



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, November 25, 2018

Volume 9, Issue 46



This-N-That

I hope everyone had a really great Thanksgiving day with family and friends!

I've heard from so many who live near military bases who made it a point to invite a few from the bases who either have not family or were not able to go home for Thanksgiving and for that I thank you!

This has been a long standing tradition in our family since 1970 while dad was still active duty, and since his passing we've continued his tradition and some, like our family also made a place setting for all those who didn't make it home and all those whom we've lost.

The VA has taken some pretty serious steps toward improving their website, making it easier to get to information needed all based on a survey of which 5,000 Veterans took part in.

The VA website is actually a series of websites all linked together and it always was an intense challenge to find what you were looking for, now it's supposedly streamlined and easier, so if you have had the opportunity to use the site in the last 30 days, I'd like to hear your opinions!

Our volunteers are constantly accessing it on a daily basis, still having issues with finding appeals that were approved finally, but maybe down the road they will improve and realign that site too.

The VA is now claiming a 5% reduction in homeless Veterans over last year. Well they're close by our numbers collected from agencies and groups all across the country it's more like 2.85% reduction but their number of 40,000 is still extremely way off and we're still not even sure how they manage to come up with such a low number when we're still seeing numbers of 1.45 million.

Many cities are claiming they've resolved the homeless Veteran problem, when fact is they've successfully managed to chase them off into another city making it their problem.

And those who are actually trying to solve the problem are constantly running into the problem of "not in my

neighborhood!" Most not even thinking of how more secure their neighborhoods would be with Veteran living there!

Decades after the Vietnam War ended, the children of soldiers who served say they continue to struggle grapple with the impact of Agent Orange exposure.

The new report, released Thursday by The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, specifically looked into generational health effects of dioxin after a special request from the VA.

Hopefully, the VA will pay attention, and follow through on something we've all known for decades then actually begin to take care of the children of Veterans who served in Vietnam!

We've been pushing for many weeks now for HR 299 which as you recall passed the House 382 to Zero and got bogged down in the Senate because the VA Administration is fighting tooth and nail to provide the earned, much needed medical care and benefits and from what we've seen is all based on outdated and bad science all to save a buck, but to save a buck at the cost of human lives.

So again, we're asking everyone, including our civilian readers to please call the following people and ask that they bring HR 299 to the floor and vote to pass it in the Senate.

Senator Isakson 202-224-3643 & 770-661-0999

Senator Moran 202-224-6521

Senator Boozman 202-224-4843
Senator Rounds 202-224-5842
Senator Sullivan 202-224-3004
Senator Tillis 202-224-6342
Senator Cassidy 202-224-5824
Senator Heller 202-224-6244
Senator Tester 202-224-2644
Senator Brown 202-224-2315
Senator Sanders 202-224-5141
Senator Blumenthal 202-224-2823
Senator Murray 202-224-2621
Senator Hirono 202-224-2621
Senator Manchin 202-224-3954

Your calls are very important to thousands of Veterans, and we're asking you to make the calls immediately, then if you would, please call them every Friday, slow down their office, drive a point home that this bill must pass and quickly.

Just keep it simple, polite, and when you end your call, be sure to thank them for their time!

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



Korean War Remains Uncovered Inside DMZ

This past week, South Korea's defense ministry announced that five sets of remains from the Korean War had been unearthed during demining operations around the Cheorwon area, in the vicinity of Arrowhead Hill. This recent discovery brings the total number of remains unearthed in this area since Oct. 1 to nine. This effort is the result of a joint agreement signed between North Korea and South Korea to remove weapons and munitions along the 155-mile long Demilitarized Zone that separates the two Koreas, and to identify and return any remains that are recovered in the process. Currently, there are 7,675 Americans who remain unaccounted for from the Korean War and more than 133,000 South Koreans.





**TRICARE Open Enrollment Season Running
Through Dec. 10**

TRICARE Open Season Runs Nov. 12 to Dec. 10. TRICARE Open Season is for enrollment in a [TRICARE Prime](#) or [TRICARE Select](#) health plan. [Federal Benefits Open Season](#) is for vision coverage or retiree dental coverage through the [Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program](#) (FEDVIP). If you are enrolled in a TRICARE health plan and do not want to make any changes, you do not have to do anything. If you have the [TRICARE Retiree Dental Program](#)(TRDP), provided by Delta Dental, and want dental coverage in 2019, you will need to choose a FEDVIP dental plan. For more tips on how to approach TRICARE Open Season, see this [article](#).



Lesser Known Memorials in D.C.

There are many lesser-known memorials in our nation's capital that have a rich history and honor many important groups and events. The African American Civil War Memorial honors the 209,145 members of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) that served during the Civil War. The Spanish-American War monument is located in Arlington National Cemetery. And, the Seabees memorial honors the contributions of the Naval Construction Battalions (CBs) during war and peace. Pershing Park on Pennsylvania Avenue is dedicated to Gen. John J. Pershing, leader of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF). For more information, read the [VA Vantage Point Blog](#).



Veterans-For-Change Web Site

The Veterans-For-Change website has been under construction since day one back in 2009 and every day since then. The looks pretty much stay the same, but in the background constant improvement and change is being done to make our website the most user friendly “One-Stop-Shop” website to find almost everything you might have tried to find searching the internet.

Almost a hundred people have been involved; collecting web links to documents now houses on the VFC website, collecting thousands of web links for various issues, illnesses and benefits. Creating forums for all eras of service and two forums one just for men and one just for woman where you can go question, comment, share medical and personal concerns, what ever you'd like it to be.

We also have a forum with for Mental Health and are currently seeking a new Licensed Mental Health Worker, where you can seek help or just ask questions.

We average **2,085** hits per day, and downloads average **1,926** per day with a total **4,532,693** visitors as of Friday.

If you subscribe you will have full access to the entire website and best of all it's **FREE of charge!** You just need a valid E-mail address so the system can send you a confirmation E-Mail. Once received, click on the link to be authorized automatically.

www.veterans-for-change.org

- Documents Library with over **16,729** documents on-line (Updated: 10/30/18)
- FAQ's with more than **1,600** FAQ's and answers
- Multiple Forums
 - o Afghanistan Veterans
 - o FMP - Foreign Medial Program
 - o Gulf War & Desert Storm Veterans
 - o Iraq Veterans
 - o Korean Veterans
 - o Men Veterans Forum
 - o Mental Health for Veterans (*Counselor Needed*)
 - o Political Issues
 - o Suggestion Box
 - o The Mess Hall
 - o VA Hospitals and Medical Centers
 - o Veteran Affairs
 - o Vietnam Veterans
 - o Welcome Mat
 - o Women Veterans Forum
 - o WW II Veterans
- Job Postings
- Memorial Pages (Updated: 10/30/18) (37 Added)
- News (Articles On-Line: **8,003**)

- Polls
- Web Links, more than **4,407**, Added 119 New Links
(Updated: 10/30/18)

If you have a submission for the memorial pages, E-Mail:
Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org



TRICARE Prime Versus TRICARE Select: Should You Change or Keep Your Plan?

TRICARE Open Season is from Nov. 12 through Dec. 10, 2018. This is the annual period when you can enroll in or change your TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select plan. If you miss open season, you'll only be able to make enrollment changes within 90 days of a Qualifying Life Event or during the next TRICARE Open Season in fall 2019. To help you pick the program that's right for you, here's an overview of the differences between TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select.

Read the full article [here](#).





This month's featured song:

Goodbye To West Virginia

November's featured song was written by Sgt George
Jeffrey

This song was performed and produced by:

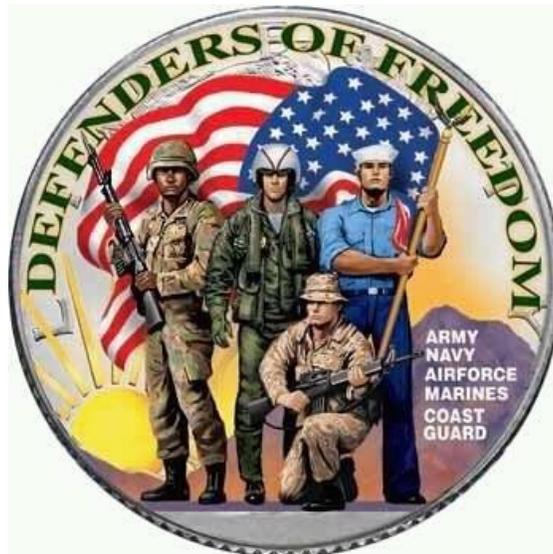
LT Bobby Ross

Featured videos of other songs by LT



Scholarship Contest for Teens

Teenagers can earn scholarship funds through the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force's Ninth Annual Air Force Heritage and History Writing Competition. The competition is open to the first 250 public, private school or homeschooled students between the ages of 13-18. Entries must be submitted via email by March 1, 2019. Winners will receive scholarships. A complete list of competition guidelines is available on the National Museum of the [U.S. Air Force website](#). For more information, contact the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force Education Division at (937) 255-4652.



Military Recruiting Drops 7 Percent

Recruiting statistics released by the Department of Defense last week reflect a 7 percent overall decrease in accessions for fiscal year 2018. In the Active Component, the Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force met or exceeded their goals of 39,000; 31,556; and 29,450, respectively, while the Army was more than 6,500 soldiers short of their goal of 76,500. It was the first time since 2005 that the Army did not meet its goal. In the Reserve Component, only the Marine Corps Reserve and Air Force Reserve met or exceeded their goals of 8,990 and 5,282, respectively. The Navy Reserve came in 421 sailors short of their goal of 7,097. The Air National Guard was 870 airmen short of their 9,659 goal. The Army Reserve was 4,273 soldiers short of their goal of 15,600, and the Army National Guard was more than 9,700 short of their goal of 34,629 soldiers. Quoted in a [Stars and Stripes article](#), Maj. Gen. Joe Calloway, the Army's military personnel management director, blamed the Army's shortfall largely on a strengthening U.S. economy in which fewer potential recruits are looking for jobs. Only about 30 percent of 17 to 24-year-olds can meet the mandatory requirements for consideration for military service — a combination of physical, mental, and background attributes. According to the Pentagon, only about 13 percent of that target population is even interested in military service. [Read more.](#)



Exchange 'Strike a Pose' Gift Card Contest

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is asking shoppers to strike a pose with Mark Wahlberg for a chance to win one of eight \$100 Exchange gift cards. Through Dec. 27, authorized shoppers can enter by [taking a photograph with one of the 'Flat Mark' standees](#) at participating Exchange locations and sharing the photograph on the Exchange's Facebook page using the hashtag #ExchangeFlatMark. No purchase is necessary to enter. Shoppers must include their first and last name, city and state and name of local Exchange with their entry. Winners will be chosen weekly and notified by email and/or telephone no later than Jan. 10.



VA Revamps Website

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has revamped its [website](#), which is accessed by 10 million customers per month. The new website contains homepage content that focuses on the top 20 tasks that 80 percent of VA's customer's need, the ability to login to receive a personalized experience and easy to understand plain language content. Logged in customers will find a dashboard summarizing the current status of services they receive from VA, whether they be prescription refills or claims. Customers can also update their contact information in one location rather than visiting multiple VA websites or making multiple calls. For more details, see this [article](#).



**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



Judge Allows Class-Action Lawsuit by Mentally Ill Veterans

Thousands of [Navy](#) and [Marine Corps](#) veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan who developed post-traumatic stress disorder but were denied Veterans Affairs health benefits have been given a green light to sue the military, under a ruling by a federal judge in Connecticut. For more details, see this [article](#).



Free Service to Connect VA Docs

Marlene Garman, Salem VA Medical Center's Veterans Health Information Exchange Program coordinator, recently appeared on WFXR's Living Local morning show to discuss the benefits of using the Veteran Health Information Exchange. Veterans that are now receiving their health care through any VA health care system can sign up for a free service called VHIE [Vee-hee] or sometimes called 'Connect Your Docs.' For more information, visit the VA Vantage Point Blog and watch the [video](#).



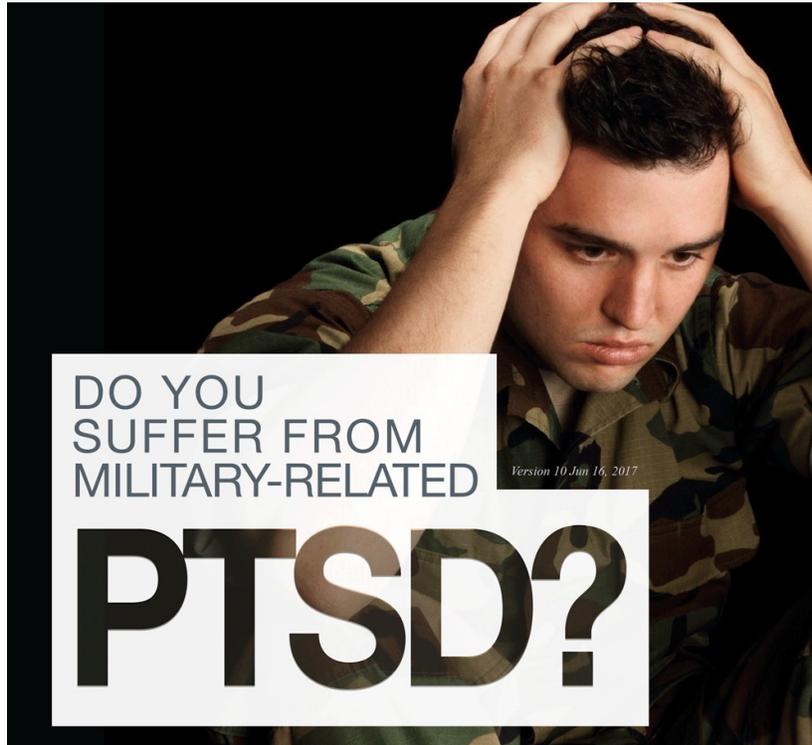
Merry Christmas



Part-time Jobs Now: Search 1000's Nationwide

Find part-time jobs nationwide. Retail, restaurants and more. [Just in time for the holidays.](#)





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



**Don't Delay, Federal Benefits Open Season
Underway**

The first week of the Federal Benefits Open Season is behind us and the results are in. More than a quarter million of you enrolled in the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). If you haven't enrolled yet, don't delay. Open season ends Dec. 10, 2018.

Read the full article [here](#).



**Our values
match yours.**



www.veterans-for-change.org



TRICARE Supplement: Reduce Your Rx & Out of Pocket Costs Now

Tired of paying out of pocket costs with TRICARE? Get a Tricare Supplement that pays your cost shares and can pay 100% of covered excess charges. [Get valuable coverage now.](#)



Better Childcare May Help Military Families More Than a Pay Raise, Study Finds

"Increase availability of childcare" and "celebrate working military spouses" are just two of the recommendations in a new report on the needs and experiences of [military spouses](#) stationed worldwide. The study, conducted by consulting firm Marvin Strategies with the USO, is based on in-depth interviews with 52 spouses from all military branches at 13 stateside and overseas bases. For more details, see this [article](#).





Your \$0 Down VA Loan is Ready to Use

Your VA Loan benefit has awesome features you shouldn't miss. You don't need a large down payment, sometimes even \$0. VA Loan rates are competitive and you will never have to waste money on mortgage insurance. [Use your VA loan benefit today.](#)



Never forget our fallen!





November is National Family Caregiver Month

November celebrates the nearly 5.5 million individuals who choose to care for our nation's veterans. Current estimates show nearly 2.4 million VA patients are receiving assistance with daily living activities. Those providing the assistance are mostly made up of family members such as spouses, adult children, and parents, as well as by friends and neighbors. To assure these unsung heroes are receiving the necessary support required while helping their veterans, the VFW has partnered with The Elizabeth Dole Foundation. This partnership is part of the VFW's Mental Wellness Campaign, to increase awareness of mental health options and to empower people with the knowledge to identify signs of mental distress. The VFW also worked with Congress and VA to assure the expansion of VA's current caregiver program to all eras of veterans. The expansion is expected to begin for Vietnam War era veterans in 2019. [Learn more about caregiver support.](#)



Navy Announces Holiday Mailing Deadlines

The Naval Supply Systems Command, in cooperation with the U.S Postal Service, Military Postal Service Agency, and Joint Military Postal Activity, has released mail-by dates for pre-Dec. 25 deliveries of holiday cards, letters, and packages. A list of the dates is available on the [U.S. Navy website](#). All classes of mail addressed to FPO addresses must contain the New Navy Standardized Address format. Also, check with local civilian or military post offices for information regarding size restrictions and customs declaration form requirements. For more on holiday mailing deadlines, see this [article](#).



Links to Other Stories

1. [A pain in the brain may be a migraine](#)
2. [Agent Orange Veterans Hunt Through Ship Logs In Fight With U.S. Navy](#)
3. [Antibiotic Resistance, Food, and Food-Producing Animals](#)
4. [Feds find 'blatant disregard' for Veteran safety at VA nursing home among the nation's worst](#)
5. [Groundbreaking for tiny homes for homeless Veterans](#)
6. [QUERI – Quality Enhancement Research Initiative](#)
7. [Radiation in Medicine: Medical Imaging Procedures](#)
8. [Record number of female Veterans to serve in next Congress](#)
9. [Scientists call on VA to study Agent Orange impact in](#)

Vietnam Veterans' kids

10. Sharing decisions helps Veterans manage Diabetes
11. Sharing Whole Health: Peer-to-Peer
12. To drink, or not to drink
13. Too Few Doctors and Nurses for Veterans in Some Areas
14. VA takes key step to improve its website to provide Veterans an enhanced digital customer experience
15. VA to Eliminate Official Time for All Medical Positions
16. Veterans Affairs official reassigned after House hearing over delayed GI Bill benefits
17. Veterans Day: By the time I saw my VA doctor, he said it was too late
18. Veterans haven't received GI Bill benefits for months due to ongoing IT issues at VA
19. Veterans talk about biggest issues they face today
20. Vietnam, US complete cleanup of toxic chemical from airport

You can help VFC by reading articles posted and commenting at the bottom and rate the articles. If you don't have an account, sign up today, it's FREE. Your comments and rankings tell us what type of information you want most.

Check us out today: www.veterans-for-change.org



Exchange Extends Return Policy

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is [extending its return policy](#) for items purchased between Nov. 1 and Dec. 24. The Exchange's standard policy allows returns from 15 to 90 days after purchase with a sales receipt or online order confirmation depending on the item. The holiday return policy extends these terms through Jan. 31. Veterans who have registered to shop online at [ShopMyExchange.com](#) can use the extended holiday return policy. They can return [ShopMyExchange.com](#) merchandise purchased between Nov. 1 and Dec. 24 by mail or by calling 1-800-527-2345 for assistance through Jan. 31.



[CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER](#)





TRICARE Prime and Select Open Season

TRICARE has kicked off its first open season where Prime and Select beneficiaries can enroll in or change their health care coverage plan for 2019. The open season period will last from now until Dec. 10 and any changes made during this period will become effective on Jan. 1, 2019. If you are satisfied with your current plan, then your coverage will continue automatically for 2019, as long as you remain eligible for coverage. [Find out more](#) about the open season and how to modify your existing health plan.





New Diabetes Guidelines for Veterans

For the millions of veterans with diabetes, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD) are implementing new guidelines calling for the patient, their family, and their health care team to share information and decisions. A Shared Decision Making (SDM) encounter occurs when the patient, his loved ones and the health care team discuss together what treatment options best address the patient's goals. In 2017, Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense recognized the important role SDM plays in managing diabetes when they updated their [Clinical Practice Guideline](#) for the Management of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in Primary Care. For more information, visit the [VA Vantage Point Blog](#).



New Navy Cash Cards Available

The NAVSUP FLC Norfolk Navy Cash Fleet Support Group completed a year-long effort to re-card the ships of the Atlantic Fleet to new Navy Cash Cards in October. The Navy Cash card is a branded debit card that looks like a typical debit or check card. Navy Cash combines a chip-based electronic purse with the traditional magnetic stripe. The electronic purse replaces currency aboard ship. The process allows Sailors to continue to have the capabilities of the Navy Cash Card, but now includes the ability to receive an electronic receipt for each transaction off ship. Additionally, Sailors will now be offered access to several thousand additional ATMs worldwide.



Office of Inspector General

1. [Actions Needed to Address Costly Maintenance Delays Facing the Attack Submarine Fleet](#)
2. [Additional CMS Actions Needed to Help Ensure Data Reliability](#)
3. [GSA and VA Have Opportunities to Improve the Exchange Sale Process](#)



VA Moving Hundreds of Professionals Back to Healthcare Jobs

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has announced that it has moved nearly 430 medical professionals from taxpayer-funded union work back to health care jobs serving veterans. The move looks to improve VA's ability to deliver health care to veteran patients, and took effect Nov. 15 when VA repudiated certain provisions of master collective bargaining agreements with the following unions: American Federation of Government Employees, National Federation of Federal Employees, National Association of Government Employees and National Nurses United. The repudiation will apply to all of VA's nearly 104,000 title 38 employees.



**“We Proudly Support our
Military Personnel & Families”**



Personnel Managers Weigh How, When to Use New Tools

Personnel managers across the military branches are discussing how, or even if, to use broad new authorities from Congress to modify recruitment and promotions to meet the rapidly evolving needs of a modern force. For more details, see this [article](#).



Federal Employment Assistance Program

The Federal Occupational Health's Employment Assistance Program (EAP) is a free service available to Federal civilian employees and their family members 24 hours a day at 800-222-0364; TTY: 888-262-7848 or visit the [Federal Occupational Health website](#). Call any time to speak with a consultant.



1. Beckman Coulter Life Sciences Recalls FC 500 and the EPICS XL Series Flow Cytometers Due to Risk of Inaccurate Results
2. Chukar Cherries Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Milk in 7.5 Oz Amaretto Rainier Chocolate Cherries Pouches
3. FDA alerts health care professionals and patients not to use sterile drug products from Pharm D Solutions
4. FDA Classifies Field Action Related to Fc 500™ And Epics® As Class 1 Recall Beckman Coulter Life Sciences Committed to Helping Customers Take Prompt, Appropriate Actions
5. First Source Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Pecan and Cashew in Chocolate and Nut Tray
6. Fresenius Kabi Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Sodium Chloride Injection, USP, 0.9% Due to Product Labeling Incorrectly Stating Stoppers Do Not Contain Latex
7. Gilenya (fingolimod): Drug Safety Communication - Severe Worsening of Multiple Sclerosis After Stopping the Medicine
8. Jay Robb Enterprises Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Milk Allergen in Unflavored Egg White Protein
9. Jennie-O recalls 91,000 pounds of raw turkey amid salmonella outbreak
10. Mylan Initiates Voluntary Nationwide Recall of 15 Lots of Valsartan Tablets, USP, Amlodipine and Valsartan Tablets, USP, and Valsartan and Hydrochlorothiazide

Tablets, USP, Due to the Detection of Trace Amounts of NDEA (N-Nitrosodiethylamine) Impurity Found in the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient

11. Oscor Inc. Issues Recall Product Expansion of TB – Temporary Bipolar Pacing Lead (Unshrouded 2 mm Pins Models)
12. Recall of Green Cedar Dairy Ackawi Cheese Bearing a Sell by Date of March 26, 2019 or Later
13. The Quaker Oats Company Issues Voluntary Recall of a Small Quantity of Cap'n Crunch's Peanut Butter Crunch Cereal Distributed to Five Target Stores Due to Possible Health Risk



SURVIVAL IS FUN



Special WWI Features in Heritage Magazine

To mark the WWI Armistice Centennial, American Heritage magazine has a new special issue that is all about World War I. The issue includes [an essay that Herbert Hoover wrote in 1958](#) about his experiences as an aide to Wilson at the peace talks after World War I. This article candidly details the difficulties that Wilson faced in what Hoover called "the greatest drama of intellectual leadership in all history." For more information, visit the [United States World War I Centennial Commission website](#).



Exchange Savings for Veterans

Since the Army & Air Force Exchange Service welcomed home all honorably discharged Veterans to ShopMyExchange.com one year ago, more than **62,000 veterans** have used their new benefit to save on low-cost, name-brand merchandise while also saving nearly \$3.4 million in sales tax. Veterans can determine their eligibility to shop at ShopMyExchange.com/veterans.



Tax & Credit Information



1. Child Tax Credit and Credit for Other Dependents at a Glance
2. Get Ready for Taxes
3. Get Ready for Taxes: Tax reform changes likely to reduce number of taxpayers who itemize
4. IRS Advisory Council releases its 2018 annual report
5. IRS provides tax inflation adjustments for tax year 2019
6. IRS reminds employers, business owners of Jan. 31 filing deadline for wage statements, independent contractor forms
7. IRS warns of “Tax Transcript” email scam; dangers to business networks
8. IRS: Plan now to use Health Flexible Spending Arrangements in 2019
9. Like-kind exchanges now limited to real property
10. New tax law allows small businesses to expense more, expands bonus depreciation
11. Security Summit plans National Tax Security Awareness Week, Dec. 3-7; New Twitter handle launched, ‘Dark Web’ webinar planned
12. Some S corporations may want to convert to C corporations
13. Tax pros should remember to renew their PTIN
14. Tax Reform changes depreciation limits on luxury automobiles
15. Treasury, IRS: Making large gifts now won’t harm estates after 2025



TRDP and FEDVIP Update

The current TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) will end Dec. 31, 2018, and will be replaced by the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) dental coverage options. Vision plans will also be available to eligible TRICARE beneficiaries through FEDVIP. The first opportunity to enroll in FEDVIP is during the 2018 Federal Benefits Open Season, which began on Nov. 12, 2018, and runs through Dec. 10, 2018. Coverage begins on Jan. 1, 2019. In general, retired uniformed service members and their families who were eligible for TRDP in 2018 are eligible for FEDVIP dental coverage, and if enrolled in a TRICARE health plan, FEDVIP vision coverage, beginning in 2019. Family members of active-duty uniformed service members who are enrolled in a TRICARE health plan are eligible for FEDVIP vision coverage. [Learn more.](#)



MIA Update

This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced eight new identifications, and the burial date and location for 11 previously identified servicemen.

Returning home with full military honors are:

Army Cpl. Francisco Ramos-Rivera, 33, of Puerto Rico, whose remains were previously identified, will be buried Nov. 29 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Ramos-Rivera was a member of Company H, 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat

operations against North Korean forces near Taegon, South Korea. As U.S. forces regrouped after their evacuation, Ramos-Rivera could not be accounted for and was declared missing in action on July 20, 1950. [Read about Ramos-Rivera.](#)

Army Pvt. Robert J. Sipes, Jr., 19, of Irvington, Ky., whose remains were previously identified, will be buried Dec. 5 in his hometown. Sipes was a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. He was killed in action on Nov. 30, 1950, during heavy fighting between the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces and the 7th Cavalry Regiment near the village of Unsan, North Korea. His remains were processed through a 7th Cavalry Regiment Collection Station on Dec. 1, 1950, and interred at the United Nations Military Cemetery (UNMC) Pyongyang, on Dec. 2, 1950. [Read about Sipes.](#)

Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Eugene P. Ford, 21, of Latrobe, Pa., whose remains were previously identified, will be buried Dec. 4 in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C. Ford was a member of the 765th Bombardment Squadron, 461st Bombardment Group, 15th Air Force. On Dec. 17, 1944, Ford's B-24J, known as the Tulsamerican, led a group of six B-24s on a bombing mission targeting oil refineries at Odertal, Germany. After emerging from a cloud bank near the target, the aircraft were attacked by more than 40 German Me-109 and FW-190 fighters. Three of the six aircraft were shot down and the other three suffered damages. Ford's plane was heavily damaged, forcing him to abort the mission and crash land

in the Adriatic Sea near the Isle of Vis in present-day Croatia. Seven crewmembers survived and were rescued, but Ford and two others were killed in the crash. [Read about Ford.](#)

Marine Corps Reserve Staff Sgt. Richard J. Murphy, Jr., 26, of Chevy Chase, Md., whose remains were previously identified, will be buried Dec. 1 in Silver Spring, Maryland. Murphy was a member of 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, which landed at Red Beach, Saipan. Reports provide little information of what happened to Murphy after landing on Saipan, and he was declared missing in action as of June 15, 1944. On May 22, 1945, his status was amended to killed in action. [Read about Murphy.](#)

Marine Corps Pfc. Clarence E. Drumheiser, 21, of Fresno, Calif., whose remains were previously identified, will be buried Dec. 8 in Prairie View, Texas. Drumheiser was assigned to Company D, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force. On Nov. 19, 1943, Drumheiser's unit landed on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll against stiff Japanese resistance. Drumheiser was killed on the third day of the battle, one of approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors killed in the intense fighting. [Read about Drumheiser.](#)

Navy Fireman 1st Class Bert E. McKeeman, 25, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, whose remains were previously identified, will be buried Dec. 1 in his hometown. McKeeman was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was

moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, on Dec. 7, 1941, when the ship sustained multiple torpedo hits and quickly capsized, resulting in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including McKeeman. [Read about McKeeman.](#)

Navy Fireman 2nd Class Martin A. Gara, 20, of Chicago, whose remains were previously identified, will be buried Dec. 4 in Santa Fe, N.M. Gara was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, on Dec. 7, 1941, when the ship sustained multiple torpedo hits and quickly capsized, resulting in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Gara. [Read about Gara.](#)

Navy Seaman 1st Class William G. Bruesewitz, 26, of Appleton, Wisc., whose remains were previously identified, will be buried Dec. 7 in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C. Bruesewitz was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, on Dec. 7, 1941, when the ship sustained multiple torpedo hits and quickly capsized, resulting in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Bruesewitz. [Read about Bruesewitz.](#)

Navy Fireman 2nd Class Carl D. Dorr, 27, of Anderson, S.C., whose remains were previously identified, will be buried Dec. 7 in Greenville, S.C. Dorr was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, on Dec. 7, 1941, when the ship sustained multiple torpedo hits and quickly capsized, resulting in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Dorr. [Read about Dorr.](#)

Navy Fireman 1st Class Albert U. Kane, 26, of Fort

Worth, Texas, whose remains were previously identified, will be buried Dec. 7 in Dallas. Kane was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, on Dec. 7, 1941, when the ship sustained multiple torpedo hits and quickly capsized, resulting in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Kane. [Read about Kane.](#)

Navy Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Durell Wade, 24, of Calhoun City, Miss., whose remains were previously identified, will be buried Dec. 7 in the Mississippi Veterans Memorial Cemetery, in Newton County, Miss. Wade was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, on Dec. 7, 1941, when the ship sustained multiple torpedo hits and quickly capsized, resulting in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Wade. [Read about Wade.](#)

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Nicholas J. Gojmerac was a member of Company Q, 4th Raider Battalion, 1st Marine Raider Regiment, when his unit assaulted a Japanese stronghold at Bairoko Harbor, New Georgia Island, Solomon Islands. He was reported missing in action on July 20, 1943, after he was last seen crawling through heavy fire to provide medical care to an injured Marine while he was mortally wounded himself. Interment services are pending. [Read about Gojmerac.](#)

Navy Reserve Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class John O. Morris was a member of Carrier Aircraft Service Unit (CASU) 17 and was tasked with securing the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll. In November 1943, U.S.

personnel on the island encountered fierce resistance by the Japanese, and almost 1,000 Marines and sailors were killed, and another 1,000 were wounded in the battle. On Dec. 16, 1943, Morris was killed when a machine gun he was test-firing accidentally discharged, resulting in his death. Interment services are pending. [Read about Morris.](#)

Army Pfc. Leo J. Duquette a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations against North Korean forces near Choch'iwon, South Korea. Duquette could not be accounted for and was declared missing in action on July 11, 1950. Interment services are pending. [Read about Duquette.](#)

Army Pfc. John W. Martin was a member of Medical Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. In late November 1950, his unit was assembled with South Korean soldiers in the 31st Regimental Combat Team on the east side of the Chosin River, North Korea, when his unit was attacked by Chinese forces. Martin was among more than 1,000 members of the RCT killed or captured in enemy territory and was declared missing on Dec. 2, 1950. Interment services are pending. [Read about Martin.](#)

Army Pfc. Lewis E. Price was a member of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 109th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division. In November 1944, his unit moved into the Hürtgen Forest in Germany, to relieve U.S. forces who had been fighting for weeks. The fighting in and around the forest was frequently chaotic, and while details surrounding

his loss are sparse, he was reported missing in action as of Nov. 6, 1944. Interment services are pending. [Read about Price.](#)

Navy Reserve Ensign Charles M. Stern was stationed aboard the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Stern. Interment services are pending. [Read about Stern.](#)

Navy Machinist's Mate 1st Class Ulis C. Steely was stationed aboard the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Steely. Interment services are pending. [Read about Steely.](#)

Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Charles H. Harris was stationed aboard the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Harris. Interment services are pending. [Read about Harris.](#)



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