits killed his son. More than 261,000 Vets are sick. So why isn't the US doing anything?](#)
- 3) [Boston-area Marine Veteran, blinded by his mask during a gym workout, suffers bruising fall](#)
- 4) [Brockton Urology Agrees to Pay \\$100,000 to Resolve Allegations that it Violated the False Claims Act](#)
- 5) [Catholic Medical Center Agrees to Pay \\$3.8 Million to Resolve Kickback-Related False Claims Act Allegations](#)
- 6) [Cumberland County Man Charged with Health Care Fraud, Money Laundering, And Theft of Public Money](#)
- 7) [Doctor Pleads Guilty to Accepting Illegal Kickback Payment in Return for Writing Prescriptions for Compounded Drugs](#)
- 8) [First Look: The Homeless Database](#)
- 9) [Florida Man Admits Role in \\$35 Million Pharmacy Compounded Medication Scheme](#)
- 10) [Florida Man Sentenced in Multi-Million-Dollar Medicare Fraud Scheme](#)
- 11) [Murrysville Doctor Sentenced for Illegal Drug Distribution and Health Care Fraud](#)
- 12) [Service Academies Report Highest Number of Sexual Assaults Ever](#)
- 13) [Ten Indicted for Healthcare Kickbacks](#)
- 14) [Two Women Sentenced in Multi-Million-Dollar Medicare Fraud Scheme](#)
- 15) [Veterans face crisis of confidence with VA, secretary says](#)
- 16) [Veterans struggle to find work after military: "We still want to give the best of ourselves"](#)
- 17) [Vets' disability benefits for tinnitus, mental health issues may change](#)



VA Seeks Input on Mission Statement

VA is seeking your input on how its mission statement may evolve to be more inclusive and representative of the changing needs of all Veterans. Click below to learn more and share your voice.

[Take Survey](#)



Another CR (Temporary Funding) Needs to Pass Congress

As NewsBytes goes to press, the Senate is expected to approve another Continuing Resolution (CR-H.R.6617) to keep the federal government open until March 11, 2022. Senators need to get the CR to the president's desk before Feb. 18, to extend funding through March 11. The House passed the measure (272-162), earlier. The CR has stalled in the Senate that is evenly divided on a partisan basis (50-50).

Appropriators are working on a 12-bill omnibus funding package in the meantime. The FRA hopes legislation will be sent to President Biden before the deadline and this will be the last CR for FY2022.

In the event of a government shutdown, active-duty military personnel will be paid because they are considered "essential workers." Retirees will continue to be paid because funding for their benefits are not required to be appropriated by Congress. These benefits are mandatory funding or funds not controlled by annual decision of Congress. TRICARE benefits also will continue if there is a shutdown. Those who are receiving veterans' benefits will continue to get benefits because the Department of Veterans Affairs has two-year funding (an FRA supported initiative) and already has funding for FY2022.



Veteran wins Super Bowl tickets thanks to Vet Tix

Navy Veteran Eddie Cerda was in the stands at Super Bowl LVI thanks to the nonprofit Vet Tix, which provides free event tickets to Veterans.

[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



Hines VA Nurse Led Professional and Racial Change at VA

When Vernice Ferguson became the first African American to lead the VA Nursing Service in 1980, she inherited the largest nursing service in the nation, overseeing 60,000 professionals.

[Read More](#)



Walter Reed Naval Hospital Barracks

The House Armed Services Committee is considering holding hearings on substandard living conditions in base housing at Walter Reed Naval Hospital barracks for Navy personnel located in Bethesda, Maryland. Press reports indicate the barracks are without hot water, AC, and has doors without locks. Many residents are Navy Corpsman and other medical personnel assigned to Walter Reed.

Navy Times reports that Navy leaders have established a [website](#) with updates on progress made to alleviate hot water issues and other problems in the two barracks buildings, Comfort and Sanctuary halls. Asked why the Navy appears to have only started moving with urgency to fix the issues after they were made public, Navy spokesman Jeremy Brooks blamed "an environment with limited resources and budgetary constraints." The FRA wants to ensure service members have safe and comfortable housing.



Live Whole Health #111: Tai Chi and the 7-posture series

If your doctor says you need move more or de-stress, consider trying Tai Chi and this 7-posture series. It very well may help.

[Read More](#)



Black Veteran Paves Way Before Rosa Parks

Read the story of Sarah Keys, a young, Black Soldier serving at Fort Dix, New Jersey, who in August 1952 while traveling home to North Carolina, refused to give up her bus seat.

[Read More](#)



Senate Confirms Top Navy Lawyer

The U.S. Senate confirmed John P. "Sean" Coffey as General Counsel of the Department of the Navy. Coffey, a retired Navy Captain and former federal prosecutor, was nominated as general counsel by President Joe Biden in Aug. 2021. A U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Coffey served as an active-duty naval flight officer, hunting Soviet submarines during the Cold War, and as a junior staff officer at the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon, at which time he entered the evening J.D. program at Georgetown Law. While earning his law degree, he also served as the personal military assistant to Vice President George H.W. Bush. Coffey left active duty to pursue his legal career in New York but remained in the Navy Reserve for 18 years, retiring in 2004 at the rank of Captain.



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 02/27/21)

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) [H.R. 333, Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act](#)
- 6) [H.R. 344, Support the Women Veterans TRUST Act](#)
- 7) [H.R. 914, the Dental Care for Veterans Act](#)
- 8) [Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act](#)
- 9) [S. 134/H.R. 637, the Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2021](#)
- 10) [S. 437, Take Action for Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits](#)
- 11) [S. 89, Ensuring Survivors Benefits during COVID-19 Act of 2021](#)
- 12) [STOP TRICARE Fee Increases](#)
- 13) [Support Bills to Expand Coverage for ChampVA and TRICARE Young Adults](#)
- 14) [Veterans Economic Recovery Act Introduced](#)
- 15) [H.R. 855, the Veterans Expedited TSA Screening \(VETS\) Safe Travel Act](#)
- 16) [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.

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

- 36) Ask your Senator to Support S.1520 Military Justice Improvement Act
- 37) Ask your member to support S.810 and H.R. 1972 The Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
- 38) 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
- 39) Ask your Senator to Support S.1520 Military Justice Improvement Act
- 40) HR 855, VETS Safe Travel Act
- 41) HR 3368, the Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Island bill
- 42) H.R. 2521, Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Affairs Act of 2021
- 43) H.R. 1273, the Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act
- 44) H.R. 2968, the Military and Veteran Student Loan Relief Act
- 45) H.R. 845, the VA Billing Accountability Act
- 46) Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Bill Introduced in House
- 47) HR 303 and S 1147 The Retired Pay Restoration Act
- 48) Ask Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipt Reform HR-1282
- 49) HR 1656 TREAT PTSD Act
- 50) S. 1664, the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Processing Claims Improvement
- 51) H.R. 2724 — VA Peer Support Enhancement for MST Survivors Act
- 52) Please Support H.R. 3452 —Veterans Preventative Health Coverage Fairness Act
- 53) HR 2192, The Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2021
- 54) HR 5026, The Panama Canal Zone Veterans Act of 2021

- 55) HR 3368, HR 5026, HR 2269, S 657 are all Toxic Exposure Bills that need special attention and more pressure to get passed!
- 56) H.R. 4627, Veterans' Culturally Competent Care Act of 2021
- 57) S. 2172, Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness
- 58) H.R. 4571, the SERVICE Act of 2021
- 59) H.R. 4732, Protect Individual Unemployability Benefit for All Disabled
- 60) S. 1937, the Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Act of 2021
- 61) S. 2283 and H.R. 5073—the Crisis Hotline REACH for Veterans Act
- 62) HR 852 and S 221, United States - Israel PTSD Collaborative Research Act
- 63) Ask Congress to Preserve Arlington National Cemetery
- 64) HR 4949 and S 692, the Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021
- 65) HR 2963, the VOW to Hire Heroes Extension Act of 2021
- 66) S 1970, The Clean Water for Military Families Act
- 67) Support S. 1198/H.R. 2819—the Solid Start Act of 2021
- 68) H.R. 3402/S. 976—Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
- 69) HR 3537 and S 1813, Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act
- 70) S. 2386/H.R. 4575, the Veteran Peer Specialist Act
- 71) H.R. 5721—the VIPER Act
- 72) H.R. 5607, Justice for ALS Veterans Act
- 73) HR 2601 and S 1188, SFC Heath Robinson Burn Pit Transparency Act
- 74) S. 3017, Veterans Dental Care Eligibility Expansion and Enhancement Act
- 75) H.R. 4794 and S. 2533, the Making Advances in

Mammography and Medical Options (MAMMO) for Veterans Act

- 76) HR 1361 and S 444, AUTO for Veterans Act
- 77) H.R. 4880 and S. 2720, the Veterans' Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act
- 78) HR 2800, the WINGMAN Act
- 79) H.R. 5944, Veterans Administration Backlog Accountability Act of 2021
- 80) HR 3400, VA Emergency Transportation Act
- 81) HR 2992, TBI and PTSD Law Enforcement Training Act
- 82) HR 6260, the Casualty Assistance Reform Act of 2021
- 83) H.R. 6064, VA Compensation and Pension exams for claims related to military sexual trauma
- 84) H.R. 5819, Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act
- 85) HR 3596, the Lawrence J. Hackett, Jr. Vietnam Veterans Agent Orange Fairness Act
- 86) H.R. 2327 – to Remove Delimiting Dates for Survivors and Dependents' Educational Assistance
- 87) S. 2513/H.R. 4772, Improved VA Clothing Allowance Benefit for Disabled Veterans
- 88) S. 3293, the Post 9-11 Veterans Mental Health Care Act of 2021
- 89) HR 6402 and S 1725, will grant a Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated
- 90) HR 6659 and S 3541, the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Acts
- 91) Ask your member to support S.810 and H.R. 1972 the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
- 92) H.R. 6543, Restore Veterans Compensation Act
- 93) H.R. 3967, Honoring Our PACT Act Going to House Floor for a Vote



VetXL: Minority Veterans Together

VA and Rallypoint hosted VetXL: Minority Veterans Together on February 24. Subject matter experts were available to engage in dialogue on minority Veterans, benefits, health equity, and LGBTQ+. Visit Rallypoint to see responses and learn more.

[Learn More](#)



VA Proposes Disability Rating Changes

VA has proposed changes to its Schedule for Rating Disabilities for auditory, respiratory, and mental health conditions. These changes would incorporate modern medical data and terminology, allowing veterans to receive disability ratings based on the most current information. Ratings of veterans who currently receive VA disability compensation will not be impacted as a result of these changes. The VFW will carefully review the proposed changes and will submit a public comment to the Federal Register. [Read more.](#)



**Registration open for 2022 National Veterans
Summer Sports Clinic in San Diego**

Registration for the 2022 National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic is open until April 1 and limited to the first 150 Veteran applicants.

[Read More](#)



Veterans Toxic Exposure Bill Passes Senate

The Senate unanimously approved the FRA supported "Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act" (S. 3541) sponsored by SVAC Chairman Jon Tester (Mont.) and Ranking Member Jerry Moran (Kan.). The bill offers Post-9/11 combat veterans, who are suffering from conditions caused by toxic exposures, access to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care.

The legislation would allow post 9-11 veterans who were at risk of toxic exposure, including 3.5 million Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, to obtain immediate and lifelong access to health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)- one of the largest expansions of health care eligibility in the VA's history. The bill would provide presumptive care for numerous conditions for veterans sickened by exposure to burn pits and other toxins.

The bill now goes to the House for further consideration. Members are strongly urged to ask their Representatives to support the bill at:

<https://www.votervoice.net/FRA/campaigns/91309/respond>



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



Veteran Regains Confidence Through Whole Health

In his younger years Marine Corps Veteran Christopher Young played football, soccer, ran track and was a boxer; until injuries and migraines nearly immobilized him. Read about his journey back to health and wellness here.

[Read More](#)



VFW Meets with Secretary of Education

The VFW, alongside fellow veteran advocates, met with Department of Education Secretary Dr. Miguel Cardona to discuss education issues facing veterans, service members, and their families. The VFW expressed the need for transparent and accessible data about institutions to facilitate informed decision making. Secretary Cardona relayed his department's dedication to improving higher education accessibility and affordability, as well as improving collaboration with DOD and VA.



Dramatic increase in mental health services to other-than-honorable discharge Veterans

VA provided 270% more mental health visits to former service members with an other-than-honorable discharge in fiscal year 2021 compared to FY20.

[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



**CalVet Brings Home Fifth Abraham Lincoln Pillar
of Excellence Award**

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Veterans Affairs received an Abraham Lincoln Pillar of Excellence Award from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for its Justice Involved Veterans Initiative.

CalVet Secretary Vito Imbasciani MD accepted the award from VA Secretary Denis McDonough during the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) Midwinter Conference (February 21-23) in Alexandria, Virginia.

“It is a great honor to accept this award on behalf of CalVet,” Secretary Imbasciani said. “It reflects the depth of our agency and our commitment to all of California’s veterans, regardless of what they have experienced since they separated from the military. They earned their benefits by virtue of their service.”

Of California's 1.6 million veterans, roughly 5,000 are incarcerated. The Justice Involved Veterans Initiative works to ensure that veterans, from their time of detainment until release, are able to obtain their earned benefits. It also provides support upon their release and reentry into post-incarceration life.

Created in 2012 with just two employees to aid incarcerated veterans statewide, the program received an infusion of support in 2017 when Governor Jerry Brown's Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget provided CalVet the necessary funding to hire seven certified Veteran Service Representatives to provide direct claims assistance to incarcerated veterans. The program success has been significant, with only 164 claims for disability compensation filed in 2012-2013 to now more than 700 claims filed in each of the past three years.

"Veterans face significant barriers to applying for and obtaining their veterans' benefits once they are incarcerated. These vital benefits represent critical support for a veteran's family while incarcerated and help to support a successful transition once released. Our goal is that by extending our services into the justice system, we can assist veterans in their rehabilitation process and reduce recidivism," said Keith Boylan, Deputy Secretary for the Veterans Services Division, which houses the program.

CalVet employees work closely with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), County Veterans Services Officers, CalVet's own Local Interagency Network Coordinators, and other partners to enable incarcerated veterans to file claims, to receive examinations for VA disability ratings, and to defer benefits to family members, as well as prepare for life after prison.

“Each month, the CDCR provides a list of every veteran who is 180 days from release,” said Roberto Herrera, Assistant Deputy Secretary for the Veterans Services Division. “We connect with the veteran and initiate case management services. This includes claims assistance, introduction to their local community-based system of care, and most important, assures the veteran that CalVet will be there to help when they are released.”

This year marks the fifth time CalVet has earned an Abraham Lincoln Pillar of Excellence Award. It won twice in 2016 for its Women Veterans Outreach program and for its Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention program (VHHP), which works with communities, developers, and other stakeholders to build permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless veterans, those at risk of becoming homeless, and extremely low-income veterans and their families.

In 2018, California’s Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) program won the award. In partnership with the Department of General Services, CalVet strives to ensure at least 3% of all state contracting dollars are awarded to DVBEs. On average, these efforts result in \$350 million contracting dollars awarded to disabled veteran-owned businesses.

CalVet also won in 2019 for its California Transition Assistance Program (CalTAP), a first-of-its kind, state-specific transition program that informs and connects service members, veterans of all eras, and their families to their earned federal, state, and local benefits. The program also provides continued support and assistance to veterans and their families as their needs change over time.

The Pillar of Excellence awards were created jointly by the NASDVA and VA in 2012 to recognize state-implemented best practices that other states could use as a benchmark.



Have your snacks and protect your heart

Snacks are a bridge between meals to help keep us full and energized. They also help increase our consumption of the important food groups.

[Read More](#)

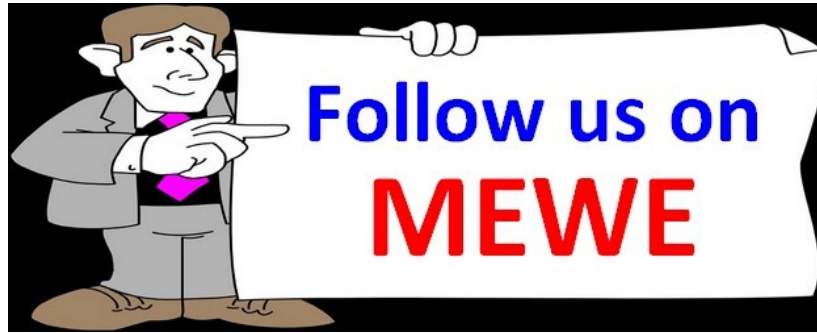


Your Commissary challenges Veterans for National Nutrition Month

Your Commissary challenges Veterans to supercharge nutrition in March. March is National Nutrition Month. Are you up for the challenge?

[Read More](#)





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

We hope you will join us on this new site.

[VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE](#)

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

[AMVETS GROUP](#)

[VETERANS SOCIAL GROUP](#)

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

[AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY](#)



**Bob Woodruff Foundation Aims to Provide
Veterans Access to Services, Opportunities They
Need**

The Bob Woodruff Foundation's Got Your 6 Network, the largest non-governmental network of Veteran service providers in the country, ensures Veterans have access to the services and opportunities they need.

[Learn More](#)



Explore a VA career at upcoming recruiting events

With jobs open at VA facilities across the country, our recruiters are hard at work meeting with potential new hires, at both virtual and in-person events. We'll be attending: AMSUS Virtual Annual Meeting on Feb. 22-25. VA Careers virtual career fair on Feb. 23. American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Annual Meeting on March 22-26. National [...]

[Read More](#)



Study shows survival advantage for Veterans who receive VA emergency care

Study finds that Veterans who were rushed by ambulance to a VA hospital, versus a non-VA hospital, had lower mortality rates.

[Read More](#)



Free Sales Boot Camp for Veterans, Military Community

Bridge My Return, the tech-enabled hiring platform for the military community, is offering a free virtual sales boot camp for job seekers looking for a career in sales.

[Read More](#)



Free sales boot camp for Veterans, military community

Bridge My Return (BMR), the tech-enabled hiring platform for Veterans and the military community, is offering a free virtual sales boot camp.

[Read More](#)



Get paid work experience through VA's National Diversity Internship Program

Take a look inside a career at VA – and get paid to do it. If you're a student interested in working at VA, or just looking for some real-world experience, consider our National Diversity Internship Program (NDIP). This paid internship program lets undergraduate and graduate students from diverse backgrounds and cultures explore career options [...]

[Read More](#)



- 1) Approved first generic for Apokyn injection cartridges requires separately packaged pen
- 2) Arrow International, LLC (Subsidiary of Teleflex Inc.) Recalls the Arrow-Trerotola Percutaneous Thrombolytic Device Due to Risk of Tip Damage During Use
- 3) FDA Alerts the Public to Potentially Contaminated Products from Family Dollar Stores in Six States
- 4) FDA Approves Treatment for Wider Range of Patients with Heart Failure
- 5) FDA Approves Treatment for Wider Range of Patients with Heart Failure
- 6) FDA authorizes revisions to Evusheld dosing
- 7) FDA Drug Shortages
- 8) FDA Investigation of Cronobacter and Salmonella Complaints: Powdered Infant Formula (February 2022)
- 9) FDA Permits Marketing of First Condom Specifically Indicated for Anal Intercourse
- 10) FDA Roundup: February 22, 2022
- 11) FDA Roundup: February 25, 2022
- 12) FDA updates Sotrovimab emergency use authorization
- 13) How Modeling Was Used to Support the FDA Approval of a Topical Generic Drug Product
- 14) Memorandum of Understanding Addressing Certain Distributions of Compounded Drugs
- 15) OPDP's Social Science Research Program: Aiming to Understand How Health Care Providers and Patients Interpret Prescription Drug Information



Student Veterans Find College Success with Free Academic Boot Camps

In partnership with the nation's top colleges and universities, Warrior-Scholar Project hosts free, intensive and immersive one and two-week college-preparatory academic boot camps for enlisted Veterans and transitioning service members.

[Learn More](#)



Vietnam Veteran, 77, gets back in shape with VA Move! Whole Health coach

Keith Ching wants to live a healthy long life with his family. He's on his way with a Whole Health Coach Move! weight management program.

[Read More](#)



Shilo Harris: Triumph in tragedy

Army Veteran Shilo Harris became an inspirational speaker, sharing his triumph over an IED explosion and becoming the first person to participate in extracellular stem cell regeneration.

[Read More](#)





CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER !



Q&A: Chief of the Army Dental Corps Talks Dental Health & Readiness

Army Brig. Gen. Shan Bagby, chief of the Army Dental Corps, discusses the importance of dental health for readiness, the impact of COVID-19 on his team, and the importance of diversity in the military.

[Read More](#)



National Salute to Veteran Patients week

VA medical centers and communities connect with Veteran patients during National Salute to Veteran Patients week

[Read More](#)



Vernice Ferguson led professional and racial change at VA

Vernice Ferguson was head of VA's Nursing Service, 60,000 professionals. She was a teacher, leader, and advocate for racial parity.

[Read More](#)



One Blood Donation Can Save Up to Three Lives

DHA's top general and senior enlisted leader talk about the vital importance of blood donation for the Military Health System.

[Watch Video](#)



Cancer Prevention and Veterans: Vaccines Can Help

One easy way to be proactive with cancer prevention is to discuss cancer-preventing vaccines with your primary care provider.

[Read More](#)



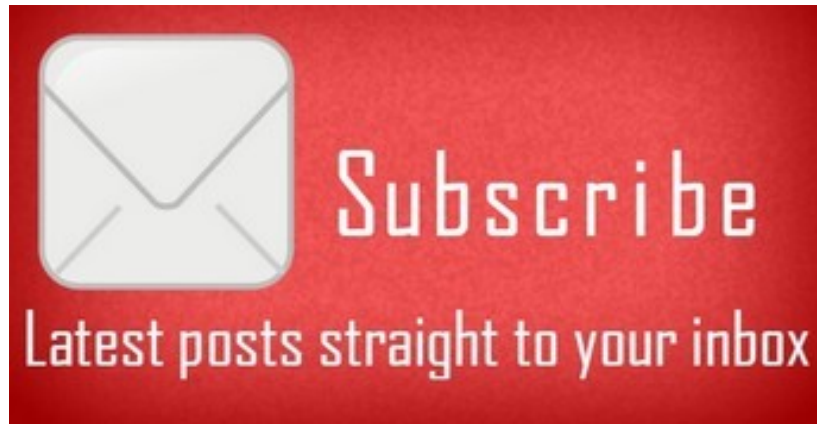
America250: Navy Veteran Harriet Pickens

This week's America250 salute is Navy Veteran Harriet Pickens, who was one of the first African American women to become a Navy officer.

[Read More](#)



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!



Yes, You Can Still Get Old Medical Records after MHS GENESIS Transition

As many military hospitals and clinics implement a new electronic health record system, beneficiaries and their providers will not lose access to their old records.

[Read More](#)



#VADidThat: Learning through simulation, saving Veterans' lives

VA's SimLEARN improves the quality of health care services for America's Veterans through the application of simulation-based learning.

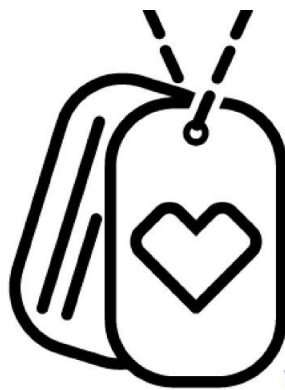
[Read More](#)



My grandmother, Sylvia Benton, and the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion

A Marine Corps Veteran offers tribute to his grandmother, Sylvia Benton, of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.

[Read More](#)



**Our values
match yours.**



www.veterans-for-change.org

CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE VFC WEBSITE



MHS Video Connect Offers Convenience, Efficiencies for Providers

Virtual health will continue to expand and improve how providers deliver quality care.

[Read More](#)



A spotlight on the Rogers STEM Scholarship during National Engineers Week

National Engineers Week was first celebrated in 1951, dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing interest in careers in engineering and technology. This week, VA is celebrating engineers and engineering technicians and their positive contributions to the quality of life by promoting the importance of a technical education.

[Read More](#)

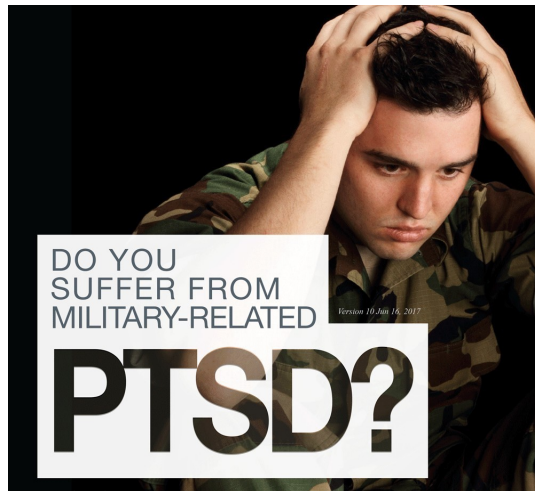


Found in translation: Tips for removing military jargon from your resume

Translating military jargon can be a challenge for transitioning personnel, but these tools will help you provide clarity to civilian recruiters.

[Read More](#)





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



Is Your DEERS Information Up to Date?

When is the last time you checked to see if your information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) is up to date? If it's been a while, take time to log in to DEERS and review your information. Inaccurate information in the DEERS database could prevent you from being able to use your TRICARE benefits properly.

[Read More](#)



**Borne the Battle #270: Benefits Breakdown –
Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business
Utilization (OSDBU)**

This week's Borne the Battle – a benefits breakdown – features the Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU). They are an internal accountability office that protects and advocates for Veteran-owned businesses. They also work to ensure that Veteran entrepreneurs can compete and be selected for a fair amount of contract opportunities.

[Read More](#)



Veterans Justice Program outreach specialist helps incarcerated Veterans

Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist coordinates with justice systems to help justice-involved Veterans in local courts and jails.

[Read More](#)





Winter Safety Tips to Stay Safe and Healthy

Winter can be a hazardous time of year, and we still have more than a month left before it's finished. Frigid temperatures and slick roads can be dangerous. When it comes to preparing your home, car, and family during the winter months, follow these tips.

[Read More](#)



Hook, line, and sinker: How to up your phishing game

Learn how to up your phishing game with these helpful tips from OIT's Office of Information Security.

[Read More](#)



Cancer Prevention and Veterans: What Are Your Exposure Risks?

Many Veterans have unique cancer exposure risks like Agent Orange. VA's cancer prevention programs can help.

[Read More](#)



HOME *of the* FREE
BECAUSE *of the* BRAVE

Honoring those who served



Your Top Questions on the Post 9/11 GI Bill, Answered

Are you a Veteran considering obtaining a degree or vocational training? In this article, you will learn how the Post-9/11 GI Bill can help with costs of tuition, housing, textbooks, school supplies, and occasionally relocation services if the recipient is from a rural area.

[Read More](#)



Provider Webinar: Community care referrals

An upcoming webinar will provide health care providers an overview of VA community care referrals and associated processes.

[Read More](#)



Innovation Revolutionary: Engaging the public to serve Veterans

Sabrina Clark is a VHA Innovation Ecosystem Revolutionary who gets local students involved in solving problems alongside VA.

[Read More](#)



Center for Women Vets Book Corner Q&A: Ina Johnson Myers

This month's Center for Women Veterans featured author is retired combat Army Veteran Ina Johnson Myers, an entrepreneur, radio host, speaker and certified life coach. Myers is the author of "Girl, Don't Play!!! Pray!!!! The Professional Women's Guide to Identifying His Brokenness."

[Read More](#)





The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced two burial updates and two 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 Pfc. Kenneth L. Bridger, 17, Colville, Washington, was assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 30, 1950, on the last night of his unit's stand at the defensive perimeter near the east side of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Bridger will be buried in Twin Falls, Idaho, on May 21, 2022. [Read about Bridger.](#)

Navy Electrician's Mate 1st Class Harvey C. Herber, 34, of Tacoma, Washington, 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 Herber. Interment services are pending. [Read about Herber.](#)

Army Cpl. Lawrence L. Brown, 21, was assigned to Company M, 3rd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He was captured on Nov. 26, 1950, after his unit was attacked by the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces. Brown was reported as a POW in Camp #5, but his exact date of death could not be determined at that time. Interment services are pending. [Read about Brown.](#)

Army Cpl. Francis J. Jury, 23, was assigned to Heavy Mortar Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Jury.](#)



Veterans-For-Change, Inc.

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today

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

©2022 Veterans-For-Change.org | CA 92584-8870

[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by
[GoDaddy Email Marketing](#)®