

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

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, February 28, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 09



This-N-That

Good evening Jim,

This week, seems we're back on track to getting more and more information and news regarding Veterans and Active-Duty Military. And three more pieces of legislation have been added to the TAKE ACTION section of the newsletter.

I won't say things are getting better, seems like Congress is more interested in stripping Americans of our Constitutional Rights that all of you have served, fought and many have died to protect.

I also don't know if things are looking better yet within the VA Healthcare System as our new VA Secretary is just barely getting his feet wet and has attended several VA events and hints of promises being made to resolve a few issues.

Right now, it's only something we can hope for until we can see the proof in the pudding.

One of the things that Congress is doing or has done, I've not found out yet, is the new "COVID Relief" bill **cuts Medicare by \$36 BILLION** dollars, yet provides **Government Employees \$1,400.00 PER WEEK** and no where in the 300+ pages of the bill does it mention any **special relief for Veterans**, so if you're lucky you might see \$600.00 or you might see \$1,400.00 in total, not per week, not per month, in TOTAL.

We'd like to continue to remind everyone to please continue to practice safe practices like masks when out, keeping safe social distancing, steer clear of anyone sneezing or coughing to help protect yourself and your family.

We continue to gain momentum on MEWE, and

some of our followers that we'd lost when we migrated from Face Book over to MEWE are finding us again, and we're pleased to have them rejoin us. And we encourage all of our readers to join us there, links to all our pages are further down in this newsletter.

If you've not visited our website, www.veterans-forchange.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.

And I'd like to encourage everyone who can to help and support Military-Veterans Advocacy go to www.militaryVeteransadvocacy.org. They helped all our Blue Water Navy Veterans, and are still working on BWN and now many other issues, and I offer a hat off to them and Commander John Wells!

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

Respectfully, Jim Davis Founder

# Marines, Sailors with PHIBRON 11, 31st MEU receive COVID-19 vaccine

In a critical move for readiness, resiliency and safety, ships of Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 11 received their first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine last weekend in Okinawa, Japan.

**Read More** 

## GLWACH prepares for new electronic health record – MHS Genesis

General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital is finishing preparations in anticipation of a switch to a new, modern electronic health record system.

**Read More** 

Proper diet, sleep, exercise, and joy key to heart health

A healthy heart is essential, particularly to service members facing high-stress jobs throughout their careers.

**Read More** 



# WRNMMC nurses recognized for work with Virtual Cardiac Rehab

This week the medical community celebrates those who work in the field of cardiac health.

**Read More** 

## Top African American leaders in MHS share similar thoughts on

#### service

They are from different places geographically and followed different paths to get to where they are, but Army Lt. Gen. R. Scott Dingle and Army Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Gragg find themselves among the top leadership in the Military Health System.

**Read More** 

# Eating disorders hinder optimal health and TFF nutrition concept

"Making weight," the informal term for the twiceyearly military assessments of body mass index and other markers of physical fitness, can spur stress that leads to disordered eating patterns including severe calorie restrictions, bingeing and purging, and excessively exercising.

**Read More** 

Links to Other Stories

1. Hospice

	Administrator
	Sentenced
	for
	Role
	in
	Hospice
	Fraud
	Scheme
2.	WWII
	Navy
	Veteran
	finds
	home,
	thanks
	to
	Buffalo
	VA
	and
	HUD-
	VASH
3.	Air
	Force
	Veteran
	Karla:
	Why
	get
	my
	health
	care
	at
	VA
4.	VA

	Gulf	
	Coast	
	vaccinates	
	10,000th	
	Veteran	
5.	Adaptive	
	Sports	
	keep	
	Veterans	
	active	
	during	
	the	
	pandemic	
6.	Coast	
	Guard	
	Veteran-	
	VA	
	employee	
	always	
	ready	
	to	
	deploy	
7.	VA's	
	Whole	
	Health	
	proves	
	life	
	changing	
	for	
	Navy	
	Veteran	
8.	Veterans	
	to	

9.	see continued debt relief options during pandemic From living in a tent to securing stable housing: Veteran thrives with VA
	assistance Specially Adapted Housing changes help seriously disabled Veterans Amazon donation helps connect

1,000+ homeless Veterans 12. Emergency medicine physicians: VA needs your help 13. Listening to Veterans' experiences improves **VBA** appeals processes

#### DHA's TBI-focused Caregiver and Family Member Study continues at TBICoE

For the family members of some service members or veterans with traumatic brain injuries (TBI), caregiving is a 24/7 job.

**Read More** 

## Good oral care requires lifetime commitment

"The Primary Care Dentistry department has remained open for business during the COVID-19 pandemic, serving the urgent and emergent dental treatment needs of all DoD beneficiaries during normal business hours while prioritizing our inperson scheduled appointments on the readinessrelated needs of the active duty population assigned to Naval Support Activity Bethesda and throughout the National Capital Region Market," stated Navy Capt. (Dr.) Rasha Welch, director of Dental Services at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

**Read More** 

#### Veterans-For-Change Web Site

The Veterans-For-Change website has been around since 2009. The looks pretty much stay the same for now, but in the background our new webmaster has been working on a whole new look and feel, a facelift so-to-speak. And we're sincerely hoping to roll out the new website sometime this coming June.

Constant improvement and change are 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 **2,014** hits per day, and downloads average **2,618** per day with a total **7,137,279** visitors as of Friday evening.

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 us a notification to approve your account. Once received, and we approve, the system will send you an E-Mail letting you know your account has been approved. Be sure to check your junk and spam folders just in case you don't receive it in your In-Box.

#### www.Veterans-for-change.org

 Documents Library with over 20,135 documents in 233+ Libraries, added 31 new documents on-line (Updated: 02/23/21)

• 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: 10,258)
- Polls

• Web Links, more than **7,942**, Added 47 New Links (Updated: 02/03/21)

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

#### Order of Military Medical Merit presented to USU medical student

Army 2nd Lt. Alex Villahermosa recently became the first Uniformed Services University medical student to ever receive the Order of the Military Medical Merit, or O2M3, presented by the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) for significant contributions to the regiment.

#### **Read More**

#### DHA Launches Pilot to Tackle Mental Health Effects of Sexual Trauma

Sexual trauma can happen to anyone, and it can have long-term effects on your mental health. But it isn't something you have to deal with alone. If you're an active duty service member (ADSM) who has experienced sexual trauma at any time, you may be eligible to participate in the Sexual Trauma Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) Pilot.

To learn more, read the article.

# Army hospital powers through record-breaking winter storms

Brooke Army Medical Center immediately launched into action to ensure continuity of patient care despite the impending storms.

**Read More** 



Jim, below are links to all currently active prewritten E-Mails to many pieces of legislation. We ask that you go to each one, and send the prewritten 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 02/26/21**)

- 1. Oppose TRICARE fee Increases
- 2. Veterans Economic Recovery Act Introduced
- S. 134/H.R. 637, the Veterans

	Economic
	Recovery
	Act
	of 2021
4	
4.	Please
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	Retired
	Pay
	Restoration
	Act
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	to
	Raise
	TRICARE
	Fees
6.	Concurrent
	Receipt
	Legislation
7	Introduced
1.	Military
	Retiree
	Survivor Comfort
	Act

8. H.R.
333,
Disabled
Veterans
Tax
Termination
Act

# How do you mend a broken heart? It usually fixes itself

After Americans recently celebrated a COVID-19 version of Valentine's Day, with its accompanying isolation, video dating, and physical distancing, it's no wonder that the subject and the science of Broken Heart Syndrome is receiving renewed attention.

**Read 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

# VCE examines low vision with detection and care

There are many types of low vision, ranging from small to life-changing issues," explained Dr. David Eliason, associate chief of the Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs' Vision Center of Excellence.

**Read More** 

#### VFW Virtual March Legislative Conference

Beginning March 1, the VFW will hold our annual

March Legislative Conference. Our National Legislative Committee members will lead their department delegations along with the VFW-SVA Fellows to present the VFW's legislative priorities to members of Congress and their staffers. Although the format will be virtual this year, rest assured that the VFW will still make sure that veterans' voices are heard by our legislators on Capitol Hill. The conference will kick off with a briefing on Monday, March 1 at 1:00 p.m. EST that VFW members can login and watch live.

Monday, House Veterans' Affairs Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee Chairwoman Elaine Luria hosted a virtual event on compensation and pension (C&P) exam delays. VA halted C&P exams in April 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and although exams have become available again, veterans report significant delays with the entire disability claims process. "These delays are adding to the ever-growing backlog of disability claims, unnecessarily prolonging veterans from receiving their benefits," said VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Kristina Keenan. Learn more.

## Call for abstracts open for Military Health System Research Symposium

Calling all military medical care providers and researchers.

MHSRS is just around the corner!

**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."

#### **Don't Face Challenges Alone**

No matter how you served or what you've experienced in military or civilian life, you may be facing challenges that affect your health, relationships, and life. You don't have to face them alone. VA is here to support you.

#### **Read More**

#### **Major Richard Star Act**

This week, Sens. Jon Tester (D-MT), Mike Crapo (R-ID), and Jerry Moran (R-KS) introduced the VFW-supported Major Richard Star Act. Rep.Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) along with 58 bipartisan original cosponsors have introduced the House companion bill. The bill would eliminate the unjust offset for Chapter 61 military retirees who suffered injuries in combat. The bill is named in honor of Maj. Richard Star who lost his battle with cancer on February 13, 2021. Maj. Star was a father, husband, and decorated war veteran who was medically retired as a result of his combat-related injuries.

#### **Office of Inspector General**

1. Low-Income Workers: Millions of Full-Time Workers in the

**Private** Sector Rely on **Federal** Health Care and Food Assistance Programs 2. Southwest Border Security: **Actions** Are Needed to **Address** the Cost and **Readiness** Implications of Continued DOD Support to U.S. **Customs** and Border

Protection 3. Service Acquisitions: DOD's Report to Congress **Identifies** Steps Taken to Improve Management, But Does Not **Address** Some Key Planning **Issues** 

#### **Black Veterans Find Support**

Building a support group around a shared history or cultural identity can create an atmosphere with understanding and honesty at its core. For this group of Seattle-based Black Veterans, it also brings fellowship and camaraderie.

#### **VA Mental Health Apps Can Help**

The road to recovery can start with you. These apps provide direct support to both you and the people in your support system.

Explore VA Apps



CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER !

#### **Treating Anxiety**

Anxiety can spur you to confront sources of stress in your life. But when persistent worries start affecting your activities, work, sleep, or relationships, it might be time to do something about it.

Take the Next Step

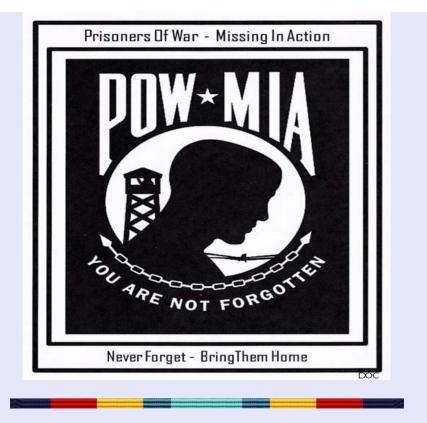
## VA Secretary Participates in Caregiver Event

Last Wednesday, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation held a virtual fireside chat with Secretary of VA, Denis McDonough where he introduced the new Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Families, Caregivers, and Survivors, Meg Kabat. The conversation highlighted the VA's priorities and vision to provide support, services, and resources to veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. Watch the video.

## Trained military personnel ready to help with COVID-19 vaccinations

The United States military stands ready to contribute its large-scale logistical and medical capabilities to support the government's COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

**Read More** 



#### A New Year Can Be a New Start.

Whether you are still transitioning from the military or you served decades ago, the new year marks a time for thinking about fresh goals and healthy changes.

Read What's New

#### **COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A Session**

On March 3, 2021, RallyPoint will host a Veteran Experience Live question and answer session with VA, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Health and Human Services experts regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. Questions can be submitted before or during the session and will be answered live between 3-4 p.m. EST. Learn more.



1. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: **FDA** Allows More **Flexible** Storage, Transportation Conditions for Pfizer-**BioNTech** COVID-19 Vaccine

2. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: **FDA Authorizes** Monoclonal **Antibodies** for **Treatment** of COVID-19 (02/09/21)3. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: **FDA Issues Policies** to Guide **Medical Product Developers** Addressing Virus Variants 4. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update:

**FDA Issues Policies** to Guide **Medical Product Developers** Addressing Virus **Variants** 5. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: February 26, 2021 6. COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions 7. FDA **Advises Parents** and Caregivers to Not Make or Feed

Homemade Infant Formula to Infants 8. FDA **Approves First** Treatment for Molybdenum Cofactor Deficiency Type Α 9. FDA **Approves Targeted** Treatment for Rare Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy **Mutation** 10. FDA **Authorizes** Marketing of Novel **Device** to Help

Protect Athletes' Brains During Head	
Impacts 11. FDA Drug Shortages	
12. Hillrom Recalls Liko Multirall 200 Overhead Lift Due to Failure to Failure to Properly Attach Q- Link	
Strap Lock (Also Known as Q- Link 1 Strap	

Lock) to **S65** Hook 13. Information about Nitrosamine **Impurities** in **Medications** 14. Market District Voluntarily Recalls Gourmet Chocolate Covered **Pretzels** Due to Undeclared Pecan Allergen 15. Medtronic Announces Voluntary Recall of Unused Valiant **Navion**<sup>™</sup> Thoracic Stent

Graft **System** 16. Outbreak Investigation of Listeria monocytogenes Hispanicstyle Fresh and Soft Cheeses (February 26, 2021) 17. Urban Remedy Voluntarily **Recalls Beverages** with Undeclared Almond & Cashew Allergens

#### Support for Student Veterans and

#### Faculty

VA offers a range of mental health and supportive services on and off campus for student Veterans. Explore our updated webpage for student Veterans and faculty.

**Read More** 

#### **DPAA Releases New Video Series**

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced the release of the first videos in a series covering World War II battles and operations. These first videos highlight and give historical perspective on DPAA's Hürtgen Forest Project, Enoura Maru Project, and World War II European-Mediterranean Disinterments. Watch the videos.

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!

## Find a New Path

Stephen didn't immediately recognize the toll that his military experiences took on his mental health. But once he returned from deployment, he spent his nights reliving the trauma of combat. He finally went to a VA facility and found a new path forward.

**Read More** 

## New to TDP? Get to Know Your TRICARE Dental Program Benefits

Anytime is the perfect time to emphasize the importance of good oral health with your child. And part of this involves making sure they have dental coverage. That's where the TRICARE Dental Program can help.

To learn more, read the article.

#### DOD participates in new COVID-19 antibody combination prevention trial

While the Military Health System continues to support the development and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to counter the ongoing public health threat of the disease, it's investing in other efforts to counter the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

**Read More** 



#### Safe Storage for Lethal Means

For a Veteran facing hard times, your support can provide hope when it's needed most — and you already have what it takes to show you care. Take a few minutes to check in today.

#### **Read More**

### TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) Health Matters Newsletter, Issue 1 2021

How much do you know about your TRICARE benefit? In this issue, you can learn how to find a provider, get care, and take command of your health. Here are some of the articles you can read in the latest issue of the TOP Health Matters Newsletter:

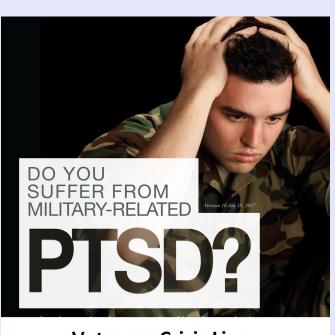
 TRICARE Coverage of Breast Pumps and Supplies

- Cost Terms You Should Know
- Remember to Schedule Your Annual Exams
- Online Enrollment for Overseas Plans Now
   Available

# Drawing blood, saving life: Techs support medical readiness

The Armed Services Blood Program is the military's only blood donor program for service members, their families, retirees, veterans, and local communities worldwide, helping those in critical need.

#### **Read More**



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

#### Coast Guard Retirees Now Can Pay TRICARE Enrollment Fees by Allotment

Group A retirees now pay enrollment fees to maintain their TRICARE Select or TRICARE Overseas Program Select coverage. If you're a U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) retiree, you can now pay your enrollment fees by allotment. This will allow you to have your enrollment fees deducted automatically from your military retirement pay.

To learn more, read the article.

# For VA recruiter, "best care anywhere" has whole new meaning

After being an inpatient at a VA COVID unit, VA recruiter Dave Aragon shares his "best care anywhere" perspective on VA health care.

**Read More** 

#### Training for a healthy heart can improve overall health

Having a medically ready force means ensuring each service member is in optimum physical, mental, and spiritual health to perform at their best throughout their high-stress careers.

**Read More** 



# 100-Year-Old Veteran loves VA telehealth

New technologies just for the young? Air Force Veteran Dr. Joseph Belshe,100, has used telehealth technology for almost two years to receive care from VA. Receives his cardiac care using VA Video Connect.

**Read More** 



We know most Veterans have had issues both current and in the past with the Veterans Affairs, and we'd really like to hear from you! So now is your chance to voice your concerns, opinions, problems, compliments, advice, etc., anything you'd like to have heard.

We will be creating another category in the "NEWS" section of the website called "SOUND OFF" and instead of us continually sending this type of information in fax blasts to all 535 members of Congress, we will be adding to the website as we know many members of Congress do watch us, and this makes it a lot easier for us to track the number of people reading the issues.

In addition, it might even open the door for your fellow Veteran's to see they're not alone, and they too might voice their concerns.

Your story can be as long or as short as you'd like to express what you have to say, we can post as anonymous, or if you want we can post your name to the article, just tell us how you would like for us to post your story and we will adhere to your request.

We only ask that you keep it clean from foul language, and we will edit only to correct grammar, and if need be to edit out any foul language as that is an almost immediate cut off from Congress to pay attention. Send your story to JIM.DAVIS@VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE.org and we will get it posted as quickly as we can. And if you have a title for your story that would be fantastic, as we will be providing the story title and link to Congress.

## VHA Diffusion of Excellence Base Camp begins spreading life changing programs

From February 9–11, Diffusion Fellows met virtually during the VHA Diffusion of Excellence Base Camp for the first time with Implementing Facility Fellows.

**Read More** 

#### Veteran caregivers fulfill Lincoln's 'borne the battle' charge, says SecVA

Veteran caregivers completely fulfill President Abraham Lincoln's charge to care for those who have borne the battle, VA Secretary Denis McDonough said Feb. 24 at an online forum.

# <section-header>

**Read More** 

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one new identification for a service member who has been missing and unaccountedfor from World War II. Returning home for burial with full military honors is:

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. J.L. Hancock, 21, 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 in November 1943. 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. Interment Services are



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

