



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, July 24, 2022

Volume 13, Issue 30



This-N-That

Good evening Jim,

If you've not already heard or read, the VA's crisis line number has changed so you don't have to remember a ten-digit number, now it's simply 988 very similar to 911 and 411 and depending on where you live all the other 3-digit numbers.

There are two brief articles one right after this and one toward the bottom from two different sources and I encourage everyone to read them. Whether you're in need or someone you know is in need remember 988 is the number to call and when answered dial 1.

When I review all the information that comes in, I make it a point to share as much information available on a number of topics so as

to find something for everyone and there can be as few as 200 E-Mail alerts to as many as 505.

I've been working on chopping down the length of the newsletter as most would lose interest ½ through it so do bear with me while I continue to work on that.

I have added two new pieces of legislation we need to get passed, signed into law and help more Veterans, so please do pay attention to those in the TAKE ACTION section.

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](#)

New number, same 24/7 crisis support

Share the new Veterans Crisis Line number with those you served with so they're prepared in case of a crisis—Dial 988 then Press 1.

[Read More](#)

PTSD Bytes #13: PTSD and Insomnia

In this episode of PTSD Bytes, clinical psychologist Dr. Elissa McCarthy discusses Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Insomnia.

[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.

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



Gulf War Veterans' engagement sessions

1990-91 Gulf War Veterans with questions about Gulf War Illness are invited to engagement sessions with experts who want to hear from you.

[Read More](#)



Ozark community partners help Veterans heal through cooking classes

VA, University of Arkansas Extension and Fayetteville Public Library assist Veterans on the road to recovery in Whole Health cooking classes.

[Read More](#)





Genetic testing may benefit patients with depression

A VA study has found that Pharmacogenomic, or genetic testing, can help providers avoid prescribing antidepressant medications that may have undesirable outcomes.

[Read More](#)

Celebrate Hire a Veteran Day with a new VA career

VA offers numerous career opportunities for Veterans, not just on National Hire a Veteran Day but every day. See what we have to offer.

[Read More](#)



VA lands top five spot on Best Places to Work in the Federal Government list

As determined by the nonprofit Partnership for Public Service, VA has been named as one of the government's top five best places to work.

[Read More](#)



Alabama teen first student with autism in VA youth program

Birmingham VA is proud to have Bryson Gause as the first teenage student with autism to participate in Summer Youth Volunteer program.

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Links to Other Stories

- 1) Army Vet and legendary actor James Hong has nearly 700 credits at age 93 and isn't done yet
- 2) D-Day paratrooper laid to rest with a flyover tribute from the WWII warplane he had jumped from
- 3) 'God, please, just let me live until I'm 30': At 100, World War II Veteran from Bucks County recalls horrors of war
- 4) Overdue Veterans disability claims down almost a quarter in last four months
- 5) Vandenberg SFB commander sued for denying retired Veteran access over molestation conviction
- 6) Video: VA employee caught on camera brutally beating Vietnam Veteran
- 7) Virtual reality therapy helps treat PTSD, cognitive impairment



A new, easier-to-remember Veterans Crisis Line number

A shorter, three-digit number provides an easier-to-remember way to access the Veterans Crisis Line. You are not alone.

[Read More](#)



Gene Roddenberry: Creator of Star Trek

Army Air Corps Veteran Gene Roddenberry flew over 80 combat missions during World War II and later went on to create the hit science fiction series "Star Trek."

[Read More](#)



Pension Poaching: Learn to spot scammers and who you can trust for support

Have you ever heard of the scam called pension poaching? It is a financial hoax used by scammers to defraud you of your VA pension benefits.

[Read More](#)

Salisbury VA expands sleep study capacity

Salisbury VA's sleep clinic helps Veterans suffering with sleep apnea, daytime drowsiness, insomnia, and excessive snoring.

[Read More](#)

Martinsburg VA honors POW Veteran's 100th birthday

Martinsburg Army Veteran Donald "Dusty" Rhodes spent six months as a Prisoner of War before being sent to fight in the Battle of the Bulge.

[Read More](#)



America250: Air Force Veteran Tom Skerritt

This week's America250 salute is Air Force Veteran Tom Skerritt, who went on to be an actor, starring in films like "Alien" and "Top Gun."

[Read More](#)



Oklahoma City VA and community celebrate Veteran's 99th birthday

Air Force Veteran Philip Read was grateful for the birthday party but needed to go home to finish mowing his lawn before it got hot.

[Read More](#)



Patient advocate Longoria: Helping Veterans "any way I can"

Army Veteran and retired officer Martin Longoria is a patient advocate who "Likes to help the Veteran any way I can, whatever it may be."

[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 07/24/22)

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 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
- 38) HR 855, VETS Safe Travel Act
- 39) HR 3368, the Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Island bill
- 40) H.R. 2521, Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Affairs Act of 2021
- 41) H.R. 1273, the Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act
- 42) H.R. 2968, the Military and Veteran Student Loan Relief Act
- 43) H.R. 845, the VA Billing Accountability Act
- 44) Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Bill Introduced in House
- 45) HR 303 and S 1147 The Retired Pay Restoration Act
- 46) Ask Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipt Reform HR-1282
- 47) HR 1656 TREAT PTSD Act

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

Enhancement Act

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

- 94) HR 4601 and S 2405, Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act
- 95) S. 3304/H.R. 5754, the Patient Advocate Tracker Act
- 96) Please Support H.R. 7369, VENTURE Act
- 97) Please support of HR 7524, the ACES Act
- 98) HR 7589, Remove Copays Act
- 99) Support Concurrent Receipt Bills
- 100) S. 3025 and H.R. 5666, the Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act of 2021 to Improve the Claims Process for MST Survivors
- 101) Support S. 4156, the VA Workforce Improvement, Support, and Expansion (WISE)
- 102) Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options (MAMMO) for Veterans
- 103) They must pass the Honoring our PACT Act NOW
- 104) HR 7048, Protect Lifesaving Anesthesia Care for Veterans Act of 2022
- 105) HR 1476, PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program Act
- 106) S. 4223 and H.R. 7846, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2022
- 107) HR 7158, Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act
- 108) H.R. 3950, the Veterans Medical Legal Partnerships Act
- 109) HR 7158 and S 2852 Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act
- 110) Honoring our PACT Act
- 111) S. 4308—Veterans Marriage Recognition Act of 2022



The Need for Speed Requires Intense Training

This summer's blockbuster movie showcases some amazing feats by military aviators, who showcase the ability to maneuver an aircraft while withstanding high levels of gravitational forces.

[Read More](#)



Tour of Duty course: Understanding, appreciating Veterans' service

Unique "Tour of Duty" course educates employees without military background to Veterans' service and relates it to their own federal service.

[Read More](#)



Performance Nutrition: The Best Ways to Eat

USU professor and nutrition specialist, Jonathan Scott, who holds a doctorate in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, gives advice on eating healthy.

[Watch Video](#)



Emergency Preparedness Simulations: Using tabletop exercises to protect Veterans

In this four-part series on VA Emergency Preparedness Simulation efforts, you will learn about simulation and emergency preparedness at VA.

[Read More](#)



Pregnant or Expecting? This Brochure Tells You What TRICARE Covers

The TRICARE Maternity Care Brochure is a quick resource for beneficiaries who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant to refer to along their pregnancy and early parenthood journey.

[Read More](#)



VA to host naturalization outreach, help prevent future deportations of Veterans

In February 2022, VA requested non-citizen service member data from DoD so that it could host naturalization outreach via VA's Solid Start.

[Read More](#)



Wounded Sailor Ready to Lead Navy Wounded Warrior Marksmen to Victory

Previous Warrior Games Navy athlete Roel Espino helped coach the Navy's Wounded Warrior Shooting Team.

[Read More](#)



The top tips for transitioning military personnel from Veterans just like you

Leaving the service can be difficult for transitioning military personnel, so take this advice from those who have made the leap to civilian careers.

[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



How Diet, Lifestyle, and Mental Health Impact Your Eating Habits and Fitness

Think you might need to lose a little weight? You're not alone.

[Read More](#)

Patient advocate helps Veterans "any way I can"

Martin Longoria loves to answer questions and help his fellow Veterans, so much so that he made it his job.

[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](#)

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How Military Hospitals and Clinics Prepare for Disasters

When disaster strikes – like massive wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes or floods – military hospitals and clinics need to be prepared.

[Read More](#)



OKC VA welcomes new therapy dog

Labrador retriever Val (left) has joined colleague Raisin as the newest recreational therapy dog at the Oklahoma City VA.

[Read More](#)



Office of Inspector General

1) [Social Security Disability: SSA Expedited Most Critical Cases at Hearings Level but Lacks Consistent Policy Implementation](#)



Army Experts: Rabies Risk is Not Worth It

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, almost 60,000 people around the world die from rabies each year.

[Read More](#)



Genetic testing may help patients with depression

Patients who underwent genetic testing had more positive outcomes compared with patients in usual care.

[Read More](#)



- 1) [American Contract Systems Recalls COVID Test Kits Nonsterile and Clean Catch Urine Kits for Risk of False Results](#)
- 2) [CDER Conversation: CDER's Drug Quality Sampling and Testing program](#)
- 3) [Do Not Use Ultraviolet \(UV\) Wands That Give Off Unsafe Levels of Radiation: FDA Safety Communication](#)
- 4) [FDA approves topical treatment addressing repigmentation in vitiligo in patients aged 12 and older](#)
- 5) [FDA Conducting Evaluation of Key Agency Activities to Strengthen Operations](#)
- 6) [FDA Details Optimized Approach for Regulatory Oversight Tools to Better Protect Public Health](#)

- 7) [FDA Details Optimized Approach for Regulatory Oversight Tools to Better Protect Public Health](#)
- 8) [FDA Drug Shortages](#)
- 9) [FDA Drug Shortages](#)
- 10) [FDA Roundup: July 22, 2022](#)
- 11) [For Monkeypox Testing, Use Lesion Swab Samples to Avoid False Results: FDA Safety Communication](#)
- 12) [MKS Enterprise LLC Voluntary Recalls of Dose Vital VIP Vital Honey Due to Presence of Undeclared Tadalafil](#)
- 13) [SARS-CoV-2 Viral Mutations: Impact on COVID-19 Tests](#)
- 14) [Shopaax.com Issues Voluntary Recall of Kingdom Honey Royal Honey VIP Due to Presence of Undeclared Sildenafil](#)
- 15) [Smiths Medical Recalls Certain Medfusion 3500 and 4000 Syringe Infusion Pumps for Software Issues That May Impact Infusion Delivery](#)
- 16) [Sweet Loren's, Inc Issues Voluntary Allergy Alert On Undeclared Gluten in Product](#)
- 17) [UPDATE: Use of Renuvion/J-Plasma Device for Certain Aesthetic Procedures: FDA Safety Communication](#)
- 18) [Vi-Jon, LLC Expands Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Magnesium Citrate Saline Laxative Oral Solution Lemon Flavor Due to Microbial Contamination](#)
- 19) [Want to Quit Smoking? FDA-Approved and FDA-Cleared Cessation Products Can Help](#)



Considering Supplements? Stay Informed

Learn about supplements to reach your performance and fitness goals from Operation Supplement Safety, the #DOD dietary supplement resource at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences.

[Watch Video](#)



Include Major Richard Star Act in FY23 NDAA

Congress must include the Major Richard Star Act as an amendment in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. The VFW firmly believes that DOD retired pay and VA service-connected disability compensation are fundamentally different benefits, earned for different reasons. Purple Heart recipients deserve to receive all the benefits they earned. Now is the time to move this legislation forward. Contact your members of Congress and demand they include the Major Richard Star Act as an amendment in the FY23 NDAA. [TAKE ACTION!](#)



CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER !



A new, easier-to-remember Veterans Crisis Line number

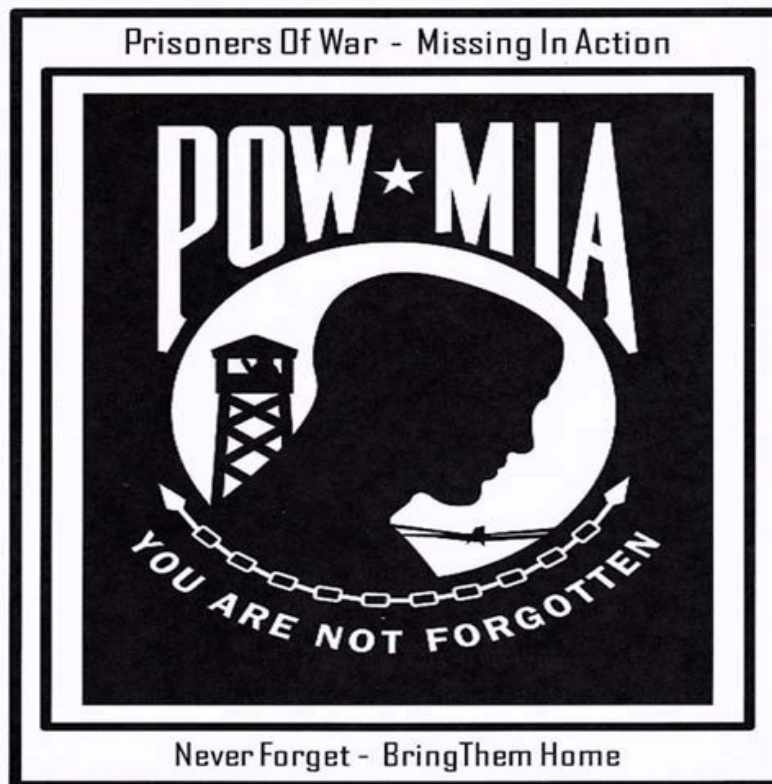
If you're a Veteran having thoughts of suicide or concerned about one, reach 24/7 crisis support through the new Veterans Crisis Line (VCL) number: Dial 988, then Press 1. This shorter, three-digit number provides an easier-to-remember way to access the VCL. We're working to make sure all Veterans and their supporters know about the new number. Below are answers to some questions you might have about this change.

[Read More](#)



New 988 Veterans Crisis Hotline

VA announced veterans now have the option to Dial 988 then Press 1 to connect with caring, qualified responders for 24/7 crisis assistance. “During a crisis, every second counts,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “This new, shorter number makes it easier for veterans and those who care about them to reach lifesaving support without having to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care.” While [Dial 988 then Press 1](#) is a new option for contacting the Veterans Crisis Line, the original number, 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, remains available, and individuals can make contact via chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat or by texting 838255.



These Were the First Women to Join Each US Military Service

These are the first women of each military service: twin sisters Genevieve and Lucille Baker, and Myrtle Hazard, U.S. Coast Guard; Deborah Sampson, U.S. Army; Opha May Johnson, Marine Corps; Esther McGowin Blake, U.S. Air Force; and Loretta Walsh, U.S. Navy (Defense Department).

[Read More](#)



Transition Assistance Resources After Service

Many individuals need help navigating their benefits when they leave the military, either immediately or years later. Veterans, family members, and caregivers can access online DOD Transition Assistance Program (TAP) materials and courses at any time following separation from service. With topics including managing transition, financial planning, and VA benefits for spouses and children, veterans can access the broad TAP curriculum as their needs and goals change over time. [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!



A special thank you

Dr. Jill Biden surprised Mrs. Cresencia Garcia via FaceTime to thank her for her service, and applaud her granddaughter Tara for her continued efforts to ensure the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion received the recognition it deserved.

[Read More](#)

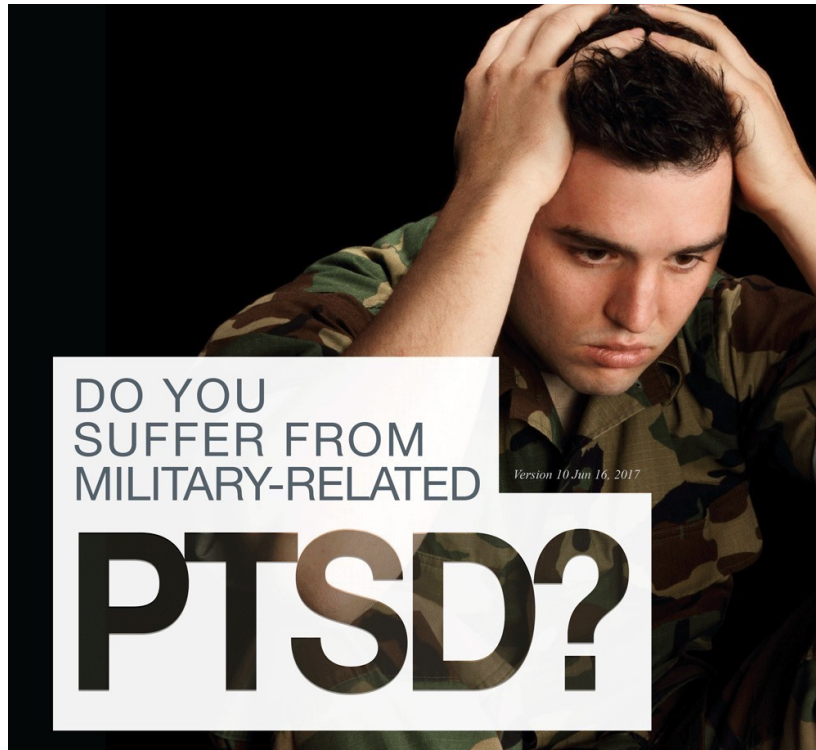


#VADidThat: Leading America in Long COVID care

VA has diagnosed more than 620,000 Veterans with COVID-19. Of this group, between 4% and 7% may have developed Long COVID symptoms. While there is no universally agreed-upon definition of Long COVID, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines it as long-term health problems following infection with the virus that causes COVID-19.

[Read More](#)





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



Veterans Voices: Luzerne County VA opens arms to female Veterans

Women Veterans are the fastest-growing population of VA patients, and now there's a whole host of services in Luzerne County helping them navigate the system. "The providers enjoy those Veterans they work with and our women Veterans really appreciate the care they receive in that inclusive environment, for women only," said Amanda Olaviany, the Women's Veterans' program manager.

[Read More](#)





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

Marine Corps Reserve Cpl. William R. Ragsdale, 23, of Nashville, Tennessee, was assigned to Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division on June 28, 1944. His unit was part of the invasion force when American forces participated in the battle for Saipan, which was part of a larger operation to secure the Mariana islands. Ragsdale was initially reported as wounded in action, but his status was later changed to deceased. He will be buried on Aug. 6, 2022, in his hometown. [Read about Ragsdale.](#)

Army Pvt. Alevin A. Hathaway, 20, of Hinesburg, Vermont, was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 109th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 6, 1944, when his unit was engaged in battle with German forces near Hürtgen, Germany. His body was not recovered, and he was declared killed in action Nov. 7, 1945. Following further investigation, Hathaway was declared non-recoverable in December 1950. He will be buried in his hometown on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Hathaway.](#)

Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Moses F. Tate, 23, was assigned to

415th Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Tate 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 Tate.](#)

Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Pharis E. Weekley, 21, was assigned to 329th Bombardment Squadron, 93rd Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Weekley was a navigator 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 Weekley.](#)

Army Pvt. Felix M. Yanez, 19, was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was killed in action on July 16, 1950, while fighting the North Korean People's Army along the Kum River, north of Taejon, South Korea. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. Interment services are pending. [Read about Yanez.](#)

Army Pfc. Melvin J. Little Bear, 21, was assigned to Able Battery, 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division. On Feb. 13, 1951, he was reported missing in action after his unit was attacked by the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces near Changbong-ni, South Korea. He had been captured and was a prisoner of war at POW Camp No. 1. Subsequent reports and information from the Chinese and North Korean forces indicated he died in captivity on or about July 21, 1951. Interment services are pending. [Read about Little Bear.](#)

Army Pfc. John L. Ferguson, 20, was assigned to 28th Material Squadron, U.S. Army Air Forces, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December 1941. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of the Bataan peninsula in 1942.

Ferguson was among those captured and held at the Cabanatuan POW Camp, where he reportedly died on Dec. 10, 1942, and was buried. Interment services are pending. [Read about Ferguson.](#)

Army Pfc. John W. Gordon, 32, was assigned to Company G, 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. On Jan. 17, 1945, Gordon was killed while his unit was engaged with German forces during the Battle of Reipertswiller in France. His body could not be recovered due to the ongoing battle. Interment services are pending. [Read about Gordon.](#)

Army Air Forces Sgt. Zelwood A. Gravlin, 21, was assigned to 343rd Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Gravlin was the armorer-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 Gravlin.](#)

Army Pfc. Donald Hofman, 19, was assigned to Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. Elements of his unit were supporting five companies attempting to secure terrain near Reipertswiller, France, when they were surrounded by German forces. On Jan. 20, 1945, Hofman was killed as the surrounded companies attempted a break-out through German lines. His body could not be recovered due to the ongoing battle. Interment services are pending. [Read about Hofman.](#)

Navy Shipfitter 2nd Class Claude R. Garcia, 25, was assigned to the battleship USS West Virginia, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS West Virginia sustained multiple torpedo hits, but timely counter-flooding measures taken by the crew prevented it from capsizing. The attack on the ship resulted

in the deaths of 106 crewmen, including Garcia. Interment services are pending. [Read about Garcia.](#)

Navy Machinist's Mate 1st Class Keith W. Tipsword, 27, was assigned to the battleship USS West Virginia, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS West Virginia sustained multiple torpedo hits, but timely counter-flooding measures taken by the crew prevented it from capsizing. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 106 crewmen, including Tipsword. Interment services are pending. [Read about Tipsword.](#)



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