



# **Veterans-For-Change Newsletter**

*A Voice of the Veterans*

Week Ending Sunday, November 03, 2019

Volume 10, Issue 44



## **This-N-That**

First this week I would like to apologize for everyone not being able to access the website. It went down last Saturday and has been down since.

I have already set up the new hosting service but getting a hold of the current one has been difficult, and since our web master/host is also a Veteran, I'm not sure what is going on, but I continue to try to reach him and get the site transferred over so

we can get back to day to day operation.

I've held off on negotiations with a new web master so as not to rack of fees without service. But I am hoping for a smooth transition there as well.

So needless to say this newsletter will be a bit more brief than normal as none of the news articles, web links, or documents could be posted to the site as well as any of the legislative alerts.

I was scheduled for surgery this past Wednesday, however due to circumstances beyond my control had to be postponed and as of right now I don't have a new surgical date scheduled, but will do my best to keep you informed.

My dear friend Lois whom I mentioned in last weeks newsletter (the wife of an Army Vet) is not doing well.

They finally placed her in the hospital with an added diagnosis of pneumonia which only infuriates her asthma, but she's now getting the proper care that was much needed. So I'm asking

everyone to please keep Lois in your daily prayers. Right now she's been extremely depressed and scared and needs our support.

With all the wildfires going on in California we wish you all the best, stay safe and if the order comes down to evacuate, please listen to those orders. And if you've not been ordered to evacuate, it's a good idea to pack up all your keep sakes such as pictures, mementos, etc. and put those in your car so you won't need to worry about them.

Sadly most, if not all the fires are still massive and still out of control. So please be safe and know you're in our prayers too!

For those using Tricare Pharmacy, you have until November 6th to deal with your needs, further down in this newsletter is more information.

Hope everyone has a happy Veterans Day!

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](mailto:Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org)



## **Military-Veterans Advocacy Leads Testing of Guamanian Soil for Agent Orange Contamination**



As Congress returns to Washington, Military-Veterans Advocacy is at the forefront of demanding they take time from politics to provide benefits for veterans who are victims of toxic exposure to herbicide use on Guam and other Pacific islands. The Louisiana based non-profit has been a leader in the fight to cover these veterans who have been ignored by the VA and Congress.

On Sept. 29, former Marine Sergeant Brian Moyer

departed for Guam on a crucial research mission. Moyer is the central Pacific island director for Military-Veterans Advocacy and founder of Agent Orange Survivors of Guam. This was not Moyer's first time on Guam. He was stationed there, embarked on the USS Proteus in 1971- . This recent trip, however, would be providing a service to the United States in a different way.

Military-Veterans Advocacy sent Moyer to Guam at the request of the Guam Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He worked closely with both agencies, identifying areas where the toxic herbicide, Agent Orange, was sprayed.

"While in Guam, it felt as though we could do no wrong," says Moyer, "I feel very positive moving forward in our efforts after the amount of support we received."

His initial goal was to identify locations that were sprayed with herbicide. While stationed there nearly 50 years ago he had witnessed herbicides being sprayed and pointed out those locations to Guam and federal officials. Using survey maps

furnished by Guam EPA, Moyer pointed out areas of extreme risk of herbicide exposure, specifically the Polaris Point Pipeline. The pipeline runs across Guam, spanning 27 miles. The entire pipeline was sprayed by contractors. Marines from the Navy based used to run along the pipeline as part of their physical training.

Multiple samples were taken from the Polaris point and the pipeline area.

Until Military-Veterans Advocacy investigated and confirmed the use of herbicide on Guam, the problem was largely ignored by Congress and the VA. For years, retired Master Sergeant Leroy Foster had been trying to raise awareness about the use of herbicide on Guam. Foster claimed that he had sprayed "hundreds of thousands of gallons" of herbicide on Anderson Air Force Base. Foster passed away at the age of 69, as a result of his exposure to the herbicide. A bill named for him was filed in the last Congress but died in committee. This year Military-Veterans Advocacy pushed for a new bill, the Lonnie Kilpatrick Central Pacific Island Relief Act, which would cover veterans expose don Guam, American Samoa

and Johnston Atoll. Kilpatrick was another Guam veteran who succumbed to herbicide related illnesses.

Moyer and the EPAs were not permitted to take any samples from Anderson Air Base or any other military grounds in the Joint Region Marianas. They were specifically denied access to Andersen. They were able to take samples at Yupi Elementary School, which backs up directly to the fence at Anderson.

Commander John Wells (USN, Ret.), Military-Veterans Advocacy's director of litigation, believes more than 50,000 veterans and every civilian living there could have been affected by the spraying of herbicides if it is confirmed to have been used on pipeline roads.

"If traces of herbicides come back in the samples taken in Guam, it will be imperative that it be remediated before deploying more troops there," Wells said. "We need to know, and service members deserve to know if there is any of that stuff left in the soil before we send them over there."

MVA has worked for years to ensure that veterans and affected civilians are receiving medical care for illnesses caused by herbicide exposure in the Vietnam Era.

"I'm pleased with the level of cooperation we received from the U.S. EPA and Guam EPA, and the teamwork with the delegates, both state and local, in helping us to find where herbicides such as Agent Orange were sprayed," said Col. Rob Maness (USAF, Ret.), executive director of MVA.

Results from the testing are expected to be completed in January. Moyer's efforts in Guam on behalf of the Military-Veterans Advocacy were possible through joint efforts from the Guam EPA, U.S. EPA and all state and local delegates involved.

For more information visit [www.MilitaryVeteransAdvocacy.org](http://www.MilitaryVeteransAdvocacy.org) or check out the group's Facebook page.

Military-Veterans Advocacy is an all-volunteer non-profit organization. Earlier this year they won the case of Procopio v, Wilkie that allowed 90,000

Navy, Marine corps and Coast Guard veterans access to benefits. They are currently fighting a stay of proceedings on those cases ordered by the VA. Oral argument on that suit is scheduled for November 8 at the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington DC.

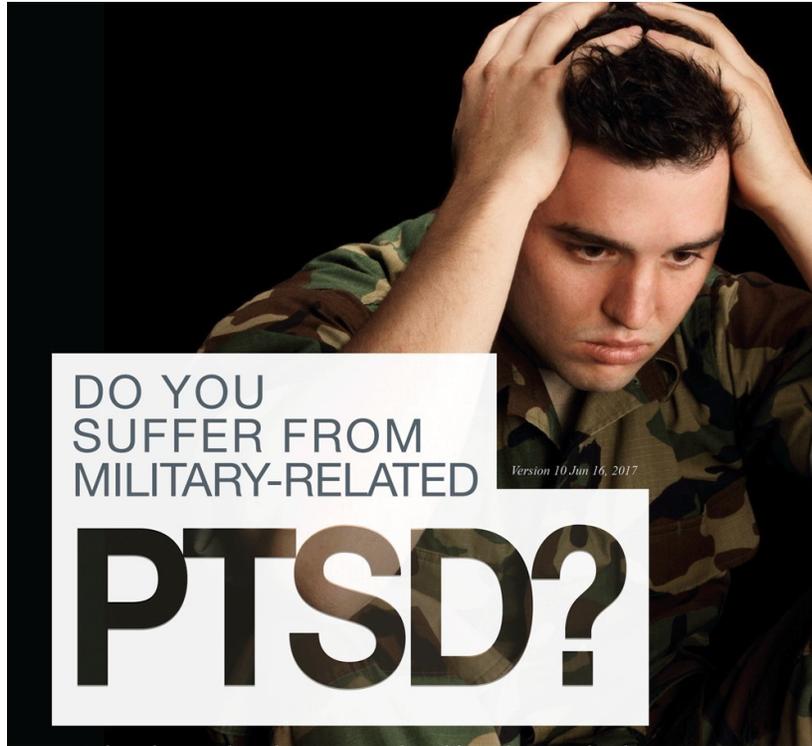
Cmdr. John Wells, USN (Ret.)



## **TRICARE Open Season: Time to Pick a Plan**

The second annual TRICARE Open Season will take place from Nov. 11 through Dec. 9. During this time, you can enroll in or change your TRICARE plan. Choose from TRICARE Prime (including the US Family Health Plan) or TRICARE Select. Picking a health plan is an important and personal decision. For example, do you seek more flexibility in your choice of providers? Do you want a primary doctor to manage and coordinate your overall care?

Read the [full article](#).



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



**VFW Testifies at Blue Water Navy  
Oversight Hearing**

On Wednesday, VFW National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs regarding VA's preparation to process Blue Water Navy Agent Orange claims starting on Jan. 1, 2020.

Subcommittee members discussed the importance of providing timely benefits to Blue Water Navy veterans and reducing the complexity of the disability claims process. At the hearing, Ryan Gallucci stated, "Secretary Wilkie must lift the stay immediately. Waiting until January not only harms veterans but creates an unnecessary backlog for VA at a time we can ill afford it." [Read the VFW's testimony.](#) [Watch the hearing.](#)



## **Emergency Prescription Procedures Due to California Wildfires**

Due to wildfires, emergency prescription procedures are in place until November 6th, 2019 for the state of California.

For more information, visit: [TRICARE Disaster Alerts](#)



**Texas Roadhouse offering free lunch  
to veterans on Veterans Day**

LUBBOCK, Texas — Texas Roadhouse is inviting all veterans and active members of the U.S. military to enjoy a free Veterans Day lunch Monday, November 11.

The lunch will be at all Texas Roadhouse locations across the country, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Veterans and active service members can choose one of 10 entrées from the special Veteran's Day menu, including a 6-ounce sirloin steak.

Proof of service is required.

[TexomasHomepage.com](http://TexomasHomepage.com) contributed to this article.





Your freedom is the most expensive thing you own.  
Even if someone else paid for it.



## House Markup Hearing Ends Abruptly

This week, the House Committee on Veterans Affairs held a hearing to mark up and amend certain veteran bills that essentially ended after a dispute over procedures. House Republicans and Democrats on the committee disagreed over the addition of amendments to a significant women veterans piece of legislation. “It was disappointing to see what happened during today’s hearing,” said VFW Deputy Director, National Legislative Service Pat Murray. “We hope all members of the committee can put today’s hearing in the past and get back to being one of the more productive and bipartisan committees in all of Congress.” While the hearing this week did not end as planned, the VFW is confident the House committee will continue to move essential legislation just as they have historically done before. [Watch the hearing.](#)



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Follow us on [MEWE](#)! The support staff at [MEWE](#) is responsive, open to suggestions and works very hard to protect your personal information.

We hope you will join us on this new site.

**VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE**

**HOMELESS HEROES PROGRAM OF  
VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE**

**AMVETS GROUP**

**VETERANS SOCIAL GROUP**

**{USAVET} SUPPORTING GOD & ALL WHO  
SERVED OUR GREAT NATION**

**AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY**





## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OPEN SEASON

**November 11 – December 9**

TRICARE Open Season is the annual period when you can enroll in or change your health plan for the next year. The 2019 TRICARE Open Season begins on Monday, November 11 and ends on Monday, December 9.

During TRICARE Open Season, you can:

**Do nothing.** If you want to stay in your current TRICARE health care plan, you don't have to take any action. You'll continue in your current health

plan through 2020 or as long as you're eligible.

**Enroll in a plan.** If you're eligible for a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select but not enrolled, you can enroll in a plan now.

**Change plans.** If you're already enrolled in a TRICARE Prime option, or TRICARE Select, you can switch plans and switch between individual and family enrollment.

Remember, join us tomorrow on **Facebook** for the **TRICARE SITREP** on Open Season!

- Go to [www.facebook/TRICARE](http://www.facebook/TRICARE) on October 31.
- We will post an introductory video at 3 p.m. announcing that we are about to begin.
- Ask your question as a comment to that introductory post.
- We will answer your questions live during the event.
- Questions are answered in the order they are posted.

For more information, please visit

[www.tricare.mil/OpenSeason](http://www.tricare.mil/OpenSeason) or follow TRICARE

on social media for regular updates:

- [www.facebook.com/TRICARE](http://www.facebook.com/TRICARE)
- [www.twitter.com/TRICARE](http://www.twitter.com/TRICARE)



## **Military Divorce Reform of the USFSPA**



Frank Kurland and Karen Throckmorton

Retired members of the uniformed services of the United States (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and NOAA) are subject to a very unfair federal law that allows state courts to divide their retirement pay after a divorce with terms that are often more severe than the terms of any normal divorce.

Military members have a unique retirement that requires them to be available for military recall their entire lives. Their former spouses have no such obligation but they can still receive a portion of retired pay from the uniformed service retiree for life even after the former spouses have remarried, This law reflects the situation when passed in 1982 that is no longer relevant.

Many states have or are modifying their (civil/civilian) divorce system to no longer require lifetime payments to a former spouse. Out of 2.5 million retirees, more than 246,832+ retirees are affected by this unfair law everyday. Many of them are disabled as a result of their service to our country.

Our Primary objectives are:

- 1 Eliminate cost of living allowance (COLA).

Amount to be fixed at time of divorce.

2 Stop spousal payments upon remarriage or cohabitation.

3 Limit length time for spousal payments, the same as state laws.

4 Require DFAS to inform and educate the uniformed services member about the USFSPA.

Help modify the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act (USFSPA) to ensure fairness for our uniformed services retirees and to reflect the current realities of divorce in America.

No amount too small. No amount too big. Your contribution of \$5, \$10, \$15 or any amount will be used for legal fees, website to support reform of the USFSPA and eventual repeal, our campaign for public awareness, recruitment and advertisement. Please help support our veterans in restoring their rightly earned and promised retired/retainer pay. VALOR (Veterans Against Lifetime Oppressive Remuneration) is a Non-Profit. Please spread the word.

**[GO HERE](#)**



## **Hackers Target Job-Hunting Service Members and Veterans**

Service members and veterans seeking employment need to be aware of a scam circulating the web. The website, “Hire Military Heroes,” prompts users to download an app that contains malicious malware that allows hackers to access a significant amount of personal information, according to cybersecurity researchers at Cisco Talos. The phony site shared a similar URL to the site “Hiring Our Heroes,” an employment site the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation launched. It is unknown at this time who may be the culprit behind the cyberattack. [Learn more.](#)



## **American Troops Continue to Be Identified**

It was reported this week that at least 41 American troops have been identified among the remains returned from North Korea last year, according to officials at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), paving the way for them to be returned to their families nearly seven decades after the Korean War. North Korea turned over 55 cases of bones and artifacts to the United States in July 2018, weeks after its leader, Kim Jong Un, agreed to do so as a goodwill gesture during his first nuclear summit with President Donald Trump. In advance of the June 12, 2018, Singapore Summit, then-VFW Commander-in-Chief B.J. Lawrence sent a letter to President Trump to urge him to include the return of American remains as a discussion point with Kim Jong Un. [Read more.](#)



**Open Season for FEDVIP Dental and Vision Coverage Starts Soon**

Get ready for open season. The Federal Benefits Open Season begins on Nov. 11 and ends on Dec. 9. If you're eligible and considering enrolling in a dental or vision plan through the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP), you can now review 2020 plans and rates. If you're currently enrolled in a FEDVIP plan and don't want to make a change, you don't have to do anything. You'll automatically be enrolled in a 2020 plan, but you should still check that you understand any changes to your plan and plan costs.

Read the [full article](#).



**Gold Star Family Members Now Have  
Opportunity to be a Congressional  
Fellow**

This week, House Resolution 107 – SFC Sean Cooley and SPC Christopher Horton Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program Act was agreed to in the House. This resolution establishes the Congressional Gold Star Fellowship in which an eligible individual may serve a 12-month fellowship in the office of a member of the House. An eligible individual is defined as the child, spouse, or sibling of a person who dies while serving as a member of the Armed Forces, to include National Guard & Reserve, that has been ruled “in the line of duty” and a veteran who dies from a service-connected disability, per VA, within four years of their discharge from the Armed Forces.



# 2019 VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE CEREMONY

*at Diamond Stadium*



**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2019**  
**9:00 A.M.**

*Join us to honor those who have bravely  
served our Country in the  
United States Armed Forces.*

[WWW.LAKE-ELSINORE.ORG/VETERANSMEMORIAL](http://WWW.LAKE-ELSINORE.ORG/VETERANSMEMORIAL)



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Read the [full article](#).



## **Veterans Day Discounts and Freebies**

As a display of gratitude and appreciation, community partners around the nation have joined together on Veterans Day to honor servicemen and women, veterans, and their families for their sacrifice and dedication to this nation. Take advantage of the numerous discounts and freebies, ranging from discounted and free meals to discounts at local retail stores, in your area on Veterans Day. [Learn more.](#)



**Bill Allows DOJ to Help State and Local Veteran Treatment Courts**

The House passed the Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act (H.R.886), sponsored by Reps. Charlie Crist (Fla.) and Elise Stefanik (N.Y.). The Act creates a new office in the Department of Justice that is responsible for providing grants and assistance to strengthen and expand state and local veteran treatment court programs across the country. The legislation, which passed the House by voice vote, will support the unique needs of veterans who find themselves in the criminal justice system. The veteran's treatment court program offers life-saving and life-changing second chances to non-violent veterans caught in the criminal justice system. The bill now goes to the Senate for further consideration.





We will always be our  
Brothers Keeper!



## **House passes H.R. 3144 designate post office in honor of Jose Ramos, member of VVA Chapter 446**

Washington, DC -- Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation introduced by Rep. Linda Sanchez (CA-38) to rename a post office in Whittier, California after Vietnam Veteran Jose Ramos. Before he passed away, Rep. Sanchez worked with Mr. Ramos as they advocated for a national 'Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.' Her remarks before the House are below.

"Mister Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3144, a

bill to designate the United States Postal Service Facility located at 8520 Michigan Avenue in Whittier, California as the "Jose Ramos Post Office Building."

"Jose Guadalupe Ramos was born on September 17, 1948, in East Los Angeles. He enlisted in the Army in 1965, while a sophomore at Garfield High School.

"Mr. Ramos served this country in Vietnam as an Army Combat Medic, often risking his own life caring for others. Mr. Ramos was wounded in Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart.

"Upon returning home, he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder yet his passion and commitment to our country and his fellow service members did not end.

"Many of our veterans at the time found themselves caught in and confused by the crossfire of the public debate over the war in Vietnam. At times, some faced sharp criticism and isolation. Mr. Ramos saw this and decided to do something about it.

"He dedicated his time delivering a message of his experience and those of his fellow veterans to those that would listen at universities, schools, and prisons. He undertook a grueling cross-country bicycle trek to draw attention to and advocate for the long-overdue welcome home that Vietnam War veterans never received.

"I was honored to work with Mr. Ramos and the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans organization he helped found. At his urging, I used the resources of my office to advocate for a national Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. In our years of working together in this cause, I had a true friend and partner in this effort.

"His passion inspired so many.

"The memories of what he endured in service to our country remained with him throughout his life. At times they presented obstacles. However, he cherished time spent with grandchildren, participation in religious pilgrimages, and enjoying life's simple pleasures like the sunrise and sunset of each passing day.

"We lost Jose Ramos in 2017 to pancreatic cancer. A loss not only for his wife Sylvia, his children, and grandchildren, but his loss also left a hole in our community in Whittier.

"Renaming the Whittier post office in his honor is a fitting tribute to Jose Ramos, a small token of gratitude from a grateful nation for his service.

"I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

"I thank the Speaker and I yield back the balance of my time."

Source: <https://lindasanchez.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/house-passes-rep-s-nchez-s-bill-name-post-office-honor-vietnam-veteran>





Never forget our fallen!



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## Here's the NEX Post-Holiday Return Plan

Afraid you'll get or give something around the holidays from the Navy Exchange (NEX) that wasn't quite right? Navy Exchange officials announced this week that purchases made between Oct. 24 and Dec. 12, 2019 will come with a post-holiday return policy that allows shoppers to bring them back for a refund until Jan. 25. Items must be in their original packaging and accompanied by a receipt to get a full refund. Customers without a receipt will be refunded the value of the item on a NEX gift card. Read more at [Navy.mil](https://www.navy.mil).

## WW II Coast Guard POW Comes Home

Lt. Thomas James Eugene "Jimmy" Crotty was the only member of the U.S. Coast Guard to become a POW of Japan. His remains were recently identified, after being exhumed from a common grave in the American Cemetery and Memorial in Manila in the Philippines.

He will be buried with full military honors next to his parents in Holy Cross Cemetery in Lackawanna, Erie County, New York. The Commandant of the Coast Guard Admiral Karl L. Schultz, is expected to attend. The family will also receive LT Crotty's Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Medal of Honor during the ceremony. It symbolizes Congressional recognition of the enduring bond between the American and Filipino forces who defended the Philippines against Imperial Japan's invasion.





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## **New Army Neck Guard Saves Soldier's Life**

U.S. Army equipment officials said last week that the service's new helmet system, which includes detachable face and neck protection, saved a soldier's life recently in Afghanistan, blocking a brick that was thrown by an angry mob. The armor crewman, who was in the turret of an unidentified combat vehicle manning his weapon when a crowd on the street below became violent, was wearing what is known as maxillofacial protection connected to his new Integrated Head Protective System (IHPS), Army equipment officials said at the Association of the United States Army's 2019 annual meeting. [Read more here.](#)



**Your actions**  
**could save a life.**

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

VeteransCrisisLine.net



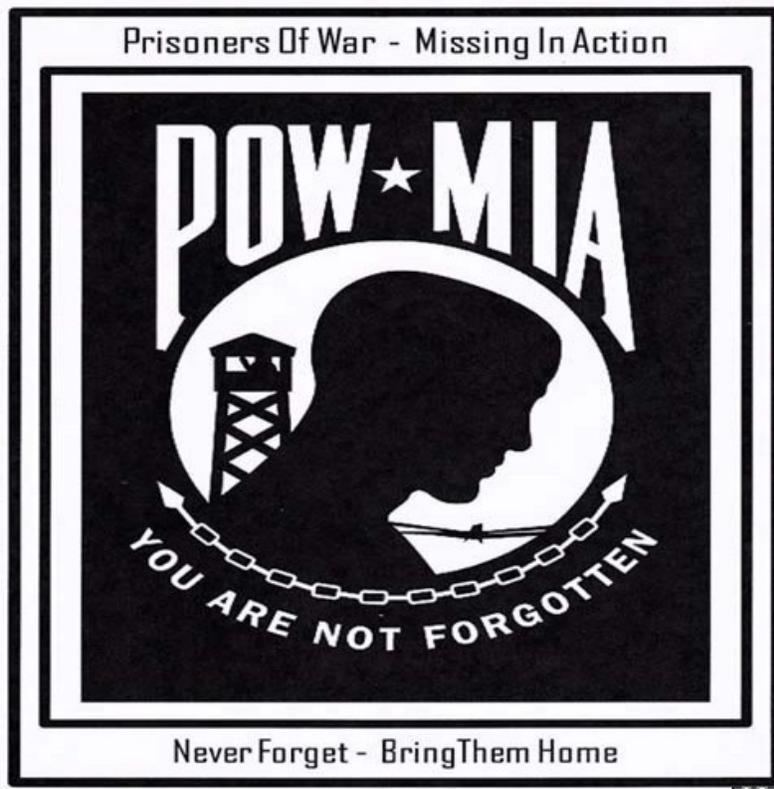
Veterans  
Crisis Line  
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1



## **World War II Vet, 100, Honored for Guarding Tomb of Unknown Soldier**

A 100-year-old World War II veteran finally got to scratch a much-deserved, long-awaited bullet point from his bucket list. Jack Eaton, the oldest living sentinel of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, arrived at Detroit Metropolitan Airport Oct. 23 afternoon after spending the morning in Arlington, Virginia, where he saw, for the first time, a recently erected plaque recognizing his guardianship of the monument from January 1938 to December 1939. Read more on [here](#).





DOC



## **How Veterans Can Get Free Fitness Career Training**

Finding the perfect post-military career can be the most daunting part of transitioning out of the service back into the civilian world. Moving into a field about which many veterans are already passionate -- fitness -- could be one easy solution. That's where organizations like the FitOps Foundation comes in. Created by an Army veteran, FitOps is a nonprofit aimed at helping veterans transition into a career in the fitness world. Read more [here](#).



## Office of Inspector General

1. [Medicaid Eligibility: Accurate Beneficiary Enrollment Requires Improvements in Oversight, Data, and Collaboration](#)



## VA Partners with Guard Organization for Suicide Prevention

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) have formed a partnership to give Guard members access to the VA's suicide prevention tools. Normally, National Guard members don't qualify for VA health care benefits unless they completed active-duty service under federal orders, had combat duty or suffered an injury in the line of duty. This move comes as part of the VA's efforts to prevent veteran suicide, according to VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. Read more [here](#).



## **Vets Wanted: Leaders Arise at Family Heritage Life**

Are you determined and driven to succeed in your civilian career? Do you care deeply for others? So do we! Insurance sales might be a great career for you to share your compassion for others.

[Search jobs now.](#)





**U.S. FOOD & DRUG  
ADMINISTRATION**

1. [Wawona Frozen Food Voluntarily Recalls Frozen Raspberries Due to Possible Health Risk](#)
2. [Novitium Pharma Issues Voluntary National Recall of Ranitidine Hydrochloride Capsules 150mg and 300mg Due to an Elevated Amount of Unexpected Impurity, N-Nitrosodimethylamine \(NDMA\)](#)
3. [Novitium Pharma Issues Voluntary National Recall of Ranitidine Hydrochloride Capsules 150mg and 300mg Due to an Elevated Amount of Unexpected Impurity, N-Nitrosodimethylamine \(NDMA\)](#)
4. [Mylan Pharmaceuticals Initiates Voluntary Nationwide Recall of One Lot of Alprazolam Tablets, USP C-IV 0.5 mg, Due to the Potential of Foreign Substance](#)
5. [Update on Risk of Type III Endoleaks with Use of Endologix AFX Endovascular AAA Graft Systems: FDA Safety Communication](#)
6. [North Bay Produce Voluntarily Recalls Fresh Apples Because of Possible Health Risk](#)

7. Golden Dragon Fortune Cookies Inc. Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Milk in Chinese Almond Cookies
8. Lannett Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Ranitidine Syrup (Ranitidine Oral Solution, USP), 15mg/ml due to an Elevated Level of the Unexpected Impurity, N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA)
9. Ethicon Recalls ECHELON FLEX™ ENDOPATH® Staplers for Failure to Completely Form Staples
10. ICU Medical, Inc. Issues a Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Lactated Ringer's Injection, USP and 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection, USP Due to Presence of Particulate Matter



**The VA Is Processing More Appeals,  
Decisions Thanks to New System**

The results are in: The Board of Veterans' Appeals processed 11% more decisions and held 38% more hearings in fiscal 2019 than 2018 thanks, in part, to a new congressionally-mandated appeals structure, officials reported this month. That new process, combined with hiring more staff, helped the board process 96,000 rating appeals, of which 35% were granted and 30% denied, BVA Chairman Cheryl Mason said. Read more [here](#).



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 WEEKLY NEWSLETTER!*





## MIA Update

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced four new identifications, and three burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from WWII and the Korean War. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

**Marine Corps Pfc. Robert J. Hatch**, 21, of Woods Cross, Utah, was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands. Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa,

approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors were killed, including Hatch on the third day of battle, Nov. 22, 1943. Hatch will be buried Dec. 14, 2019, in Bountiful, Utah. [Read about Hatch.](#)

**Army Pfc. Jasper V. Marquez**, 21, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, was a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 28, 1950, when enemy forces attacked his unit near the Kunu-ri, North Korea. Repatriated American prisoners of war reported that Marquez had died at Hofong Camp while a prisoner of war, in January 1951. Marquez will be buried in his hometown. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Marquez.](#)

**Army Sgt. William C. Holmes**, 21, of Smyth County, Virginia, was killed during the Korean War. Holmes was a member of Heavy Tank Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. On Sept. 21, 1951, his unit participated in a patrol located near the Iron Triangle, North Korea. After a prolonged firefight, Holmes was killed in action. Following the battle, his remains were not initially recovered. Holmes will be buried

Nov. 23, 2019, in Middleway, West Virginia. [Read about Holmes.](#)

**Navy Seaman 2nd Class Everett G. Windle**, 20, of Kansas City, Missouri, was killed during World War II. On Dec. 7, 1941, Windle was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. 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 Windle. Interment services are pending. [Read about Windle.](#)

**Navy Coxswain Layton T. Banks**, 20, of Dallas, Texas, was killed during World War II. On Dec. 7, 1941, Banks was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. 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 Banks. Interment services are pending. [Read about Banks.](#)

**Navy Fireman First Class Bethel E. Walters**, 25, of Dallas, Texas, was killed during World War II. On Dec. 7, 1941, Walters was assigned to the battleship USS West Virginia, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The USS West Virginia sustained multiple torpedo hits, but timely counter-flooding measures taken by the crew prevented it from capsizing, and it came to rest on the shallow harbor floor. The attack resulted in the deaths of 106 crewmen, including Walters. Interment services are pending. [Read about Walters.](#)

**Marine Corps Sgt. Jerome B. Morris**, 22, of Paragould, Arkansas, was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands in an attempt to secure the island. Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded, while the Japanese were virtually annihilated. Morris was killed on the third day of the battle, Nov. 22, 1943. Interment services are

pending. [Read about Morris.](#)



**Veterans-For-Change, Inc.**

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today

[www.Veterans-For-Change.org](http://www.Veterans-For-Change.org)

Serving those who served!

**Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends  
and Family!**



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