

### **Veterans-For-Change Newsletter**

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, August 23, 2020

Volume 11, Issue 30



#### This-N-That

Good evening Jim,

Well, warning, it's time for all the lies and bogus promises to fly and fly high and hard!

Politicians will do and say what ever it takes to grab your vote up to and including submitting new legislation on your behalf, or on behalf of many knowing full well it wouldn't float, let alone get out of committee and sent to the floor.

So my advice is to really think, and think hard as well

as investigate all those who seek your vote to sustain their position in office or to grab an office.

I do have to give kudos to President Trump. Congress is still fighting over the 2021 budget, and wanted to hack out \$2.2 billion dollars from the VA, and Trump said oh heck no!

All the while Secretary Wilkie is doing his level best to convince Congress that Dental Care for ALL Veterans is not a good idea, and proves one point of mine, he's not a doctor, no medical degree and most likely has not paid attention to those who work for him that Good Dental Care also leads to good and/or improved health.

One thing Congress has been working on, how hard I haven't a clue, but Medical Malpractice has not been allowed for many years, thus protecting doctors who shouldn't even possess a medical license. Veterans suffer, many die and families have no recourse especially when it could have been prevented, or serious damage could have been prevented.

No one has published a letter to be sent to all your Reps in DC yet, so when you make calls to your two Senators and your Congressman, please be sure to mention you want their support on making this historical change in the VA.

And I'd like to ask you to continue pushing for the VA to step up and actually do something legit, serious and taking positive action toward helping homeless Vets and those who need mental health care, step up and help stop Veteran and Military Suicide.

If and when I get into any debate with a staffer, I'm always suggesting that all members of Congress take a 25% cut in pay for 5 years, that's how you find the funds, then on top of that cut all individual line item budget things in each medical center that seem to be repetitive and actually do nothing but get shifted to another little project to help line the pockets of VAMC directors.

Please be safe, please practice the guidelines, don't let your friends of family wake up to your passing!

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

**Postal Delays May Impact Medication** 

### **Shipments**

VA explained last week that approximately 90 percent of Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy (CMOP) packages are shipped to veterans by the USPS. CMOP has detected hot spots with delivery delays (Detroit, parts of New York and New Jersey) and proactively converted from USPS to United Parcel Service (UPS) 2nd Day Air for those areas until service levels can be returned to normal. The VFW is working with our supporters in the House and Senate to monitor this situation in order to ensure the health and well-being of our veterans remains paramount, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Post office officials backtrack on service changes that delayed veterans' prescriptions

The U.S. Postal Service announced it will halt planned service reductions and other cost-cutting initiatives in response to public outcry - including strong opposition from veterans advocates - over the timing and impact of the moves.

"There are some long-standing operational initiatives ... that have been raised as areas of concern as the nation prepares to hold an election in the midst of a

devastating pandemic," Postmaster General Louis DeJoy said in a statement released Tuesday.

"To avoid even the appearance of any impact on election mail, I am suspending these initiatives until after the election is concluded. Retail hours at post offices will not change. Mail processing equipment and blue collection boxes will remain where they are. No mail processing facilities will be closed. And we reassert that overtime has, and will continue to be, approved as needed."

#### **Read More**



### VA Partners with OnStar to Combat Veteran Suicide

VA announced its new partnership with OnStar

emergency services to improve access to suicide prevention resources for veterans. Veterans in crisis will be able to connect to VA's Veterans Crisis Line by using the emergency services button in an OnStarequipped vehicle or OnStar Guardian smartphone app. "The VA-OnStar partnership aims to promote suicide prevention and reduce deaths by suicide by providing additional resources to veterans," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "This partnership will help veterans access suicide prevention support services and assistance directly and immediately. More than 400 VA suicide prevention coordinators and their teams, located at every VA medical center, connect veterans with care and educate the community about suicide prevention programs and resources daily." Read more.

# NMC Portsmouth surgeons take unique approach to remove tumor

Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Gregory Capra, a rhinologist and anterior skull base surgeon, and Navy Lt. Cmdr. (Dr.) Gabriel Santiago, a neuroplastic surgeon, teamed up last fall to ...

#### **Read More**

### Links to Other Stories

1. What

You

Should

**Know** 

**About** 

Your

**TRICARE** 

Coverage

While

**Traveling** 

**Overseas** 

2. 87-

year-

old

Korean

War

Veteran

graduates

high

school

3. Veteran

**Status** 

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Census

Count

4. Navy

Veteran

beaten by feds in **Portland** fears that Trump's deployment will lead to сору cats in combat fatigues 5. Commissary officials angling for fresh fish options at 10 stores where vendor shut down 6. **VA** opposes

bill to grant dental care to all Veterans 7. Air Force Academy cadet pleads guilty to using LSD, MDMA, cocaine and more 8. House passes largest VA budget ever, but partisan fights threaten its future

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9. Veterans
   Affairs
   police
   would
   be
   required
   to
   use
   body
   cameras
   under
   new
   proposal
10. New
   Omaha
   VA
   care
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   'a
   long
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   done,'
   set
   to
   open
   in
   weeks
11. 94%
   of
   Veterans
   at
   VA
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don't qualify for dental care. VA opposes Congress changing that 12. Lawmakers weigh key bill that aims to protect Veterans who experience VA medical malpractice



#### **Blood Donations Need Still Critical**

The Red Cross strongly urges healthy, eligible individuals who are feeling well to give blood to help maintain a sufficient supply for those battling COVID-19, other infections, and trauma victims. Please schedule an appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor app, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, or calling 1.800.RED.CROSS (1.800.733.2767).

**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.

There are still repairs being made, but the polls are now working 100% and there are five polls open to all to take.

Constant improvement and change is being done to make our website the most user friendly "One-Stop-Shop" website to find almost everything you might have tried to find searching the internet.

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

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

We average 2,599 hits per day, and downloads average 3,379 per day with a total **6,582,582** 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 1,843 FAQ's on 104 topics!
   (Updated 05/30/20 46 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: 9,876)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than **7,637**, Added 20 New Links (Updated: 08/05/20)

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

### **DPAA Cancels Meeting**

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) has announced that the Family Member Update to be held September 12, 2020, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, has been canceled. If you have further questions, DPAA asks that you contact your service casualty officer. Learn more.



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! (**Updated 08/14/20**)

#### 1. Support

Veterans

**Economic** 

Recovery

Act!

#### 2. NDAA

**Amendment** 

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**Benefits** 

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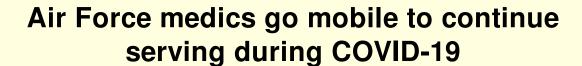
3224

The

Deborah Sampson Act 3. Please Support **Addition** of **Agent** Orange Presumptive **Diseases** 4. Support **Amendments** That Add **Diseases** Caused by **Agent** Orange! 5. H.R. 6027, the Restore Veterans'

Compensation

Act



From running through the plains and hills of Guernsey, Wyoming, trailing the 90th Ground Combat Training Squadron's warrior airmen to working in ...

#### **Read More**



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

We hope you will join us on this new site.

**VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE** 

HOMELESS HEROES PROGRAM OF VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE

**AMVETS GROUP** 

**VETERANS SOCIAL GROUP** 

**{USAVET} SUPPORTING GOD & ALL WHO** 

#### SERVED OUR GREAT NATION

#### AMERICANS FOR SOVEREIGNTY

"History is not there for you to like or dislike. It is there for you to learn from it. And if it offends you, even better. Because then you are less likely to repeat it. It is not yours to erase. It belongs to all of us."

# Information on Potential Start Date for VA's Caregiver Program Expansion

We wanted to update you with new information from VA about when newly eligible veterans will be able to apply for caregiver benefits. As previously reported, VA recently published new regulations to expand the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) to pre-9/11 veterans, beginning with those from World War II, the Korean and Vietnam war eras whose injuries or illnesses occurred on or before May 7, 1975. The second expansion phase will cover veterans whose injuries or illnesses occurred between May 8, 1975 and September 10, 2001.

According to VA, this expansion will not occur and become official until the Secretary certifies a new

caregiver IT system and it is fully implemented. VA also notes that it will not approve any new applications for caregiver benefits based on this expanded eligibility prior to that date, which is expected to be October 1st (the same day the new regulations take effect). Only new applications received by VA on or after the IT certification date (also expected to be October 1st) will be considered or approved based on the new expanded eligibility for World War II, Korean War and Vietnam veterans in phase one.

It is important to remember that having a service-connected injury or illness—regardless of the level of disability compensation—does not automatically qualify a veteran for PCAFC benefits. VA must first make a clinical assessment of each individual's caregiving needs and approve both the veteran and their designated caregiver into the program before VA will begin to provide benefits.

According to VA's new regulation, a phase one veteran's effective date for caregiver benefits, including stipends, would be:

- "...the latest of the following dates:
- (1) The date the joint application that resulted in approval and designation of the Family Caregiver is received by VA.

- (2) The date the eligible veteran begins receiving care at home.
- (3) The date the Family Caregiver begins providing personal care services to the eligible veteran at home."

Therefore, if you are a World War II, Korean War or Vietnam era veteran who currently has a family caregiver providing you with caregiving services in your home, you may become eligible on the date your application is received by VA as long as it is on or after the IT certification date, (expected to be October 1st) and VA has determined that both you and your caregiver meet the clinical criteria for the program.

To reiterate—if your application for benefits is approved, and your designated caregiver is approved into the program, your benefits may be payable back to the date the application was received (on or after October 1st) if your caregiver was already providing personal care services at your home. If you do not currently have a caregiver but you are found to be eligible for the program, and your application is approved and clinical need is determined, the effective date would be the date the designated caregiver begins providing personal care services to the eligible veteran.

VA is expected to provide further information later this month about the IT certification date and will make an

official announcement when applications will be accepted. We will keep you updated once we receive this information. You can also find VA's latest announcements about the program and the expansion to pre-9/11 veterans here.

# Trump rejects reported \$2.2 billion in cuts to military health care that Pentagon proposed

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump said he would not allow a major cut to the Pentagon's health care system under consideration by defense officials as part of an annual process to reprogram funds to warfighting priorities such as weapons and training.

Trump tweeted late Monday his displeasure with the reported \$2.2 billion cut over five years, which defense officials were planning to propose soon to Defense Secretary Mark Esper as part of his second annual effort to cut costs from noncombat defense functions. Esper, too, issued a tweet announcing his opposition to the proposal and rejected the initial reporting Sunday about the cuts by Politico as "inaccurate."

#### **Read More**

### FRA Participates in Virtual Press Conference

Rep. Josh Harder (Calif.) along with the FRA, several other organizations, and local Vietnam War veterans who are battling bladder cancer participated in a virtual press conference to announce the launch of a final effort to expand coverage for veterans exposed to Agent Orange but who are unable to access support from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Rep. Harder is kicking off an effort to support the inclusion of these benefits in the final National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Earlier this year, Rep. Harder introduced the FRA-supported Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act (H.R.5610), which would ensure Vietnam Veterans with bladder cancer, certain thyroid problems, and Parkinson's like symptoms get access to the program through the VA. Veterans have been unable to get automatic access to benefits for those related illnesses through the VA, despite comprehensive scientific evidence linking the illnesses to exposure. The provisions of the bill were approved in the Senate as an amendment to the Senate version of the annual must-pass NDAA. To become law, the amendment must now be included in the final version of the legislation that will be negotiated and passed before

the year's end. This issue is listed on the FRA Action Center and everyone is strongly urged to contact their representatives on this issue.



### FRA Supports Veterans Re-Training Legislation

The FRA has signed onto a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (Ky.), Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (Calif.), Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (N.Y.), and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (Calif.) to give serious consideration to incorporating the language of the Veteran Economic Recovery Act (H.R.7111) and (S.3899) in the next stimulus package.

Prior to the pandemic, the economy was strong and veteran unemployment numbers were at their lowest rates in almost two decades. Now, the number of unemployed veterans has tripled, and more than 776,000 veterans are currently out of work. Fourteen

percent of veterans are currently working in the top five industries most impacted by COVID-19, and it is estimated that up to 42 percent of jobs lost to COVID-19 will not return.

This FRA supported legislation would help reopen the American economy and ensure unemployed veterans have access to programs to help them get meaningful careers in the new economy. Provisions in this these bills would help 35,000 veterans between the ages of 25 and 60 who are not eligible for the GI Bill get rapid retraining for in-demand occupations by authorizing a COVID-19 veteran retraining program. This legislation also includes additional funds for the VET Tec pilot program, which helps veterans and transitioning service members train for jobs in high tech and coding careers.

These bills are listed on the FRA Action Center and Shipmates are strongly encouraged to contact their legislators on this issue.

#### The Choice is Ours..

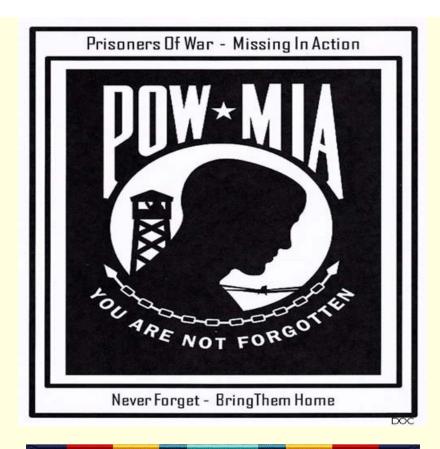
Whether one believes in a Deity or not, it is reasonably easy to concede there is some higher power, something greater than self. Whatever one's

perception, and that may be a sunrise or sunset, flowers, an architectural, musical or artistic masterpiece, or a God of one's own choice, that perception is justifiable and OK for all of them.

The perceived goodness or evil of a human being, is subjective to other's standards of life, the choices made during that life and the impact of those choices upon others govern both perception and reality. We all are indeed capable of altruism or total selfishness, capable also of a life dedicated to the improvement of their fellow humans or the pain and destruction of them.

Choice, right or wrong, and the freedom to do so, is what differentiates us from the lowest forms of life. Belief in something, faith in that belief and choices made through that faith set us aside, from all others in the evolution chain.

Richard G. Shuster



# President Signs Disabled Veterans Housing Bill into Law

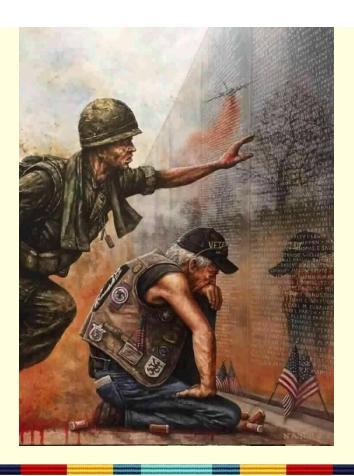
President Donald Trump recently signed into law the FRA-supported Ryan Kules and Paul Benne Specialty Adaptive Housing Improvement Act (H.R.3504), sponsored by Rep. Gus Bilirakis (Fla.). The act will provide improvements to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) program by expanding the number of grants awarded from 30 to 150 per year, increasing the dollar amount by 15 percent of the individual grants, and expanding the number of times disabled veterans can use a housing grant. These changes will help certain severely disabled veterans purchase adaptive homes

or upgrade existing homes to meet their specific needs for daily living activities.

### When Disaster Strikes, Be Prepared with TRICARE

If a sudden disaster struck, would you be prepared? Would you know how to access your TRICARE benefit or prescriptions? These are important questions to ask yourself during peak wildfire and hurricane season. Here are ways to keep you and your family safe during a disaster emergency.

To learn more, read the article.



### The VA Begins to Bring Back Volunteers

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has recently announced that it will slowly and safely reinstate volunteers into its health care facilities. Most volunteer activities have been paused to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Some of the volunteer activity may be modified or done virtually. Each VA facility will tailor the restoration of volunteers based on the facilities' operational needs and the volunteers' abilities. For more information on VA voluntary service go online.

#### **Peace**

Peace is not some abstract concept.

Peace is a personal action, something that we make, we do, we are and that we give away.

Richard G. Shuster



The IRS has extended its deadline to September 30, 2020, for people to provide information to the IRS using its Non-Filer Tool at

www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-infohere. People should do this if they:

- receive Social Security retirement, survivors, or disability benefits, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments;
- did not file a 2019 or 2018 tax return;
- have a qualifying child under age 17; and
- did not already enter information in the IRS' Non-Filer
   Tool for themselves and at least one child.

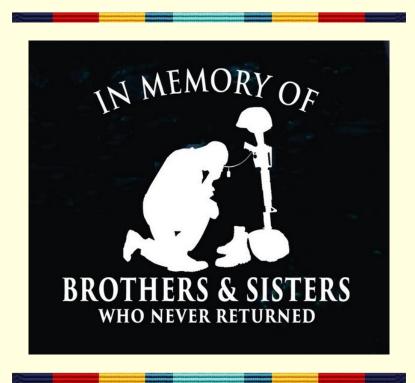
For more information, please visit https://www.ssa.gov/news/press/releases/.

## TRICARE Dental Program Newsletter - Issue 3, 2020

Do you want to learn more about how the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) is responding to COVID-19? How about a few helpful tips to keep your gums and teeth healthy? If so, you can find that in this newsletter. Some of the articles you can read include:

- New Safety Procedures at Your Next Appointment
- Ask a Dentist
- Changes to Your TDP Annual Maximum
- Looking for a Pediatric Dentist? Use the Find a Dentist Tool

You can download the latest TDP newsletter at www.tricare.mil/publications.



### Join Aug. 27 TRICARE For Life Webinar

In case you weren't able to join our Aug. 20 webinar on TRICARE For Life (TFL), there's a second presentation next week. Join the "What is TRICARE For Life?" webinar on Aug. 27, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET to get your TFL questions answered. The webinar will discuss TFL eligibility, how TFL and Medicare work together, TFL costs, and much more.

Register for the webinar.

To learn more, read the article.

### DoD program assists wounded warrior with FBI internship

In early 2017, Air Force Staff Sgt. Amy Arenas, as a geospatial intelligence analyst, was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis. "For one year I was put on several medications to include a constant medical steroid to..."

#### **Read More**



# From shoulder pads to shoulder boards, Navy officer leads the way

For Navy Lt. Mark Fisher, wearing a uniform as an immovable force against a determined foe was just part of growing up. The former Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raider ...

#### **Read More**

### DHA proves power of collaboration in medical IT war games

The Defense Health Agency was a lead player in medical information technology scenarios during the 2020 Coalition Warrior Interoperability Exercise. CWIX involved ...

#### **Read More**

## The Crisis of COVID-19 for Military Caregivers

Former Sen. Elizabeth Dole is founder and chair of the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. Linda Hope is chair and CEO of the Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation.

Mary Hahn Ward, a veteran caregiver, recently shared her story about life during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mary cares for her husband Tom, a Marine Corps veteran who suffers from service-connected Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, more commonly known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease.

Mary revealed one of her greatest concerns: "What happens to my husband if I or my daughter Kate contract the virus and need to be quarantined?" Tom

relies on Mary and Kate for his most basic activities of daily living, and their worries are real and alarming.

Even before this pandemic, most of America's 5.5 million military and veteran caregivers -- the spouses, mothers, dads and other loved ones caring for our wounded warriors at home -- lacked a meaningful support network. They are homebound by their around-the-clock caregiving responsibilities and rarely have backup support to care for their loved one. Feelings of extreme loneliness contribute to elevated rates of anxiety, depression and physical ailments. Their limited ability to leave the house also interferes with employment, complicates seemingly simple tasks like buying groceries and medications, and strains their social relationships.

This is the life of these hidden heroes in the best of times. Now, the novel coronavirus pandemic has struck our country hard and turned their already chaotic worlds upside down.

During this crisis, the limited in-person assistance that some caregivers depend upon is gone. Supplementing that support with paid health care professionals comes at a significant financial cost, not to mention the terrifying risk of bringing the virus into the home. As a result, performing at-home medical procedures, moving immobile veterans to avoid bed sores, managing IV

lines, and coaching loved ones through episodes of post-traumatic stress are left to the caregivers -- untrained, unpaid family members and friends.

Caring for someone has never been this hard, and it has never been this important. Even as states begin the first phases of reopening, the vulnerable health of many veterans will force their caregivers to continue to follow strict social distancing guidelines. That is why it is still vital that every American take action to help our hidden heroes pull through. This pandemic will be affecting their lives for months to come.

One of the simplest, yet most important ways to help is to keep in touch with caregivers. In an Elizabeth Dole Foundation COVID-19 survey, caregivers reported that social support and a sense of community were among their greatest concerns during the pandemic.

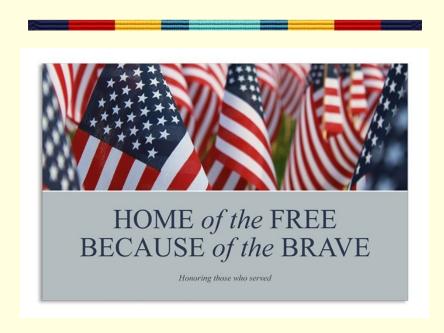
We cannot let our caregivers lose their sense of connection. If you know a caregiver, please find time each day to reach out -- text, call, or email. Drop off a home cooked meal or groceries. Deliver a small gift that lets them know that you are thinking about them. When you reach out, ask how they are doing and what they need. Caregivers are often asked about their veteran's health, but rarely about their own.

Every American can also help protect caregivers and

their veterans by following the social distancing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local authorities. Many veterans have compromised immune systems and elevated chances of contracting infections due to amputations, wounds and service-connected illnesses. Factors like Agent Orange and burn pits have left veterans with weakened respiratory systems. As of today, nearly 17,500 patients in the VA health system have been positively diagnosed with COVID-19, and the number continues to rise. Caregivers are the last line of defense between the virus and our nation's veterans. We all have a responsibility to keep this vital community safe, well and strong.

Perhaps one of the quickest ways to support caregivers at this time is to share the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's COVID-19 response website, which provides free information, resources and support to caregivers. The foundation also continues to team with generous partners, like the Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation, to fund work that directly responds to the most urgent needs of caregivers. As Bob Hope demonstrated for nearly 70 years, Americans should always do what is necessary, no matter the cost, to stay connected to those who serve our nation and assure them that we are in this together.

Military and veteran caregivers are among the brave heroes putting themselves in harm's way on behalf of others during this pandemic. They should not have to face this risk alone. We invite all Americans to join us in recognizing and supporting those who stand between this pandemic and the men and women who sacrificed so much for our nation.



### **Emergency Prescription Procedures in California**

Due to wildfires, emergency prescription procedures are in place until August 31 in the state of California. For more information, visit the tricare.mil disaster alerts page.

### Meeting Your Changing Needs: TRICARE Premium-Based Plans

If you're eligible for TRICARE, your health plan options may include premium-based plans. Plan availability depends on who you are and where you live. Take the time to learn which plans you may qualify for, so you can make the best decisions for yourself and your family.

To learn more, read the article.

# Tax & Credit Information \$

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2. Taxpayers

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right to confidentiality 9. Working Virtually: make a plan for protecting data and reporting theft; part 5 of Security **Summit** tips for tax professionals 10. 13.9 million **Americans** to receive **IRS** tax refund interest; **Taxable** 

payments to average \$18 11. Now available: **IRS** Form 1040-X electronic filing Major **IRS** milestone helps taxpayers correct tax returns with fewer errors, speeds processing 12. Last round of **ITINs** will expire in 2020;

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IRS
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    refund
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13. Tax
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    receive
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    Economic
    Impact
    Payments
15. Church
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Waivers
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### Air Force invention kills toxins on contact

An Air Force invention could be key to reducing the amount of airborne microbes - like viruses, bacteria and mold spores - inside buildings and homes. In ...

#### **Read More**

# DoD official discusses conditions-based reopenings, future of telework

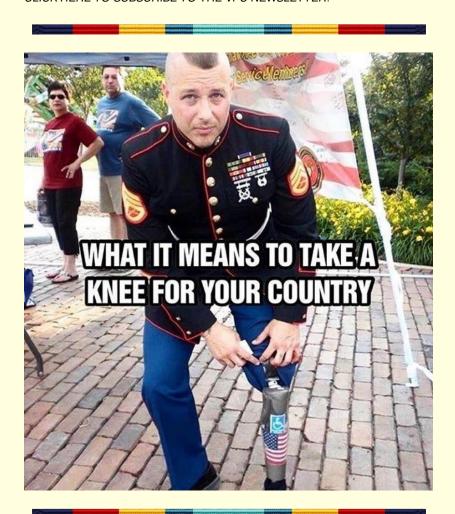
Conditions-based reopenings have worked well for the Defense Department to date, and the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness anticipates ...

#### **Read More**

If you received this newsletter as a courtesy or a forward from a friend or relative, you can sign up to receive in your E-mail every week.



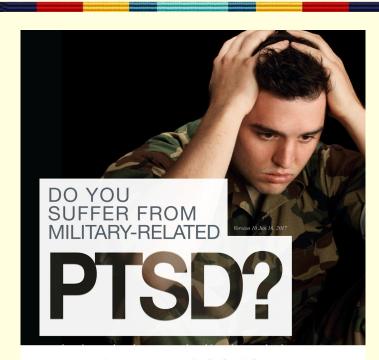
CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE VFC NEWSLETTER!



Do You Know Your VA Education Benefits?

Learn more about the education benefits you have earned, such as the GI Bill, in a three-part series to help guide Veterans, Service Members, and their families through the education pathways available and finding the right program for you.

#### **Learn More**



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

#### Most Popular Veteran Monument in Your State

State representatives share the most popular Veteran monuments in their states.

### "Postvention": Support After Suicide Loss

VA is committed to the prevention of suicide. It is also offers "postvention" with a community of shared healing and supportive services and resources for those affected by suicide loss.

These resources support anyone who has been touched by suicide loss, regardless of their military, Veteran, or military family status.

#### Learn More



#### **VA Virtual Career Fairs: What to Expect**

VA's virtual career fairs connect Veterans and their families with employers via text, web chat, video conferencing, or email.

Find out what career events are coming up, how to register, and what to expect at a VA virtual career fair.

#### **Learn More**

### Support for Veterans Facing Homelessness

Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness is a growing issue, and goes beyond housing with impacts to physical and mental health.

VA has a new guidebook offering information on VA resources, programs, and services to help with housing and improving mental well-being.

Learn More

#### **Who Were Our Immigrant Ancestors?**

In our family ancestry in America, beginning with 1638 and since, from public records, all our ancestors came in the legal way, from Germany, Normandy, and all over the British Isles; England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales. They came, they worked, they built, they protected and they cared for their families and became Americans. Some spoke German, others Gaelic, some

English and other dialects, too, but all adopted English as their language for it was the language of America. They paid their taxes and contributed to their communities, their churches and those in need. They shared their children as soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen and fiercely supported and defended their country, America.

Richard G. Shuster



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

Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Charles G. McMackin, 26, was assigned to the 68th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 44th Bombardment Group (Heavy), 8th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which McMackin was serving as a bombadier crashed as a result of enemy anti-aircraft fire during Operation TIDAL WAVE, the largest bombing mission against the oil fields and refineries at Ploiesti, north of Bucharest, Romania. Interment services are pending. Read about McMackin.

**Army Sgt. John E. Hurlburt**, 26, was a member of the 105th Infantry Regiment, 27th Infantry Division. He was killed July 7, 1944, during a massive Japanese attack against the 105th on the island of Saipan. Interment services are pending. Read about Hurlburt.



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## 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:

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