



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, May 22, 2022

Volume 13, Issue 21



This-N-That

Good morning Jim,

As I mentioned last week, seems like every time I blink or turn my head something new is happening, this time it's within the VA.

They've announced they will be researching many already approved illnesses and if there is a history in your family for various types of Cancer, ALS, Parkinson's, etc., and they're either not being fully open about this research and the intention is to find ways to rescind benefits and care or simply to reduce benefits and care, but to me this move on their part is deceptive and they are not being fully open in their disclosure.

I've contacted a couple of my researchers to look deeper into this and see what they can find out that would lead to full disclosure on

this action the VA is taking. And if any of our readers have any information on this type of action the VA is taking, please do let me know!

Even though I'm just a military brat, I do feel when I received the diagnosis I had cancer three years ago, it was caused by exposure to one or more of the over forty known chemicals that had badly contaminated MCAS El Toro, and we proved it beyond a doubt in late 2006.

A few Veterans and myself went and met there at the former military base and we barely crossed over the property line and using a spoon only dug a few inches down and collected soil samples and each sample was placed in it's own container and sealed.

Then we went to a nearby orange farm and collected a couple of samples there, then drove a little more than eight miles over to a community called Turtle Rock and collected a few samples there as well to determine approximately how far out the contamination had spread.

We then packaged up all samples and sent to a chemist/biologist to be tested, and not surprising at all, every single sample had no less than 100 times the level above the recommended EPA limits.

I had been hoping this past April I could have said I've been cancer free for three years, but last February I had to have a biopsy done and come to find out the cancer is back.

I do know of three new forms of DNA testing are available, and I did my best to coerce the insurance to cover these tests, but was denied as they do have a very high price tag on each one, between \$4,500 to \$7,000 and I so wanted them done, then I would have definitive proof I was contaminated at El Toro.

Not knowing, not having answers I can pass on and share with other military brats is far more painful than the cancer itself. But I do know this cancer can be beaten, and both times was caught with plenty of time for the treatments to be 100% effective.

Memorial Day is coming up soon, Monday, May 30th. Please find a little time to visit any of the local national cemeteries and pay respect to all our fallen. And if you have a local national cemetery, you might want to contact them and see if they are having any special memorial even planned and do attend, many are quite educational especially to those who have never served or had a family member serve.

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

PS: *If you like what we're doing, have found the newsletter and website useful, please help us keep the site, newsletter and phone/fax lines operational so we can continue to provide in my humble opinion the best there is to offer Veterans. Click here to contribute what you can, please keep in mind this cannot be used as a tax deduction, it's merely a contribution in support.*

<https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hostedbuttonid=2YH7K8LQNJ2K6>



VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



Chairman's Remarks

Hey Congress! We're Baaaacccckkkk! Even as I write this I am winging towards Washington, DC, where we will spend 4 days on the Hill. We have 26 appointments lined up and will be pushing toxic exposure legislation covering Agent Orange herbicide, radiation, and burn pits. Accompanying me will be Chief of Staff Mike Kvintus, Legislative Director Earned Dillard, Vice-Chair Sgt. Major Jim, Kuiken with his service dog Freedom, and Litigation Director Brian Lewis. We will be accompanied by the Legislative Director for the Association of the United States Navy, Casin Spiro and the outreach coordinator for the Union of Concerned Scientists, Lilly Adams.

If you receive this newsletter before May 20th, it's not too late to buy a raffle ticket for our 4th annual Rif-Raf (Rifle Raffle). This year we are raffling off a Remington 870 shotgun, a Model 1911 .45 caliber pistol, a steel target (donated by Brian Moyer), and \$250.00 cash. The drawing will be held on May 21, 2022 at the annual MVA™ "Breakfast with the Best." Tickets are available at: <https://www.militaryveteransadvocacy.org/> under the Events tab.

May 21, 2022, Armed Forces Day, is the date of the second annual "Breakfast with the Best." The breakfast will be held at T. LeBlanc's Creole Kitchen, 797 Robert Blvd., Slidell, LA 70458. For those of you living along the Gulf Coast, you may find the travel worth your while. Look folks, Chef Warren makes a french toast casserole that is to die for. Space is limited, so sign up now at www.militaryveteransadvocacy.org under the Events tab. Sponsorships are also available.

I traveled to The Villages in Central Florida, along with Brian Moyer, Mike Kvintus, and Tom Walden to give an update on our legislation and litigation strategies. We had over 100 people attend and the reception was good. The next day we provided a similar presentation to the American Legion at Mount Dora. Thanks to Brian Moyer for setting up both presentations. Education is part of MVA's™ core mission and we will travel to make presentations to groups. For more information contact me at john.wells@mvadvocacy.org.

One of the suits we are supporting at the Supreme Court held oral argument. Mel Bostwick, of the Orrick law firm argued the case of George v. McDonough. Mel is the attorney who argued the final argument in the Procopio case. The matter in George concerns Clear and Unmistakable Error (CUE). The VA contends that if they relied upon a regulation that was later found to be invalid, that this did not constitute Clear and Unmistakable error. Mr. George disagrees. MVA™ supported Mr. George in this case arguing that Congress intended the application of an invalid regulation, especially one that conflicts with a statute, to be clear and unmistakable error. The critical factor is that CUE is retroactive of the date of the first claim. Winning this case will result in a windfall of retroactive benefits for tens of thousands of veterans.

A special thanks to Linda Jo Heffner, author of Tainted Seas - My Sailor's Story. I was honored to write the forward for her book and

a portion of the proceeds were donated to MVA™.

The PACT Act remains mired in Committee. We still have sufficient legislative days to get it passed, but as of this date, we do not have sufficient votes to bring it to the floor. Please contact your Senators and ask them to support the PACT Act. It affects Guam, American Samoa, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, radiation veterans, and burn pits.

No word yet on the promised appointment with the VA Secretary. Still waiting.

I want to thank everyone who has donated to MVA™ or purchased a raffle ticket. Your support is appreciated.

We currently have over 1700 members IF everyone would send in their renewal for 2022. This will bring us closer to that magic 2000 number.

If you know of a veteran's widow, they are eligible for a free membership. Contact Robin.Barr@madvocacy.org. If you are having financial issues, Robin also has gift memberships available. Any membership questions - contact Robin.

Please check out the MVA Marketplace on our website.

So, until next month, stay steady on course.

John B. Wells
CDR USN (ret)
Chairman



**SVAC Announces Bipartisan Agreement on VA
Toxic Exposure Bill**

Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester (Mont.) and Ranking Member Jerry Moran (Kan.) announced a bipartisan agreement on comprehensive legislation to deliver to many toxic-exposed veterans their earned health care and benefits under the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the first time in the nation's history. For more than a year, Sens. Tester and Moran led negotiations between Democrats, Republicans, House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano, Ranking Member Mike Bost, the Biden Administration, the FRA and other veterans service organizations.

Military service for our nation can require service members to go places that may expose them to toxins that cause illness and diseases that may not be diagnosed for years or even decades after their service. That is why the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) is a member of the Toxic Exposures in the American Military (TEAM) Coalition to ensure that no veteran who suffered exposure to burn pits or other environmental toxins goes without access to VA health care benefits.

The "Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act" will:

- Expand VA health care eligibility to Post-9/11 combat veterans, which includes more than 3.5 million toxic-exposed veterans;
- Create a framework for the establishment of future presumptions of service connection related to toxic exposure;
- Add 23 burn pit and toxic exposure-related conditions to VA's list of service presumptions, including hypertension;
- Expand presumptions related to Agent Orange exposure;
 - o Includes Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Atoll as locations for Agent Orange exposure;
- Strengthen federal research on toxic exposure;
- Improve VA's resources and training for toxic-exposed veterans;

and

- Set VA and veterans up for success by investing in:
 - o VA claims processing;
 - o VA's workforce; and
 - o VA health care facilities.

Once the text of the bill has been finalized, it will be put on the Senate floor for a vote. After Senate passage, the legislation must be passed by the House before being signed into law by the president.



National Research Week: Science in service of Veterans

National VA Research Week is May 16-20, 2022. This year's theme is "Science in Service of Veterans."

[Read More](#)



TRICARE Answers Your Questions About Baby Formula



Here's some information on what TRICARE does and doesn't cover.

[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

Woman Admiral Becomes Coast Guard Commandant

The Senate unanimously approved Admiral Linda Fagan to become the next Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard effective June 1, 2022, making her the first woman to lead a military service. Admiral Fagan has served in the Coast Guard for 36 years. She has served as Vice-commandant since June of 2021. Previously she was commander of the Coast Guard Pacific Area, overseeing operations from the Rocky Mountains to the waters off the east coast of Africa. Fagan is also the Coast Guard's first Gold Ancient Trident, the officer with the longest service record in the Marine Safety field. She graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 1985 with a B.S. degree in Marine Science. She later

earned a Master of Marine Affairs degree from the University of Washington in 2000 and an M.S. degree in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University in 2008.



Employment assistance from Bridge My Return brings jobseekers, employers together

Bridge My Return (BMR) employment assistance is open to service members, Veterans, spouses and caregivers.

[Read More](#)



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

As all Defense Health Agency-managed medical treatment facilities implement MHS GENESIS as the standard electronic health record, beneficiaries and their providers will not lose access to their old records.

[Read More](#)



Live Whole Health #123: Managing stress and headaches

We all experience stress, which can lead to headaches and other negative outcomes. In this week's #LiveWholeHealth, we use acupressure to manage it.

[Read More](#)



Your actions

could save a life.

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

VeteransCrisisLine.net



Armed Forces Day

May 21, 2022 is Armed Forces Day, that was started on May 20, 1950. This day is intended to recognize the men and women of our Armed Forces for their service in support of our nation and give thanks for those who keep our nation safe. Many DoD installations will hold events that are open to the public.

Ready to grow? VA offers nursing opportunities for education and training

Between training and scholarships, it's easy to see why VA is the largest employer of nurses in the United States. Find out more to grow your career!

[Read More](#)

Cancer Patients Discuss Experiences During DOD Moonshot 2 Initiative Roundtable

Cancer patients shared their stories as part of the Department of Defense Cancer Moonshot Roundtable, "A Conversation on Cancer Health Equity and Military-relevant Environmental Exposures."

[Read More](#)



VA makes it easier to buy a home on tribal land

VA is focusing on improving the Native American Direct Loan (NADL) by increasing outreach to Native American tribes. VA Loan Guaranty Service strives to ensure consistent open communication to all Native Americans on tribal land to improve the overall experience for the more than 70,000 Native American and Pacific Islander Veterans eligible for the program.

[Read More](#)



Pass the PACT Act Rally DC

On Saturday, May 28, at 1:00 p.m. EDT, veteran advocate Jon Stewart, VFW National Commander Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic, and a coalition of veteran organizations will hold a "Pass the PACT Act Rally DC" at the Rolling to Remember demonstration to highlight the urgent need for the Senate to pass the Honoring Our PACT Act. Learn more about the [PACT Act Rally DC](#).



ICU nurse applies track star career passion to Veteran care

Patrina Allen was an Olympic track contestant in 2000 and 2004. As a VA Intensive Care Unit nurse manager, she conquers different hurdles.

[Read More](#)



Military Medical Museum Celebrates 160th Birthday with Mobile App

For 160 years, the museum has been collecting, researching, and informing on the study of military medicine.

[Read More](#)

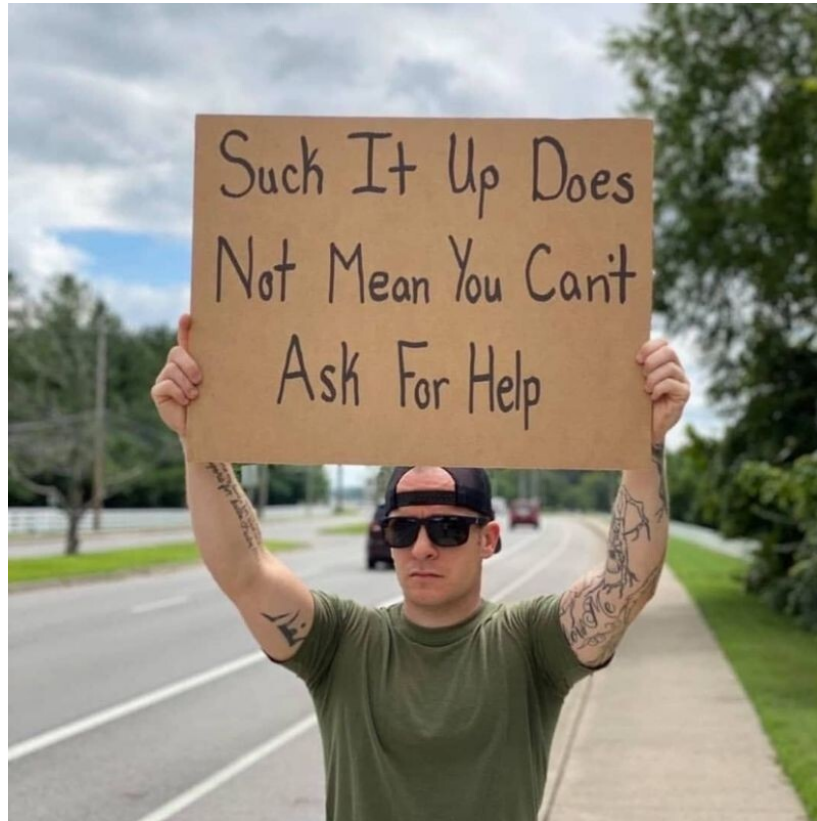


Live Whole Health #123: Managing stress and headaches

We all experience stress, which can lead to headaches and other negative outcomes. I think of stress as the result of any demand on our resources beyond what we usually give. Stress can come from pain, financial struggles, a family argument or loss of a loved one.

[Read More](#)





Subcommittee Hearing on Pending Legislation

The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on several proposed bills. Housing stability, food insecurity, consumer protections, and rapid retraining programs were among the topics discussed. VFW National Legislative Associate Director Emily DeVito submitted a statement for the record. [Watch the hearing](#) or [read the testimony](#).



Peter M. Rhee: Navy Surgeon

Dr. Peter M. Rhee served for 24 years, working as a Navy surgeon. He is known for saving many lives at a 2011 shooting in Tucson.

[Read More](#)



How MHS Video Connect Improves Mission Effectiveness and Care

MHS Video Connect, the Defense Health Agency's new telehealth platform, puts patients at the center of care by meeting them where they are – at home, at their duty station, or wherever they happen to be.

[Read More](#)



VR&E participant becomes children's book author

A former soldier and Veteran Readiness and Employment Service (VR&E) participant has turned the page, becoming an accomplished children's book author. Well before joining VR&E, Winsome Hudson-Bingham grew up in Florida and joined the Army as a unit supply specialist and armorer. She served at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia, prior to deploying to the Persian Gulf for Operation Desert Storm.

[Read More](#)



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
MEMORIAL DAY
RESPECT, HONOR, REMEMBER



www.Veterans-For-Change.org
CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE VFC WEBSITE

Spinal cord injury treatment enables Navy Veteran to have a family

At the South Texas Spinal Cord Injury Center, Veterans can get fertility treatment specifically tailored and customized for them.

[Read More](#)

Provider webinar: Using VA's eCAMS Provider Portal

A health care provider webinar will be held May 19, to discuss how to access and navigate the eCAMS Provider Portal.

[Read More](#)

TRICARE Active Duty Dental Program Helps

Ensure Dental Readiness

As of May 1, the Active Duty Dental Program is available both in the continental United States and outside the continental United States.

[Read More](#)



"Why was I referred to speech therapy?"

VA speech-language pathologists help Veterans learn strategies to improve their cognitive functioning and improve their quality of life.

[Read More](#)

Telehealth hub in Boise to serve thousands of rural Veterans

Boise's new Clinical Resource Hub provides space for VA staff to treat Veterans via telehealth and a training space for staff and students.

[Read More](#)



Why Distinguishing Between TBIs and Psychological Conditions is Key to Treatment

Traumatic brain injuries and the psychological effects of a traumatic event can go hand in hand, but they don't have to.

[Read More](#)



America250 Army Air Forces Veteran Maggie Gee

This week's America250 salute is Army Air Forces Veteran Maggie Gee, who was one of two Chinese American pilots who served in the Women Airforce Service Pilots during World War II. Maggie Gee graduated and received her silver wings in 1944, and she became one of two Chinese American WASPs who served during World War II. After her service, Gee studied cancer, nuclear weapons design, fusion energy, and other related fields.

[Read More](#)



ACTION ALERT!



VVA Call in Day on the Hill

Call (202) 224-3121

Give the operator your state or zip code, and he/she will connect you with your elected officials' office. Make it clear that you are calling as a constituent, asking for their support of *H.R. 3967, the Honoring our PACT Act.*



NCA launches new interactive "Find a Cemetery" map

In time for this year's Memorial Day, NCA has launched a new interactive "Find a Cemetery" map. The feature enables Veterans to search for their final resting place or for those who want to visit their Veteran interred at any of the 155 VA managed or 119 VA-funded cemetery.

[Read More](#)

PTSD Bytes #9: What is trauma?

Clinical psychologist Pearl McGee-Vincent discusses trauma with Dr. Debra Kaysen, research scientist at the National Center for PTSD.

[Read More](#)



VA saved his life, now he's helping others

A series of unfortunate events led Veteran Kevin Rumley to his local VA for an intensive 5-day treatment program. According to Kevin, it "ended up saving my life." Now he is helping other Veterans through their recovery path.

[Read More](#)



New electronic health record system saves hours a day for VA lab staff

VA's new electronic health record (EHR) is saving lab staff hours of work each day at the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center, in Walla Walla, Washington.

[Read More](#)



Jim, below are links to all currently active pre-written E-Mails to many pieces of legislation. We ask that you go to each one, and send the pre-written E-Mails, and to also call your Reps or Senators and ask for their support on a weekly basis!

Jim you don't need to be Active Duty or a Veteran, in fact we ask all Veteran friends to also help! (Updated 05/21/21)

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

- 1) HR 1014 - Furnish Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) to a Veteran who has a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTS)
- 2) HR 109 will establish an advisory committee on the implementation by the DVA of an electronic health record
- 3) Concurrent Receipt Legislation Introduced
- 4) Expand Concurrent Receipt
- 5) 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) Please Support H.R. 3452 —Veterans Preventative Health Coverage Fairness Act
- 52) HR 2192, The Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2021
- 53) HR 5026, The Panama Canal Zone Veterans Act of 2021
- 54) HR 3368, HR 5026, HR 2269, S 657 are all Toxic Exposure Bills that need special attention and more pressure to get passed!
- 55) H.R. 4627, Veterans' Culturally Competent Care Act of 2021
- 56) S. 2172, Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness
- 57) H.R. 4571, the SERVICE Act of 2021
- 58) H.R. 4732, Protect Individual Unemployability Benefit for All Disabled
- 59) S. 1937, the Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Act of 2021
- 60) S. 2283 and H.R. 5073—the Crisis Hotline REACH for Veterans Act
- 61) HR 852 and S 221, United States - Israel PTSD Collaborative Research Act
- 62) Ask Congress to Preserve Arlington National Cemetery

- 63) HR 4949 and S 692, the Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021
- 64) HR 2963, the VOW to Hire Heroes Extension Act of 2021
- 65) S 1970, The Clean Water for Military Families Act
- 66) Support S. 1198/H.R. 2819—the Solid Start Act of 2021
- 67) H.R. 3402/S. 976—Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
- 68) HR 3537 and S 1813, Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act
- 69) S. 2386/H.R. 4575, the Veteran Peer Specialist Act
- 70) H.R. 5721—the VIPER Act
- 71) H.R. 5607, Justice for ALS Veterans Act
- 72) HR 2601 and S 1188, SFC Heath Robinson Burn Pit Transparency Act
- 73) S. 3017, Veterans Dental Care Eligibility Expansion and Enhancement Act
- 74) HR 1361 and S 444, AUTO for Veterans Act
- 75) H.R. 4880 and S. 2720, the Veterans' Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act
- 76) HR 2800, the WINGMAN Act
- 77) H.R. 5944, Veterans Administration Backlog Accountability Act of 2021
- 78) HR 3400, VA Emergency Transportation Act
- 79) HR 2992, TBI and PTSD Law Enforcement Training Act
- 80) HR 6260, the Casualty Assistance Reform Act of 2021
- 81) H.R. 5819, Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act
- 82) HR 3596, the Lawrence J. Hackett, Jr. Vietnam Veterans Agent Orange Fairness Act
- 83) H.R. 2327 – to Remove Delimiting Dates for Survivors and Dependents' Educational Assistance
- 84) S. 2513/H.R. 4772, Improved VA Clothing Allowance Benefit for Disabled Veterans
- 85) S. 3293, the Post 9-11 Veterans Mental Health Care Act of 2021
- 86) HR 6402 and S 1725, will grant a Federal charter to the

National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated

- 87) HR 6659 and S 3541, the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Acts
- 88) Ask your member to support S.810 and H.R. 1972 the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
- 89) H.R. 6543, Restore Veterans Compensation Act
- 90) H.R. 3967, Honoring Our PACT Act Going to House Floor for a Vote
- 91) H.R. 2916/S. 1467, the VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2021
- 92) S. 3483, Justice for ALS Veterans Act
- 93) H.R. 6273 and S.3397, the VA Zero Suicide Demonstration Project Act of 2021
- 94) HR 7050, Ernest Peltz Accrued Veterans Benefits Act
- 95) S. 3851/H.R. 7089, the Veterans Exposed to Toxic PFAS Act
- 96) S. 3854/H.R. 6823, the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act
- 97) HR 4601 and S 2405, Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act
- 98) S. 3304/H.R. 5754, the Patient Advocate Tracker Act
- 99) Please Support H.R. 7369, VENTURE Act
- 100) Please support of HR 7524, the ACES Act
- 101) HR 7589, Remove Copays Act
- 102) Support Concurrent Receipt Bills



VA and Elizabeth Dole Foundation host National Caregiver Convening

Elizabeth Dole Foundation and VA partnership reflects belief that caregivers are essential to Veterans' care and have earned our gratitude.

[Read More](#)



Live Whole Health #122: Connecting Mind & Body Session 2

This week's #LiveWholeHealth follows the previous post, Connecting Mind & Body Session 1, to help release and relax.

[Read More](#)

Anyone can report harassment and sexual assault

Reports of harassment and sexual assault taken seriously. All reports investigated and action will be taken. Report as soon as possible.

[Read More](#)



Pelvic pain relief available in VA

Chronic pelvic pain is a common condition in women Veterans. VA health care providers can identify causes and provide treatment options.

[Read More](#)



"I only dreamed of this." VA program finds Veteran Lorenzo Campbell a home

Army Veteran Lorenzo Campbell was facing homelessness until a VA social worker connected him with VA homeless programs.


[Read More](#)



VR&E participant becomes children's book author

A former Florida soldier and Veteran Readiness and Employment Service (VR&E) participant has turned the page, becoming an accomplished children's book author.

[Read More](#)



Tampa VA nurse considers Filipino culture, VA employment, a win-win

Nurse practices communication, professionalism, as a nurse, person and Filipino. She credits her Filipino heritage and parents for success.

[Read More](#)



Release stress and relax with this exercise

Mindful movement and body awareness can help us learn how to relax and release. This 9-minute meditative practice can help.

[Read More](#)



Nurse recruiters: On a mission to find the best for Veterans

Kathy Lawrence and Leslie Davis are nurse recruiters whose mission is to find the best quality nurses to care for our Veterans.

[Read More](#)



Gulf Coast VA concludes Nurses Week with "Blessing of the Hands"

"Blessing of the Hands" during Nurses Week provides a symbol of renewing the health care professionals' spirits.

[Read More](#)



Have you heard of the Mediterranean diet?

Besides being delicious, it may improve blood pressure levels, lower cholesterol numbers, promote weight loss and more.

[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



VA websites get ongoing enhancements

VA's websites are a work on progress, with new features and options being added to ease and improve the ability of Veterans to find the resources they need.

[Read More](#)



HIMSS 2022: Veteran health care takes center stage at global health IT conference

VA employees attended the 2022 HIMSS Global Health Conference & Exhibition, or HIMSS22, held on March 15, 2022.

[Read More](#)



Together for Mental Health: May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Growing up, kids are taught to seek help if they are hurt physically. The same should go for mental health.

[Read More](#)



TRICARE Active Duty Dental Program Helps Ensure Dental Readiness



As of May 1, the Active Duty Dental Program (ADDP) is available both inside and outside the continental United States. All eligible

active duty service members can now contact United Concordia Companies, Inc. for all their ADDP civilian dental care needs.

[Read More](#)



Unemployed? Here are the top five reasons to choose VRRAP today

If you're a Veteran who lost your job due to the COVID-19 pandemic, VA may have a solution for you. The Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) offers education and training for a variety of high-demand jobs so you can get back to work.

[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



Borne the Battle #277: Olivia Nunn, Communications Entrepreneur and Beauty Pageant Queen

This week's Borne the Battle features Army Veteran Olivia Nunn, a communication entrepreneur and beauty queen

[Read More](#)



Talking VA and the Veteran experience with "Tough as Nails" winner Lia Mort

On a recent episode of "Talk About It Tuesday," CBS's "Tough as Nails" Season 3 winner Lia Mort discussed what she learned though her military service.

[Read More](#)



'America's First Brain Surgeon' Served During the Civil War and World War I

Army Maj. (Dr.) William Williams Keen Jr. was a pioneering military doctor whose career spanned surgical duty on the bloody battlefields of the American Civil War through influential research work during World War I.

[Read More](#)



TRICARE Answers Your Questions About Baby Formula



The shortage of baby formula is having an impact on millions of families, including military families living in the U.S. and overseas. It's important you know what TRICARE does and doesn't cover.

[Read More](#)



May is National Arthritis Awareness Month

May is National Arthritis Awareness Month and, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in three Veterans has arthritis.

[Read More](#)



Office of Inspector General

- 1) COVID-19: IRS Implemented Tax Relief for Employers Quickly, but Could Strengthen Its Compliance Efforts
- 2) Defense Health Care: Prevalence of and Efforts to Screen and Treat Mental Health Conditions in Prenatal and Postpartum TRICARE Beneficiaries
- 3) IRS Security of Taxpayer Information: Characteristics of Employee Unauthorized Access and Disclosure Cases
- 4) VA Vet Centers: Opportunities Exist to Help Better Ensure Veterans' and Servicemembers' Readjustment Counseling Needs Are Met



From basic training to Pittsburgh VA: A 40-year friendship

Two Pittsburgh VA employees trace a friendship spanning four decades from taking the Army oath of enlistment to planning retiring from VA.

[Read More](#)



Training for the worst day: Emergency preparedness simulations

A four-part series on Department of Veteran Affairs Emergency Preparedness Simulation efforts through SimLEARN.

[Read More](#)



Sunnier Days Are Here – Consider a Skin Cancer Screening

As part of Skin Cancer Awareness Month, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center's Dermatology Clinic provided free skin cancer screenings for 240 DOD civilians, retirees, and dependents during May.

[Read More](#)

How Does TRICARE Change When You Retire from Active Duty?



Are you ready for retirement?

If you retire from active duty, you and your family will still qualify for TRICARE, but you must actively enroll into a TRICARE health plan if you want coverage for civilian care. Learn about the health plans for retirees and their family members.

[Read more](#)

Provider webinar: Women Veterans and trauma-informed care

Women Veterans experience a high prevalence of trauma. A May 26 provider webinar will discuss women Veterans and trauma-informed care.

[Read More](#)



- 1) [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Authorizes First COVID-19 Test Available without a Prescription That Also Detects Flu and RSV](#)
- 2) [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Expands Eligibility for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose to Children 5 through 11 Years](#)
- 3) [Dierbergs Markets Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Egg in Fresh Garden Spiral Pasta Salad in 12 Oz. & 2 Lb. Self-Service Packages](#)
- 4) [Effects of Realistic In Vitro Test Factors on the Aerosol Properties of Metered-Dose Inhalers](#)
- 5) [FAQs on Philips Respironics Ventilator, BiPAP Machine, and CPAP Machine Recalls](#)
- 6) [FDA Approves First Treatment for Eosinophilic Esophagitis, a Chronic Immune Disorder](#)
- 7) [FDA Approves First Treatment for Eosinophilic Esophagitis, a Chronic Immune Disorder](#)
- 8) [FDA Drug Shortages](#)
- 9) [FDA Encourages Importation of Safe Infant Formula and Other Flexibilities to Further Increase Availability](#)
- 10) [FDA Investigation of Cronobacter Infections: Powdered Infant Formula \(February 2022\)](#)
- 11) [FDA Provides New Updates on Activities to Mitigate Infant Formula Supply Challenges, Abbott Nutrition Agrees to Take Corrective Actions at Facility to Produce Safe Infant Formula](#)
- 12) [FDA Roundup: May 17, 2022](#)
- 13) [FDA Roundup: May 20, 2022](#)
- 14) [FDA Seeks to Engage Stakeholders on Key Considerations](#)

- for a Drug Quality Management Maturity Program
- 15) FDA Seeks to Engage Stakeholders on Key Considerations for a Drug Quality Management Maturity Program
 - 16) FDA Urges Drug Manufacturers to Develop Risk Management Plans to Promote a Stronger, Resilient Drug Supply Chain
 - 17) FDA's "All-in" Approach to Enterprise Transformation
 - 18) HP Hood LLC Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Peanuts in Planet Oat Non-Dairy Frozen Dessert (Updated: Additional Locations)
 - 19) Investigating Out-of-Specification (OOS) Test Results for Pharmaceutical Production - Level 2 revision
 - 20) June 8, 2022: Meeting of the Pharmacy Compounding Advisory Committee Meeting Announcement
 - 21) Mrs Miller's Homemade Jams Issues Voluntary Recall Due to an Undeclared Soy Allergen
 - 22) New FDA Draft Guidance Aims to Increase Safety Information About Dietary Supplement Marketplace
 - 23) Outbreak Investigation of Salmonella: Peanut Butter (May 2022)
 - 24) Safety Considerations for Container Labels and Carton Labeling Design to Minimize Medication Errors
 - 25) Van Leeuwen Issues Voluntary Recall on Undeclared Tree Nuts (Cashew and Pistachio) in Frozen Dessert Product
 - 26) White Cane Sockeye Salmon LLC Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Wheat and Soy in Wild Alaskan Cooked and Smoked Salmon
 - 27) Woodside Acquisitions Inc. Recalls Oral Rapid SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Test Kits and Joysbio SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Test Kits (Colloidal Gold) That Are Not Authorized, Cleared, or Approved by the FDA



Natchez National Cemetery employee's military training saves stranger's life

When he saw a man laying unconscious, Natchez National Cemetery maintenance worker Rickey Allen took action.

[Read More](#)



Phoenix clinic renamed to honor KIA Army Veteran

SSG Alexander W. Conrad was killed in action in June 2018 at the age of 26 from injuries sustained from indirect enemy fire in Somalia.

[Read More](#)



What is the TRICARE Childbirth and Breastfeeding Support Demonstration?

TRICARE is now providing more options to parents through childbirth and breastfeeding benefits under the Childbirth and Breastfeeding Support Demonstration.

[Watch Video](#)



Live Whole Health #121: Yoga ball

There are many ways that you can incorporate mindful movement into your daily routine, and the yoga ball is one fun way to do it. According to the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, there are many benefits of yoga.

[Read More](#)



VA nurses make a difference in the lives of those around them

At VA, we know our nurses are the backbone of Veteran care, but they also don't hesitate to go the extra mile when it comes to helping others.

[Read More](#)



CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER !



Celebrating social workers and the VA system that empowers them

PsychArmor celebrates social workers and VA which employs the largest number of master's level social workers in the United States.

[Read More](#)



VA biomedical engineer a pioneer in prosthetics technology

Childress helped pioneer the myoelectric control system—a technology that applies electrical signals from muscles to activate prosthetic limbs.

[Read More](#)



ringing in Your Ears Might Be a Sign of Hearing Loss

Tinnitus is most often caused by repeated exposure to loud noises, like explosives or aircraft engines. It's also linked to traumatic brain injury.

[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. The Initiative also launched a portal for Veterans who need assistance in applying to return to the United States and for accessing VA benefits to which they may be entitled.

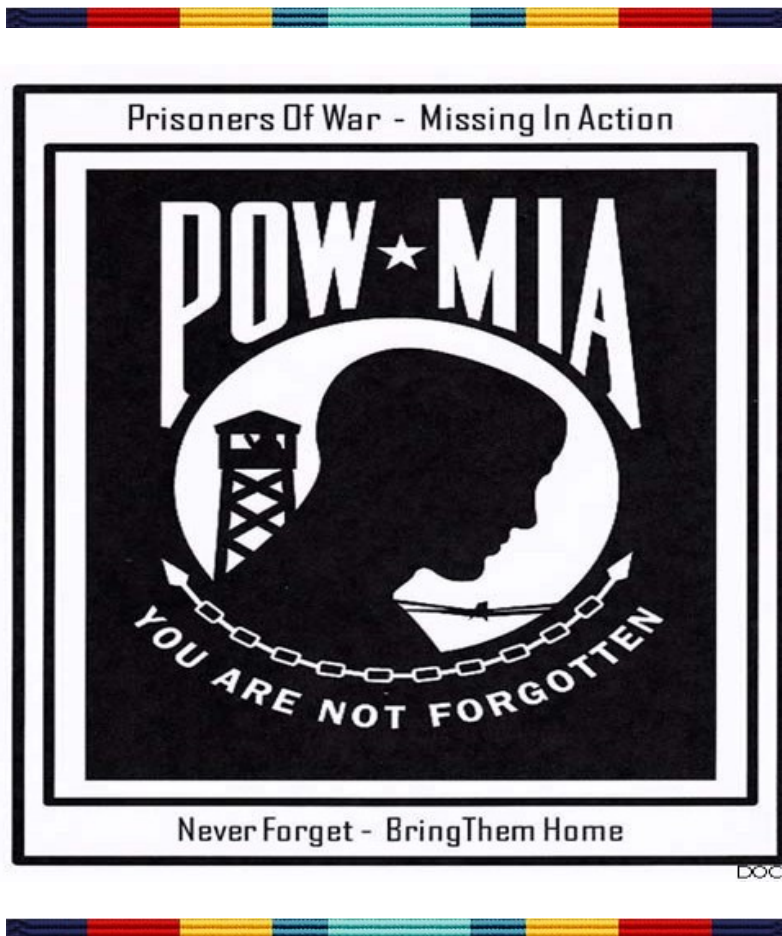
[Read More](#)



VA has a plan to keep patients safe as COVID levels change

VA has a COVID-19 plan to provide transparent and flexible guidelines to keep you safe as protocols change. Look for the sign at the door.

[Read More](#)



Bedford VA employees build flag retirement drop box

Flag torn or tattered? America has Flag Code for disposal. "It's important to treat these emblems with respect and retire them with dignity."

[Read More](#)



VA TeleEye provides specialty care to Veterans nationwide

TeleEye enables Veterans to receive eye care remotely at their primary care doctor's office. Read this blog for the steps that follow.

[Read More](#)



Iraq Bomb Attack Led Soldier to Pursue Medical Career

"I was the only one in the platoon that had the skills and abilities to help," he recalled. "I entered a bombed out building and treated and moved two patients that were on the roof... I was able to use the training I had and help them both. That's when I knew I wanted to do more in the medical field."

[Read More](#)



Live Whole Health #123: Managing stress and headaches

We all experience stress, which can lead to headaches and other negative outcomes. I think of stress as the result of any demand on our resources beyond what we usually give. Stress can come from pain, financial struggles, a family argument or loss of a loved one.

[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!](#)



Make your diet Mediterranean

Mediterranean diet is known for its anti-inflammatory health benefits that may improve blood pressure levels, lower cholesterol and more.

[Read More](#)



Study: national economic burden of PTSD 'staggering'

The researchers estimated the cost of PTSD at \$232.2 billion for 2018, the latest year for which data were available at the time of the study. They called for increased awareness of PTSD, more effective therapies, and the expansion of evidence-based strategies to "reduce the large clinical and economic burden" of that mental health condition.

[Read More](#)



Future of Nursing: Telehealth, More Innovation and Maybe Some Robots

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has fast-tracked many changes to the Military Health System and forced all providers – especially nurses – to innovate at near-quantum speed with agility and flexibility.

[Read More](#)



Live Whole Health #122: Connecting Mind & Body Session 2

This week's #LiveWholeHealth is the follow-up to the previous post, Connecting Mind & Body Session 1, which offers a simple yet profound practice of connecting body and breath. This meditative session will help you release and relax.

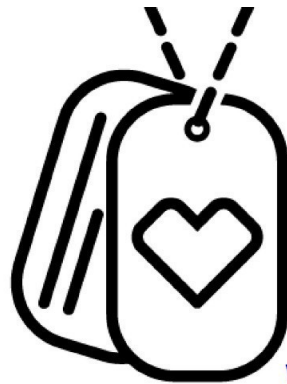
[Read More](#)



Oklahoma City VA holds fourth annual baby shower

Oklahoma City VA held its fourth annual baby shower recently and there couldn't have been a better day. "We hold this event annually either the Friday before Mother's Day or the Friday after," said Melissa Overfield, chief of Center for Development and Civic Engagement. "Today, the weather was perfect to celebrate these new and expecting mothers."

[Read More](#)



**Our values
match yours.**



www.veterans-for-change.org

CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE VFC WEBSITE

Commissary sidewalk sales offer savings during Military Appreciation Month

Commissary sidewalk sales will take place in May to thank Veterans for their service during Military Appreciation Month.

[Read More](#)

Borne the Battle #278: Army Major General (ret.) Mark Graham, Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Advocate

This week's Borne the Battle features Army Major General (ret.) Mark Graham, whose story of personal loss will also be featured at the National Memorial Day Concert.

[Read More](#)

Military Nursing Career Path Offers Many Opportunities to Learn and Serve

Air Force Col. Dianne Stroble recalls her original plans to serve in the reserve component. But after talking to a recruiter, she decided to accept a commission and enter the active duty force when she was 33 and married with three children.

[Read More](#)



VA and IBM collaboration to build pathways for Veteran success

VA and IBM are collaborating to build pathways for Veteran success. What does that mean for Veterans looking to build a new career?

[Read More](#)

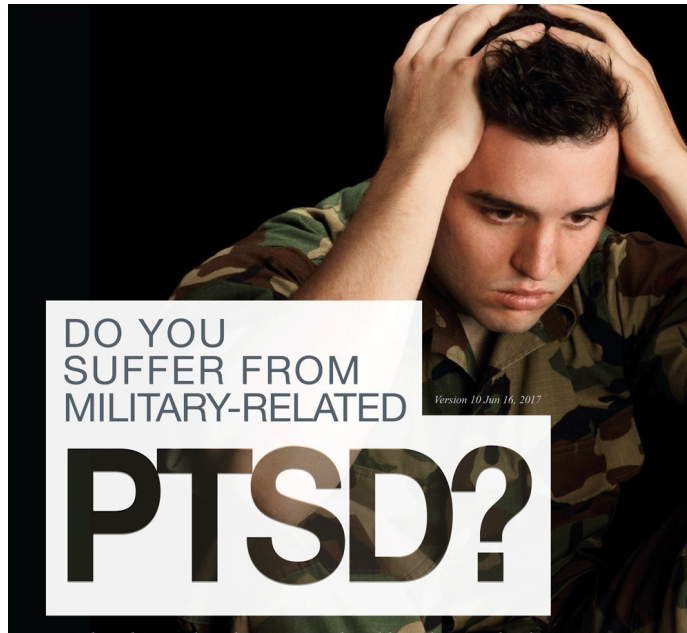


Talking VA and the Veteran experience with "Tough as Nails" winner Lia Mort

During a recent episode of "Talk About It Tuesday" (TAIT), Lia Mort from the CBS reality television competition "Tough as Nails" joined us for a discussion of VA and the Veteran experience. TAIT is a livestream dedicated to discussing VA career opportunities and advice that airs each week at noon EDT on our LinkedIn page.

[Read More](#)





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



Five states that are seeing growth (and the VAs you can find there)

As Americans reconsider where they want to live, certain states have seen growth, but no matter where you go, there's a VA for you.

[Read More](#)



Oklahoma City VA holds fourth annual baby shower

"When they called, I told them I already had my baby and they said I was still welcome to come. It's nice to be thought of, so here I am."

[Read More](#)



Live Whole Health #122: Connecting Mind & Body Session 2

This week's #LiveWholeHealth is the follow-up to the previous post, Connecting Mind & Body Session 1, which offers a simple yet profound practice of connecting body and breath. This meditative session will help you release and relax.

[Read More](#)



The Veterans Crisis Line is here for you

You have questions about the Veterans Crisis Line; we have answers. You are not alone and the Veterans Crisis Line is here to support you.

[Read More](#)



Anyone can report harassment and sexual assault

VA Secretary Denis R. McDonough strongly encourages those who witness harassment to support their fellow Veterans by reporting it. All instances of harassment are inappropriate and will not be tolerated at VA. A comment or behavior that makes another feel uncomfortable could be considered harassment.

[Read More](#)





Santa Fe Vet Center provides support after forest fire

After evacuations, the Santa Fe Vet Center sent staff to support Veteran organizations after the largest forest fire in New Mexico history.

[Read More](#)



Managing Burnout for the Military Community

Burnout is a state of extreme exhaustion caused by chronic, overwhelming stress. Here's some advice for leaders and service members on preventing and coping with burnout.

[Watch Video](#)



Older Women Veterans: How You Can Improve Their Health and Financial Security

A recent survey conducted by the VA Center for Women Veterans found women Veterans age 50+ are the least likely group to use their earned benefits. Community providers and partners can work

with VA, County Veteran Service Officers, and Veteran Service Organizations to better understand VA benefits.

[Read More](#)



VA makes it easier to buy a home on tribal land

VA is focusing on improving the Native American Direct Loan (NADL) by increasing outreach to Native American tribes. VA Loan Guaranty Service strives to ensure consistent open communication to all Native Americans on tribal land to improve the overall experience for the more than 70,000 Native American and Pacific Islander Veterans eligible for the program.

[Read More](#)



VR&E participant becomes children's book author

A former soldier and Veteran Readiness and Employment Service (VR&E) participant has turned the page, becoming an accomplished children's book author. Well before joining VR&E, Winsome Hudson-Bingham grew up in Florida and joined the Army as a unit supply specialist and armorer. She served at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia, prior to deploying to the Persian Gulf for Operation Desert Storm.

[Read More](#)



Women Veterans: Relief is available for pelvic pain

Chronic pelvic pain is a common condition in women Veterans. VA

health care providers can identify causes and provide treatment options.

[Read More](#)



A Matter of Life or Death: Seeking Help and Overcoming

For Tech. Sgt. Jilayne Michelsen, having the ability to ask her husband for help during her darkest hour saved her life, her family, and her military career.

[Read More](#)



Guitars for Vets, Challenge America Veteran Arts Community join forces

Challenge America and Guitars for Vets are partnering to build camaraderie and opportunities through guitar instruction and live events.

[Read More](#)



National Memorial Day Concert to feature Gold Star Families tribute

The 33rd annual National Memorial Day Concert will air and stream on Sunday, May 29, 2022, honoring our men and women in uniform, Veterans, their families and all those who have given their lives for our country.

[Read More](#)



Women Veterans: Relief is available for pelvic pain

Pelvic pain is a problem for many women Veterans. The type and severity of the pain may vary, and the cause of the pain is often unclear. The pain may be acute (occurs once or every so often), or chronic, causing you to rearrange your life around it. You may think it's a normal part of life. But it doesn't have to be. There is relief for chronic pelvic pain and VA can help you.

[Read More](#)



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced two burial updates and three new identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II.

Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

Army Pfc. Merl W. Holm, 22, of Lake City, Iowa, 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. Holm was posthumously awarded the Silver Star. He will be buried in his hometown, on July 9, 2022.

[Read about Holm.](#)

Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Adolph “Leonard” Olenik, 19, of Detroit, was assigned to the 345th Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Olenik was serving as a gunner crashed as a result of anti-aircraft fire during Operation Tidal Wave. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Olenik.](#)

Marine Reserve Cpl. Jack S. Brown, 22, was a member of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, which was part of the invasion force of the island of Saipan in a larger operation to secure the Mariana Islands. On July 8, 1944, he was reported as killed in action, and posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Following the war, his remains were declared non-recoverable. Interment services are pending. [Read about Brown.](#)

Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. William O. Wood, 25, was assigned to 328th Bombardment Squadron, 93rd Bombardment Group, 8th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Wood was a gunner crashed as a result of anti-aircraft fire during Operation Tidal Wave. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. Interment services are pending. [Read about Wood.](#)

Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. David M. Lewis, 20, was assigned to 345th Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Lewis was piloting crashed as a result of anti-aircraft fire during Operation Tidal Wave. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. Interment services are pending. [Read about Lewis.](#)



ONE VOICE
CAN MAKE
ALL THE DIFFERENCE!




Veterans-For-Change
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 ®