



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, May 29, 2022

Volume 13, Issue 22



This-N-That

Good evening Jim,

As I mentioned a week or so back, the Biden Administration is still talking taking funds from the Veterans Affairs to send to the border to take care of health issues. I for one am very upset about this and will be a lot angrier if it does happen.

Biden and many members of Congress who support open borders are all in violation of Article II and sadly We the People are not saying a word about it and there isn't a day that goes by that I don't see a news alert about another child raped, someone killed, and countless other crimes being committed by illegal aliens.

On the good side, the VA has added several cancers to the presumptive list for Gulf War Veterans and researchers have found the cause of many Gulf War Illnesses.

On another good note, lawmakers are making a move to guarantee a Cost-of-Living increase in benefits!

Again, on a good note, the Senate has come up with a sweeping bill to address Toxic Exposures.

This coming Monday is Memorial Day, and although many look at it as a reason to party, bbq, go to the beach, etc., this day is not meant for that reason, it's intended to remember all those who have served and whom we have lost due to their service.

Why You Don't Say "Happy Memorial Day"

On the last Monday of each May, most are accustomed to a three-day weekend, accompanied by family road trips, outdoor cook-outs, and department store sales. Many of us see it as the unofficial kick off to summer. This year, perhaps more than ever before, families across the nation look forward to coming together - but what exactly IS Memorial Day?

We ask because we hear it every year: "Happy Memorial Day."

For many families who have lost loved ones, it's not a happy day, and it's not a day intended to be celebrated in the traditional sense of that word. If you're thinking to yourself "I have said this, but it wasn't my intent to be disrespectful", then we encourage you to please take a moment to learn why the holiday exists and how you might recognize it.

Originally deemed "Decoration Day" as a way to recognize the soldiers lost during the Civil War, the day gradually expanded to memorialize all those who have given their lives throughout the long history of war in the US. The holiday was officially recognized in 1971, and now, 40 years later, Memorial Day continues to be a

distinguished day to remember the military personnel who we have lost.

For some, the meaning of Memorial Day is deeply personal. It is a day to mourn a dear grandparent, parent, spouse, child, or friend who died in service to our nation. To those who have felt this loss, Veterans-For-Change would like to extend our sincere condolences to you, and gratitude for your loved one.

For others, we ask you to remember the true meaning of Memorial Day, and seek ways to honor our nation's heroes who died in service to our great nation. Plan a visit to a military cemetery or war memorial, attend local activities hosted by local veteran groups.

Please be sure to check out the TAKE ACTION section and send out as many as you can, hopefully all of them as we are gaining and so far 19 pieces of legislation have passed in the house, but out work is far from over and the push needs to continue.

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/?hosted_button_id=2YH7K8LQNJ2K6



The Greatest Mission: Caring for those at risk of homelessness

The mission of the Errera Community Care Center is to help individuals struggling with homelessness to live successfully in their communities.

[Read More](#)



VFW Commends Senators on PACT Act Deal

The VFW commends the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee leadership following the [announcement](#) of a bipartisan deal on the Honoring Our PACT Act. "Today's announcement from Senators Tester and Moran is a strong show of good faith to the veteran community," said VFW National Commander Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic. The PACT Act passed the House in March and is expected to be brought to the Senate floor in the coming weeks. If the amended bill passes the Senate, it will head back to the House for lawmakers to vote again. House leadership pledged to immediately take up the amended legislation and deliver the bill to the president's desk for signature. "This is no time to ease up on our efforts to get the PACT Act passed in both houses of Congress. We will not rest until our nation's promise to address toxic exposure is signed into law," said Mihelcic. Staff from the VFW Washington Office have and will continue to visit Senate offices to garner support for the PACT Act.



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.

We are offering free lifetime memberships to widows/widowers of Veterans who died of service connected diseases? Please contact Robin Barr for more information.

Click [HERE](#) and help a Veteran.

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



Behavioral health leaders help staff with new electronic health record system

Leaders of VA's Behavioral Health Service at the Walla Walla VA are navigating the move to the new electronic health record (EHR) system with purpose and inspiration.

[Read More](#)



Veterans benefit from Greenhouse Initiative blossoming this spring

iNET's innovation collaboration program fosters Veteran and employee feedback in the earliest stages of innovative design

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Your actions
could save a life.

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

VeteransCrisisLine.net

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



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](#).



PTSD Bytes #10: Crisis resources and support

In this episode of PTSD Bytes, Pearl McGee-Vincent discusses crisis support resources with Dr. Lisa Brenner, rehabilitation psychologist.

[Read More](#)



Fast Facts About the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)

Curious about Section 8 housing? Below are five fast facts to better understand the Housing Choice Voucher Program to help you on your path of finding government assistance.

[Read More](#)



Warren Michio Tsuneishi: American Hero

Army Veteran Warren Michio Tsuneishi served in the Military Intelligence Service as a translator during World War II, in Hawaii, the Philippines and Korea.

[Read More](#)



Get the Latest COVID-19 Info on Boosters and Treatment

The CDC is now recommending a second COVID-19 booster for people in certain groups, and a first booster for children ages 5 through 11. Also, get the latest update on COVID-19 treatment.

[Read More](#)



Adding color to a Women Veterans Health Fair

Northern Indiana VA hosted Women's Health fair and added music and painting to allow Women Veterans to network with other women who served.

[Read More](#)



[Links to Other Stories](#)

- 1) [Biden admin confirms talks about using Veterans Affairs resources to treat migrants at southern border](#)
- 2) [Deal for Sweeping Toxic Exposure Bill Reached in Senate](#)
- 3) [For many veterans, finding a job is the greatest battle of all](#)
- 4) [Georgia Man Sentenced to 40 Months in Federal Prison for Defrauding Yakima Non-Profit](#)
- 5) [Kenneth Stumpf, Vietnam War Medal of Honor Recipient, Dies At 77](#)
- 6) [Lawmakers move to guarantee cost-of-living boost for Veterans benefits](#)
- 7) [Researchers Think They've Found the Cause of Gulf War Illness](#)
- 8) [Updated Gulf War Presumptive List For 2022](#)
- 9) [Watchdog could subpoena former VA workers under plan approved by Congress](#)



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](#).



Tips for Talking to Your Kids About Current Events

For military children, current events can cause stress and anxiety. Streams of media images and reports about troubling news events can be outright scary.

[Read More](#)



VA allergist is Video Connect distinguished leader

Dr. Anna Heisser, full-time allergist, is helping pioneer allergy-based virtual care. A national leader in VA Video Connect encounters.

[Read More](#)





Veterans leave tobacco behind and choose what matters to them

VA encourages Veterans to consider their life goals and how tobacco use might stand in their way. Read how five Veterans stopped using tobacco.

[Read More](#)



Mental Health is a Team Effort

The MHS offers many mental health care options. But figuring out who is the best person to talk to can seem overwhelming. There are psychiatrists and psychologists, counselors and therapists. Here's a rundown on who's who.

[Read More](#)



America250: Army Veteran James Okubo

This week's America250 salute is Army Veteran James Okubo, who posthumously received a Medal of Honor for his actions during World War II.

[Read More](#)



The DHA Director's Memorial Day Message

Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Ron Place urges all of us to remember and honor those who sacrificed their lives in service to the nation.

[Watch Video](#)



Veteran finds relief from VA therapy animal visits

Animal visits as therapy can be complementary treatment for mental health and behavioral health disorders like depression and substance use.

[Read More](#)



Memorial Day Weekend Activities in Washington

There are a host of activities and events planned for Memorial Day weekend in our nation's capital on May 27-30. The VFW-supported and USAA-sponsored Poppy Wall, located near Constitution Gardens northeast of the Lincoln Memorial, will be open to the public on May 27-29 from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Those unable to visit the Poppy Wall can visit [online](#) to dedicate a digital poppy to a fallen loved one or as a gesture of appreciation for those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The VFW will also have a benefits information tent set up just east of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on May 27-30. On Monday, VFW National Commander Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic will lay a wreath during the National Memorial Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery at 12 p.m. Other Memorial Day weekend events include: a concert on Sunday evening at 8 p.m. that will air on PBS stations nationwide; Rolling to Remember that begins at 12 p.m. on Sunday and will travel from RFK Stadium past the National Mall to West Potomac Park; National Memorial Day ceremonies on Monday at the National WWII Memorial at 9 a.m., at the Vietnam War Memorial on the National Mall at 1:00 p.m., at the Military Women's Memorial at 3:00 p.m., and at the Korean War Veterans Memorial at 4 p.m. The National Memorial Day Parade begins at 2 p.m. on Monday along Constitution Avenue.



Q&A: TRICARE For Life Expert Discusses How You Get Coverage

Congress created TRICARE For Life as Medicare wrap-around coverage in 2001 in order to extend TRICARE coverage to Medicare-eligible military retirees and their family members. Here's information on how to qualify for TFL.



[Read More](#)



WWII Veteran's treasured bracelet stolen... returned 77 years later

Thanks to a determined man and his metal detector, a bracelet very special to a WWII Veteran was returned along with special salutes.

[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.*



Vietnam Veteran sends a special thank you

"Ms. Duong is the first Vietnamese person I have talked to since Vietnam in 1970. I could tell immediately that she sincerely cared about me."

[Read More](#)



New Asian and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Chartbook

The Asian and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI) Veteran Chartbook summarizes experiences of health care quality of Asian and NHOPI Veterans receiving care in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Data on disparities are presented by the sociodemographic characteristics of race/ethnicity, gender, age group, rurality of residence, socio-economic status, and service-connected disability rating, and by cardiovascular risk factors of hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and diabetes.

[View Chartbook](#)



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 05/29/21)

Please note, we've added three 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
- 103) S. 3025 and H.R. 5666, the Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act of 2021 to Improve the Claims Process for MST Survivors
- 104) Support S. 4156, the VA Workforce Improvement, Support, and Expansion (WISE)
- 105) Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options (MAMMO) for Veterans



Self-reliance may affect acceptance of mental health treatment in Veterans

NHRVS is the brainchild of Dr. Pietrzak, director of the Translational Psychiatric Epidemiology Laboratory of the VA National Center for PTSD in West Haven, Connecticut. NHRVS—called "Nerves"—is a nationally representative survey administered to Veterans both inside and outside the VA health care system.

[Read More](#)



[Navy Desertions Increased in 2021](#)

National Public Radio (NPR) and NBC News are reporting an increase in desertions from the Navy in 2021. Navy Desertions Increased in 2021, with 157 sailors illegally fleeing the Navy, more than double the number who deserted in 2019. Although all but eight of them eventually returned to their units.

The Navy has seen an increase in desertions over the previous three years. In 2019, 63 sailors fled from their duty stations, and another 98 did so in 2020, a Navy spokesperson, Lt. Cmdr. Devin Arneson, told NPR. The number of deserters still at large had been on the decline between 2017 and 2019.

The NPR report noted that other branches of the military didn't see a similar increase in the past three years. Desertions in the Army dropped by 47 percent, from 328 in 2019 to 174 in 2021, and the Marine Corps reported 59 in 2019 and 31 in 2021. The Coast Guard did not record a single deserter between 2019 and 2021.

The FRA has dispatched a letter to the Chairpersons and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittees to ask for an oversight hearing on Navy morale issues.



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

VA has developed a COVID-19 plan to help you know what to expect when entering your VA health care facility. At your next appointment, look for the sign at the door.

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On Memorial Day, VA honors sacrifices of Veterans and offers care

While Memorial Day is set aside to remember our fallen Veterans, VA also marks the day as a time to honor those who come to us for care.

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VA fertility treatment helps paralyzed Veteran

"I knew I wanted a family a long time ago," said Navy Veteran Peter Shaver. "It was a pretty amazing feeling when it finally worked."

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Protect your VA benefits and access free credit or financial counseling with VBBP 2.0

VA expanded the Veterans Benefits Banking Program to provide more services to Veterans. See what the expansion, called VBBP 2.0, offers.

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VA offers treatments and resources to Veterans with arthritis

Vietnam Veteran Bruce Eriksen was diagnosed with arthritis in 2015. After his first VA appointment with his doctor, he said, "she actually listened to me."

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**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



Cause of Gulf War Illness Discovered

After the Gulf War, nearly one-third of all who deployed reported unexplained chronic symptoms such as rashes, fatigue, gastrointestinal and digestive issues, brain "fog," neuropathy, and muscle and joint pain. Federal agencies generally rejected the idea that troops may have been suffering from exposure to chemical agents, with many veterans experiencing symptoms sent to mental health providers.

A study published in the journal of Environmental Health Perspectives used genetic research and survey data to determine that service members exposed to sarin were more likely to develop Gulf War Illness, and those who were exposed and had a weaker variant of a gene that helps digest pesticides were nine times more likely to have symptoms.

The FRA has urged key members of the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Defense to continue to provide funding for the treatment-focused Gulf War Illness Research Program (GWIRP), part of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) within the Department of Defense (DoD). The FRA also co-hosted the 2021 Capitol Hill Forum on Gulf War Illness (GWI) organized by the Veterans for Common Sense and the Institute for Neuro Immune Medicine.



VA TeleEye expands specialty care to Veterans nationwide

VA TeleEye enables Veterans to receive eye care remotely at their primary care doctor's office.

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We hope you will join us on this new site.

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Health Coaching: Managing illness and loss, one breath at a time

Army Veteran Elaine Knowles explained how Whole Health Coaching helped her manage during her late husband's treatment and hospice care for Agent Orange related lung cancer.

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Cemeteries to Host Public Memorial Day Ceremonies After Two Years Without Gatherings

Veterans, families and the public are welcome to attend in-person traditional VA Memorial Day ceremonies held May 28 through May 30 to commemorate the nation's fallen service members. Visit the links below to find ceremony dates and start times for a Memorial Day event near you.

[FIND A VA EVENT](#)



Office of Inspector General

1) [Sexual Harassment and Assault: The Army Should Take Steps to Enhance Program Oversight, Evaluate Effectiveness, and Identify Reporting Barriers](#)



Memorial Day Observances

National President James W. Campbell (Branch 40) will represent the Association at a White House breakfast meeting and at the Memorial Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday, May 30. He will join other national leaders in honoring the men and women who have died in service to their nation by laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. National Vice President James Robbins, Jr. (Branch 126) and National Executive Director Chris Slawinski will participate in a ceremony at the U.S. Navy Memorial on Memorial Day, and other FRA leaders will participate in Memorial Day ceremonies and events across the country to pay tribute to America's fallen heroes.



National Memorial Day Concert to Feature Gold Star Families Tribute

Featuring all-star musical performances and tributes, the 33rd annual National Memorial Day Concert from PBS 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.

[LEARN MORE](#)



1) [Abbott Medical Recalls Dragonfly OpStar Imaging Catheter for](#)

Potential Loose Catheter Marker Band That May Cause Patient Harm

- 2) ArjoHuntleigh Polska Recalls Sara Plus Floor Lift for Risk of Smoke or Fire When Lift Is Used with Depleted Battery
- 3) Blue Moose Issues Allergy Alert for Undeclared Tree Nuts (Cashew) and Soy in Spinach Artichoke Parmesan Dip, 7oz.
- 4) COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions
- 5) Effects of Realistic In Vitro Test Factors on the Aerosol Properties of Metered-Dose Inhalers
- 6) FDA approves ivosidenib in combination with azacitidine for newly diagnosed acute myeloid leukemia
- 7) FDA Drug Shortages
- 8) FDA Efforts to Result in Millions of Additional Bottles of Infant Formula to Further Increase U.S. Supply
- 9) FDA Efforts to Result in Millions of Additional Bottles of Infant Formula to Further Increase U.S. Supply
- 10) FDA Flexibilities to Yield Millions of Cans of Additional Infant Formula in Coming Months to Increase Supply Available to U.S. Consumers
- 11) FDA Flexibilities, Collaboration to Yield Millions of Bottles of Specialized Medical Infant Formula in Coming Months to Increase U.S. Supply
- 12) FDA Roundup: May 24, 2022
- 13) FDA Roundup: May 27, 2022
- 14) FDA Warns Four Companies for Illegally Selling CBD Products Intended for Use in Food-Producing Animals
- 15) Importation of Prescription Drugs Final Rule Questions and Answers; Small Entity Compliance Guide
- 16) Indiana Botanic Gardens, Inc. Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Peanuts in Prune & Senna Softgels
- 17) Outbreak Investigation of Salmonella: Peanut Butter (May 2022)
- 18) Outbreak Investigation of Salmonella: Peanut Butter (May 2022)

- 19) Teva Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of One Lot of Anagrelide Capsules, USP 0.5 mg Due to Dissolution Test Failure
- 20) Urgent Voluntary Recall: CorneaGen Cornea/ Cornea Patch Grafts; CorneaGen is voluntarily recalling Corneal Patch Grafts bearing the following product numbers: W419221004861104; W419221004861105; W419221004861106; W419221004861103
- 21) Urgent Voluntary Recall: CorneaGen Sclera / Scleral Patch Grafts; CorneaGen is voluntarily recalling the entire lot of Scleral Patch Grafts obtained from (Lot Number) W419221008338



Cultivating the Cancer-Fighting Power of Neoantigens: Which proteins pack the greatest punch

In the two VA-supported studies, Hastings and Borden collaborated with colleagues at the University of Arizona who specialize in statistical analysis and evaluation of biological data. Hastings is an associate professor at Arizona State University, with an academic focus on immunobiology.

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VA Launches New Interactive "Find a Cemetery" Map for Memorial Day

VA launched a new interactive "Find a Cemetery" map in time for this year's Memorial Day. 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 cemeteries.

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VA Secretary Denis McDonough statement on PACT Act

WASHINGTON — President Biden has stated we have a sacred obligation to support veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors. As part of his first State of the Union address, he identified supporting Veterans as a key pillar of his [Unity Agenda](#) and an issue that can unite the country. The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act makes good on that promise.

In my [recent press conference](#), I spoke in detail about the Department of Veterans Affairs' strong support of the PACT Act because the bipartisan bill will help us advance one of the department's top priorities: getting more Veterans into VA care. President Biden has also been clear about his commitment to getting more VA health care to veterans impacted by toxic exposures, which is why we need Congress to send the PACT Act to his desk.

Study after study demonstrates Veterans in VA care do better — and this legislation could bring up to 3.5 million more Veterans into our care. The PACT Act would be one of the largest substantive health and benefit expansions in VA's history, comparable in scale and impact to the Agent Orange Act. It would codify many of the ongoing efforts by the department to improve its process for establishment of presumptions of service connection due to toxic exposure, reducing the burden for Veterans and increasing transparency.

We support the expansion of access to VA health care in the PACT Act and will work to ensure that the expansion of eligibility for health care does not result in the delay or disruption of care for those Veterans already receiving health care from VA.

I want to personally thank Senators Jon Tester (D-MT) and Jerry Moran (R-KS) for beginning to address the operational impact on VA by investing heavily in VA claims processing, VA's workforce and VA health care facilities. These investments and more are necessary for us to deliver the timely, quality services, benefits and care our Veterans deserve.

As always, we encourage Veterans to continue to file their claims for disability compensation and other benefits as we anticipate this legislation so VA can provide the benefits and care they have earned and deserve.

[View the full press conference.](#)

Source: [viewPDF.cfm \(va.gov\)](#)

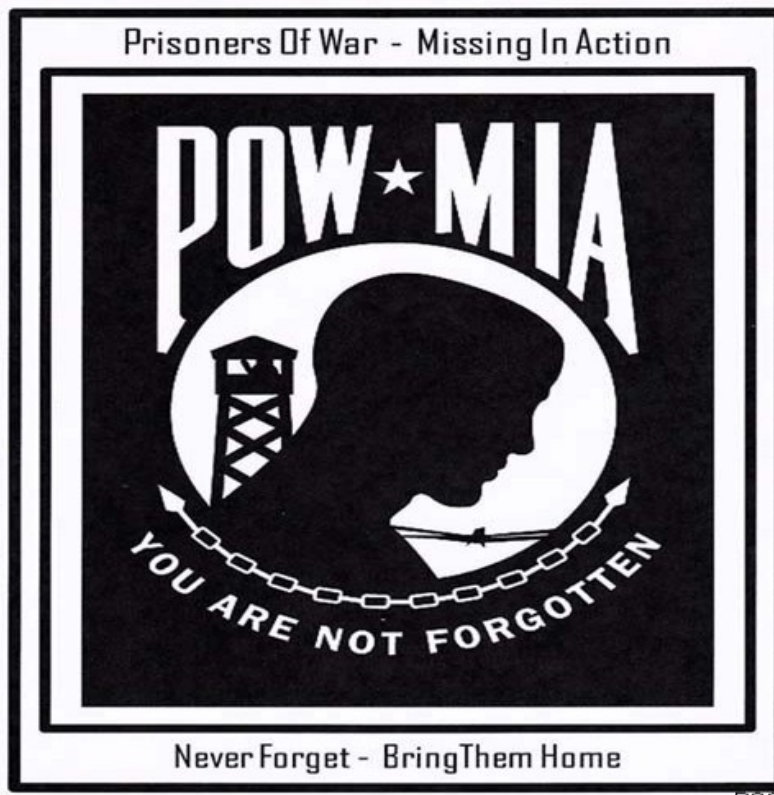


The Veterans Crisis Line is Here for You

If you're a Veteran going through a tough time and thinking about reaching out, what's your first step? Text a friend you served with? Call your doctor? Read more for answers to some questions you may have. You're not alone, and the Veterans Crisis Line is here to support you.

[LEARN MORE](#)





The last chapter: End-of-life decisions and suicide risk

Suicide Risk Management Consultation offers free consultation to providers who treat Veterans at risk for suicide in all phases of life.

[Read More](#)



VA Helping Veterans Get Internet Access and Technology for Telehealth Care

Did you know VA can help eligible Veterans identify discounted internet services or get a device to participate in video visits with their VA health care team? Through VA's Digital Divide Consult, VA social workers help Veterans learn more about programs that may offer discounts on internet and/or internet-connected devices, such as Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program.

[LEARN MORE](#)



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Virtual and community run, walk to honor fallen heroes

Wear blue: run to remember honors more than 65,000 fallen heroes who have given their lives in service to our country.

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Modernizing VA, Family Caregiver Program Updates, Single Sign-On with MyHealtheVet

In this episode of The BLUF we explore how VA is modernizing, updates taking place for the Family Caregiver Program, and a new Single Sign-On function within MyHealtheVet.

[WATCH](#)



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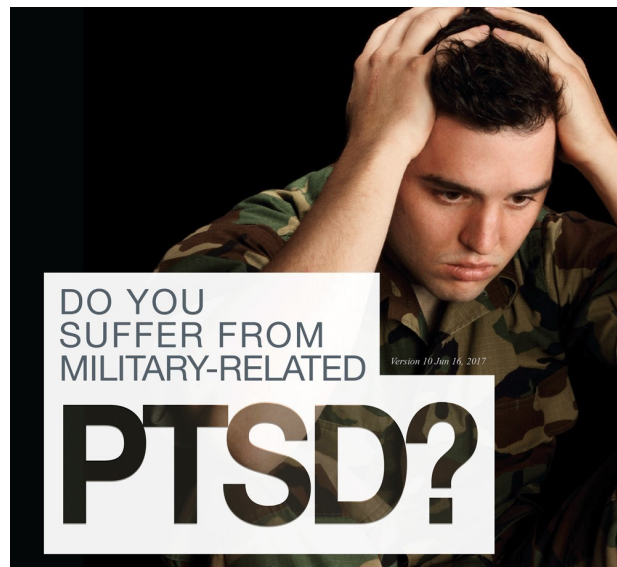
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Celebrating Military Spouse Appreciation Day

Kansas City VA acknowledged the sacrifice of military spouses who support their active-duty service members throughout their careers.

[Read More](#)



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



VA Telehealth improves access to nutrition services

Veterans access Nutrition and Food Services programs offered by VA with technology like VA Video Connect. Virtual visits have positive impact.

[Read More](#)



Veterans and service members advance tech careers with gamified learning approach

Salesforce Military: Captivating, gamified learning experience for active-duty Service members, Reserve, Guard, Veterans, military spouses.

[Read More](#)



VA Launches Scott Hannon Initiative for Precision Mental Health

Precision medicine is an approach which aims to tailor disease prevention and treatment by taking into account differences in an individual's clinical, lifestyle, genetic, and biomarker information. Within mental health care, precision medicine is in its infancy.

[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.](#)



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