



This-N-That

Good evening,

Every week there are so many things on my mind, on my "To Do" and "Action" list, piles upon piles on my desk and as hard as I work those lists and pile continue to grow.

I am currently taking to the dean of admissions in one local college to offer credits in exchange for time rendered So keep your fingers crossed. I need roughly 6-8 interns.. Issues we need to address strait forward and direct are:

1. Homeless Veterans (Mainly West Los Angeles, but nationwide.

2. Speed and accuracy of claims and appeals being processed.

- 3. Facilities Update.
- 4. New Equipment.
- 5. Hiring Staff.

Although this list is somewhat short, there simply isn't enough time or space to list all we've been working on.

I've added yet another TAKE ACTION item to the section further down! I now some maybe all items listed don't pertain to you, but your continued help is always very much and greatly appreciated. And helping your fellow Veteran is just as important. Then when legislation comes up that meets your needs those whom you've helped we sincerely hope they will return to help you as well.

Kristijan has been working is tail off in re-writing code, making adjustments, modifications and there are more to come.

We will soon be adding two databases, one for VSO's (Veteran Service Officers) where Veterans can list their

service officer name, address, phone, fax, and comments. You will be able to edit that information until you click on submit. Once submitted others will be able to see that Service Office and seek their help.

We will also be adding the second database for Attorney's and Law Firms where Veterans can list their Attorney or Law Firms Name, address, phone, fax, and comments. You will be able to edit that information until you click on submit. Once submitted others will be able to see that Attorney or Law Firm and seek their help.

Then coming after that will be a graphic slide show of military historic landmark pictorial guide so you can view a group of military history which we're estimating a change once every six months.

If you have any ideas or thoughts, please do share them with us and we will certainly look at them and see if we can merge some or all of it 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

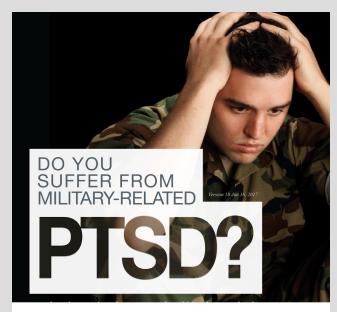
#### House Committee Requests VA Create a MST Survivors Workgroup

This week, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs sent a bipartisan letter to VA Secretary Robert Wilkie calling on VA to establish a working group to support survivors of military sexual trauma (MST). The internal workgroup will execute a review of VA policies and procedures that impact MST survivors. The letter discusses improving the claims process to reduce retraumatizing MST survivors; strengthen and share communication of best practices within VHA and VBA; questions why MST treatment for active duty service members is available only at Vet Centers and not at VHA facilities; support VHA and VBA MST coordinators; and provide sexual harassment and assault training for all VA employees. Learn more.

## Links to Other Stories

 H.R. 6590, DAV Supports Deferring Debt Collections during COVID-19 Crisis
 Random Thoughts of Service
 Coronavirus Pandemic Response: The Impact of Economic and Healthcare Services on Homeless Veterans in America

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



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

## **POLL QUESTIONS**

We'd truly appreciate if you would participate in the polls listed. They will give us an idea in which direction we need to progress! Simply Click HERE.

How concerned are you about contracting coronavirus? Did you know that the coronavirus is spread through the same methods as the common flu? Have you received the flu vaccine this year? Which Branch of Service did you serve? Which war Era did you serve? Were you exposed to: Have you exposed to: Have you experienced any medical problems? Have you filed a claim(s) with the VA? How long did it take for your claim to be reviewed the first time? Was your claim denied? Have you filed an appeal? What is your opinion of Sec VA Robert Wilkie?

## **Veterans-For-Change Web Site**

The Veterans-For-Change website has been around since 2009. The looks pretty much stay the same, but in the background our new webmaster has been making repairs to things that haven't worked properly in over a year.

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 **4,686** hits per day, and downloads average **7,420** per day with a total **6,188,522** 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 18,730 documents in
171+ Libraries, added 31 documents on-line (Updated: 04/19/20)

• FAQ's on-line with **1,790** FAQ's on **101** topics! (Updated 08/29/19 - 128 NEW)

- 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: 04/23/20) (3 Added)
- News (Articles On-Line: 9,700)
- Polls

• Web Links, more than **7,461**, Added **55** New Links (Updated: **04/02/20**)

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

## Complete the VFW's COVID-19 Health Survey

On March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The VFW has developed a survey to evaluate your health care experiences, how your health care has changed since March 13, and your perceptions of your overall physical and mental health over the past 30 days. The VFW would like feedback on your experiences in order to inform our advocacy and compile a final report on this important topic. Help the VFW hold VA and Congress accountable for fulfilling their mission to veterans by taking a short survey regarding your experiences during the COVID-19 health crisis. **Take the survey**.



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!

## You don't need to be Active Duty or a Veteran, in fact we ask all Veteran friends to also help!

1. Urge Congress to Pass the Retired Pay Restoration Act

2. S. 2966, the Rural Veterans Travel Enhancement Act of 2019

3. S. 1003, VET OPP Act to Reform VA Employment Programs

4. H.R. 4574 - Pass the Veterans' Right to Breathe Act Now!

5. S. 2810, the Veterans Hearing Benefits Act of 20196. Support H.R.4985, the Veterans Residential Care Choice Act

7. New Concurrent Receipt Bills Introduced!

8. STOP Downsizing of Military Treatment facilities

9. Support H.R. 5610 and S. 3444 to add Agent

**Orange Presumptives** 

10. Temporarily Waive TRICARE Mail Order Campaign

11. Need Your Help on Recovery Rebate Checks

12. Put In Stimulus Bill a Waiver of Mail Order Copays During Pandemic

13. Ensure Service Members and Their Families Have Safe Quality Housing

14. H.R. 6591 - Support Veterans in Need of

Emergency Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic

15. Don't Cut Military Medical Staff During Pandemic!

#### Veterans Have Until May 5 to Add Dependents for Stimulus Payment

On April 24, 2020, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced on Twitter that veterans who receive VA compensation and pension payments, who do not file taxes, and who have dependents, have until **May 5**, **2020**, to add their dependent information to ensure their stimulus payment includes the \$500 per dependent pay. The IRS is urging this group of veterans to use the non-filer tool on the IRS website to update their dependent information. If a veteran in this group has already had the \$1,200 stimulus payment issued, they will no longer be eligible to use the nonfiler tool. Their payment will be \$1,200 and, by law, the additional \$500 per eligible child would be paid in association with a return filing for tax year 2020.

## May is Mental Health Awareness Month

The VFW calls on the community to reach out to veterans who may be experiencing mental health issues, especially during the COVID-19 health crisis. There are resources from VA, especially their Make the Connection campaign, where they provide resources for veterans and also for those who care about a veteran. VFW partner, Give An Hour, provides free mental health counseling for veterans and their families. Give An Hour's Campaign to Change Direction has resources such as learning the Five Signs of Emotional Suffering, which empowers people to recognize signs of emotional suffering and guides them on how to reach out for help. When reaching out, discussion topics can include the status of their physical and mental well-being, reviewing the checklist of COVID-19 symptoms, asking about the state of their supplies, or a recommendation for a good book, TV show or movie. Remember to follow up in a day or two to keep that connection going.

## ~~Follow us on MEWE ~~

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



#### **DPAA Cancels Meetings**

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) has announced that the Family Member Update to be held May 15, 2020, in Chicago has been canceled. DPAA has also canceled the Vietnam War Annual Government Briefings which was set to be held with the National League of POW/MIA Families Annual Meeting on June 24-27, 2020, in Washington, D.C. If you have further questions, DPAA asks that you contact your service casualty officer. Learn more.

#### VFW-Supported Bill to Protect Student Veterans Becomes Law

On Tuesday, the president signed into law H.R. 6322, the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020. This bill will ensure student veterans who are engaged in work study programs can continue to receive their work payment checks, along with their housing payment allowance. This bill will also make sure student veterans whose schools are closing due to the COVID-19 crisis are not penalized any months of their GI Bill entitlements while this pandemic is still impacting the country. The VFW would like to thank Chairmen Takano and Moran, along with Ranking Members Roe and Tester for making sure that veterans are still being taken care of during this uncertain time.



## VFW Kicks Off Annual Youth Scholarship Competitions

The VFW is now accepting entries for its 2020 - 2021 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth scholarship competitions. Dedicated to encouraging a better understanding and appreciation of America, these competitions help foster patriotism among today's youth. The programs also promote friendly competition and reward success with more than \$3 million in scholarships. The Voice of Democracy audioessay competition, with the theme "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?" is open to all students in grades 9-12. Each state winner competes for the top national scholarship prize of \$30,000. Students in grades 6-8 can complete in the Patriot's Pen competition by answering this year's theme, "What is Patriotism to Me?" Entrants vie for the top award of \$5,000. Entries, along with a completed entry form, must be submitted to a local participating VFW Post. The deadline for both contests is Oct. 31, 2020. Find your local VFW Post, or read more about the competitions.

Have You Filled Out Your Census Form Yet? It's time to be counted in the census again. The results of the census will determine congressional representation, advise hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding, and be used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. The VFW encourages all Americans to take part in this year's census. Learn more.

> CONTACT YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS! To Call your Representative: 202-225-2305 To Call your Senators: 202-224-3841 or 202-224-3553 To call Different Members of Congress: 202-224-3121 TOLL FREE: 866-272-6622 PLEASE... STOP Making Excuses! www.veterans-for-change.org

#### Get the Care You Need Now with TRICARE

Like most Americans, you've probably been washing your hands frequently, social distancing, and adjusting to a new normal since early March. The Military Health System has been adjusting as well. Your military hospitals and clinics are still very much open for business and well equipped to meet all of your health care needs.

To learn more, read the article.

## **Office of Inspector General**

1. Priority Open Recommendations: Internal Revenue Service

2. Priority Open Recommendations: Department of Health and Human Services

3. Commissaries and Exchanges: DOD and Congress Need More Reliable Information on Expected Savings and Costs of Consolidating the Defense Resale Organizations

4. Antibiotic Resistance: Additional Federal Actions Needed to Better Determine Magnitude and Reduce Impact

5. Priority Open Recommendations: Department of Veterans Affairs



## Find Answers on TRICARE Coronavirus FAQ Page

Are you looking for COVID-19 resources? If so, TRICARE's got you covered. Stay informed on the latest developments and get your questions answered with the Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions page. Whether you're a service member, family member, or a military retiree, you'll be sure to find something useful.

To learn more, read the article.



## Possible Further Delay of Comprehensive Caregiver Support Program Expansion

VA's Comprehensive Caregiver Support Program was established in 2011 to provide supports and services, such as caregiver education and training, health coverage and a monthly stipend, to primary family caregivers of eligible veterans who were seriously injured in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001.

In March 2020, VA proposed new caregiver regulations to expand access its Comprehensive Caregiver Support Program by redefining eligibility to include all service-connected veterans whose serious disabilities are caused by illnesses, rather than just injuries-a policy change DAV has advocated for a decade. Changes were also proposed to the stipend payment methodology, definitions for financial planning and legal services and procedures for revocation and discharge, to include advance notice requirements aimed at improving communication between VA and program participants.

These proposed regulations would change in many ways how the Comprehensive Caregiver Support

Program currently operates and has increased the level of complexity of the Information Technology (IT) software needed to fully support and manage the program. It also challenges VA's ability to meet the IT certification requirements to expand eligibility of the program to caregivers of veterans severely injured before 9/11, included in the VA MISSION Act of 2019 (Public Law 115-182).

VA notes it is working hard to meet its intended IT certification target of June 2020, but with this anticipated change in IT requirements, now estimates the start of full expansion could be delayed to late summer/early fall of 2020. DAV has expressed our serious disappointment about this news and has been urging VA to make every effort to meet the earlier deadline as many seriously disabled veterans and their caregivers have gone without the proper support for decades and will likely be in even greater need as the nation continues to battle the COVID-19 outbreak.

Rest assured DAV will continue to monitor the situation closely and update you as the situation develops.





## TRICARE Benefits for Activated National Guard and Reserve Members

Currently, thousands of National Guard and Reserve service members have been mobilized across the country to support the fight against COVID-19. Were you called to active duty? If you have questions about your eligibility for TRICARE, contact your unit personnel office. You can also check milConnect to see if you've gained TRICARE eligibility and benefits as an active duty service member.

To learn more, read the article.



## Military Hospital and Clinic Operations: COVID-19 Myths vs. Facts

You may be wondering how the Military Health System response to the health care demands of COVID-19 impacts the care you may get at military hospitals and clinics. TRICARE resources, FAQs, and these "myths vs. facts" help you separate rumors from truth.

To learn more, read the article.

#### Bill Introduced for Hearing Aid Specialists at all VA Medical Centers

House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano (Calif.) and Ranking Member Dr. Phil Roe (Tenn.) introduced legislation (H.R.6612), which would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to appoint at least one licensed hearing aid specialist to each VA Medical Center in the country. This legislation builds on the Veterans Mobility Safety Act of 2016 which granted the VA authority to appoint licensed hearing aid specialists at their medical centers, though they have so far failed to exercise that authority. This bill would mandate the VA hire these specialists in a timely manner.

"Veterans should not have to travel long distances to receive check-ups related to their hearing or seek help from non-VA contracted hearing aid specialists. VA should widely provide this service so that veterans can access this essential care" said Chairman Takano. "Hearing loss is a tragically common problem among veterans of all generations," said Ranking Member Roe. "This bill would ensure that every VA Medical Center across the country has at least one licensed hearing aid specialist on board to give our nation's heroes who rely on hearing aids the care they need in a timely manner."

Anyone can go on the **FRA Action Center** to weigh in on this issue.



CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!

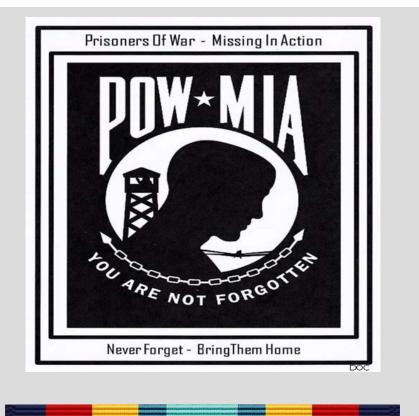
## FRA and Others Express Concern about VA Caregiver Regulation

Director of Legislative Policy John Davis participated in two conference calls this week regarding an upcoming draft regulation by the Department of Veterans Affairs that would implement the caregiver expansion provisions in the VA MISSION Act (2018). The participants in the call are drafting a letter to express their concerns about the lack of specificity in the proposed regulation's regards to the initial eligibility assessment process, the reassessment process to maintain eligibility for disabled post 9/11/2001 veterans, and the appeals processes. The VA proposes to keep the eligibility and appeal process procedures through policy directives that are outside the regulatory process. The FRA is also troubled by the proposed regulation requiring that caregivers must personally deliver all assistance to the veteran, effectively precluding caregivers from working outside the home. The FRA wants to see the caregiver expansion succeed and quickly integrate the Vietnam era veterans, while also properly reforming a program that suffered numerous problems in the past.



## President Signs Student Veteran Coronavirus Act

President Donald Trump signed into law the FRAsupported Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act (H.R.6322), sponsored by HVAC Chairman Rep. Mark Takano (Calif.). The legislation will ensure student veterans will not see a reduction in their monthly housing allowance as a result of their schools moving to online instruction due to COVID-19. The bill takes effect immediately.



## Court Allows Veterans to use both MGIB and Post 911 GI Bill Benefits

The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims issued its final ruling on the case of Bo v Wilkie letting stand an earlier decision that the Department of Veterans Affairs practice of making veterans relinquish their Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) eligibility in order to receive Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits is improper. Federal officials argued in court that the arrangement is designed to make sure veterans aren't doubling up on their government benefits for personal profit; but the court rejected that argument, saying that instead veterans eligible for both programs should receive each set of payouts, just not simultaneously. The association welcomes this decision and opposes shifting additional cost of higher education to beneficiaries.

VA hiring jumps 37 percent in fight against COVID-19

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has significantly increased hiring in the two weeks ending mid-April — a surge that will continue in the coming weeks as VA works to protect patients from the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). During the timeframe from March 29 to April 11, VA hired 3,183 new staff members, of [...]

VA hiring jumps 37 percent in fight against COVID-19 is brought to you by Veterans Resources - A community for military veterans



#### Military Exposures & Your Health Issue #2 - Now Available

Read the latest issue of Military Exposures & Your Health, a biannual newsletter for Veterans with service from 1990 to the present. This issue includes a Veteran's experience with environmental health registries and a doctor's experience conducting environmental health registry exams; information about garrison exposures and health effects; an update on work on developing a single case definition for Gulf War illness; and more. Find this online newsletter at https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/publication s/military-exposures/meyh-2/index.asp



1. Supplemental Security Income recipients will receive automatic Economic Impact Payments; step follows work between Treasury, IRS, Social Security Administration

2. Veterans Affairs recipients will receive automatic Economic Impact Payments; Step follows work between Treasury, IRS, VA

3. The IRS is taking steps to help taxpayers, preparers and partners with Economic Impact Payments

4. Special alert for benefit recipients who don't file a

tax return and have dependents

5. SSA, RRB recipients with eligible children need to act by Wednesday to quickly add money to their automatic Economic Impact Payment; IRS asks for help in the 'Plus \$500 Push'

6. Treasury, IRS announce cross-border tax guidance related to travel disruptions arising from the COVID-19 emergency

7. IRS, Treasury issue guidance for applying UBTI 'silo' rules for tax-exempt organizations by identifying separate trades or businesses

8. Questions about Economic Impact Payments

9. IRS enhances Get My Payment online application to help taxpayers

10. Special alert for VA, SSI recipients who don't file a tax return and have dependents

11. IRS seeks nominations for the Internal Revenue Service Advisory Council

12. Treasury, IRS deliver 88 million Economic Impact Payments in first three weeks, release state-by-state Economic Impact Payment figures

13. Who can get more Economic Impact Payment money for children

14. Economic Impact Payments continue to be sent, check IRS.gov for answers to common questions15. IRS accepting applications for 2021 grants for Low Income Taxpayer Clinics 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.



# COVID-19: Visit punctuates efforts to convert arena to alternate care site

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Brig. Gen. Thomas Tickner, commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Pacific Ocean Division, toured the Alaska Airlines Center on the University of Alaska Anchorage campus

**Read More** 



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

Marine Corps Reserve Pvt. Howard E. Miller, 22, was a member of Company A, 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, 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. Miller died on the third day of battle, Nov. 22, 1943. He was reported to have been buried in Row D of the East Division Cemetery, later renamed Cemetery 33. Interment services are pending. Read about Miller.

**Army Staff Sgt. Raymond C. Blanton**, 19, was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division. His unit was engaged in battle with German forces near Germeter, Germany, in the Raffelsbrand Forest, when he was killed in action on Oct. 14, 1944. Blanton could not be recovered because of the on-going fighting. Interment services are pending. Read about Blanton.

Army Pfc. Glenn E. Collins, 21, was a member of Heavy Mortar Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. Read about Collins.

Army Pfc. Clarence W. Brotherton, 20, of Gibson

City, Illinois, was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division. His unit was engaged in battle with German forces near Germeter, Germany, in the Raffelsbrand Forest, when he was killed in action on Oct. 14, 1944. Brotherton could not be recovered because of the ongoing fighting. Interment services are pending. Read about Brotherton.

Army Cpl. Burl Mullins, 23, was a member of Heavy Mortar Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 30, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. Read about Mullins.

Marine Corps Cpl. Raymond J. Tuhey, 24, of Chicago, was a member of Company B, 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, 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. Tuhey died on the fourth day of battle, Nov. 23, 1943. Interment services are pending. Read about Tuhey.



Veterans-For-Change, Inc.

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today

www.Veterans-For-Change.org

Serving those who served!

Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends and Family!

Please do not reply to this E-Mail, this is an unattended E-Mail address, please send all correspondence to:

Jim.Davis@Veterans-for-change.org

