



# **Veterans-For-Change Newsletter**

*A Voice of the Veterans*

Week Ending Sunday, August 15, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 33



## **This-N-That**

Good evening Jim,

I'm definitely not the one to judge anything militarily, but sadly I fear we are in for another Obama/Clinton Benghazi.

The facilities are and have been destroying critical documents, taken down all American flags and burned them, and from the one article I read, several already there in the Embassy are saying they expect no less than what occurred during Obama/Clinton. I do most sincerely pray no harm comes to anyone and they receive all the protections needed.

Anyone who might have read any articles on this issue and you think I'm incorrect in my guess, please tell me, I will gladly apologize.

For those with CPAP's since this is a critical issue, I am leaving in the below paragraph:

If your doctor or equipment distributor isn't handling the issue for you, I now have a link to register your CPAP to a) see for sure if your machine is one of the one's affected, b) file your claim simply click [HERE](#).

Some good news out of the Senate, the Senate passed VFW-supported [H.R. 1448](#), the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act.

Keep pushing on all the TAKE ACTION items, the harder we push on a weekly basis, the better the changes of getting a few more passed soon!

We are getting more and more pieces for women Veterans, some are in short pieces in this newsletter, one was posted on the website and noted in the Links to Other Stories. And we are hoping to see much more come out soon.

This past week we've added another 61 weblinks in several categories. Most were under NIH, Other Resources, Autism, and we still have a rather large number to be installed.

If you've not visited our website, [www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org) or not visited in a while, please be sure to check often for updates on documents, web links, etc., we are a bit slow, but are moving as fast as we can, yet not over-loading to put more work on our Webmaster when we get to the transition into the new look.

On behalf of our Volunteers nationwide and myself, we wish you and your family good health!

Respectfully,  
Jim Davis  
Founder  
[Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org](mailto:Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org)



## **MVA Presents:**

### **Navigating the Rising Tide of VA Law**

When: August 21, 2021

Where: Online - GoToWebinar. Link provided upon registration!

Cost:

Attorneys - \$180.00

Non-Attorney MVA Members - \$55.00

Others - \$90.00

5.5 hours of Continuing Legal Education credit has been approved by the State of Louisiana including 1 hour of ethics.

For more information please contact Robin Barr, MVA Executive Assistant, at 504-628-7021 or email [Robin.Barr@MVAdvocacy.org](mailto:Robin.Barr@MVAdvocacy.org).

To register, go to

<https://www.militaryveteransadvocacy.org/seminarclc.html>

This program will provide an introduction to veterans law. It will also include an in-depth discussion of the Federal Circuit case of *Procopio v. Wilkie* which opened up benefits to 90,000 veterans. We will also provide an update on emerging

legislation affecting not only veterans law but federal administrative law as well. We will also be discussing exciting opportunities in new areas of veteran's law that will allow you to expand your practice while helping and supporting military veterans.

To ensure credit from the VA, MVA recommends that attorneys be accepted for practice before the Department of Veterans Affairs prior to attending this program. The application form for accreditation can be found at:

<https://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA21a.pdf>



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

You may contact Robin Barr at [robin.barr@mvadvocacy.org](mailto:robin.barr@mvadvocacy.org)



## **Transforming Veteran digital experiences: Achievements so far in 2021**

DigitalVA's Midyear Review video "To Win 21" highlights VA's technological agility and commitment to serving Veterans during unprecedented challenges.

[Read More](#)



## **COVID-19 Vaccines: Benefits Still Outweigh the Risks**

Only a small fraction of people in the military community have experienced breakthrough infections after receiving a COVID-19 vaccination - and none of them have died, according to Defense Health Agency Director Army Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Ronald Place.

[Read More](#)



## **VA employee talks VA prosthetics and improvements**

Army Veteran and VA employee Bill Van Aken has seen a lot of changes in VA facilities, especially in its prosthetics department. One in particular that has affected his job more than others: doorknobs.

A request to his facility to have the doorknobs replaced with door handles has made it easier for him as an amputee to do his job.

"I didn't have to rely on someone else to do my job, and for me that was huge," he said.

[Read More](#)



## **Coordinating women's preventive health care for rural Veterans**

Kinney RL, Haskell S, Relyea MR, DeRycke EC, Walker L, Bastian LA, Mattocks KM. Coordinating women's preventive health care for rural Veterans.

[Read More](#)





**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



## **#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Seymour R. Levin**

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Seymour R. Levin, who served as a doctor at Fort Carson, Colorado.

[Read More](#)



## **Summer Water Safety Means: Know your Limitations**

Swimming in a pool, a lake, a pond, or an ocean is the height of cool summer fun but swimming also has its dangers.

[Read More](#)



## **Afghanistan: How Veterans can reconcile service**

"Our purpose for being there was to prevent further attacks on the homeland," said Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman Ramón "CZ" Colón-López. "We wanted to make sure that we denied Al Qaeda, specifically, of sanctuary, training ground and places where they could plan terrorism attacks. If you look at the past 20 years, that is exactly what we did."

[Read More](#)



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

Iverson KM, Danitz SB, Driscoll M, Vogt D, Hamilton AB, Gerber MR, Stirman SW, Shayani DR, Suvak MK, Dichter ME. Recovering from intimate partner violence through Strengths and Empowerment (RISE): Development, pilot testing, and refinement of a patient-centered brief counseling intervention for women.

[Read More](#)



## Know the Warning Signs

**It Matters.**

**Sometimes, a crisis may involve thoughts of suicide. Learn to recognize these warning signs:**

- Hopelessness, feeling like there's no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug abuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends

**The presence of the following signs requires immediate attention:**

- Thinking about hurting or killing themselves
- Looking for ways to kill themselves
- Talking about death, dying or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse

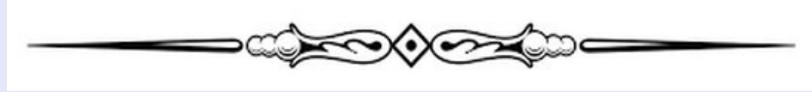
..... Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net) or text to **838255** .....



**Acupuncture the "go to" remedy for Vets at Michigan clinic**

Acupuncture is for pain at this VA clinic but also for Parkinsonian tremors, diabetic neuropathy, sinus allergies, PTSD, and other symptoms.

[Read More](#)



## **Plan your Float: Boating Safety Tips from the Coast Guard**

Plenty of people are out on the water this summer, with record heat bearing down. For those operating boats - whether you're new to boating or experienced, out on the ocean, in lakes, or on rivers - there are some basic safety tips to keep in mind.

[Read More](#)



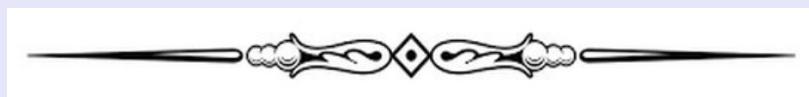
**Nearly every death from COVID-19 is preventable**

Nearly every COVID-19 death in the Veteran community and U.S. as a whole is entirely preventable through getting a vaccine, VA Secretary Denis McDonough said July 31 at the DAV National Convention in Tampa.

With COVID-19 cases rising with the Delta variant, McDonough said 99% of those dying from COVID-19 right now are unvaccinated.

All Veterans, their spouses and their caregivers can visit VA and receive a free vaccine.

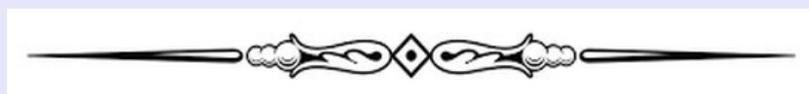
[Read More](#)



## **Women Veterans' Experiences of Harassment and Perceptions of Veterans Affairs Health Care ...**

Fenwick KM, Golden RE, Frayne SM, Hamilton AB, Yano EM, Carney DV, Klap R, VA Women's Health Practice-Based Research Network Stranger Harassment Veteran Feedback Project Collaborators. Women Veterans' Experiences of Harassment and Perceptions of Veterans Affairs Health Care Settings During a National Anti-Harassment Campaign. Womens Health Issues.

[Read More](#)



## ***Links to Other Stories***

- 1) [Ascension Michigan to Pay \\$2.8 Million to Resolve False Claims Act Allegations](#)
- 2) [Bergen County Man Admits Stealing More Than \\$8.2 Million Worth of HIV Medication](#)
- 3) [Biden signs bill to name post office after Vietnam Veteran “Smitty” Harris](#)
- 4) [Bill seeks broader aid to vets hurt by herbicide](#)
- 5) [Columbia Woman Pleads Guilty to Health Care Fraud](#)
- 6) [Congressional veterans call on Biden to help put Global War on Terrorism Memorial on National Mall](#)
- 7) [County Medical Center and County Agree to Pay \\$11.4 Million to Resolve False Claims Act Allegations Relating to Medically Unnecessary Inpatient Admissions](#)
- 8) [Couple Sentenced for Feigning Blindness for VA & Social Security Benefits](#)
- 9) [FDA and CDC Authorize Covid-19 Booster Shot for Some Immunocompromised People](#)
- 10) [Former Newton Scientist Agrees to Pay \\$215,000 to Resolve Allegations of False Statements in Grant Application](#)
- 11) [Georgia Man Pleads Guilty in New York Federal Court on Charges Related to Ponzi and COVID-19 Fraud Schemes](#)
- 12) [Health Center Pays \\$350K to Settle Improper Billing Allegations Related to Medicaid Dental Services](#)
- 13) [Hospice Facility Owner Indicted for Health Care Fraud](#)
- 14) [Kansas City native Navy sailor who died at Pearl Harbor laid to rest after nearly 80 years](#)
- 15) [Louisiana Doctor Pleads Guilty to Workers’ Comp Fraud Conspiracy](#)

- 16) Man stole dead veteran's Purple Heart — and traded it for a Mountain Dew, NC cops say
- 17) Metro East Personal Assistant Facing Health Care Fraud Charges
- 18) New court rulings raise bar for evidence needed to fire VA employees
- 19) Norwood Woman Indicted for Stealing Government Benefits
- 20) Oldest Living Tuskegee Airman Takes Grandson, An Aspiring Astronaut, With Him on Special Flight
- 21) Pain Management Organization Pays \$5.1 Million to Settle Criminal Medicare Kickback Violations
- 22) Pharmacy Owner and Pharmacist Employee, a Previously Convicted Felon, Agree to Pay \$250,000 to Resolve Alleged False Claims Act Liability
- 23) Sen. Joni Ernst, first female combat Vet in Senate, laments Afghan collapse: 'It is all on President Biden'
- 24) Tacoma Landlord Agrees to Pay \$16,618 for Overcharging Homeless Veteran Tenant and Fraudulently Obtaining Federal Funds
- 25) Telemedicine Company Owner Charged in Superseding Indictment for \$784 Million Health Care Fraud, Illegal Kickback and Tax Evasion Scheme
- 26) The Army must change Arlington burial rules proposal that breaks promise to retirees
- 27) These Mid-Atlantic bases have toxic levels of cancer-linked chemicals, report finds
- 28) Tri-County Hospitalists, LLC Agrees to Pay \$200,000 to Resolve Allegations of Overbilling Medicare
- 29) VA continues to struggle with military sexual assault claims: VAOIG report
- 30) Veterans watch two decades of sacrifice disappear as Afghanistan crumbles



## **One-two punch of medication plus lifestyle changes helps Veterans with weight loss**

The study examined data for 43 local Veterans who were enrolled in the NY-MOVE! weight-loss program and who were prescribed an obesity medication. The most commonly prescribed medications at the local level were metformin (Glucophage), liraglutide, and phentermine/topiramate.

[Read More](#)



## **Planning is Crucial for Stress-free Travel This Summer**

Summer is in full-swing, COVID-19 restrictions have been loosened and many people are taking advantage of the opportunity to travel.

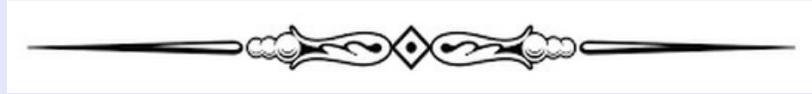
[Read More](#)



## **How to get care from local community providers**

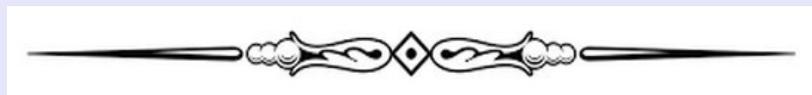
You may be eligible to get care from local community providers when VA cannot provide the care needed. Dr. Elizabeth Brill explains what Community Care is and how to use it.

[Read More](#)



## **Congress Passes Dog Training Pilot Program**

The Senate passed VFW-supported [H.R. 1448](#), the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act. This legislation would establish a pilot program on dog training therapy for veterans diagnosed with PTSD and require VA to provide service dogs for those veterans, including veterinary insurance. In recent congressional statements for the record submitted to both the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs, VFW National Legislative Service Deputy Director Tammy Barlet noted that studies and anecdotal evidence indicate veterans diagnosed with PTSD who have service dogs experience increased participation in social settings and overall satisfaction with life. The bill, which passed the House in May, now heads to the president's desk for signature.



## Suicide Prevention Resources for Military and Veterans

### **Military & Veterans Crisis Line**

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

### **Vets 4 Warriors**

855-838-8255

### **InTransition**

1-800-424-7877

### **Office of Warrior Care Policy**

warriorcare.dodlive.mil/

### **Military One Source**

1-800-342-9647

### **Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors [TAPS]**

1-800-959-8277



## **Borne the Battle Episode #251: Benefits Breakdown – Community Care Program**

The VHA Office of Community Care (OCC) aims to place the choice of provider in the hands of eligible Veterans and assist them in finding the best options for their care.

[Read More](#)



## **Aphasia, Caused by Stroke or TBI, is Frustrating and Little Known**

Imagine the sudden loss of your ability to understand or express speech, caused by brain damage due to a stroke or a traumatic injury.

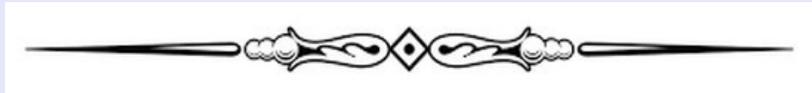
[Read More](#)



## **Win a Truck!**

Hiring Our Heroes is saying thank you to America's military by giving away a brand-new Toyota to one lucky, active duty service member, Veteran or military spouse.

[Read More](#)



## **Senate Passes Bill to Assess VA Benefit Disparities**

The Senate passed VFW-supported [S. 1031](#), which would require a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by VA. The Government Accountability Office would be tasked with assessing disparities in compensation benefits, with particular focus on disability evaluations based on pain and rejection of fully developed claims. Understanding race and ethnic disparities and correcting those wrongs within VA can help ensure all veterans are properly compensated for their injuries.



HOME *of the* FREE  
BECAUSE *of the* BRAVE

*Honoring those who served*



## **#VeteranOfTheDay Marine Corps Veteran Anthony Wood**

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Marine Corps Veteran Anthony Wood, who served two combat tours during the Vietnam War.

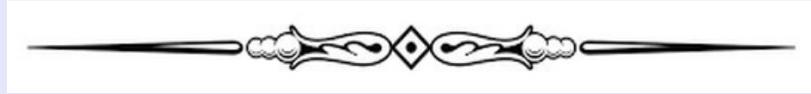
[Read More](#)



## **What to Know About Hepatitis – Its Treatment, and Prevention**

A bad liver can be a potentially fatal problem. Its primary function is to filter out toxic substances from your blood and to produce the essential proteins that allow the body to function.

[Read More](#)



## **Patriot Boot Camp partners with Berkeley College to help entrepreneurs**

Military, Spouse, and Veteran entrepreneurs who are thinking about starting a business or currently have a new start-up are ideal candidates for this two-day virtual program, Oct. 14 - 15, 2021. Patriot Boot Camp will accept 50 participants for the program and provide educational programming, resources and individual mentoring sessions.

[Read More](#)



## **VFW National Home for Children**

The National Home was founded in 1925 as a place where the families left behind by war could remain together. Today's families face many different and difficult circumstances, so the National Home has evolved to help meet those needs. The community is open to the families of active-duty military personnel, veterans, and relatives of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members. If you would like to speak with someone, please call 1.800.313.4200 or [learn 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 **08/07/21**)

Please note, we've added **0** 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. [FRA and Others asks SecDef Not to Raise TRICARE Fees](#)
6. [H.R. 333, Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act](#)
7. [H.R. 344, Support the Women Veterans TRUST Act](#)
8. [H.R. 914, the Dental Care for Veterans Act](#)
9. [Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act](#)
10. [Oppose TRICARE fee Increases](#)
11. [S. 134/H.R. 637, the Veterans Economic Recovery Act of](#)

2021

12. S. 437, Take Action for Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits
13. S. 89, Ensuring Survivors Benefits during COVID-19 Act of 2021
14. STOP TRICARE Fee Increases
15. Support Bills to Expand Coverage for ChampVA and TRICARE Young Adults
16. Veterans Economic Recovery Act Introduced
17. Support Bipartisan Bill to Expanding COVID-19 Vaccine Access for Veterans and Families
18. H.R. 855, the Veterans Expedited TSA Screening (VETS) Safe Travel Act
19. 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.
20. Support Repeal of TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee
21. HR 1585 & S 565- Provide for the treatment of Vets who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as Radiation Exposed
22. Please Support S. 344, the Major Richard Star Act
23. Support the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act
24. S. 810 & H.R. 1972, the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
25. HR 109 Establish an Advisory Committee on Implementation by the DVA of an electronic health record
26. HR 2372 and S 952 will Provide for Presumption of Service Connection for certain diseases associated with exposure to toxins
27. Please Ask you Senator to support S.952 the Warfighters Act
28. Support Improving VA Homelessness Program
29. S. 976, Caring for Survivors Act of 2021

30. H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act
31. H.R. 912, American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans Mental Health Act
32. S. 976, the Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
33. HR 2269 and S 657 cover herbicide exposure in Thailand
34. Bipartisan Bill Introduced to Help Military Survivors
35. Legislation asks for Study of Involuntary Discharges for Women
36. H.R. 2436, the Veterans Burn Pit Exposure Recognition Act
37. H.R. 958—the Protecting Moms Who Served Act
38. HR 2127 and S 927, the TEAM bills Veterans Exposed to Toxic Substances
39. Ask your Senator to Support S.1520 Military Justice Improvement Act
40. Ask your member to support S.810 and H.R. 1972 The Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
41. 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
42. "Bold New Plan" for Veterans Toxic Exposure (S. 927/H.R. 2127)
43. Ask your Senator to Support S.1520 Military Justice Improvement Act
44. HR 855, VETS Safe Travel Act
45. HR 3368, the Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Island bill
46. H.R. 2521, Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Affairs Act of 2021
47. H.R. 1273, the Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act
48. H.R. 2968, the Military and Veteran Student Loan Relief

Act

49. H.R. 845, the VA Billing Accountability Act
50. Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Bill Introduced in House
51. S. 1031, Legislation Requiring a Study to Look at Disparities in VA Claims
52. Action Alert: Tell Congress to Support the COST of War Act and the Honoring our PACT Act!
53. HR 303 and S 1147 The Retired Pay Restoration Act
54. Ask Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipt Reform HR-1282
55. HR 1656 TREAT PTSD Act
56. S. 1664, the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Processing Claims Improvement
57. H.R. 2724 — VA Peer Support Enhancement for MST Survivors Act
58. Please Support H.R. 3452 —Veterans Preventative Health Coverage Fairness Act
59. HR 2192, The Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2021



## **Mindfulness helps Veteran with PTSD find relief**

Army Veteran in study focused on mindfulness and sailing for Veterans with PTSD and other mental health conditions. "A tool I can use."

[Read More](#)



## Checking Iron Levels in Your Blood Could Save Your Life

It's a condition that can cause fatigue, joint pain, sexual dysfunction and - if left untreated - cancer and organ failure.

[Read More](#)



## Monoclonal Antibody Prevents Malaria in Small NIAID Trial

One dose of a new monoclonal antibody discovered and developed at NIAID safely prevented malaria for up to nine months in people who were exposed to the malaria parasite. The small, carefully monitored clinical trial is the first to demonstrate that a monoclonal antibody can prevent malaria in people. The trial was sponsored and conducted by scientists from the NIAID Vaccine Research Center and was funded by NIAID. The findings were published yesterday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

To build on this research, a larger NIAID Phase 2 clinical trial is underway in Mali to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the antibody at preventing malaria infection in adults during a six-month malaria season.

[Read More](#)



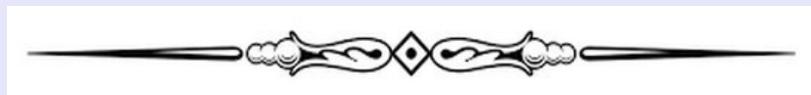
## House Passes Veterans in the Park (VIP) Act

The House unanimously passed the "Veterans in Parks Act" (VIP-H.R.4300) sponsored by Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (Iowa). The bill would give veterans and Gold Star families free lifetime access to national parks and public federal lands, and also give active-duty military free annual passes.

The America the Beautiful Pass provides access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks, national forests and wildlife refuges. This includes some of the country's most iconic natural treasures, ranging from Acadia National Park to the Redwood National Forest. The VIP Act would allow all veterans, active-duty service members, and Gold Star Families to visit all national parks and public lands free of charge. In 2020, the America the Beautiful annual pass became free for veterans and Gold Star Families; however, this change for veterans has never been put into law and could be undone in future years.

The bill protects these passes by codifying them into law and making them lifetime passes instead of annual passes. Finally, this bill also creates annual passes for current service members, which can be converted into lifetime passes once they leave the military.

The bill now goes to the Senate for further consideration. Members can go to the [FRA Action Center](#) to weigh in on this issue.



# SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

## TALK:

- Killing themselves
- Feeling hopeless
- Having no reason to live
- Being a burden to others
- Feeling trapped
- Unbearable pain



## BEHAVIOR:

- Increased use of alcohol or drugs
- Looking for a way to end their lives
- Withdrawing from activities
- Isolating from people
- Sleeping too much or too little
- Visiting or calling people to say goodbye
- Giving away possessions
- Aggression
- Fatigue

## MOOD:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Loss of interest
- Irritability
- Humiliation/Shame
- Agitation/Anger
- Relief/Sudden Improvement



## Face of InnoVAtion: Dr. Kushal Shah

Face of InnoVAtion is a regular series from the VHA Innovation Ecosystem (VHA IE) focusing on VA employees who are working to change and save Veteran lives through innovation. This month meet Dr. Kushal Shah, clinical pharmacy manager and supervisor of Ambulatory Care at Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital. Innovation and technology have always been [...]

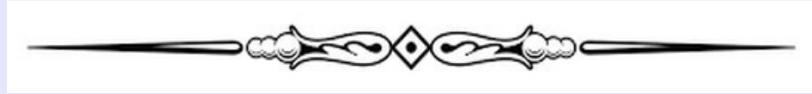
[Read More](#)



## Understanding and Coping with Natural and Human-made Disasters

Disasters, such as hurricanes, floods, and peacetime terrorist attacks, can negatively impact your psychological health. Learn how to manage your stress reactions.

[Read More](#)



## **What Medical Benefits are Available for Veterans and Their Families?**

Veterans and their loved ones may be eligible for health benefits and medical assistance, including the basic Medical Benefits Package for Veterans, which may include eligibility for dental and mental health benefits, as well as care for dependents and family including Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

[Read More](#)



## **Bipartisan Push to Protect Veterans from Predatory Pension Poachers**

In a letter to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis R. McDonough, Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester (Mont.) and Ranking Member Jerry Moran (Kan.) are continuing to push for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to focus on proactive, community-based outreach to better protect veterans and survivors across the country from predatory pension poachers.

Aging veterans represent a segment of vulnerable individuals who are increasingly being targeted by bad actors preying upon the VA pension benefits veterans have earned. While they are often victims of scams including being overcharged for home care, charged for services they did not receive, or given bad investment advice. A report (GAO-20-109) from the non-partisan Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that VA has not taken an aggressive approach in preventing this exploitation from occurring. Sens. Tester, Moran and the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will include language in legislation later this year that will require the VA to develop a plan to address the financial exploitation of veterans. A copy of the letter can be [found online](#).



**CONTACT YOUR  
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS!**

To Call your Representative:

202-225-2305

To Call your Senators:

202-224-3841 or 202-224-3553

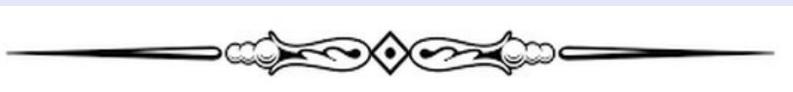
To call Different Members of Congress:

202-224-3121

TOLL FREE: 866-272-6622

**PLEASE... STOP Making Excuses!**

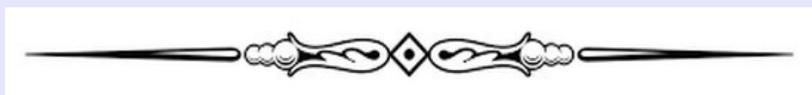
**[www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)**



**Hiring Our Heroes "Committed to America's  
Heroes Sweepstakes" giving away a Toyota**

Hiring Our Heroes is saying thank you to America's military by giving away a brand-new Toyota to one lucky, active duty service member, Veteran or military spouse. The fourth annual Hiring Our Heroes "Committed to America's Heroes Sweepstakes" is currently underway and there is no cost to enter.

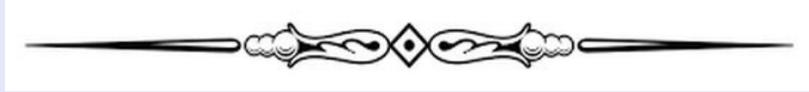
[Read More](#)



**Earth, Wind, and Fire: Plan for Health Needs  
in Emergencies**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts a more active than normal hurricane season.

[Read More](#)



## **What to Know About the Child and Adult Food Care Program**

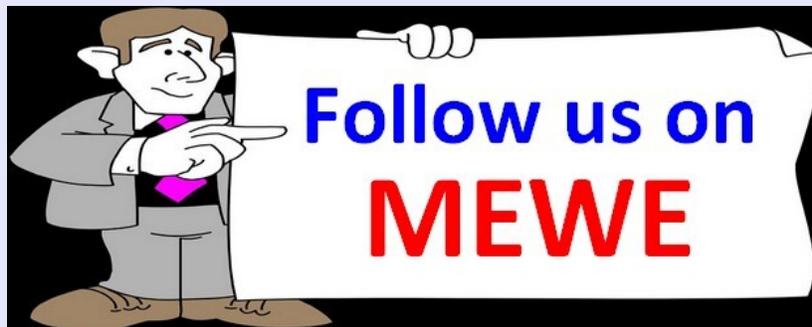
The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides reimbursements for healthy meals and snacks to eligible children and adults who attend a participating child care center, day care home, or adult day care.

[Read More](#)



## **HVAC Subcommittee Reviews Veteran's Access to Home and Community-based Services.**

The House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Health held an oversight hearing to examine veterans' access to home and community-based services. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) staff provided the subcommittee with information on the VA's home-based and community care programs such as home-based health care, home aid, medical foster care, respite care, etc. The VA has expanded from 68 to 70 sites in 2019 and six more were added in 2020. During the hearing, it was noted that the VA will continue to consider further expansions as needed.



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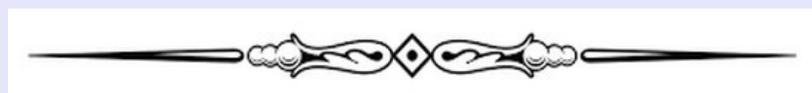
[AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY](#)



## **Fiske Hanley II: I'm a survivor**

First Lieutenant Fiske Hanley served in the Army Air Forces during World War II. During a mission in March 1945, he was shot down and imprisoned in Japan until the end of the war. Here is his story.

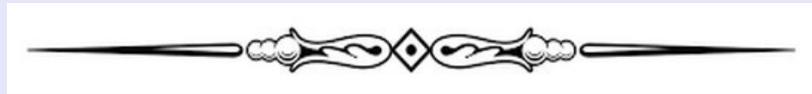
[Read More](#)



## **Earthquake Exercise Keeps the Pressure on at Naval Hospital Bremerton**

Sitting astride a sizable fault line dissecting Puget Sound, Naval Hospital Bremerton (NHB) continues to prepare – structurally, organizationally, and now with and without pressure – to respond to any seismic activity impacting the area.

[Read More](#)



## **Nearly every death from COVID-19 is preventable: SecVA**

Nearly every COVID-19 death in the Veteran community and U.S. as a whole is entirely preventable through getting a vaccine, VA Secretary Denis McDonough said July 31 at the DAV National Convention in Tampa. With COVID-19 cases rising with the Delta variant, McDonough said 99% of those dying from COVID-19 right now are unvaccinated.

[Read More](#)



## **5 tips to help protect yourself from tech support scams:**

1. Be wary of unsolicited calls — If you are contacted by an unknown caller who tries to pressure you into giving them access to your device or account to fix an issue, hang up immediately.
2. Validate customer service numbers — IT scammers plant fraudulent phone numbers in search results, so searching for customer service numbers on Google could make you a target. Use the customer service number from the actual company website instead.
3. Resist the pressure to act quickly — Cybercriminals will use emotional triggers, such as fear, or other tactics to force you to act quickly without careful consideration.
4. Regularly update anti-virus and security software — Install updates from your device’s manufacturer when prompted to do so.
5. Protect access — Never give unknown, unverified persons remote access to your devices or accounts. The old adage, “Don’t talk to strangers” is a good way to avoid being taken advantage of.



## **Office of Inspector General**

1. [COVID-19: Continued Attention Needed to Enhance Federal Preparedness, Response, Service Delivery, and Program Integrity](#)
2. [COVID-19: The Coast Guard Has Addressed Challenges, but Could Improve Telework Documentation and Personnel Data](#)
3. [COVID-19: VA Should Assess Its Oversight of Infection Prevention and Control in Community Living Centers](#)

4. COVID-19 Contracting: Actions Needed to Enhance Transparency and Oversight of Selected Awards
5. COVID-19 Contracting: Contractor Paid Leave Reimbursements Could Provide Lessons Learned for Future Emergency Responses
6. COVID-19 Contracting: Opportunities to Improve Practices to Assess Prospective Vendors and Capture Lessons Learned
7. COVID-19 Housing Protections: Mortgage Forbearance and Other Federal Efforts Have Reduced Default and Foreclosure Risks
8. COVID-19 Pandemic: Actions Needed to Improve Federal Oversight of Assistance to Individuals, Communities, and the Transportation Industry
9. Firearm Injuries: Health Care Service Needs and Costs
10. Health Care Funding: Planned Parenthood Federation of America Affiliates' Expenditures of Federal Funds, 2016 through 2018
11. Medicare Advantage: Beneficiary Disenrollments to Fee-for-Service in Last Year of Life Increase Medicare Spending
12. Medicare: Additional Reporting on Key Staffing Information and Stronger Payment Incentives Needed for Skilled Nursing Facilities
13. Paycheck Protection Program: SBA Added Program Safeguards, but Additional Actions Are Needed
14. State and Local Governments: Fiscal Conditions During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Selected States
15. VA Disability Benefits: Actions Needed to Better Manage Appeals Workload Risks, Performance, and Information Technology
16. VA Disability Benefits: Veterans Benefits Administration Could Enhance Management of Claims Processor Training
17. VA Medical Center Security: Progress Made, but Improvements to Oversight of Risk Management and Incident

## Analysis Still Needed

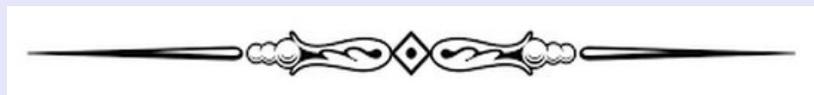
18. Veterans Affairs: Systems Modernization, Cybersecurity, and IT Management Issues Need to Be Addressed
19. Veterans with Disabilities: VA Could Better Inform Veterans with Disabilities about Their Education Benefit Options
20. Private Health Coverage: Results of Covert Testing for Selected Sales Representatives Listed on Healthcare.gov
21. Medicare Durable Medical Equipment: Effect of New Bid Surety Bond Requirement on Small Supplier Participation in the Competitive Bidding Program



## **#VeteranOfTheDay Army Air Forces Veteran August Bolino**

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Air Forces Veteran August Bolino, who served with the 8th Air Force in Europe during World War II.

[Read More](#)



## **Can Your Child Maintain TRICARE Coverage After 21? Learn How with TYA Fact Sheet**



Is your son or daughter turning 21 or graduating from college soon? If so, it may be a good time to look into TRICARE Young Adult (TYA). Now, why is TYA so

important? Adult dependent children lose regular TRICARE coverage once they turn 21, or 23 if enrolled in college. Read the article, and download the [TRICARE Young Adult Program Fact Sheet](#) to learn more.

[Read More](#)



## **Live Whole Health #82: Managing neck pain with acupressure**

Neck pain can interfere with many aspects of your daily life and disrupt activities you enjoy. Acupressure can help relieve neck pain.

[Read More](#)



1. Able Groupe Recalling Products Labeled as Infant Formula Formulas Have Insufficient Iron Levels as Per Requirements for Infant Formula in The U.S., and Products Do Not Meet Other FDA Requirements
2. Baxter Healthcare Recalls Dose IQ Software Version 9.0.x, Used with Spectrum IQ Infusion Pumps, for Software Defect That May Improperly Configure Drug and Fluid Delivery
3. Boston Scientific Recalls INGENIO Family of Pacemakers and CRT-Ps Due to Risk of Transition to Safety Mode
4. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: August 13, 2021
5. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: August 6, 2021
6. COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions
7. Crowdsourcing Pediatric Regulatory Science Research Question
8. Eight Medical International Recalls Recirculator 8.0 Disposable Lavage Kits due to Potential Exposure to High Levels of Aluminum
9. FDA Approves New Treatment for Pompe Disease
10. FDA Drug Shortages
11. FDA Grants First of its Kind Indication for Chronic Sleep Disorder Treatment
12. Jongu 4308 Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Hydro Pineapple Burn Due to the Presence of Undeclared Sibutramine
13. KVK Tech Inc., Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Atovaquone Oral Suspension, USP 750 mg/5mL Due to Temperature Abuse
14. Outbreak Investigation of Salmonella Weltevreden: Shrimp (April 2021)
15. SterRx, LLC Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Sodium Bicarbonate in 5% Dextrose Injection 150mEq per 1,000 mL Due to Microbial Contamination



## On Pawtrol, K-9 Officer Tuco brings sWAG to Little Rock VA

A Labrador and Vizsla mix, Officer Tuco is Little Rock VA's first police dog having completed a "ruff" six-month training period.

[Read More](#)



## Make Sure VA can Contact You!

Does VA have your current contact information? If you've recently moved, changed your email address or you're just not sure, contact the Education Call Center (ECC) to ensure we have your **correct mailing address, email and cell phone**. As we modernize, having your current information will enable you to access VA processes more quickly and efficiently. The ECC can be reached by calling 1-888-GIBILL-1 (888-442-4551). Call between 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Central Time, Monday-Friday. Individuals calling from outside the United States can contact us by phone at 001-918-781-5678.



## Study reports on experiences of LGB Vietnam-era Veterans

Veterans are at high risk for experiencing potentially traumatic events during military service. Evidence also suggests that sexual minorities are at greater risk of PTEs, compared with heterosexual peers. However, few studies have documented how traumatic experiences may differ by sexual orientation among Veterans.

[Read More](#)



## **Veterans Memorial & Education Center Project**

By Diane Sherwood

We are working on a Veterans Memorial project in Luverne, Minnesota. In addition to a Vietnam Wall monument, monuments for 9/11, Iraq & Afghanistan and other conflicts, we will have an Education Center. The Education Center will house displays, dioramas, classrooms, videoconferencing, a chapel, restaurant, gift shop and more

The classes, programs and collaborations in the Education Center will make this a special and unique project. We have met with Dakota State University about a possible collaboration with their Cyber Security program for classes, coding and internships. We will also address PTSD, TBI, burn pits in Iraq & Afghanistan and more in the Education Center. We want to do the best job possible in the design/build process

There is information on our website and a military tribute video available at the link below

Have the volume on so you can hear the music:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ko5TNEI5WuNJ\\_L\\_c20Bghbl1b8TSZSPb/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ko5TNEI5WuNJ_L_c20Bghbl1b8TSZSPb/view?usp=sharing)

[www.rememberrally.org](http://www.rememberrally.org)

Thanks

Diane

Remember Rally

Luverne, MN





*CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER !*



## **The competition and collaboration heats up with the first VHA Innovation Experience Virtual Series Event**

Every year, Veterans, leaders in health care, VA employees, and the public come together at the VHA Innovation Experience.

[Read More](#)



## **Changes or Withdrawal (W) of Classes May Affect Potential Student Debt**

During your education journey, you may have to consider changing your enrollment or even withdrawing from a class. However, before you do, we want to ensure that you understand how this type of decision could impact your GPA and possibly your wallet.

[Read More](#)



## **Breast cancer screening saves lives and families**

Breast cancer had taken her nana. Then there was a suspicious finding on a mammogram. Now cancer free, read her advice for other women Vets.

[Read More](#)



## **Helplessness**

I am unnerved and have such a sense of personal helplessness regarding all the events going on at home and abroad.

There has never been a time more in need of God's blessings. Prayer is in order, by all of us..

May your family be blessed.

**Richard G. Shuster, RandomlyRamblingRick**

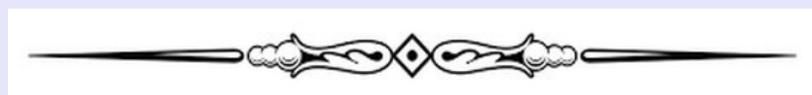




## **Community providers: Access recent VA webinars through VHA TRAIN**

Community providers: Access recent VA webinars anytime through VHA TRAIN. Learn about Agent Orange, episodes of care, caregivers and more.

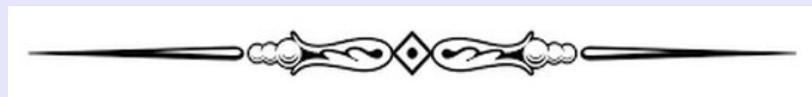
[Read More](#)



## **Education and Training Benefits Update**

Did you know that your Veterans Readiness & Employment (VR&E) benefits no longer affect the limit on your GI Bill benefits? This means that using VR&E benefits for a full 48 months won't stop you from also being able to use your GI Bill benefits, which pay for 36 months of college, the standard length of a four-year degree. Learn more about your VA education and training benefits!

[Read More](#)



## **Questions about COVID-19 vaccine, "You Asked, We Answered"**

We've received questions from Veterans, family members and caregivers about COVID-19 vaccines. Here's a compilation of our answers.

[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.**



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## **#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Howard Goldin**

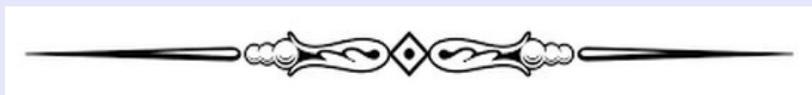
Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Howard Goldin, a Vietnam Veteran who started a non-profit foundation in Vietnam.

[Read More](#)



## **Yellow Ribbon School Aid**

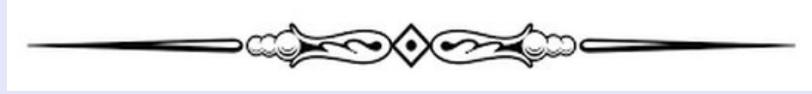
If you're a current or prospective student Veteran, the Yellow Ribbon Program can help you pay for out-of-state college tuition, graduate school, and various training programs that GI Bill benefits don't cover. [Find out if you're eligible for the Yellow Ribbon program.](#)



**Scholarship and Business Award  
Applications are now open!**

Women Veterans Alliance announces the Unconference Scholarships and Small Business Award are now open. Application period: July 15th through August 15th. Apply now.

[Read More](#)



## **The Trees are Singing**

Wait, shhhh, what is that? It sounds like singing.

Shhhh, there it is again. It is coming from the trees.

The trees are singing; the Birch, the Oak, the Aspen.

How can it be? I did not know that could happen.

Ah, yes, of course, the winds are choreographing

the Maple, the Cottonwood, the Sumac, the Pine.

All together the trees are singing, it's not only in my mind.

The branches and limbs, now join this woodland dance.

Leaves keeping time, as all nature joins joyously in their song

Their music, the singing of the trees, has put me in a trance.

Wait, shhhh, what is that? It sounds like singing.

Shhhh, there it is again. It is coming from the trees.

**Richard G. Shuster, RandomlyRamblingRick**





**Our values  
match yours.**



[www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)

*CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE VFC WEBSITE!*



## **VA women leaders join women Veterans in research**

Women leaders across VA enrolled in a national research program looking at health and illness in Veterans. They invite you to join them.

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## **Follow Us on Instagram**

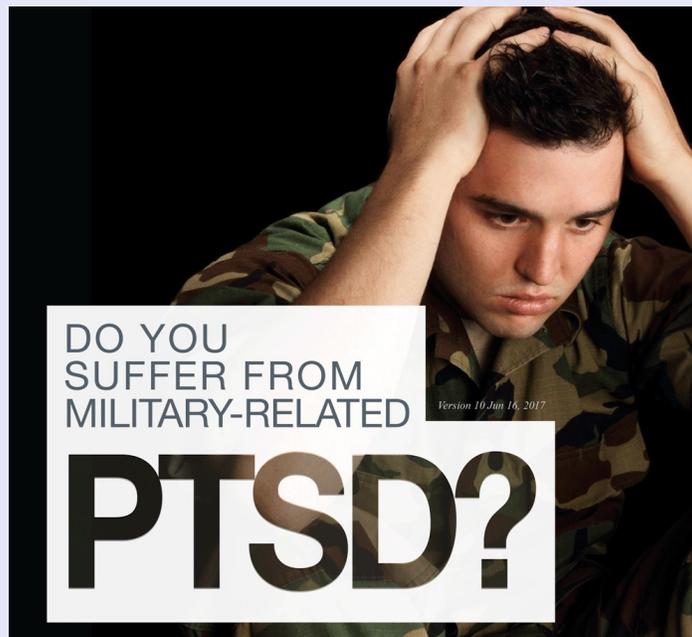
Do you follow us on Instagram? Be one of the first to learn about updates to your VA benefits and services, events, and inspiring stories of fellow Veterans. Follow [@vabenefits](#) on Instagram today!



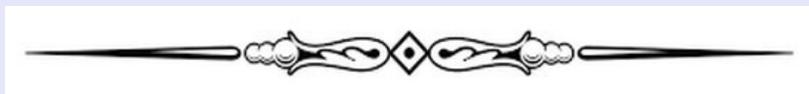
## Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service (DACOWITS) News [July 2021]

Get the Recruitment & Retention, Employment & Integration, Well Being & Treatment, Servicewomen in the News, Women Veterans, and Upcoming Events DACOWITS news from July 2021.

[Read More](#)



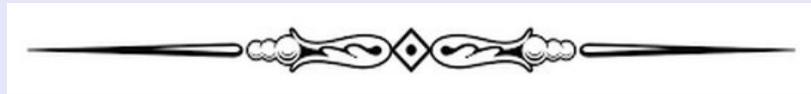
**Veterans Crisis Line:  
1-800-273-8255 & Press 1  
Ntl Call Center for Homeless Vets  
1-877-424-3838**



## **40th National Veterans Wheelchair Games: Army Veteran competes in wheelchair rugby for first time in 15 years**

Making it even more special for him is that this was his first-time playing wheelchair rugby in 15 years. He looked a little winded after his first of two complete games, but in all he felt good.

[Read More](#)



## **Delays in Obtaining Military Documents for Eligibility Determinations**

Dear Funeral Directors & Veterans:

We are asking for your assistance. As you may be aware, the government's primary repository for military personnel records, the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), is currently in a location identified by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to be in the HIGH level of community transmission rate for COVID-19. Due to the high transmission rate risk, NPRC has taken preventive safety measures and has returned to COVID Phase 0 levels, therefore significantly reducing available services for processing Veteran discharge document requests. This decision negatively impacts our ability to obtain documents to determine eligibility for interment in national cemeteries.

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is asking our funeral home partners to encourage families to work directly with funeral homes for assistance with burial in our VA national

cemeteries. We will continue to make every attempt to assist Veterans and their families, but if a service member's records cannot be obtained through any source other than NPRC, we may not be able to make a timely eligibility determination.

We ask you to inform family members of this issue and ask them to search for any additional military documents which may be in their possession. Documents kept by the Veteran may be the only documents available at this time to verify his or her eligibility for burial.

We also encourage you to ask family members to check the following:

- Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) or the American Legion. These organizations may have discharge documents on file for members.
- Any orders the service member may have received or any documents showing a military service number would be helpful.
- County clerk of the county where the service member would have returned from service. The service member may have filed their documents with the county upon discharge from military service.
- If the service member has a set of dog tags, please send a clear photograph of them to our agency.

We thank you for your assistance.

Jay Dalrymple

Director, National Cemetery Scheduling Office



## VA brings more appointees aboard

The latest Biden-Harris administration appoints three more leaders to the Department of Veteran Affairs. Welcome to Raphael Chavez-Fernandez, deputy assistant secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs; James Albino, executive director, Center Minority Veterans and our very own, Lourdes Tiglao, executive director, Center for Women Veterans.

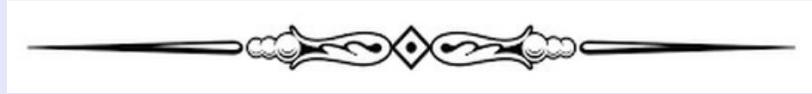
[Read More](#)



**The COVID-19 Delta Variant is the Most Transmissible Yet – Get Your Shot Today**

Like our enemies in the past, the coronavirus has adapted and we're now dealing with the most transmissible variant yet, Delta. The fight can be won with vaccination.

[Read More](#)



## **Mindfulness helps Veteran with PTSD find relief**

Two years ago, Army Veteran Kristine Bean signed up for a study that focused on mindfulness training and sailing for Veterans with PTSD, substance use disorder, and other mental health conditions. The study aims to provide an enjoyable experience to Veterans while imparting the therapeutic benefits of walking, hiking, meditation and yoga to achieve a state of mindfulness.

Bean found the mindfulness training, which involved periods of meditation, to be very helpful.

[Read More](#)



## **Associations between justice involvement and PTSD and depressive symptoms, suicidal ideation, ...**

Holliday R, Hoffmire CA, Martin WB, Hoff RA, Monteith LL.  
Associations between justice involvement and PTSD and  
depressive symptoms, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempt  
among post-9/11 Veterans.

[Read More](#)



**It's Not Over Yet: Some COVID Safety  
Precautions Remain Necessary**

For those who are fully vaccinated, the vaccine's strong protection against the virus can mean a return to normalcy like picnics and family reunions, school, sports, and dinner parties – even hugs and kisses, all those activities that we've missed since the pandemic began in early 2020.

[Read More](#)

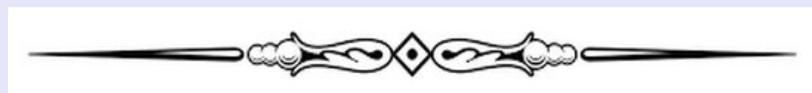


## **Police officer at VA Bedford saves stranger's life**

Army Veteran Anthony Harris, a VA police officer at VA Bedford Healthcare, is credited with saving the life of a stranger. Officer Harris was headed home when he noticed a man with one leg over the side of a pedestrian bridge on an overpass.

"I said, 'Let's talk,'" remembers Harris. "He just looked at me and stood there. He ended up nodding his head and jumped down, agreeing to talk to me."

[Read More](#)



## **Comparative venous thromboembolic safety of oral and transdermal postmenopausal hormone ...**

Blondon M, Timmons AK, Baraff AJ, Floyd JS, Harrington LB, Korpak AM, Smith NL. Comparative venous thromboembolic safety of oral and transdermal postmenopausal hormone therapies among women Veterans. *Menopause*.

[Read More](#)



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one burial update and five new identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II:

**Naval Reserve Seaman 1st Class James C. Williams**, 20, of Portland, Oregon, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Williams. He will be buried on Sept. 10, 2021, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. [Read about Williams.](#)

**Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Henry D. Mitchell**, 22, was assigned to the 48th Fighter Squadron, 14th Fighter Group, 15th Air Force in the European Theater. On July 8, 1944, he was piloting a P-38 Lightning fighter on a mission outside of Vienna, Austria. His squadron encountered enemy aircraft as it was returning from the target. Mitchell indicated he was alright following the combat, but was never heard from or seen again. With no evidence that Mitchell had survived his disappearance, a presumptive finding of death was issued on July 9, 1945. Interment services are pending. [Read about Mitchell.](#)

**Army Sgt. Larry S. Wassil**, 33, was assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, 8th Infantry Division. On Dec. 28, 1944, his unit was part of the Hürtgen Forest offensive, near Hürtgen, Germany. Wassil was leading a three-man reconnaissance team scouting enemy positions when they started taking enemy machine gun fire and were forced to scatter. When the gunfire stopped, Wassil could not be found. A presumptive finding of death was issued on Dec. 29, 1945. Interment services are pending. [Read about Wassil.](#)

**Navy Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Herman Schmidt**, 28, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Schmidt. Interment services are pending. [Read about Schmidt.](#)

**Marine Pfc. Charles R. Taylor**, 26, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple

torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Taylor. Interment services are pending. [Read about Taylor.](#)

**Navy Machinist's Mate 1st Class Harold F. Carney**, 23, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Carney. Interment services are pending. [Read about Carney.](#)



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

Riverside County, CA

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

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



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unattended E-Mail address, please send all  
correspondence to:**

**[Jim.Davis@Veterans-for-change.org](mailto:Jim.Davis@Veterans-for-change.org)**

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