



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, July 17, 2022

Volume 13, Issue 29



This-N-That

Good afternoon Jim,

First off I'd like to say thank you and Congratulations to the Amarillo VAMC for their steps towards solving the homeless Veterans situation. In the plans are a mini-Pallet Home project. The mini homes would be constructed from recycled shipping pallets.

I'm not sure I like the idea of the materials being used, but none-the-less it is a step in the right direction.

I do continue to send letters to the various VAMC Directors, most times I receive no reply, and on rare occasion I do get a reply either that there aren't sufficient funds, or they have a project or plan in the works. But I will continue to push the best I can to see something nationwide is being done.

I've added one new piece of legislation to the "TAKE ACTION" list, and thanks to Tom for helping me keep the list clean. There simply aren't enough hours in a day to thoroughly review everything there is to be reviewed.

On occasion there might be a "duplicate" which just comes from another organization and provides a second opportunity to push to get it passed.

I am still looking for stories about treatment in the VA Healthcare system both good and bad, and the strictest confidentiality is and will be maintained. Your letters will help me address members of Congress on both the good and bad even ugly situations that persist nationwide.

Please do visit 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!

Kindest regards,

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. [Contribute](#)



WHO has the US Submarine patrol report?

There is a group of US Veterans that are still invisible to the VA for medical service needed for presumptive exposure to Agent Orange.

Submarines on “Special Operations” in Vietnam waters.

There were 66 US submarines that received the Vietnam Service Medal. Only 6 have documented Deck Logs with location within the 12 Nautical Mile limit of the coast of Vietnam. Those submarines were transiting to Thailand for R&R. MVA is continually researching deck logs for ships and submarines that have logged locations within the Vietnam 12 Mile limit.

The 66 US Submarines carried out 197 documented patrols, in the Vietnam Service area. The submarine veterans on those patrols have not been able to obtain their earned medical service compensation from the VA.

The submarine veterans did not do what they did AND The submarine veterans were not where they were.

“Deny, Deny until they DIE”

The submarine patrol reports should show where they were. The patrol reports have not been located or “who” has administration control over them. As the years pass by 60 to 47 years, the patrol reports may not exist anymore.

The question is not what the US submarine veteran did in Vietnam, but was the submariner there?

They number one question is: “Was the submarine WITHIN the Vietnam 12 NM limit?”

The Second question is: “WHO has control over the Patrol Reports”

The search for the submarine patrol reports has led to many dead ends, from the Department of Navy to the Department of Veterans Administration, each with no records found.

The Office of the Chief of Naval Operations has given the yes and no answer: “The office of OPNAV N2/6 conducted a search for records and has informed Military-Veterans Advocacy that the records sought are classified and exempt disclosure in their entirety under exemption 5 U.S.C. s552 (b) (1)”. MVA was referred to two organizations NARA and HAD, which had negative responses.

Military-Veterans Advocacy is working with the Veterans Benefits Administration, the Veterans Service group, to hopefully locate the needed records to support the Veterans claims.

Richard Elliott
Director of Research
Military-Veterans Advocacy
USS Segundo SS-398
FTG2/SS



Help Yourself or Someone in Need

As of July 16, 2022, [dialing 988 will connect all landline and cell phone users with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#). Call 988 if you or someone you know is in danger of suicide or experiencing a mental health crisis. Callers can receive immediate crisis counseling, resources, and referrals for future treatment. In some cases and where available, they may dispatch a mobile crisis unit to your location.

The 988-dialing code aims to provide people with an easy-to-remember number to use in a crisis, like 911.

Before July 16 and any time, people who need crisis support can:

- Call 1-800-273-8255.
- [Visit the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to connect with a trained crisis counselor.](#)

Source: Paul Sutton



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@madvocacy.org



Oklahoma City VA welcomes new facility dog

Labrador retriever facility dog Val helps Veterans meet rehabilitation goals in Acute Care Rehabilitation and Outpatient Recreation Therapy.

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VA program collaborates with NIH initiative to advance genetic discoveries for Veterans

MVP has created whole genome sequences for over 140,000 Veterans. However, it takes time to process this large amount of data and make it available for research.

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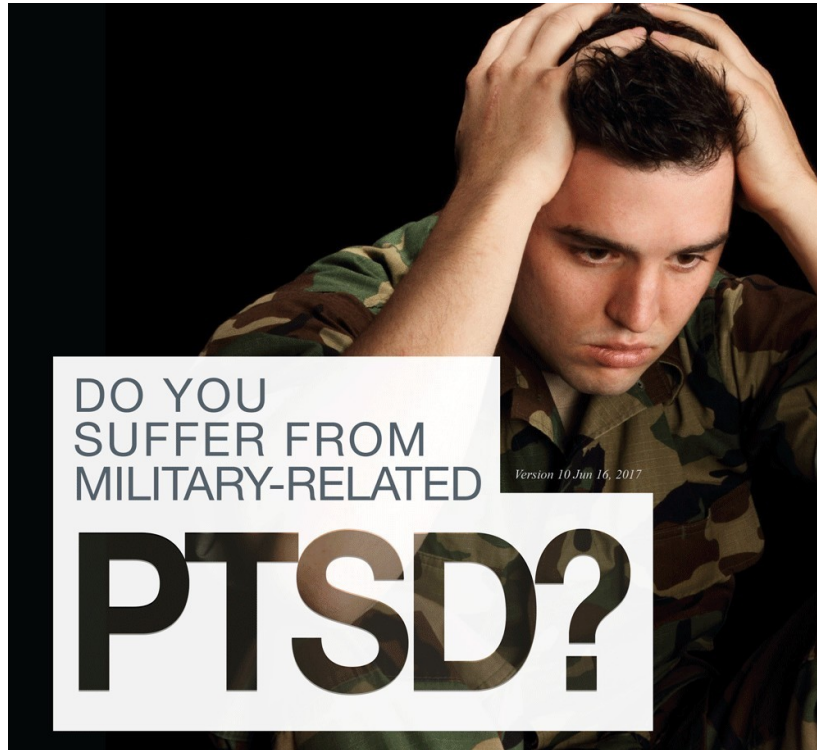


Depression, Insomnia, and Obesity Among Post-9/11 Veterans: Eating Pathology as a Distinct ...

Ramsey CM, Gaffey AE, Brandt CA, Haskell SG, Masheb RM.
Depression, Insomnia, and Obesity Among Post-9/11 Veterans:
Eating Pathology as a Distinct Health Risk Behavior.

[Read More](#)





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



Commissaries help Feds Feed Families food drive

Commissaries are collecting food donations for families in need through the annual Feds Feed Families food drive.

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William Moody: Wrestling's Paul Bearer

Air Force Veteran William Moody performed in the professional wrestling business for over a decade as Paul Bearer, the manager of The Undertaker.

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Development and validation of a brief warfare exposure measure among U.S. Iraq and Afghanistan...

Bovin MJ, Schneiderman A, Bernhard PA, Maguen S, Hoffmire CA, Blosnich JR, Smith BN, Kulka R, Vogt D. "Development and validation of a brief warfare exposure measure among U.S. Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans: The Deployment Risk and Resilience Inventory-2 Warfare Exposure-Short Form (DRRI-2 WE-SF)": Correction.

[Read More](#)





Veteran's caregiver thanks VA Caregiver Support Program

Read Kathy Parker's letter to other caregivers about how VA and the Caregiver Support Program help her and her Veteran in their time of need.

[Read More](#)



America250: Army Veteran James N. Rowe

This week's America250 salute is Army Veteran James N. Rowe, a POW who escaped captivity in Vietnam and helped develop SERE tactics.

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Development and validation of a brief warfare exposure measure among U.S. Iraq and Afghanistan...

Bovin MJ, Schneiderman A, Bernhard PA, Maguen S, Hoffmire CA, Blosnich JR, Smith BN, Kulka R, Vogt D. Development and validation of a brief warfare exposure measure among U.S. Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans: The Deployment Risk and Resilience Inventory-2 Warfare Exposure-Short Form (DRRI-2 WE-SF). Psychol Trauma.

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[Links to Other Stories](#)

- 1) Amarillo explores new solution for homeless in pallet shelter community
- 2) VA looks to overhaul pay, 'antiquated' hiring processes in major Veteran care bill
- 3) Kan. groups tackling stigma of Veterans' mental health issues
- 4) 'Top Gun: Maverick' has military kids realizing their parents are badass
- 5) Meet the Veterans Who Survived the Army's Edgewood Experiments
- 6) Millions of Vets Sickened by Burn Pits, Toxins Closer to Care as Bill Moves
- 7) Marine Veteran sentenced for running drug trafficking ring
- 8) Largest budget in VA history gets backing from House appropriators



Marine Veterans' wheelchair basketball rivalry

Marine Veterans Raul Acosta and Eugene Tatom started as basketball rivals but have developed a lifelong friendship that transcends sports

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Virginia Veteran resources, benefits event made "life-changing" difference

Virginia recently hosted a successful event to help Veterans access the health care, resources, benefits and services they have earned.

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Gender differences in medication prescribing patterns for Veterans with posttraumatic stress...

Hadlandsmyth K, Bernardy NC, Lund BC. Gender differences in medication prescribing patterns for Veterans with posttraumatic stress disorder: A 10-year follow-up study. J Trauma Stress.

[Read More](#)



New outpatient diuresis clinic a game changer for Veteran and spouse

The newly created Outpatient Diuresis Clinic is a game changer for Navy Veteran Jack Pinkston and his spouse after quadruple bypass.

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Marine Veteran performs research on fatigue in people with neurological conditions

I wanted to join the United States Marine Corps (USMC) to challenge myself in ways I had never been challenged before. I also wanted to gain valuable skills that I could use in a future career. The USMC provided me with ample opportunities to grow personally and professionally. I would not be as successful as I am today without being a Marine.

[Read More](#)



MEG neural signature of sexual trauma in women Veterans with PTSD

James LM, Leuthold AF, Georgopoulos AP. MEG neural signature of sexual trauma in women Veterans with PTSD.

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Suicide Prevention Resources for Military and Veterans

Military & Veterans Crisis Line

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

Vets 4 Warriors
855-838-8255

InTransition
1-800-424-7877

Office of Warrior Care Policy

warriorcare.dodlive.mil/

Military One Source
1-800-342-9647

**Tragedy Assistance
Program for Survivors
[TAPS]**
1-800-959-8277



Curling, pickleball debut at Veterans Wheelchair Games

The largest wheelchair rehab event for Veterans with spinal cord injuries, amputations and other neurological conditions is underway.

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#Live Whole Health #129: Soft belly breathing

Breathing slowly and deeply in through the nose and out through the mouth with a soft and relaxed belly can increase the body's exchange of oxygen. This technique also stimulates the body's rest and relaxation response. It quiets the areas of the brain that register fear and anger.

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Economic Development Initiative helps transitioning service members, spouses

From July 13-15, VA will be hosting the Northern California Economic Development Initiative (EDI) for transitioning service members, Veterans, their spouses and family members.

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Treatment for menopause symptoms available at VA

Menopause is a natural part of aging that affects each person differently. Talk to your VA provider for help managing your symptoms.

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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 07/16/22)

Please note, we've added ONE new item to the **TAKE ACTION** list.

- 1) [HR 1014 - Furnish Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy \(HBOT\) to a Veteran who has a Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\) or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTS\)](#)
- 2) [HR 109 will establish an advisory committee on the implementation by the DVA of an electronic health record](#)
- 3) [Concurrent Receipt Legislation Introduced](#)

- 4) Expand Concurrent Receipt
- 5) H.R. 333, Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act
- 6) H.R. 344, Support the Women Veterans TRUST Act
- 7) H.R. 914, the Dental Care for Veterans Act
- 8) Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act
- 9) S. 134/H.R. 637, the Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2021
- 10) S. 437, Take Action for Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits
- 11) S. 89, Ensuring Survivors Benefits during COVID-19 Act of 2021
- 12) STOP TRICARE Fee Increases
- 13) Support Bills to Expand Coverage for ChampVA and TRICARE Young Adults
- 14) Veterans Economic Recovery Act Introduced
- 15) H.R. 855, the Veterans Expedited TSA Screening (VETS) Safe Travel Act
- 16) HR 1355 and S 454. These companion bills will provide health care and benefits to Veterans who were exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces at Karshi Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan.
- 17) Support Repeal of TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee
- 18) HR 1585 & S 565- Provide for the treatment of Vets who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as Radiation Exposed
- 19) Please Support S. 344, the Major Richard Star Act
- 20) Support the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act
- 21) S. 810 & H.R. 1972, the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
- 22) HR 109 Establish an Advisory Committee on Implementation by the DVA of an electronic health record
- 23) HR 2372 and S 952 will Provide for Presumption of Service Connection for certain diseases associated with exposure to toxins
- 24) Please Ask you Senator to support S.952 the Warfighters Act
- 25) Support Improving VA Homelessness Program
- 26) S. 976, Caring for Survivors Act of 2021

- 27) H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act
- 28) H.R. 912, American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans Mental Health Act
- 29) S. 976, the Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
- 30) HR 2269 and S 657 cover herbicide exposure in Thailand
- 31) Bipartisan Bill Introduced to Help Military Survivors
- 32) Legislation asks for Study of Involuntary Discharges for Women
- 33) H.R. 2436, the Veterans Burn Pit Exposure Recognition Act
- 34) H.R. 958—the Protecting Moms Who Served Act
- 35) HR 2127 and S 927, the TEAM bills Veterans Exposed to Toxic Substances
- 36) Ask your Senator to Support S.1520 Military Justice Improvement Act
- 37) Ask your member to support S.810 and H.R. 1972 The Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
- 38) Ask your member and senator to support HR 2580 and S 1151 to provide for a presumption of service connected disability for certain Veterans who served in Palomares, Spain, and for other purposes
- 39) HR 855, VETS Safe Travel Act
- 40) HR 3368, the Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Island bill
- 41) H.R. 2521, Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Affairs Act of 2021
- 42) H.R. 1273, the Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act
- 43) H.R. 2968, the Military and Veteran Student Loan Relief Act
- 44) H.R. 845, the VA Billing Accountability Act
- 45) Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Bill Introduced in House
- 46) HR 303 and S 1147 The Retired Pay Restoration Act
- 47) Ask Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipt Reform HR-1282
- 48) HR 1656 TREAT PTSD Act

- 49) S. 1664, the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Processing Claims Improvement
- 50) Please Support H.R. 3452 —Veterans Preventative Health Coverage Fairness Act
- 51) HR 2192, The Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2021
- 52) HR 5026, The Panama Canal Zone Veterans Act of 2021
- 53) HR 3368, HR 5026, HR 2269, S 657 are all Toxic Exposure Bills that need special attention and more pressure to get passed!
- 54) H.R. 4627, Veterans' Culturally Competent Care Act of 2021
- 55) S. 2172, Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness
- 56) H.R. 4571, the SERVICE Act of 2021
- 57) H.R. 4732, Protect Individual Unemployability Benefit for All Disabled
- 58) S. 1937, the Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Act of 2021
- 59) S. 2283 and H.R. 5073—the Crisis Hotline REACH for Veterans Act
- 60) HR 852 and S 221, United States - Israel PTSD Collaborative Research Act
- 61) Ask Congress to Preserve Arlington National Cemetery
- 62) HR 4949 and S 692, the Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021
- 63) HR 2963, the VOW to Hire Heroes Extension Act of 2021
- 64) S 1970, The Clean Water for Military Families Act
- 65) Support S. 1198/H.R. 2819—the Solid Start Act of 2021
- 66) H.R. 3402/S. 976—Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
- 67) HR 3537 and S 1813, Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act
- 68) S. 2386/H.R. 4575, the Veteran Peer Specialist Act
- 69) H.R. 5721—the VIPER Act
- 70) H.R. 5607, Justice for ALS Veterans Act
- 71) HR 2601 and S 1188, SFC Heath Robinson Burn Pit Transparency Act
- 72) S. 3017, Veterans Dental Care Eligibility Expansion and

Enhancement Act

- 73) HR 1361 and S 444, AUTO for Veterans Act
- 74) H.R. 4880 and S. 2720, the Veterans' Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act
- 75) HR 2800, the WINGMAN Act
- 76) H.R. 5944, Veterans Administration Backlog Accountability Act of 2021
- 77) HR 3400, VA Emergency Transportation Act
- 78) HR 2992, TBI and PTSD Law Enforcement Training Act
- 79) HR 6260, the Casualty Assistance Reform Act of 2021
- 80) H.R. 5819, Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act
- 81) HR 3596, the Lawrence J. Hackett, Jr. Vietnam Veterans Agent Orange Fairness Act
- 82) H.R. 2327 – to Remove Delimiting Dates for Survivors and Dependents' Educational Assistance
- 83) S. 2513/H.R. 4772, Improved VA Clothing Allowance Benefit for Disabled Veterans
- 84) S. 3293, the Post 9-11 Veterans Mental Health Care Act of 2021
- 85) HR 6402 and S 1725, will grant a Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated
- 86) HR 6659 and S 3541, the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Acts
- 87) H.R. 6543, Restore Veterans Compensation Act
- 88) H.R. 3967, Honoring Our PACT Act Going to House Floor for a Vote
- 89) H.R. 2916/S. 1467, the VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2021
- 90) S. 3483, Justice for ALS Veterans Act
- 91) H.R. 6273 and S.3397, the VA Zero Suicide Demonstration Project Act of 2021
- 92) HR 7050, Ernest Peltz Accrued Veterans Benefits Act
- 93) S. 3851/H.R. 7089, the Veterans Exposed to Toxic PFAS Act
- 94) S. 3854/H.R. 6823, the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act

- 95) [HR 4601 and S 2405, Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act](#)
- 96) [S. 3304/H.R. 5754, the Patient Advocate Tracker Act](#)
- 97) [Please Support H.R. 7369, VENTURE Act](#)
- 98) [Please support of HR 7524, the ACES Act](#)
- 99) [HR 7589, Remove Copays Act](#)
- 100) [Support Concurrent Receipt Bills](#)
- 101) [S. 3025 and H.R. 5666, the Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act of 2021 to Improve the Claims Process for MST Survivors](#)
- 102) [Support S. 4156, the VA Workforce Improvement, Support, and Expansion \(WISE\)](#)
- 103) [Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options \(MAMMO\) for Veterans](#)
- 104) [They must pass the Honoring our PACT Act NOW](#)
- 105) [HR 7048, Protect Lifesaving Anesthesia Care for Veterans Act of 2022](#)
- 106) [HR 1476, PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program Act](#)
- 107) [S. 4223 and H.R. 7846, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment \(COLA\) Act of 2022](#)
- 108) [HR 7158, Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act](#)
- 109) [H.R. 3950, the Veterans Medical Legal Partnerships Act](#)
- 110) [HR 7158 and S 2852 Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act](#)



Can life insurance be affordable?

Life insurance can be affordable and accessible to people at all income levels. A wide array of factors determines life insurance cost.

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Veterans view healthy kitchen videos from home

Northern Indiana VA Nutrition and Food Services classes allow Veterans to watch healthy kitchen recipe demonstrations via VA Video Connect.

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Music therapy for Veterans: Art group gives back

Muskogee Art Guild decorated guitars for Veterans used as part of music therapy program offered in partnership with Challenge America

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Army Veteran born on July 4 100 years ago

Veteran, turning 100, to his family every year regarding Fourth of July fireworks: "You hear that? Everyone is celebrating my birthday."

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VA investment in telehealth adds up to job opportunities for you

From health care to IT, VA careers make telehealth options accessible to millions of Veterans

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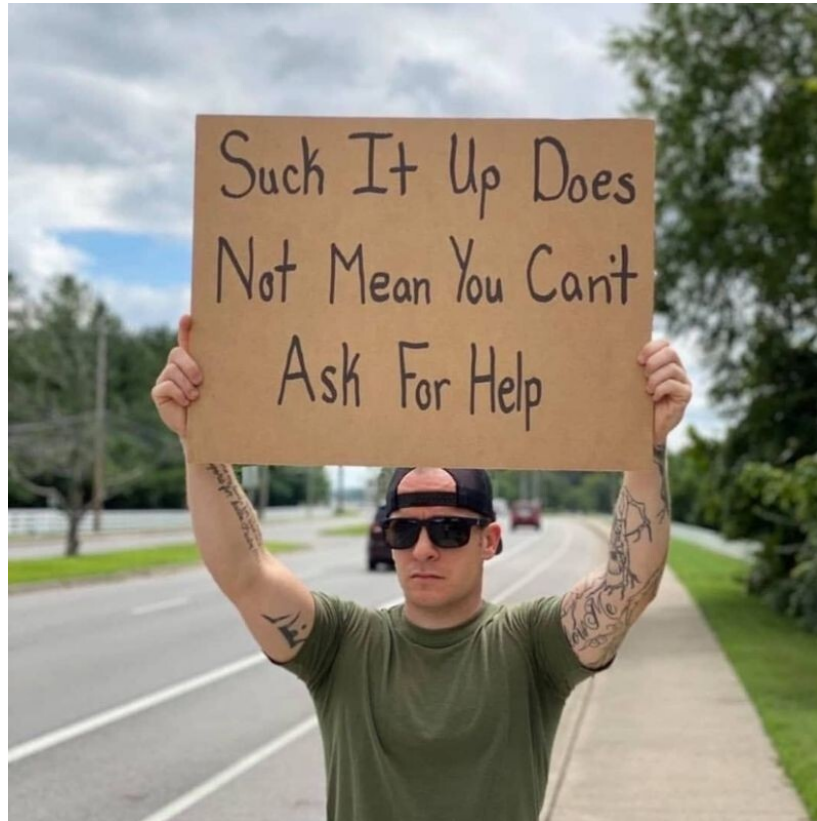


Educators bringing diverse students to learn at VA

VA OAA 2022 David M. Worthen Ward recipients are improving care quality, trainee diversity and physician teaching to better serve Veterans.

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Faces of Service immortalizes Veterans and their stories

Faces of Service captures photos and stories of Veterans dating back to World War II. So far, 160 Veterans have shared their story.

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Exercise may be useful treatment option for Veterans with PTSD

At the same time, interest is increasing among researchers and clinicians in using complementary and alternative treatments, such as exercise, to enhance traditional mental health care and support a patient-centered approach to care. Veterans with PTSD frequently use these treatments and often rate them as enjoyable.

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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



**Veterans Toxic Exposure Bill Amended and
Passes House**

The House approved a slightly modified version of the comprehensive veteran's toxic exposure bill as an amendment to another bill (S.3373) and approved it (342-88). The bill must go back to the Senate for final approval and then sent on to the president to be signed into law.

It would establish a presumption of service connection for 23 respiratory illnesses and cancers related to the smoke from burn pits. Further, the bill also provides new benefits for veterans who faced radiation exposure during deployments throughout the Cold War, adds hypertension and monoclonal gammopathy to the list of illnesses linked to Agent Orange exposure in the Vietnam War, expands the timeline for Gulf War medical claims and requires new medical exams for all veterans with toxic exposure claims. Veterans who served in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Guam during the Vietnam War era would be covered under the same Agent Orange presumptive policies as those who served in Vietnam itself.

VA staff would be granted "The authority to determine that a veteran participated in a toxic exposure risk activity when an exposure tracking record system does not contain the appropriate data," a stark distinction from the science-only system in use at the VA currently. The measure is estimated to cost \$281 billion over 10 years and would potentially affect as many as one in five veterans living today. The bill would authorize the setup of 31 major medical clinics across America and hire thousands more claims processors and health care staff.



House Passes NDAA (H.R.7900)

As NewsBytes goes to press, the House is considering 650 of the

1230 floor amendments filed for the House version of the FY2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA-H.R.7900). Two FRA supported amendments expanding concurrent receipt were not called for a vote. The measure would authorize \$37 billion more than requested by the administration. The House is expected to approve the bill. Other provisions in the bill include:

- No TRICARE fee increases;
- Prohibiting the DoD from realigning or reducing military medical end strength until additional analysis on the impact;
- Providing a 4.6 percent annual pay increase for active duty and an inflation bonus of 2.4 percent for those troops making less than \$45,000 a year;
- Adding \$750 million to military commissaries to reduce prices for food and other necessities;

- Mandating DoD to report on an improved calculation of BAH rates;
- Extending DoD authority to provide a temporary increase in BAH until 2024;
- Excluding the Reserve Component from paying premiums and co-pays for TRICARE dental coverage;
- Allowing DoD to increase incentive payments to retain behavioral health providers;
- Prohibiting Chinese products in commissaries and exchanges;
- Authorizing \$53 million to provide assistance to local educational agencies with military dependent students and \$22 million to assist with students with severe disabilities.

The Senate version of the FY 2023 NDAA is pending on the Senate floor and is not expected to be considered until after the August recess. Once the Senate approves its version of the NDAA, a conference committee will be appointed to resolve the differences between the two bills. That final bill will be submitted to the House and Senate for approval. If approved the bill will be sent

to the President to be signed into law or vetoed.



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House Passes Veterans Comprehensive Mental Health Bill

The House passed the "Support the Resilience of Our Nation's Great Veterans Act" (H.R.6411) that is a comprehensive mental health bill to improve mental health programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The provisions of the bill include:

- Strengthening VA's mental health care workforce, expand care options, and support mental health research;
- Improving the Veterans Crisis Line's (VCL) staff training, management, and response to veteran callers at risk of suicide;
- Enhancing the Solid Start program, which was created by VA in 2019 to contact every veteran three times by phone in the first year after they leave active-duty service to check-in and help connect them to VA programs and benefits;
- Directing the VA to designate one week per year as "Buddy Check Week" to organize outreach events and educate veterans on how to conduct peer wellness checks;
- Improving VA's peer specialist support program, established through the VA MISSION Act, to all VA medical centers;
- Expanding Vet Center eligibility for counseling and related mental health services to family members of servicemembers or veterans who died by suicide; and
- Requiring the VA to report to Congress on its Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL) program and assess the number of VA medical centers, institutions of higher learning, non-college degree programs, and student veterans supported by the program.

The FRA strongly supports this legislation to combat veteran suicide by strengthening VA's mental health care workforce, bolstering the Veterans Crisis Line, and expanding life-saving resources to those veterans who need it.



Happy Birthday Marine Corps Band

The United States Marine Band was established by Congress on July 11, 1798. It is the oldest of the United States bands and the oldest professional musical organization in the United States. The Marine Band has been uniquely known as "The President's Own" since 1801 due to its historical connection to the President of the United States. The Marine Band has played at every presidential inauguration since 1801. President Thomas Jefferson gave it the title "The President's Own."

Today, the band performs in approximately 500 events every year. The Marine Band also travels across the country each October and November during its fall concert tour - a tradition that began in 1891 under its most famous director, composer John Philip Sousa.



Office of Inspector General

- 1) Contact Tracing for Air Travel: CDC's Data System Needs Substantial Improvement
- 2) COVID-19: Pandemic Lessons Highlight Need for Public Health Situational Awareness Network
- 3) Drug Policy: Preliminary Observations on the 2022 National Drug Control Strategy
- 4) Electronic Health Information: HHS Needs to Improve Communications for Breach Reporting
- 5) Electronic Health Records: Additional DOD Actions Could Improve Cost and Schedule Estimating for New System
- 6) International Family Planning Assistance: USAID Has Faced Implementation Challenges Related to U.S. Policy and COVID-19
- 7) Medicaid: State Directed Payments in Managed Care
- 8) Medicare Advantage: Continued Monitoring and Implementing GAO Recommendations Could Improve Oversight
- 9) Military Personnel: Opportunities Exist to Improve Access to Services Supporting Caregivers of Dependents with Special Needs
- 10) Priority Open Recommendations: Department of Health and Human Services
- 11) Public Health Preparedness: Medical Countermeasure Development for Certain Serious or Life-Threatening Conditions



House Passes Amended PACT Act

The Senate-amended Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, known as the [Honoring our PACT Act](#), passed the House with a 342–88 vote. The bill must now go back to the Senate for another vote. The VFW thanks all advocates who contacted their members of Congress urging them to support this historic legislation. [Read more.](#)



Veterans Needed for Million Veteran Program

The world's largest medical research biobank, [Million Veteran Program](#), is seeking veterans to learn how genes, lifestyles, and military exposures affect health and illness. Women veterans are encouraged to participate as they are often underrepresented in biomedical research which can leave gender-specific health questions unanswered. By contributing a blood sample to the biobank, veterans may help ensure that the research is more comprehensive. [Sign up today.](#)



- 1) Belfonte Dairy Announces Recall of Belfonte Premium Ice Cream “Chocolate to Die For” 1.5 Quart Package
- 2) FDA Roundup: July 15, 2022
- 3) FDA Drug Shortages
- 4) Investigation of Adverse Event Reports: French Lentil & Leek Crumbles (June 2022)
- 5) Instructions for Use — Patient Labeling for Human Prescription Drug and Biological Products — Content and Format
- 6) Hospira Issues a Voluntary Nationwide Recall for One Lot of Propofol Injectable Emulsion, USP (Containing Benzyl Alcohol), Due to the Potential Presence of Visible Particulate
- 7) FDA Provides Educational Resources for Parents and Caregivers to Support Confidence for Imported Infant Formula Products
- 8) Tovala Issues a Voluntary Allergy Alert on Undeclared Peanuts in Prepared Meals
- 9) Outbreak Investigation of *Listeria monocytogenes*: Ice Cream (July 2022)
- 10) Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Authorizes Emergency Use of Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted
- 11) Caution Consumers
- 12) FDA Warns Four Companies for Selling Tainted Honey-based Products with Hidden Active Drug Ingredients
- 13) Outbreak Investigation of *Listeria monocytogenes*: Ice Cream (July 2022)
- 14) Primal Pet Foods Voluntary Recalls a Single Lot of Raw Frozen Patties Beef Formula Due to Potential Contamination with *Listeria Monocytogenes*
- 15) FDA Infant Formula Update: July 8, 2022



Rep. Luria Advances PACT Act to Expand Health Care for Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits and Toxic Substances

WASHINGTON, DC – Rep. Elaine Luria (D-VA) voted for the final House passage of the Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2021 to expand health care services and benefits for veterans who have been exposed to burn pits or toxic substances. The legislation will now be sent to the Senate for the final time before advancing to the President’s desk.

The Honoring our PACT Act will broaden the definition of toxic exposure, expand access to comprehensive health care services covered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and strengthen benefits for veterans were exposed to toxic substances during their service.

“As a 20-year Navy veteran, I was proud to advance the final version of the bipartisan Honoring our PACT Act today, which is now one step closer to provide our veterans with the care and benefits they deserve. This is a historic day for the millions of veterans and military families across the country who have suffered from illnesses associated with burn pits and exposure to toxic substances that been denied the lifesaving health care services and benefits that they need,” Rep. Luria said. “Our veterans have earned this, and the Honoring our PACT is proof of the good that Congress can do when we put our political differences aside and work together for the greater good of our veterans, military families, and the American people.”

The final version of the Honoring our PACT Act that passed the House today includes two of Rep. Luria’s bills: the COVENANT Act, which addresses toxic exposure to include both a comprehensive list of overseas locations that would qualify a veteran for earned benefits and a list of presumptive illnesses contracted as a result of airborne exposure, and the Veterans

Disability Claims Notification Improvement Act, which ensures the timely processing and notification of veteran claim decisions through modern, electronic means.

Rep. Luria delivered remarks on the House floor this afternoon in support of the Honoring our PACT Act, which can be found here.

Passage of the Honoring our PACT Act builds off the monumental passage of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act that finally granted benefits to veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange during their service off the coast of Vietnam.



Retirement on the Horizon? TRICARE July 21 Webinar Is for You



Planning for your retirement? Join the July 21 webinar, "What Happens to Your TRICARE Coverage After Retiring?," for an overview of how your status change affects you and your family's medical coverage.

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7 Questions to Help You with Your Next PCS Move

Will you be embarking on a permanent change of station (PCS) this summer? Whether you're moving stateside or overseas, your TRICARE coverage will move with you. Here are seven questions to think about, so you can stay a step ahead of your move.

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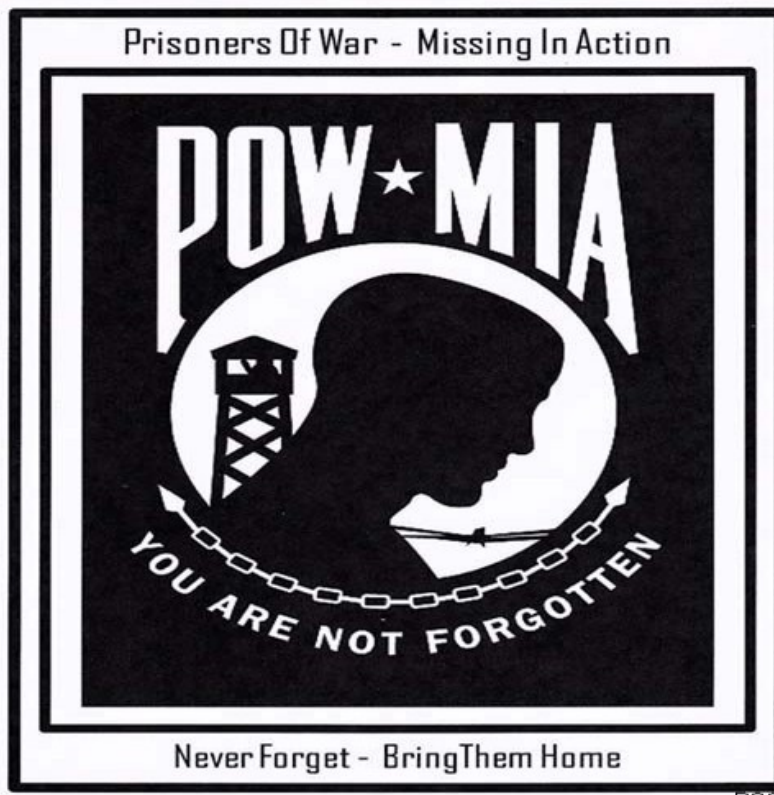


Pregnant or expecting? This Brochure Tells You What TRICARE Covers

Are you familiar with what TRICARE covers for maternity and newborn care? If not, the TRICARE Maternity Care Brochure has information to help you learn about maternity care services, delivery options, costs, and newborn care.

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#Live Whole Health #129: Soft belly breathing

Breathing slowly and deeply in through the nose and out through the mouth with a soft and relaxed belly can increase the body's exchange of oxygen. This technique also stimulates the body's rest and relaxation response. It quiets the areas of the brain that register fear and anger.

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**Treatment for menopause symptoms available at
VA**

Are you experiencing hot flashes? Sudden mood changes? Having trouble sleeping? You may be nearing menopause. If your symptoms are making you uncomfortable, talk with your VA provider for help managing them.

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John McCain and Trailblazing Female General Among Biden Medal of Freedom Recipients

Vaught, an Air Force Veteran who enlisted in 1957 and retired in 1985, is one of the most decorated women in military history, mirroring that arc toward greater inclusion and her nearly three-decade career was a series of firsts for female service members. Congratulations Gen Vaught and thank you for your service.

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Slater receives Trail Blazer Award at 2022 Virginia Women Veterans Summit

Slater, a current federal civilian employee working in the Virginia National Guard Human Resources Office, was recognized with the Trail Blazer Award at the 2022 Virginia Women Veterans Summit held June 15, 2022, in Richmond, Virginia. Hosted by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services in partnership with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Summit featured more than 200 women Veterans, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors and other participants taking part in a full day of inspiring speeches and panel discussions on topics of interest to Virginia's more than 109,000 women Veterans.

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Faces of Service immortalizes Veterans and their stories

Dating back to World War II stopped by to have their photograph professionally taken, share their experiences and join in on the fellowship. Faces of Service aims to show the faces and tell the stories of true sacrifice and service. It says that our Veterans' stories and experiences are unique, notable, and worthy of celebration and documentation.

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Chiropractic Care of a Female Veteran After Cervical Total Disk Replacement: A Case Report

Mortenson M, Montgomery A, Buttermann G. Chiropractic Care of a Female Veteran After Cervical Total Disk Replacement: A Case Report. J Chiropr Med

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Pain and posttraumatic stress: Associations among women Veterans with a history of military...

Shapiro MO, Short NA, Raines AM, Franklin CL, True G, Constans JI. Pain and posttraumatic stress: Associations among women Veterans with a history of military sexual trauma.

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Practical and Emotional Peer Support Tailored for Life's Challenges: Personalized Support for...

Johnson EM, Poleshuck E, Possemato K, Hampton B, Funderburk JS, Grewal H, Cerulli C, Wittink M. Practical and Emotional Peer Support Tailored for Life's Challenges: Personalized Support for Progress Randomized Clinical Pilot Trial in a Veterans Health Administration Women's Clinic.

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Predictors of Functioning and Recovery Among Men and Women Veterans with Schizophrenia

Goodsmith N, Cohen AN, Pedersen ER, Evans E, Young AS, Hamilton AB. Predictors of Functioning and Recovery Among Men and Women Veterans with Schizophrenia.

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Preventing Suicide Among Women Veterans: Gender-Sensitive, Trauma-Informed Conceptualization

Monteith LL, Holliday R, Dichter ME, Hoffmire CA. Preventing Suicide Among Women Veterans: Gender-Sensitive, Trauma-Informed Conceptualization.

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Tax & Credit Information



- 1) Taxpayers can start the 2022 tax year off right by checking their withholding
- 2) IRS provides additional updates to Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit
- 3) IRS Free File can make tax season easier on people filing for the first time
- 4) 2022 Low Income Taxpayer Clinic List now available
- 5) Tips for parents who share custody or alternate tax benefits
- 6) Interest rates increase for the second quarter of 2022
- 7) Filing season reminder for teachers: Some educator expenses may be tax deductible
- 8) Tax Time Guide: Use the 'Where's My Refund?' tool or IRS2Go app to conveniently check tax refund status
- 9) IRS updates FAQs for the Premium Tax Credit
- 10) Changes to the earned income tax credit for the 2022 filing season



Racial/ethnic disparities in the diagnosis and management of menopause symptoms among midlife...

Blanken A, Gibson CJ, Li Y, Huang AJ, Byers AL, Maguen S, Inslicht S, Seal K. Racial/ethnic disparities in the diagnosis and management of menopause symptoms among midlife women Veterans.

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Recovering from intimate partner violence through Strengths and Empowerment (RISE): Development...

Iverson KM, Danitz SB, Driscoll M, Vogt D, Hamilton AB, Gerber MR, Stirman SW, Shayani DR, Suvak MK, Dichter ME.

"Recovering from intimate partner violence through Strengths and Empowerment (RISE): Development, pilot testing, and refinement of a patient-centered brief counseling intervention for women"

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Understanding Who Uses Whole Health Services: A Program Evaluation

Mitzel LD, Possemato K, Smith AR, Seifert CA, Ramon AE, Grewal H. Understanding Who Uses Whole Health Services: A Program Evaluation.

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

Marine Reserve Cpl. Jack S. Brown, 22, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, 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. He will be buried in Norfolk, Virginia, on Aug. 13, 2022. [Read about Brown.](#)

Navy Fireman 1st Class Beoin H. Corzatt, 24, Arcanum, Ohio, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Corzatt. He will be buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in Honolulu, on Sep. 21, 2022. [Read about Corzatt.](#)

Army Air Forces Sgt. Herald R. Boyd, 25, was assigned to 350th Bombardment Squadron, 100th Bombardment Group, 8th Air Force. On Feb. 3, 1945, the B-17G Flying Fortress bomber on which Boyd was serving as a gunner crashed when it was struck by a ground rocket during a bombing mission in Berlin. Boyd's body was not recovered, but one of the surviving crew members confirmed that he had been killed in the crash. The War Department issued a report of death on Jan. 12, 1946. Interment services are pending. [Read about Boyd.](#)



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