



# **Veterans-For-Change Newsletter**

## *A Voice of the Veterans*

Week Ending Sunday, May 01, 2022

Volume 13, Issue 18



### **This-N-That**

Good evening Jim,

It's bad enough we have VA facilities with pallets of un-opened claims mail, that we have claims adjusters who sit back and do very little to nothing causing further delays, but now we have another worry, claims processors and agencies who assist in claims processing abusing the system and obtaining more in benefits, etc than needed and/or earned, taking kickbacks, even re-directing payments that should go to Veterans to another person or location.

To me, and this is my opinion only. Any VA Facility who processes claims and allows a backlog to happen that everyone in that office be financially penalized and if the issue occurs again, that they all be immediately terminated and replaced with those who actually need and want a job that they will gladly do and do correctly and in

a timely fashion.

Makes me wonder how a civilian insurance company can make a major decision on medical care and/or benefits usually with 7-14 business days, however, with the VA's complex benefits system it takes in many cases 80 days to 6+ months for them to make a decision!

What on earth could our nations Veterans have done that was so bad that it takes forever to process and approve or disapprove claims?

Each and every one of you or I should say most of you chose to serve, the rest were drafted, but, none-the-less you served our Country in her time of need at the request of Congress and the President only to come home and be treated so poorly.

I even saw very recent pictures of Walter Reed where patient rooms were supplied with cots, not hospital beds, what gives with this kind of poor treatment?

I'm in the process now of trying to arrange visits to two VAMC's here in Southern California. One was a complete and total mess for years and I can't take credit but I did hound the director and the GAO for nearly four years then boom all of a sudden buildings were being added, space for more departments being added, doctors and staff being hired and when all was said and done, comments of improvement started rolling out like crazy.

Well, it's been a few years now, and I'd like to see if they rolled back to old operation methods or continued on the path to good.

The other I've had more good comments than bad comments for about 10 years, but they too have added buildings and departments and I'd like to see those too.

My only big question is if I do manage to get a tour whether or not I'd be allowed to take any pictures or not.

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

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

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

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



## **VA Adds Respiratory Cancers linked to Burn Pits to Disability List**

The Department of Veterans Affairs has published an [interim final rule in the Federal Register](#) (page 24422) adding certain rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities caused by military environmental exposure to particulate matter. This issue was first noted in the March 4, 2022, NewsBytes. This regulation is effective immediately.

The VA determined through a review of scientific and medical evidence there is biologic plausibility between airborne hazards, and carcinogenesis of the respiratory tract, and that the unique circumstances of these rare cancers warrant a presumption of service connection. These ailments are listed in the interim final rule and the [March 4, 2022, NewsBytes](#).



## **Felix Sparks: The Liberator**

Army Veteran Felix L. Sparks, who served in World War II, is best known for his role in liberating the Dachau concentration camp.

[Read More](#)



## **How My Sexual Assault Shaped Me, But Did Not Break Me**

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Kayla White shares her experience with sexual assault during her initial training at Fort Meade, in Maryland.

[Read More](#)



## March in Remembrance of a Veteran

From April 28 through May 28, volunteers organized by Carry The Load will visit 50 VA national cemeteries during a 20,000-mile march along five separate routes covering 48 states. All five routes will converge on Memorial Day weekend for a final rally in Dallas, Texas.

Carry The Load is a non-profit organization providing active ways to connect Americans to the sacrifices of our nation's military, Veterans, first responders and their families.

This is the fifth year VA and Carry The Load are joining forces for what we call "Memorial May." Along each leg of the five routes, marchers frequently carry signs, banners and flags honoring a fallen servicemember, Veteran or first responder. They "carry the load" for those heroes who are no longer able to do so themselves.

If you have a hero you'd like to remember, or are just interested in marching with like-minded patriots, please volunteer to march one or more legs of a route. Or you can welcome the marchers in a brief rally upon their arrival at one of our participating national cemeteries. All volunteers are asked to [register in advance](#). No donation is required to participate.

The list of national cemeteries, along with the dates and times that they will be visited by Carry The Load marchers, can be found on NCA's website at the link below:

[Click Here](#)



## 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](mailto:robin.barr@madvocacy.org)



## VFW Holds Toxic Exposure Press Event

More than 120 people gathered outside the VFW National Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, to urge the Senate to pass the Honoring our PACT Act. “The cost of war must include the cost of taking care of our injured and sick veterans,” said VFW National Commander Matthew “Fritz” Mihelcic to rousing applause from the crowd. “Every veteran that has been in harm’s way has earned the right to health care.” Featured speakers also included veteran advocate Jon Stewart, Rep. Sharice Davids (D-KS), and representatives from Disabled American Veterans, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Wounded Warrior Project, and Burn Pits 360. [Watch the video.](#)



## **Hear from an experienced VA nurse about this nursing residency program**

Amy Shaw continues to draw upon her experience from the RNTTP Residency Program 10 years later in her nursing career.

[Read More](#)



## **COVID-19 Booster Effectiveness Remained High During Omicron Surge**

Active-duty service members who received a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot were significantly less likely to be infected with the disease during the surge of the Omicron variant this winter, according to a recent study.

[Read More](#)



## **TAPS Seeks Veterans to Serve as Mentors to Grieving Military Children**

The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), a national organization providing compassionate care to those grieving the death of a military loved one, is looking for active duty, reserve, National Guard and Veteran community members to serve as supportive companions to children of America's fallen military at the 28th Annual National Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp, May 26 – 30 in Arlington, Virginia.

[Read More](#)







# Fourth Annual Military-Veterans Advocacy

## “Rif-Raf” Rifle Raffle “Rif-Raf”

Tickets on sale now for \$40  
Visit [militaryveteransadvocacy.org](http://militaryveteransadvocacy.org) to  
purchase your tickets today!

First prize: Remington Model 870 shotgun with  
a box of shells



Scan here for  
Breakfast with the  
Best tickets



Second prize: Model 1911 .45 caliber pistol with  
box of ammo



Scan here for Rifle  
Raffle tickets

**Winners  
must  
comply with  
all federal  
and state  
firearm  
laws.**

Third prize: Steel shooting target



Fourth prize: \$250.00



**Drawing will  
take place on  
May 21, 2022 at  
Breakfast with  
the Best.  
Not required to  
be present to  
win.**

MVA is a non-profit tax exempt organization. Please follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter (@MVAdvocacy), and Instagram (@MVAdvocacy).

If you have any questions, please contact Chandra Klein at (504) 701-3671 or [chandra.klein@mvadvocacy.org](mailto:chandra.klein@mvadvocacy.org)

Images of prizes are examples, real prize may look different





# Your actions

**could save a life.**

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

VeteransCrisisLine.net



## Protecting Veterans from Claims Predators

The VFW and Wounded Warrior Project have co-authored an op-ed for Military Times on how to protect our veterans from predatory claims practices. VA's current process of applying for earned benefits can be confusing, and sadly some non-accredited businesses take advantage of the confusion and prey on vulnerable individuals. Veterans Service Organizations provide free assistance from VA-accredited representatives, and want to raise awareness of the fraudulent methods used by predators.

[Read the op-ed.](#)



## Is your family cyber safe?

Information Security and Privacy Awareness Week (ISPAW) is the time to consider tips to better protect your family.

[Read More](#)



## **Avoid Crash Diets: Safe and Effective Weight Loss**

If you're committed to losing weight, make sure to do it safely by avoiding crash diets. Talk to your doctor about the safest and most effective way to manage a healthy weight.

[Watch Video](#)



## **Volunteer to "Carry the Load" for an American Hero During Trek Across Country**

VA's National Cemetery Administration and the non-profit Carry The Load have joined forces leading up to Memorial Day to honor Veterans and service members interred in national cemeteries across the country. Volunteers can "Carry The Load" for an American hero who is no longer with us. No donation is required to participate.

[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** .....



## DPAA Family Updates and Annual Briefings

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) conducts monthly updates for the families of American service members and annual government briefings on DPAA's worldwide mission. These meetings include formal presentations, question and answer sessions, and discussions between government officials and family members. Veterans Service Organizations are encouraged to attend. [Read more and register](#) or [view the Livestream archive](#).



### **Christian Crifasi: Cycling for a cause**

Navy Veteran Christian Crifasi biked 3,442-miles across the U.S. over 88 days, raising awareness and funds for the charity CreatiVets.

[Read More](#)



### **8 Tips to Help Kids Adjust to Change During the New Pandemic Phase**

Parents should prepare their kids for the new normal of the ongoing pandemic, recognizing that the status of the disease can change quickly as new variants of COVID-19 emerge.

[Read More](#)



## **My HealtheVet Secure Messaging Improves Veteran Health Care Experience**

It's no secret that effective communication promotes a better health care experience. Secure Messaging through My HealtheVet can make it easier for Veterans to communicate with health care providers between appointments.

[Read More](#)



***[Links to Other Stories](#)***

- 1) 11 Defendants Plead Guilty in \$300 Million Healthcare Fraud
- 2) Additional Information on Blue Water Navy Exposure to Herbicide (2022)
- 3) Air Force raises a last glass to the final Doolittle Raider
- 4) Counselor Sentenced to Federal Prison for Wide-Ranging Medicaid Fraud Scheme
- 5) How we can protect America's Veterans from predatory benefits claims practices
- 6) Navy's 30-year shipbuilding plan offers three options to increase the size of the fleet
- 7) Newaygo Woman Sentenced for Defrauding Social Security and Veterans Programs of Over \$650,000
- 8) Patient Recruiter Pleads Guilty to \$870,000 Kickback Scheme
- 9) Physician Indicted in \$10 Million Health Care Fraud Scheme
- 10) Physician Partners of America to Pay \$24.5 Million to Settle Allegations of Unnecessary Testing, Improper Remuneration to Physicians and a False Statement in Connection with COVID-19 Relief Funds
- 11) Scams targeting Veterans' pensions, benefits raise worry among VA officials
- 12) Two Marketers Sentenced for Engaging in an Illegal Health Care Kickback Scheme
- 13) VA establishes presumptive service connection for rare respiratory cancers for certain Veterans
- 14) VA secretary signs new master plan for LA homelessness project, vows action after delays
- 15) Veteran, financier both plead guilty in 'We Build the Wall' fraudulent fundraiser
- 16) Yellow Ribbon Program helps some post-9/11 Veterans pay for more expensive schooling



## **VA Provides Adoption and IVF Options**

The last week in April is National Infertility Awareness Week. Veterans who lost their ability to reproduce due to a service-connected disability may be eligible for [reimbursement of adoption expenses](#) or for in vitro fertilization (IVF) [through VA](#) or [community care](#). Infertility evaluation, management, and treatment services are also provided to veterans enrolled in VA health care regardless of service connection. Veterans interested in infertility services should contact their VA provider.



## **VA's services for those impacted by intimate partner violence**

VA's Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program has information on services available for those impacted by intimate partner violence (IPV).

[Read More](#)



## **'I'm Alive Because People Care, Because People Donate Blood'**

In April 2012, a normal day at work turned ugly for Army Staff Sgt. Travis Mills. He was on a routine patrol in Afghanistan when an improvised explosive device went off.

[Read More](#)





## **Nine New Cancers Added to the Presumed Service-connected List Related to Particulate Matter**

The Department of Veterans Affairs is adding nine rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities due to military environmental exposures to fine particulate matter.

[Learn More](#)



## **Suicide Prevention Resources for Military and Veterans**

### **Military & Veterans Crisis Line**

1-800-273-8255, Press 1  
Text 838255, 24/7

### **Vets 4 Warriors**

855-838-8255

### **InTransition**

1-800-424-7877

### **Office of Warrior Care Policy**

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

### **Military One Source**

1-800-342-9647

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

1-800-959-8277



## **VA Telehealth Reduces Suicide for Rural Veterans**

A recent study by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) finds that veterans with mental health issues were more likely to get online treatment after receiving smart devices from the VA, reducing their risk of suicide during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study of 471,791 rural veterans with a history of mental health care was published in the journal of the American Medical Association.

The report notes the U.S. suicide rate is the highest since World War II and that veterans are one-and-a-half times more likely to commit suicide than non-veterans. Rural areas are particularly at risk because of higher unemployment and lack of health care resources. Both were problems that became exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.



## **America250: Army Veteran Robert M. Patterson**

This week's America250 salute is Army Veteran Robert M. Patterson, who single-handedly defended his squad near La Chu in Vietnam.

[Read More](#)



## **Kids' Teeth Grinding Usually Stops Around Age 9 or 10 — But Not Always**

Do you ever see or hear your child grinding his or her teeth during the day or at night while sleeping? That's a potentially serious health problem.

[Read More](#)



## **New Fort Smith clinic opens for Arkansas River Valley Veterans**

New 34,000-square-foot Fort Smith clinic replaces a 19,000-square-foot location; will serve 10,000 Veterans with a variety of new services.

[Read More](#)



## **Chats with the Chief Episode 21: Dr. Jonathan Perlin**

Former Undersecretary for Health Dr. Jonathan Perlin joins to discuss his notable career shaping health care policy and delivery for Veterans.

[Read More](#)



## **Watch the latest 'Got Your 6' episode**

'Got Your 6' is TRICARE's COVID vaccine video series. It includes the latest information about DOD vaccine distribution, the TRICARE health benefit, and vaccine availability.

[Watch Video](#)



## **From Hypnosis to Acupuncture**

A holistic approach to patient care has gained traction with Veterans as a complement to medication. With treatments like acupuncture, yoga, tai chi, meditation and chiropractic care, it's no wonder so many are choosing Whole Health.

[Learn 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 04/30/21)

Please note, we've added one 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
- 94) H.R. 2916/S. 1467, the VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2021
- 95) S. 3483, Justice for ALS Veterans Act
- 96) H.R. 6273 and S.3397, the VA Zero Suicide Demonstration Project Act of 2021
- 97) HR 7050, Ernest Peltz Accrued Veterans Benefits Act
- 98) S. 3851/H.R. 7089, the Veterans Exposed to Toxic PFAS Act
- 99) S. 3854/H.R. 6823, the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act
- 100) HR 4601 and S 2405, Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act



## **Veteran hits the pavement in fight to end Parkinson's Disease**

April is Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month. More than 110,000 Veterans (and one million people in the United States) live with Parkinson's. Parkinson's is a chronic neurological disease. Known as a movement disorder, Parkinson's is caused by a loss of dopamine-producing cells in the brain. Typical motor symptoms include tremors during rest, stiff limbs, slow movements [...]

[Read More](#)





## **Bystander intervention works**

Using bystander intervention, a clerical assistant sprung into action after seeing a patient being harassed a provider.

[Read More](#)



## **BRO team at Salisbury VA cares for dementia Veterans and their families**

Behavioral Recovery Outreach (BRO) team works with inpatient teams to stabilize behavioral issues such as aggression or verbal outbursts.

[Read More](#)



## **Development of WRAIR's Pan-Coronavirus Vaccine Shows Promise**

A series of recently published preclinical study results show that a new type of COVID-19 vaccine developed by researchers at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research not only elicits a potent immune response but may also provide broad protection against SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern as well as other coronaviruses.

[Read More](#)



## **VA Seeks Input on Challenges to Veteran Voter Registration**

Help VA best assist Veterans like you in registering to vote! As part of VA's "whole health" approach to care, we believe that it is part of our duty to Veterans and their families to ensure that you are able to exercise the right to vote that you fought and served to protect.

[Take the Survey](#)



## 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



## VA Recognizes the Month of the Military Child

In April, our country marks the Month of the Military Child. During this month, we pay tribute to the incredible resilience of military-connected children, which includes active duty, National Guard, Reserve and children of Veterans.

[Read More](#)



## **My HealtheVet Secure Messaging improves Veteran health care experience**

It's no secret that effective communication promotes a better health care experience. Fortunately, VA's Connected Care virtual health technologies, such as Secure Messaging through My HealtheVet, make it easier for Veterans to communicate with their providers between appointments. Before this technology, patient interactions with their providers were limited to scheduled appointment times. Thanks to Secure [...]

[Read More](#)



## **The Military is Reporting Far Fewer Hearing Problems**

Hearing loss across the Department of Defense continues to decrease for service members and civilians enrolled in hearing conservation programs, according to a recent report from the Defense Health Agency's Hearing Center of Excellence.

[Read More](#)





## **Join the remote work revolution with a career at VA**

Whether fully virtual or teleworking a few days a week, VA has numerous jobs offering the option of remote work.

[Read More](#)



## **Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War seeking nominees**

The Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War, which advises the VA secretary on FPOWs, is seeking nominees for the committee.

[Read More](#)



## **COVID-19 Booster Shots Were Highly Effective During Omicron Surge, New Study Shows**

Active-duty service members who received a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot were significantly less likely to be infected and show symptoms of the disease during the surge of the Omicron variant this winter, according to a recent study.

[Read More](#)



### **CONTACT YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS!**

**To Call your Representative:**

**202-225-2305**

**To Call your Senators:**

**202-224-3841 or 202-224-3553**

**To call Different Members of Congress:**

**202-224-3121**

**TOLL FREE: 866-272-6622**

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

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



**VA Women's Health Reengagement Training  
(heaRT)**



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Office of Women's Health (OWH) has pioneered 30 years of health research and programming for women Veterans. Now, OWH is launching a new program - heaRT. The training program will help you understand what VA health care services are available and how to access them. How do I Register for the Training? The training will be a women-only, one-time, 4-hour session. To register, visit <https://www.womensheart.info/>. You are welcome to register for any session. Both virtual and in-person sessions are available. Please contact [info@WomensheaRT.info](mailto:info@WomensheaRT.info) with any quest.

[Read More](#)



## **The Immigrant Military Members and Veterans Initiative, and how VA supports immigrant Veterans**

The Immigrant Military Members and Veterans Initiative (IMMVI) launched in July 2021 when VA partnered with the Department of Homeland Security to consolidate relevant federal resources for noncitizen service members, Veterans and their families, caregivers and survivors.

[Read More](#)



**Thank You for Being a Military Kid**

Watch military parents read letters to their children, thanking them for all they do to support the mission.

[Watch Video](#)



## **How to Help Military Children Reconnect After Two Years of the Pandemic**

The COVID-19 pandemic has been extraordinarily challenging for even the most resilient kids. "There is a developmental gap from being out of the school environment," one child development expert said.

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# Always



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## **VA services build hope after sexual assault**

Every 68 seconds in America, someone is sexually assaulted. VA is committed to preventing and addressing sexual harassment and assault impacting Veterans, their families, visitors and VA staff. VA's Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program (IPVAP) cares about individuals impacted by sexual assault.

[Read More](#)



## **Learn about careers at VA at May recruiting events**

Interested in a VA career? Meet up with VA recruiters at five recruiting events this May.

[Read More](#)



## **SAFE Option Provides Care for Victims of Sexual Assault**

A special medical exam known as the Sexual Assault Forensic Examination can preserve key evidence that may help to prosecute a perpetrator.

[Read More](#)



## **Pharmacy Benefit Questions? Check Out This Handbook**

The TRICARE Pharmacy Program Handbook can help you get the most out of your pharmacy benefit. It's a helpful resource to learn how your pharmacy benefit works and what it covers.

[Read More](#)



## **Office of Inspector General**

- 1) [COVID-19: Current and Future Federal Preparedness Requires Fixes to Improve Health Data and Address Improper Payments](#)
- 2) [Native American Veterans: Improvements to VA Management Could Help Increase Mortgage Loan Program Participation](#)
- 3) [Nutrition Assistance Programs: Federal Agencies Should Improve Oversight and Better Collaborate on Efforts to Support Veterans with Food Insecurity](#)
- 4) [Suicide Prevention: DOD Should Enhance Oversight, Staffing, Guidance, and Training Affecting Certain Remote Installations](#)
- 5) [VA Financial Management System: Additional Actions Needed to Help Ensure Success of Future Deployments](#)



**CLEAR app lets Veterans carry their vaccine and health records anywhere**

Like millions of Americans vaccinated against COVID-19, you might find yourself digging for your vaccine card to enter restaurants, shops, concerts and other venues. To help make life easier for Veterans and family members, VA accepted onto its list of available third-party mobile apps the CLEAR Health Pass app – which stores and displays mobile vaccine cards.

[Read More](#)



## **NIAID Marks World Malaria Day**

Each year, on World Malaria Day, NIAID reaffirms its commitment to battling this deadly mosquito-borne disease. Despite the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, NIAID has remained dedicated to finding new vaccines, therapeutics, and preventative measures to combat malaria, and has supported critical basic research into the biological underpinnings of this disease. Fighting this complex disease is a global effort, and NIAID is proud to be a part of the drive to reduce the burden of malaria.

[Read More](#)



## **Manage Your TRICARE Dental Program Coverage With 'My Account'**

Don't let managing your dental coverage be confusing. There is an online tool to help you access, review, and manage your TRICARE Dental Program benefit information in one place. It's called My Account.



[Read More](#)



## **Lt. Gen. Place Addresses Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention**

Lt. Gen. Ron Place, the DHA director, talks about the importance of speaking out against sexual assault and his zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual assault in DHA workplaces and our hospitals and clinics.

[Watch Video](#)



- 1) [FDA alerts customers to voluntary recall of compounded drugs due to sterility issues by Drug Depot, LLC, dba APS Pharmacy](#)
- 2) [Pfizer Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Lots of ACCUPRIL® \(Quinapril HCl\) Due to N-Nitroso-Quinapril Content](#)
- 3) [Turkey Hill Dairy Issues Voluntary Recall and Allergy Alert for Undeclared Peanut in Select Chocolate Marshmallow Premium](#)

## Ice Cream Containers

- 4) Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Approves First COVID-19 Treatment for Young Children
- 5) Disclosing Information About Drugs and Fostering CDER's Transparency Efforts
- 6) FDA Proposes Rules Prohibiting Menthol Cigarettes and Flavored Cigars to Prevent Youth Initiation, Significantly Reduce Tobacco-Related Disease and Death
- 7) FDA Drug Shortages
- 8) FDA Takes Steps to Limit Lead in Juice to Further Reduce Exposure to Toxic Elements in Foods
- 9) Potential Risk of Airway Obstruction When Using Certain Electromyogram Endotracheal Tubes – Letter to Health Care Providers
- 10) FDA alerts customers to voluntary recall of compounded drugs due to sterility issues by Drug Depot, LLC, dba APS Pharmacy
- 11) Potential for Internal Pump Malfunction in the Medtronic HVAD System – Letter to Health Care Providers
- 12) Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Announces Tentative Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule Regarding COVID-19 Vaccines
- 13) FDA approves new drug to improve heart function in adults with rare heart condition
- 14) Providing Submissions in Electronic Format — Postmarketing Safety Reports
- 15) FDA Investigation of Cronobacter Infections: Powdered Infant Formula (February 2022)
- 16) FDA Roundup: April 26, 2022
- 17) FDA Roundup: April 29, 2022
- 18) Bosentan REMS requirements will change June 27, 2022





## **Live Whole Health #120: Acupressure puts low back pain relief in your fingertips**

If you're ready to get back into the garden and get your hands dirty, but your back is saying "NO!" then this acupressure for low back pain relief might be for you.

[Read More](#)



## **Camp Lejeune Nurse Powerlifts Her Way to Winner's Podium**

A Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune nurse has another title to add to her name – champion powerlifter. U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Holly Vickers competed in the U.S. Powerlifting Association's Virginia Beach Classic, taking home the top spot for her weight class.

[Read More](#)



## **COVID-19 Booster Shots – What You Need to Know**

Booster shots of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine are available at military medical treatment facility and Department of Defense vaccination sites.

[Read More](#)



## Video: Check Out TRICARE's Formulary Search Tool



Managing your prescriptions can be tricky, but the TRICARE Formulary Search Tool can help! Learn how much you'll pay, where you can get your prescriptions filled, and so

much more.

[Watch Video](#)



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## Rideshare program helps Veteran find news roads to employment

VA's Rideshare Program, an essential service to Veterans...helpful in giving eligible Veterans transportation to workplace and healthcare settings.

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## **You Are Not Alone: Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Resources Provide Help**

Sometimes life events—financial strain, relationships, isolation, emotional or sexual abuse, stress, and misuse or abuse of alcohol or drugs—can lead to depression, anxiety, and thoughts of suicide. It's important to remember that you are not alone.

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## **Contract Awarded for Landstuhl Replacement**

The contract to build the largest U.S. hospital outside the United States has been signed, marking a significant step forward for the Rhine Ordnance Barracks Medical Center Replacement project.

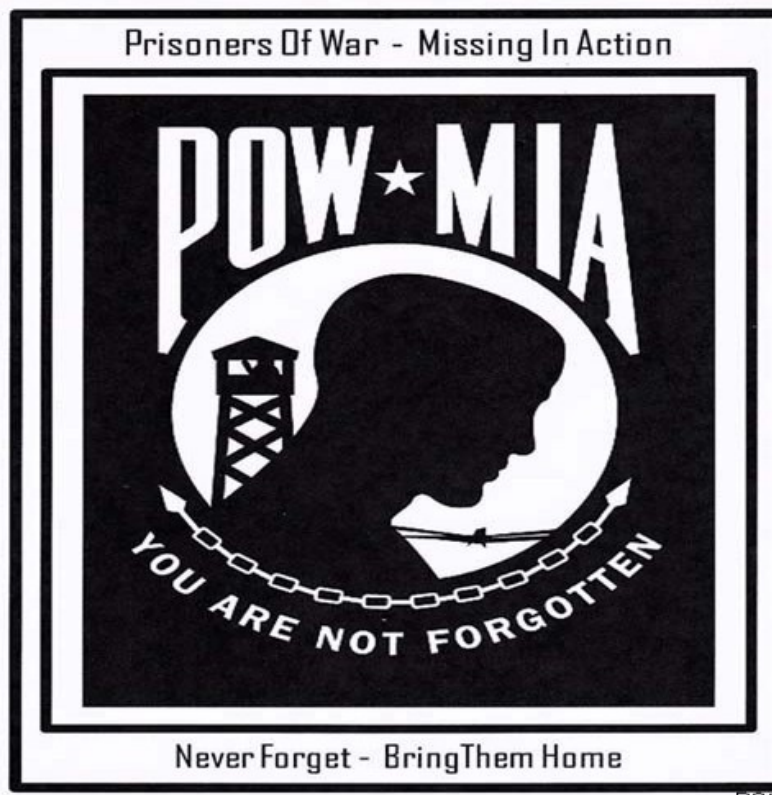
[Read More](#)



## **New Centers Will Deliver Advanced Care for Serious Eye Injuries**

The Defense Health Agency launched the first of four Ocular Trauma Centers, which will become primary hubs for the treatment of complex eye injuries and development of cutting-edge research programs.

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DOC



**Sticking it out: Acupuncture helps Veteran beat addiction**

His mechanic job in Vietnam took its toll on his back. He used morphine until VA suggested acupuncture. Today, he feels like a new man.

[Read More](#)



## **A History of the Combat Helmet and the Quest to Prevent Injuries**

As a critical piece of a warfighter's protective gear, the combat helmet has vastly improved over the years as new technology and better designs have reduced the risk of fatal blows and traumatic brain injuries.

[Read More](#)



## **Dear Fellow Caregivers**

Dear Fellow Caregivers -

My name is Rose, and I want to share my family's story with you. My husband served in the Army. He returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom 10 years ago, when my son was 5 and my daughter was 8. He came home with PTSD, anxiety, depression, diabetes, and chronic pain. I wish I knew then what I know now. I was in such a dark place at that time; it was like driving in a foggy area with low visibility and I wasn't even sure if we were on a downward hill or an uphill road.

My husband came home so different, he had really changed. I

started to realize how our children's lives would be so different than I had imagined. I would ask myself "why doesn't he want to be involved with the kids, talk to them or play?" His demeanor could change so quickly, and our children didn't understand. They would ask what they did to "make him like that". They would question "why is he so angry and sleeping all the time?" My daughter was particularly observant and very aware of his emotions. It felt like what was happening to them was happening to me. As a mom, if they felt it five times, I felt it ten times, because I felt it for them too. I felt alone and lonely as it seemed to all fall on me. This was hard for me, for my heart and soul. I couldn't sleep and I lost weight due to the stress of managing three people who needed my attention and care.

Over time, my husband was not improving, and I realized I needed to accept what was in front of me. I began to educate myself by reading everything I could find about caregiving. I started attending a support group at my church. I found a [Vet Center](#) family group and I met the [CSP](#) team at Hines VA. This was a godsend. I attended every educational offering I could as well as counseling and support groups. If CSP offered it, I did it! From signing up for the [Building Better Caregivers](#) workshop, subscribing to the [Annie Caregiver Text Messaging program](#), and completing [VA S.A.V.E \(suicide prevention skills training\)](#), I did everything I could to improve my knowledge and skills as a caregiver. I even joined into the [VA Caregiver Support Line's Monthly Education Calls](#).

To have other caregivers understand me and to be in a place where I didn't have to explain myself, made a difference. I needed to have support in place for me, so I could best support the three people who needed me.

After my husband came home, I realized my children also needed support. And that support started with me talking openly with them

as a mom and as my husband's caregiver. I had to educate myself about how to talk to them. I learned to speak to them at their level, based on their age. I helped explain so they could understand and accept, so they wouldn't see dad as "the monster in the house". Over time, the kids learned to understand it was not their fault and that they are loved. We found it was so important to take breaks, to be active, and go to the park. I had to learn to be resourceful for them and do so on our budget. Our children became so knowledgeable about PTSD. I helped them connect with activities they enjoy, such as swimming and piano. We got involved with [Our Military Kids](#) and [Wounded Warrior Project](#). I wanted them to have some normalcy and to make sure they knew they weren't alone. Through these organizations, they were able to see that other kids have similar experiences. And with that, they were better able to accept it.

What I want you to remember, dear fellow caregiver, is this is a process. What I describe here with my family did not happen overnight. And even ten years later, I'm still learning. If you want your relationship and your children to thrive - and if you want to thrive - hang on through those hard times.

In time, I learned to stop longing for the life I had before, and I learned to accept the life I was living. I would not exchange my experiences as it made me who I am today, as a person, as a mom and a caregiver to my Veteran. We still have ups and down, new concerns with old concerns. I will always do whatever I can to help my children to fly and my husband to thrive. What I wish I knew then that I know now and will share with you - keep praying and have hope. It won't always feel like a foggy road.

With you,

Rose Cotto



## **Vietnam War Commemoration Presents DHA Director with Commemorative Flag**

Army Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Ron Place, director of the Defense Health Agency, was presented with a Vietnam War commemorative flag at the Pentagon to observe the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

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**Protect your benefits: Beat pension poachers to the punch**



VA has seen an increase of fraudsters and pension poachers targeting the pension benefits of elderly Veterans, their dependents and survivors.

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## Getting Married? Here's What You Need to Know About Your TRICARE benefits

Congratulations on getting married! This is a TRICARE Qualifying Life Event that may impact your health plan options.



[Watch Video](#)



## 10 TRICARE Health Care Terms You Should Know



Have you recently come across a health care term and weren't quite sure what it meant? It's OK. Health care coverage is full of terms you may not know. To help you better understand your TRICARE benefit, here's a list of commonly used health care terms and definitions.

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## Do Energy Drinks Enhance Individual Performance?

Marketers for sports drinks claim that they "increase performance," "rehydrate," and "refuel." What does this mean? And should you include them as part of your work out?

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## Borne the Battle 275: Benefits Breakdown, Office of Harassment and Assault Prevention

This week's Borne the Battle—a benefits breakdown—features the Office of Harassment and Assault Prevention. The office's goal is simple: All those who visit a VA facility should be treated with dignity and respect.

[Read More](#)



## **MHS Podcast Explores Women's Health in the Military**

The Wise Health for Women Warriors podcast pulls experts from across the MHS's Women and Infant Clinical Community to answer frequently asked questions about women's health.

[Read More](#)



## **Live Whole Health #120: Acupressure puts low back pain relief in your fingertips**

If you're ready to get back into the garden and get your hands dirty, but your back is saying "NO!" then this acupressure for low back pain relief might be for you. The extra lifting, bending and pulling of gardening may increase low back pain after a winter of less activity. Don't let back pain stop you from doing the things you enjoy. A simple acupressure routine can help!

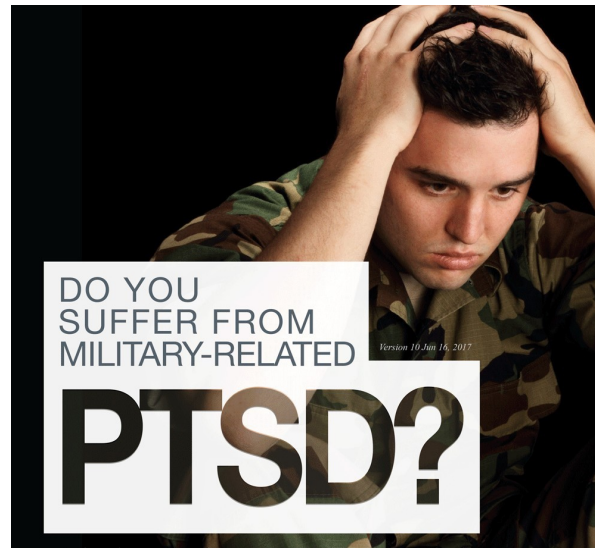
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## **Brain-Boosting Meal Plans Help Service Members with TBI**

Most of us know that changing the way you eat can improve energy, weight and heart health. But did you know that it can also affect brain health?

[Read More](#)



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



## **Your least favorite interview questions... and how to answer them!**

We've all been there. Your coveted interview begins, and just as you think things are going well, the hiring manager throws you a curveball. They ask one of your least favorite interview questions, one of those questions that should be easy to answer, but completely throws you off your game. Everyone has that one question [...]

[Read More](#)



## **Be Proactive in Looking for Early Signs of Testicular Cancer**

Testicular cancer is most common among younger men. While the diagnosis of cancer can be frightening, testicular cancer can usually be cured.

[Read More](#)



## **Oklahoma's Montgomery VA medical center named LGBTQ+ top performer**

The Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center has been named a top performer in the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Healthcare Equality Index.

[Read More](#)





**Don't do college alone, go as part of a "posse" of  
10 Veterans**

The Posse Foundation developed a program to prepare Veterans for the college experience. The Posse Veterans Program sends Veterans to college as teams – or "posses" – to both give and receive support throughout college and beyond. Posse identifies and supports post-9/11 U.S. Armed Forces Veterans who have tremendous leadership and academic potential. The program [...]

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## **Prescription Drugs: What You Need to Know About Pre-Authorization and Medical Necessity**

TRICARE has procedures to make sure you get the right prescription drug to treat your condition. Here are some tips for how to work with your doctor to get approval for coverage of certain drugs.

[Read More](#)



## **Women Veterans Program Monthly Virtual WV Network [May 12, 2022]**

Virtual – Join us every 2nd Thursday of the month at 1:30PM to learn about a new resource and network with other women Veterans.

[Read More](#)



# Tax & Credit Information





- 1) 2022 tax filing season begins Jan. 24; IRS outlines refund timing and what to expect in advance of April 18 tax deadline
- 2) Common tax return mistakes that can cost taxpayers
- 3) Get ready for taxes: Bookmark IRS (dot) gov resources and online tools to use before, during and after filing
- 4) Here are reasons people who don't normally file should file a 2021 tax return
- 5) How small business owners can deduct their home office from their taxes
- 6) IRS Chief Counsel looking for 200 experienced attorneys to focus on abusive tax deals; job openings posted
- 7) IRS Free File available today; filers can claim important tax benefits
- 8) IRS issues Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit
- 9) IRS issues guidance regarding the retroactive termination of the Employee Retention Credit
- 10) IRS releases its 2021 Progress Update detailing challenging year
- 11) IRS revises Form 1024, Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(a) or Section 521 of the Internal Revenue Code, as part of ongoing efforts to improve service
- 12) IRS updates FAQs for 2021 Child Tax Credit and Advance Child Tax Credit Payments
- 13) It's important for taxpayers to know the difference between standard and itemized deductions
- 14) January 31 wage statement deadline reminder for employers
- 15) Mark the calendar: Important backup withholding deadlines
- 16) Mark the calendar: Important backup withholding deadlines
- 17) Taxpayers must report gig economy earnings when filing taxes
- 18) Top 5 things to remember when filing income tax returns in 2022
- 19) Understanding the adoption tax credit



## **Little Rock VA's Blue Light Cystoscopy helping Veterans with bladder cancer**

Central Arkansas VA is the only medical facility in Arkansas with Blue Light Cystoscopy, a revolutionary approach to treating bladder cancer.

[Read More](#)



## **MHS GENESIS: Commanders Say Electronic Health Record Fosters Improved Care**

The Defense Health Agency recently deployed its new electronic health record system, MHS GENESIS, to 14 additional military hospitals and clinics.

[Read More](#)



## **Kansas City VAMC 4th Annual Baby Shower [May 6, 2022]**

Kansas City, MO, VA Medical Center – Kansas City VA Medical Center is holding the 4th Annual 2022 Women's Health Baby Shower-- Drive thru style ! A variety of gifts and individually wrapped yummy cupcakes, will be presented to recipients WHERE : KCVA Honor Annex upper parking lot 4251 Northern Ave., KCMO WHEN : May 6, 2022 TIME : 11am to 1pm RSVP by Wednesday , April 27 with Jenny Brooks – Maternity Care Coordinator 816-922-2195 (leave voicemail).

[Read More](#)



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced six 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:

**Navy Seaman 1st Class David F. Tidball**, 20, of Independence, Iowa, 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 Tidball. He will be buried in his hometown on May 14, 2022. [Read about Tidball.](#)

**Army Pvt. Hillary Soileau**, 23, of Bunkie, Louisiana, was a member of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, when American forces went on the offensive to clear Guadalcanal of Japanese forces. Soileau was wounded on Jan. 14, 1943, during fighting on a group of hills nicknamed Galloping Horse. Following the battle, he could not be found. Soileau was declared missing in action on Feb. 3, 1943, and officially declared killed in action on Dec. 13, 1945. He will be buried in Washington, Louisiana, on May 21, 2022. [Read about Soileau.](#)

**Navy Seaman 2nd Class Tceollyar Simmons**, 18, of Detroit, was assigned to the battleship USS California, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS California sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to catch fire and slowly flood. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 104 crewmen, including Simmons. He will be buried in Hacoda, Alabama, on June 14, 2022. [Read about Simmons.](#)

**Navy Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Everett R. Stewart**, 22, of Anderson, California, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Stewart. He will be buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in Honolulu, on June 18, 2022. [Read about Stewart.](#)

**Navy Musician 1st Class Joseph W. Hoffman**, 24, of Chillicothe, Ohio, 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 Hoffman. He will be buried on Aug. 26, 2022, but the location has yet to be determined. [Read about Hoffman.](#)

**Army Cpl. Paul Mitchem**, 20, of Avondale, West Virginia, was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 7, 1950, after his unit sustained heavy casualties while defending against the North Korean army's advance near Ch'onan, South Korea. His body was not recovered because his unit was forced to retreat, and no remains found could be identified as Mitchem. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Mitchem.](#)

**Army Pfc. Merl W. Holm**, 22, was assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 126th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Division. On Nov. 26, 1942, he was reportedly killed while his unit attempted to flank the enemy defensive line to Port Moresby, in present day Papua New Guinea. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star. Interment services are pending. [Read about Holm.](#)

**Marine Corps Reserve Cpl. William R. Ragsdale**, 23, was assigned to Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. His unit was part of the invasion force when American forces participated in the battle for Saipan, which was part of a larger operation to secure the Mariana islands. Ragsdale was initially reported as wounded, and later as deceased. Interment services are pending. [Read about Ragsdale.](#)



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