



# Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

*A Voice of the Veterans*

Week Ending Sunday, September 12, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 37



## This-N-That

Good evening Jim,

I've not had a really good impression of the VA for a very long time now, and in some areas, I'm still not impressed, however, the VA has come a long way since 2006. Improved programs, New Programs, better accessibility for both men and women Veterans.

If you've read over the past few months about the additions, changes upgrades, then you will see just how far we've come. And this is in no way taking credit from any other organization who too have all worked on many of the same things.

We currently have more than 60 items under the **TAKE ACTION** section of the newsletter and I know how

cumbersome and sometimes time consuming it can be to attack each of them to get the pre-written letters sent out using their system which identifies your individual Rep and Senators for you.

But without your help, none of us are any good at making things happen, and it's **YOU** who helps! So please keep that in mind when you get to that portion of this newsletter.

I've finally been in communication with our webmaster whose invested a lot of time into the new site design.

Sadly, we're a tad bit behind there too as in the testing phase and diagnostic stage a few hiccups came up which he is working on fixing, but I do promise a new look and feel will be rolled out soon.

As many of you know we've been working with Military Veterans Advocacy™ for a very long time now and in this newsletter I've incorporated their newsletter so you can see what is going on all across the board with their agency.

I do recommend if you are able to, to support them as much as possible. Commander Wells spends a lot of time in DC campaigning on your behalf.

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

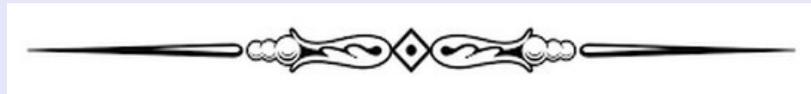
you and your family good health!

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

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



## **VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE**

### **Chairman's Remarks**

One of the most frustrating things I deal with grew out of a conversation with a Veteran who said he was not eligible for benefits he was actually eligible for because the VA said he made too much money. No amount of persuasion, factual citations, or even argument could change his mind. And he was not even sure if this erroneous information came from the VA itself or a VSO. His mind was closed and I gave up on him.

This is illustrative of an attitude that permeates Veterans' benefits. I don't want anyone to put in a bogus claim but don't listen to the first thing someone says. Investigate and fact check. I don't know how many Blue Water Navy folks gave up and stopped fighting. We were able to get them retroactive benefits, but that will not always be the case. File a claim and keep it alive.

The Submarine convention was a huge success as we connected with our underwater brethren. Tom Walden, Rich Elliott and I were welcomed and we established a good rapport with the attendees. MVA™ works closely with the United

States Submarine Veterans, Inc., to verify submarine locations for purposes of the Blue Water Navy Act. We will continue to work closely with them and we appreciate those who decided to join MVA™. Welcome aboard.

We are still building our membership base slowly. Please tell your friends about Military-Veterans Advocacy® and encourage folks to join. Don't forget your spouses and your children can also join. Membership brings us credibility on the Hill and with the VA.

Overseas Veterans are still a concern. The VA is holding a vaccination clinic on the US-Mexican border but this is not enough. Millions of Americans live overseas. Many of them are Veterans and eligible for vaccination under the SAVE Lives Act. The VA has denied our request because they say they are not authorized to do medical procedures outside the United States except for the Philippines. We disagree and are considering some sort of legal action. The answer, as we proposed, is for the VA to enter into a MOA with DOD and State Department to conduct these vaccinations. Stay tuned.

The VA has agreed to look at Phu Quoc island and its eligibility for coverage. We will keep that issue on our radar.

Our Bill of the Week program has been a success in that it is having an effect on Congress. But we need more people to participate. It costs nothing but a couple of minutes of time. Check out our Bills of the Week and express your support at <https://www.militaryVeteransadvocacy.org/bill-of-the-week.html>.

Fall is coming and MVA™ jackets are becoming a hot item. Check out the MVA™ Marketplace for jackets and other

MVA™ gear at <https://military-Veterans-advocacy.square.site/>.

MVA™ elections are coming up. The schedule of events are as follows:

Call for Nominations - Sept 16

Nominations close - Oct 15

Meeting Notice/Agenda/Ballots sent to membership NLT - Oct 22

Email or mail ballot to [Robin.Barr@madvocacy.org](mailto:Robin.Barr@madvocacy.org) to be received by Nov 12

Meeting by Go to Webinar Nov 13

If you want to join the board email

[Robin.Barr@madvocacy.org](mailto:Robin.Barr@madvocacy.org) and copy

[Mike.Kvintus@madvocacy.org](mailto:Mike.Kvintus@madvocacy.org)

We are preparing to file the reply brief on the Guam suit. It is due September 20. We have filed the reply brief on the BWN/Thailand group and awaiting an oral argument date.

We are back on the road to address the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs in Reno Nevada this month.

Early Bird registration for 2022 memberships start 1 October. We will have a surprise for the first 500 people who renew their membership. Can't say what it is but it may involve a certain Princess.

We will be planning another online seminar that includes Continuing Legal Education for attorneys for after the first of the year.

We are still pushing for a meeting with the Secretary of the

Navy and Secretary of Veterans Affairs the week of November 1. Will keep you all up to date.

We appreciate your support. Please continue to help us litigate, legislate and educate on behalf of Veterans.

John B. Wells  
Commander, USN (retired)  
Chairman MVA

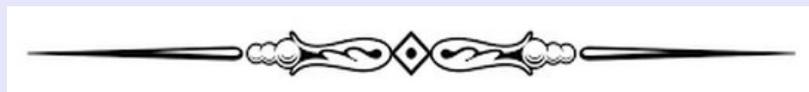


## Military Veterans Advocacy



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)



**Department of Defense Mandates COVID-19  
Vaccinations for Service Members**

On Aug. 24, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III issued a memo directing mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for all uniformed service members. The news from the Department of Defense comes after careful consultation with medical experts on ways to protect the health and readiness of the force during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read More](#)



## **Report links substance use and suicide among Veterans, offers support**

While the public is aware of some key risk factors for suicide among Veterans, they are often unaware of the devastating relationship between substance use and suicide.

[Read More](#)



## **September is Suicide Prevention Month**

On average, twenty Veterans die by suicide each day. To spotlight suicide prevention in September, VA is [providing guidance](#) for Veterans who need support or for anyone to provide support to a Veteran. VA's [Reach Out](#) campaign outlines five things we all can do now: reach out, hear Veteran stories, be prepared, find resources, and spread the word. For any Veteran in crisis, you are not alone. The Veteran Crisis Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by phone (1.800.273.8255, press 1), text (838255), or online chat by visiting [VeteransCrisisLine.net](#).



## **Operation Gratitude 9/11 digital letter writing campaign**

In honor of the 20th Anniversary of 9/11 and National Day of Service, Operation Gratitude welcomes grateful Americans to express their appreciation for the service and sacrifice of first responders, service members, and Veterans through our digital letter writing campaign.

[Read More](#)



## **TREA Supports 3 New Legislative Initiatives**

We are proud to join The [Military Coalition](#) in support of 3 new legislative proposals aimed at assisting veterans, transitioning servicemembers, military spouses, and caregivers.

[H.R. 3321 - The Credit for Caring Act](#) would create a new,

non-refundable federal tax credit of up to \$5,000 that would help eligible working veteran, military, and other caregivers address the financial challenges of caregiving. This credit would provide critical financial relief to a broad population of hidden heroes that may or may not qualify for support for Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense but nevertheless incur personal expenses to provide care and support to those who depend on them. In doing so, these caregivers often help delay or prevent more costly medical care that might otherwise be paid by the U.S. taxpayer.

**H.R. 2974 - The Military Spouse Hiring Act** would create a target group within the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) for employers who hire military spouses and provide a proven economic boost for their communities. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Defense reported a 22% unemployment rate among military spouses, which had remained stagnant since 2012. Employers have expressed concern that hiring and training military spouses who may move within a few years is not cost effective for their companies. We believe expanding WOTC to include a military spouse target group would provide a multi-pronged approach to incentivize employers to tap into a talented pool of potential employees, while also tackling the extreme unemployment rate of military spouses.

**H.R. 3582 - The Veteran Employment Recovery Act** would expand both short-term unemployment and long-term unemployment tax credits under the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) for recently separated servicemembers with a service-connected disability and veterans who have previously received unemployment benefits. We know finding employment during military transition is challenging enough,

and made even more difficult if the veteran has a service-connected disability. The Veteran Employment Recovery Act would temporarily increase the value of the WOTC for recently separated veterans with a disability and veterans who have been unemployed for more than 6 months as our nation's economy recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

We thank Congressmen Pat Fallon, Congressman Antonio Delgado, and Congresswoman Linda Sanchez for introducing these important bills and look forward to working together in order to get them across the finish line.



## **Army Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Gragg, DHA's Senior Enlisted Leader, Shares His Personal COVID-19 Story**

Today, I'm sharing my personal COVID-19 story and the effects of my loss. Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself, your family, your teammates, and your community from severe disease, hospitalization, and death.

[Read More](#)



## **MVP study shows effectiveness of genetic screening tool for breast cancer risk**

Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer for American women. Although mammogram screenings have lowered the number of deaths from breast cancer, better screening methods could help determine risk and help prevent the cancer before it develops, according to the study researchers.

[Read More](#)



## **MESSAGE FROM YOUR MVA CHIEF OF STAFF**

I would like to welcome back Brian Moyer to the Military-Veterans Advocacy® Board of Directors and to the position of Section Chief of Agent Orange Survivors of Guam™. Brian is very dedicated to those that served on Guam and brings his Marine spirit with him. He lives by the motto of "leave no one behind". Welcome back Brian.

We need to keep gaining more members in all sections. Everyone reading this needs to help raise awareness of Military-Veterans Advocacy® so we can become a registered Veterans Service Organization. One way we can raise this awareness is to share the Bill of the Week on other Facebook pages. Let's show them what we are all about. Don't be afraid to invite them to join us so we can provide more help to them.

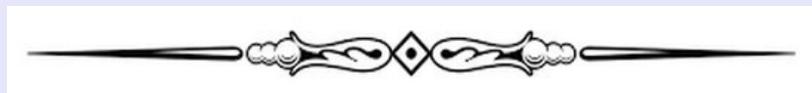
Mike Yates  
MVA™ Chief of Staff



## **Level up! Navigate the General Schedule (GS) system and find a VA career**

If you're a Veteran looking for your first civilian career at VA, you might have seen the term General Schedule (GS) in our job ads. What is it, and what does it mean for you?

[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** .....



**Take Advantage of New Resources Through  
the TRICARE Overseas Program**

Did you know the [TRICARE Overseas Program](#) made changes on Sept. 1 to improve your patient experience? You now have access to a wide range of new resources to help you get the care you need. Here's a closer look at what's changed and how it can help you and your family.



[Read More](#)



## How to make Veterans Day more meaningful for Vietnam Vets

Veterans Day is just over two months away, and any organization who wants a simple, free way to make Veterans Day more meaningful for Vietnam Veterans can become commemorative partners.

[Read More](#)



## BILL OF THE WEEK

Please be sure to participate in our Bill of the Week program. Some of our recent bills of the week are below. Click the links to help get support for these bills.

**HR 3368, HR 5026, HR 2269, and S 657** are all toxic exposure bills. We have had these as previous Bills of the Week but we still need to get more support.

**HR 3368** will provide a presumption of service-connection for Veterans exposed to certain herbicides while serving on Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Island.

**HR 5026** will grant federal benefits to Veterans who served in or near the Panama Canal Zone, all of whom were potentially exposed to deadly tactical herbicides such as Agent Orange.

**HR 2269 and S 657** will modify the presumption of service connection for Veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era.

Please contact your Member of Congress and Senators and help us get support for all 4 of these very important bills

<https://p2a.co/tR3zgxT>

### **RECA Cleanup Veterans**

We have reason to believe RECA (Radiation Exposure Compensation Act) legislation will be introduced mid-September that may not include two groups of Veterans that should be included. The first group is approximately 6000 Veterans that participated in the Enewetak Atoll Radiological Cleanup Project. The second group omitted is the Palomares, Spain Broken Arrow Operation.

In an effort to head off these omissions, we ask your help doing four tasks. First, contact your Member of Congress and Senators by using the pregenerated email to ask for their help with these matters. The next steps are to make three calls using the proposed script below.

Call

Senator Crapo - (202) 224-6142

Senator Lujan - (202) 224-6621

Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez - (202) 225-6190

Script:

Hi my name is xxxxxxx. I'm a (constituent, Veteran, Cleanup Veteran).

I understand the RECA Amendments of 2021 may not include the Enewetak and Palomares, Spain cleanup Veterans. I'm calling to ask they be included in the bill to be introduced mid-September. Inclusion of these Veterans is the moral, just action.

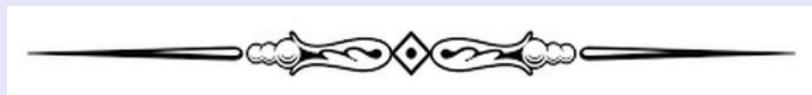
Click <https://p2a.co/rHjPC4c> to get support for RECA and to help make sure it includes all of those affected.



## **#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Roland "Rollie" Fingers**

On the eve of the Baseball Hall of Fame induction, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Rollie Fingers, who was inducted into the hall in 1992.

[Read More](#)



## *Links to Other Stories*

- 1) Country Rewind: Toby Keith Sheds Tears Bringing 93-Year-Old Vet on Stage During Show
- 2) United States Obtains \$140 Million in False Claims Act Judgments Against South Carolina Pain Management Clinics, Drug Testing Laboratories and a Substance Abuse Counseling Center
- 3) Milwaukee Area Community Support Program Facilities Agree to Pay \$390,080 to Resolve False Claims Act Allegations
- 4) Richland Medical Doctor Pleads Guilty to Conspiracy to Distribute Fentanyl, Oxycodone and Other Controlled Substances
- 5) Indiana boys hop off their bikes to pay respects after running into military Veteran's funeral
- 6) Funeral service was held in Batesville, Indiana
- 7) Flags honoring 13 US service members killed in Kabul airport attack vandalized in California
- 8) 102-year-old US Army Veteran receives France's highest honor
- 9) Boots and Spurs Equine Therapy event for military Veterans
- 10) Home Health Agency Operator BAYADA to Pay \$17 Million to Resolve False Claims Act Allegations for Paying Kickback
- 11) Sleep apnea sufferers frustrated over CPAP machine recall
- 12) The complex story of a Marine Vet taking hostages to fix his VA benefits is hitting the big screen



## **How can Disaster Unemployment Assistance help you?**

With Hurricane season fast approaching, it is important to know what resources are available if a disaster were to strike. If major damage is sustained in a state, the President may declare it a major disaster zone, which allows states to access special funding from the federal government.

[Read More](#)



## **Live Whole Health #87: Sun salutations**

Sun salutations are a beautiful way to "salute" the sun and show gratitude for the blessings it offers to our earth.

[Read More](#)



## **LEGISLATIVE NEWS**

Legislative Update from the MVA™ "Hot Bill" List

HR 1448 - PAWS Act became law

HR 3368 - Lonnie Kilpatrick Central Pacific Island Bill 45 co-sponsors

HR 2269 - Herbicide relief Thailand 48 co-sponsors

S657- Herbicide relief Thailand 16 co-sponsors

HR 1585 - Mark Takai Atomic Veterans 126 co-sponsors

S 565 - Mark Takai Atomic Veterans 19 co-sponsors

HR 1014 - HBOT Treatment for TBI 13 co-sponsors

S 2189 - HBOT Treatment for TBI 2 co-sponsors

HR 2127 - TEAM Act 50 co-sponsors

S 927 - TEAM Act 12 co-sponsors

HR 2372 - Warfighter Bill 29 co-sponsors

S 952 - Warfighter Bill 3 co-sponsors

Rep Walz HR 852 - US/Israel PTS Coordination 64 co-sponsors

Sen Moran S 221 - US/Israel PTS Coordination 5 co-sponsors

HR 855 - TSA Pre Check 30 co-sponsors

S 2280 - VETS Safe Travel Act 3 co-sponsors

HR 1355 - K2 Bill 77 co-sponsors

S 454 - K2 Bill 8 co-sponsors

HR 2192 - Camp Lejeune Justice Act 57 co-sponsors

S 1970 - Clean Water for Military Families (PFAS) 15 co-sponsors

H.R.2111 - Michael Lecik Military Firefighters Protection Act (PFAS) 39 co-sponsors

Check out and support these and other bills.

<https://www.militaryVeteransadvocacy.org/bill-of-the-week.html>

Susie Belanger  
MVA™ Director of Legislation



## Report links substance use and suicide among Veterans, offers support

While the public is aware of some key risk factors for suicide among Veterans, they are often unaware of the devastating relationship between substance use and suicide.

[Read More](#)



### 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/](http://warriorcare.dodlive.mil/)

**Military One Source**  
1-800-342-9647

**Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors [TAPS]**  
1-800-959-8277



## **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](#)



## **Battlefield acupuncture an emerging and promising alternative to risky pain medications**

"Pain is extremely prevalent among Veterans and others, and there is a need for novel pain treatment approaches," says VA's Dr. Stephanie Taylor, the article's lead author and the director of VA's Complementary and Integrative Health Evaluation Center. "Not everything works for everybody. You need as many effective tools in the toolbox as you can get."

[Read More](#)



**OVERSEAS VETERANS**

There has been very little progress in our movement to ensure that U.S. Veterans living overseas are afforded an opportunity to receive the Covid 19 vaccine. The VA Out Patient Clinic in the Philippines continues to provide vaccines as per the SAVE Lives Act. The VA has a clinic set up for Sept 15 at the San Ysidro border crossing. Pfizer donated 75,000 doses to Thailand but only 1500 were allocated to Americans. We do not know how many, if any, went to Veterans.

We had asked the VA Secretary to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with DOD and the State Department to administer vaccinations to eligible persons under the Save Lives Act. Last week the Secretary responded stating that he is not allowed to vaccinate overseas except in the Philippines. This was not the basis of our request.

MVA™ is reviewing our options.



## **MVP study shows effectiveness of genetic screening tool for breast cancer risk**

Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer for American women. Although mammogram screenings have lowered the number of deaths from breast cancer, better screening methods could help determine risk and help prevent the cancer before it develops, according to the study researchers.

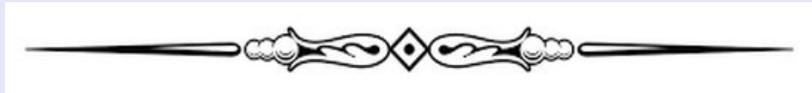
[Read More](#)



## **As Fitness Tests Resume, Troops Seek Post-COVID-19 Exercise Routines**

Last year, as the global pandemic forced abrupt lifestyle changes across the country, many service members saw their exercise routines disrupted and their everyday physical activities reduced.

[Read More](#)



## **Afghanistan response: How you can help**

Would you like to support the resettlement of our Afghan allies and other vulnerable Afghan national refugees? Here is how you can help with the Afghanistan response.

[Read More](#)



## **NDAA and Concurrent Receipt**

The House and Senate sponsors of the "Major Richard Star Act" (H.R.1282, S.344), Rep. Gus Bilirakis (Fla.) and Sen. Jon Tester (Mont.) respectively, will file floor amendments to their chambers version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) with provisions to the legislation included. This legislation would expand concurrent receipt to include Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) beneficiaries who are medically retired with less than 20 years of service.

Eliminating these unjust and arbitrary offsets to benefits should be a top priority for Congress. Retired pay is for vested years of service paid by the Department of Defense, while disability compensation is for a lifelong injury paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Reducing retirement pay due to a disability is an injustice!



## **How to make Veterans Day more meaningful for Vietnam Vets**

Veterans Day is just over two months away, and any organization who wants a simple, free way to make Veterans Day more meaningful for Vietnam Veterans can become commemorative partners.

[Read 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 09/13/21)

Please note, we've added 2 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
60. HR 5026, The Panama Canal Zone Veterans Act of 2021
61. HR 3368, HR 5026, HR 2269, S 657 are all Toxic Exposure Bills that need special attention and more pressure to get passed!
62. H.R. 4627, Veterans' Culturally Competent Care Act of 2021
63. S. 2172, Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness
64. H.R. 4571, the SERVICE Act of 2021
65. S. 796, Protecting Moms Who Served Act



**For Colon Cancer Patients, Military Health System Shows Better Results**

Colon cancer patients in the Military Health System had significantly higher survival rates compared to patients in the general population, according to a study the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) in Bethesda, Maryland conducted.

[Read More](#)



## **#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Leonard Nimoy**

On the 55th anniversary of the premiere of Star Trek, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Leonard Nimoy, who played Mr. Spock in the series.

[Read More](#)



**BLUE WATER NAVY ASSOCIATION™**

I have had to slow down on working on the deck logs this month. Not for reasons of my health or because I have been lazy. To be honest, a problem came up with a member's claim and they refuse to look at the document we provided to him. There is more to it that I am willing to say at this time but John and I are working on it.

I have slowly started to get back to sending Deck Logs out but, I need to do it slowly until we change procedures.

I am asking each member of the Blue Water Navy™ section to please fill out the form for the Bill of the Week each time we send it out. In just about every bill it affects those that served in the blue water navy in one way or another. Many ships docked in Guam, Okinawa, other Southeast Asia ports, or went through the Panama Canal. We should help support these sections.

Mike Yates

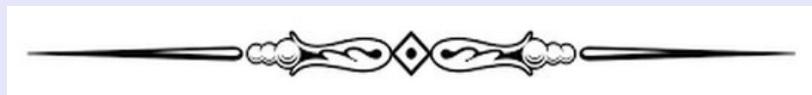
Director, Blue Water Navy Association™



## **Live Whole Health #87: Sun salutations**

Sun salutations are a beautiful way to "salute" the sun and show gratitude for the blessings it offers to our earth.

[Read More](#)



## 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



## For Colon Cancer Patients, Military Health System Shows Better Results

Colon cancer patients in the Military Health System had significantly higher survival rates compared to patients in the general population, according to a study the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) in Bethesda, Maryland conducted.

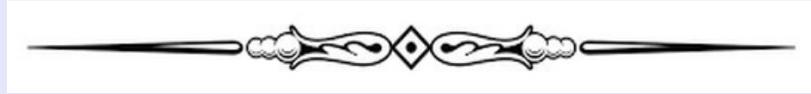
[Read More](#)



## VA works to complete compensation & pension exams postponed due to the pandemic

VA encourages Veterans who had to put their compensation & pension exams on hold due to the pandemic to come in for appointments.

[Read More](#)



## **AGENT ORANGE SURVIVORS OF GUAM™**

Hafa Adai! Comrades! Brothers & Sisters!

Thank you for the "Welcome Back" but before we go any further let's take a moment to remember Gary Noy-Garvin who suddenly passed away and the efforts and commitment he put forth fighting for Guam's Veterans while he was so ill from Agent Orange related illnesses. Let us also vow to help our fellow Veterans through our knowledge about Guam and what has happened to all of us.

Currently George Coolbaugh and our Communications Section are hammering the House and Senate with emails. We have picked up three more cosponsors for HR 3368 which gives us a total of 48 cosponsors as of this time. As for the Senate, we are raising the "awareness level" on an informational level about Guam, American Samoa and Johnston Atoll.

We always need more volunteers to join the Communications Team. Let us know if you wish to send emails, make phone calls, or both. Also please utilize the "Bill of the Week" program that MVA™ Chief of Staff Mike Yates is posting on social media. It is a very easy to use tool and only takes seconds to complete. Also, get on HVAC's back about giving us a

Legislative Hearing for HR 3368 and getting our bill "marked up" for a vote on the House floor.

You can contact HVAC through their link we periodically post for you to use. Also reach out to your local media outlets and tell them your story and trials and tribulations that you and your family are experiencing. Only you can tell "your story" about Agent Orange and Guam. Let's "Fight the Good Fight & Make It Count"

Si Yu os' ma'ase!

Brian Moyer

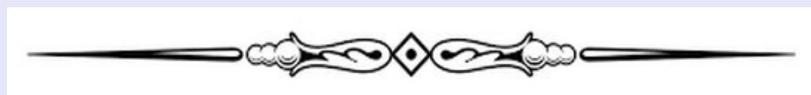
Agent Orange Survivors of Guam™ - Founder  
Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc. ®



## **Battlefield acupuncture an emerging and promising alternative to risky pain medications**

"Pain is extremely prevalent among Veterans and others, and there is a need for novel pain treatment approaches," says VA's Dr. Stephanie Taylor, the article's lead author and the director of VA's Complementary and Integrative Health Evaluation Center. "Not everything works for everybody. You need as many effective tools in the toolbox as you can get."

[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!**

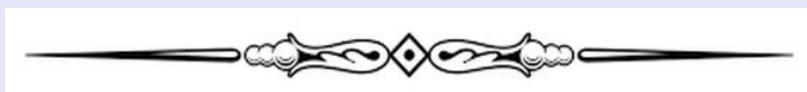
**[www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)**



**Reaching Out for Help – For a Friend or For Yourself**

Command Sgt. Maj. Gragg talks about taking care of yourself, body and mind – and how to reach out for help or to help a friend in need. Addressing your mental health is just as important as taking care of your physical health.

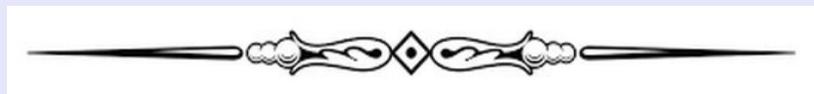
[Read More](#)



**Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) is here for families of the fallen**

TAPS will always provide a safe space and supportive community for all those grieving a military loss— to walk alongside the families of our nation's fallen heroes on each step of their grief journey. Each step of the way, TAPS will always provide comfort, support, and, most importantly, hope.

[Read More](#)



## **VETERANS OF PANAMA CANAL ZONE™**

In the news...Panama Veterans should be busy contacting their representatives and asking that their representatives support H.R. 5026, Panama Canal Zone Veterans Act of 2021. You should each write a personal letter of your own issues and ask for support, as well as log onto our Military Veterans Website Bill of the Week Program. In fact, you should help advance other Veterans bills in our Bill of the Week Program each Tuesday. Bill of the Week Program is located here <https://www.militaryVeteransadvocacy.org/bill-of-the-week.html>

We still have a lot of work to do, it is a process. Now is the time to join the MVA™ and help us to our goal! Too many bills die for lack of support. The time to rise up is now! We need sponsors to get our bill signed by the President and that takes hard work by all of us!

Also in the news...I'm delighted to let you know that the paper on the Panama Canal Zone contamination is now published and trending worldwide. The paper is called the Long-Term Environmental Impacts of Pesticide and Herbicide Use in the Panama Canal Zone, by Kenneth R. Olson and Donna Torno.

I am honored to have been asked to coauthor a paper with such a well-respected researcher. Please see and share this paper widely

[https://www.scirp.org/pdf/ojss\\_2021090616081010.pdf?fbclid=IwAR04-nXUNKE\\_s3UNmDsP\\_xmvhrRJ0SI5GwghBv88sOk5R3PQpZCr2Qm4J7g](https://www.scirp.org/pdf/ojss_2021090616081010.pdf?fbclid=IwAR04-nXUNKE_s3UNmDsP_xmvhrRJ0SI5GwghBv88sOk5R3PQpZCr2Qm4J7g)

Dr. Kenneth Olson has written over 140 peer-reviewed articles on contamination around the world. One of the papers trending online about AO is on par to reach 1 million downloads, and that paper can be seen here:

[https://www.scirp.org/pdf/OJSS\\_2019022115214447.pdf](https://www.scirp.org/pdf/OJSS_2019022115214447.pdf)

Dr. Olson and I hope our Panama CZ paper will get the same results! Dr. Olson has also just gotten a Fulbright Scholarship to give talks in Vietnam on AO and will be including our paper on Panama in his talks. He also wanted to share his papers on Agent Orange manufacturing in Newark, New Jersey Passaic River which is now a dioxin TCDD hotspot, that paper can be seen here:

<https://www.jswconline.org/content/jswc/75/2/33A.full.pdf>

Turns out in my book I talk about using arsenicals in Gatun Lake and Dr. Olson picked up on that and wanted to know more about my research. His paper on Agent Blue can be found here:

[https://www.scirp.org/pdf/ojss\\_2020112716124414.pdf](https://www.scirp.org/pdf/ojss_2020112716124414.pdf)

New members missing... Thank you for your support! Some new members have not found the MVA™ Panama FB members only page. My apologies. I'm having an issue inviting people from within the Panama FB page. To get around this FB issue, I am sending you a personal email. It will come from

donna.tornoe@mvadvocacy.org. Please look in your junk email if you have not gotten an invite from me once you have become a member of the MVA™ Panama section. As well you can go to the “joining area” on my Panama MVA™ members only FB page by going here

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/846787082401500>

Another way to support the MVA™...There are other ways to support us other than membership. We are a Nonprofit, a good place to make donations for tax purposes. And if you shop on Amazon, if you would just put a smile in the URL, you can pick the MVA™ as the place Amazon will donate a small sum. The prices are the same, but Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc.®.

Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3890520> and support us every time you shop.

Talking about shopping...Part of my new responsibilities as Director of Fundraising is finding ways to bring in money so our organization can grow and help more Veterans. I am working with our store manager, Mr. Bob Johnson, to bring new products to our store. So, watch for more items in our store soon from the MVA™ website Marketplace. Our Marketplace items can be seen here <https://military-veterans-advocacy.square.site/>

Some states seem to be masking up again and so we will be offering masks with our MVA™ logo. I've partnered with some woodworkers who are willing to donate to the MVA™ from their proceeds, and hoping to partner with other crafters and businesses that might be willing to do the same. Now that the research is basically done, I can get on to making \$\$ and having fun doing so!

We have a T-shirt sale for MVA™ which will be ending this Friday, September 10th. Thank you to all those who have purchased a shirt in support of our efforts. We hope to have some of these shirts in our Marketplace soon. Also, at the end of the sale Friday, the shirts will be printed and sent out, so look for your shirts within two weeks. Wear them proudly and help us spread the word about the good works of the MVA™!

Lastly...a BIG THANK YOU for your continued support in this journey. Thank you to the members who have recently joined MVA™ to help us to our goal. We need membership to get in front of congress to gain support for all of our bills. Together we can cross the finish line. Please ask all of your contacts to join and support and donate to help our effort. For those on my Members Only Panama FB page, it's best to also keep up with what is going on at MVA™ on our MVA™ website and by reading the Newsletters. As a member of the MVA™, you should also follow the MVA™ FB page here

<https://www.facebook.com/MilVetAdvocacy>

As you can see, there is a lot going on these days and we can't do it without your support!

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Donna Torno

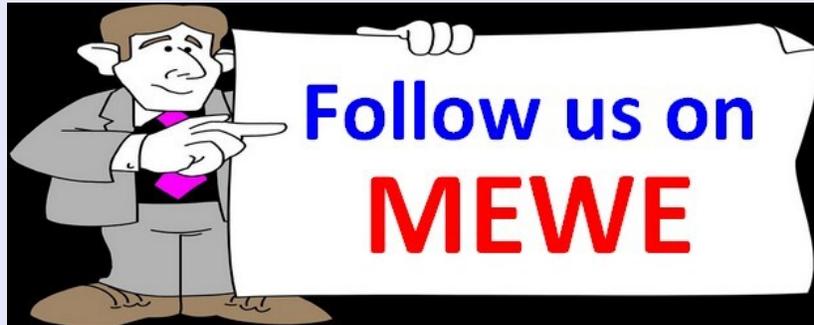
Director, Veterans of Panama Canal Zone™



**Afghanistan response: How you can help**

Would you like to support the resettlement of our Afghan allies and other vulnerable Afghan national refugees? Here is how you can help with the Afghanistan response.

[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](#)



## **Ask the Doc: How Do I Fight the Long Deployment Blues?**

Most of us service members have heard of the downward spiral: that cyclone of cascading bad decisions and bad behavior. Lesser known, however, is the upward spiral, which consists of positive thinking, positive talk, and positive actions.

[Read More](#)



## **VA mental health professionals work to prevent Veteran suicide**

VA mental health professionals walk alongside Veterans on their journey to improve their mental health, prevent Veteran suicide.

[Read More](#)



## **As Fitness Tests Resume, Troops Seek Post-COVID-19 Exercise Routines**

Last year, as the global pandemic forced abrupt lifestyle changes across the country, many service members saw their exercise routines disrupted and their everyday physical activities reduced.

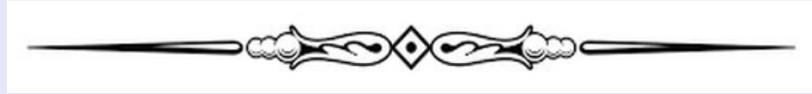
[Read More](#)



**#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Leonard Nimoy**

On the 55th anniversary of the premiere of Star Trek, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Leonard Nimoy, who played Mr. Spock in the series.

[Read More](#)



## Office of Inspector General

- 1) [Exposure Notification: Benefits and Challenges of Smartphone Applications to Augment Contact Tracing](#)
- 2) [Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services: Evaluating COVID-19 Response Could Help CMS Prepare for Future Emergencies](#)
- 3) [Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program: Too Early to Determine Effects of Allowing Recipients to Serve at For-Profit Facilities](#)



## Family, Friends, and Community are Vital

Successful suicide prevention efforts are linked to fostering connectedness – the vital relationships and interpersonal connections that individuals forge with family, friends, and their community. Putting those relationships at risk causes feelings of social isolation and loneliness.

[Read More](#)



## **#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Clayton Jensen**

Today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Clayton Jensen, who served six tours of duty combined in Iraq and Afghanistan.

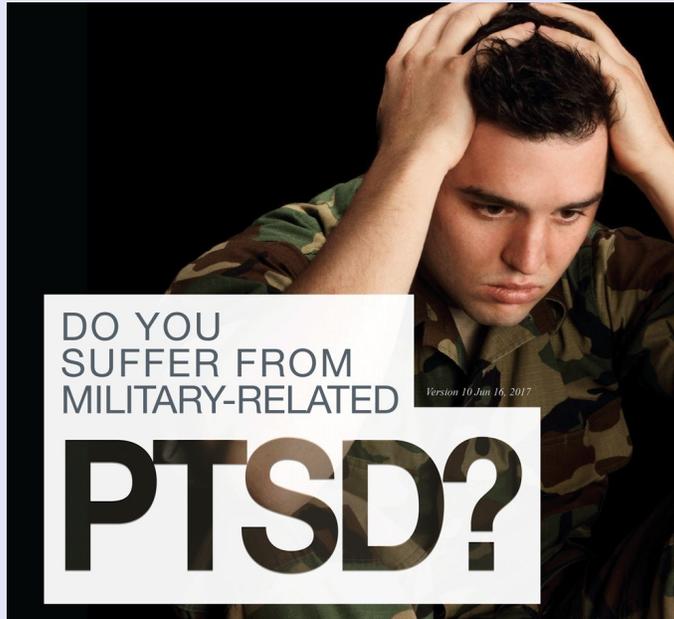
[Read More](#)



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

- 1) Azurity Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of One Lot of Firvanq® (Vancomycin Hydrochloride for Oral Solution), Vancomycin 50 mg/mL Kit, Due to a Mix-Up of the Diluent Included in the Kit
- 2) Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: September 10, 2021
- 3) Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: September 7, 2021
- 4) COVID-19-Related Guidance Documents for Industry, FDA Staff, and Other Stakeholders
- 5) FDA Drug Shortages
- 6) FDA In Brief: FDA Announces Public Workshop to Reconsider Mandatory Prescriber Education for Opioids
- 7) FDA Makes Significant Progress in Science-Based Public Health Application Review, Taking Action on Over 90% of More Than 6.5 Million 'Deemed' New Tobacco Products Submitted
- 8) FDA Will Follow The Science On COVID-19 Vaccines For Young Children
- 9) FDA, FTC Warn 10 Companies Illegally Selling Dietary Supplements Claiming to Treat Diabetes
- 10) ICU Medical Issues a Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Aminosyn II 15%, An Amino Acid Injection, Sulfite Free IV Solution Due to the Presence of Particulate Matter
- 11) Novel Excipient Review Pilot Program





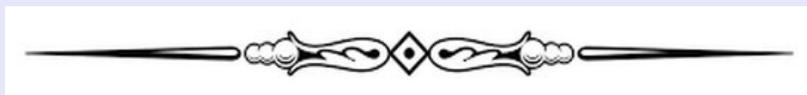
**Veterans Crisis Line:  
1-800-273-8255 & Press 1  
Ntl Call Center for Homeless Vets  
1-877-424-3838**



## **Level up! Navigate the General Schedule (GS) system and find a VA career**

If you're a Veteran looking for your first civilian career at VA, you might have seen the term General Schedule (GS) in our job ads. What is it, and what does it mean for you?

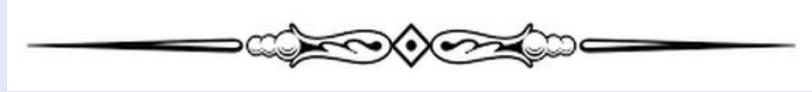
[Read More](#)



**#VeteranOfTheDay 9/11 victims**

On the 20th anniversary of 9/11, today's #VeteranOfTheDay are those who lost their lives during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Flight 93.

[Read More](#)



## **#VeteranOfTheDay Army Veteran Roland "Rollie" Fingers**

On the eve of the Baseball Hall of Fame induction, today's #VeteranOfTheDay is Army Veteran Rollie Fingers, who was inducted into the hall in 1992.

[Read More](#)



## **2022 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship Application Process Now Open**

Applications are now being accepted for the 2022 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship. The program, which is in its eighth year, is for VFW members who attend an accredited institute of higher learning. Select student Veterans will be chosen for the semester-long program that focuses on real policy issues faced by Veterans, service members, and their families. The highlight of the program is participation in the VFW Legislative Conference, which in the past has included meetings at the White House and with senior officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs and members of Congress. Those selected also spend time with their VFW Department leaders on Capitol Hill pushing the VFW's legislative priorities. Alumni of the program have become more active at all levels of the VFW and have been instrumental in changing laws to improve care and benefits for Veterans. [Learn more and apply for the fellowship.](#)



## **Pharmacy Questions? Get the Answers You're Looking for With This TRICARE Resource**



Do you want to learn more about your TRICARE pharmacy benefit? Whether you're new to TRICARE or a longtime beneficiary, you can find lots of helpful information in the TRICARE Pharmacy Program Overview. Download this pharmacy resource today.

[Read More](#)



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced seven burial updates and six new identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II and Korea. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

**Navy Steward's Mate 2nd Class Jesus F. Garcia**, 21, of Agana, Guam, 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 Garcia. He will be buried on Oct. 6, 2021, in San Diego. [Read about Garcia.](#)

**Navy Fireman 1st Class Walter S. Belt, Jr.**, 25, of Cleveland, Kansas, 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 Belt. He will be buried on Oct. 9, 2021, in Ellsworth, Kansas. [Read about Belt.](#)

**Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Ernest N. Vienneau**, 25, of Millinocket, Maine, was a pilot assigned to the 340th Bombardment Squadron, 97th Bombardment Group, 15th Air Force, based out of Amendola, Italy. On Nov. 6, 1944, the B-17 Flying Fortress bomber on which he was serving as co-pilot came under heavy anti-aircraft fire while on a mission over Maribor, Yugoslavia, in present-day Slovenia. During the barrage, a piece of flak penetrated the cockpit and struck Vienneau in the head, mortally wounding him. He will be buried on Oct. 9, 2021, in his hometown. [Read about Vienneau.](#)

**Navy Seaman 2nd Class Arthur R. Thinnes**, 17, of Milwaukee, 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 Thinnes. He will be buried on Oct. 15, 2021, in his hometown. [Read about Thinnes.](#)

**Navy Radioman 3rd Class Charles A. Montgomery**, 21, of Folcroft, Pennsylvania, 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 Montgomery. He will be buried in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Montgomery.](#)

**Army Cpl. Charles E. Hiltibran**, 19, of Cable, Ohio, was a member of Headquarters 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. Hiltibran will be buried in Urbana, Ohio. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Hiltibran.](#)

**Army Pvt. Stephen C. Mason**, 21, of Jersey City, New Jersey was assigned to Headquarters Co., 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. He was reported missing in action during Operation Market Garden after his patrol failed to return from a mission to the enemy lines near Beek, Netherlands on Nov. 3, 1944. His body was unable to be recovered. He will be buried in North Arlington, New Jersey. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Mason.](#)

**Army Sgt. Bernard J. Sweeney, Jr.**, 22, of Waterbury, Connecticut, was assigned to Company I, 330th Infantry Regiment, 83rd Infantry Division. His unit had been engaged in battle with German forces near Strass, Germany, in the Hürtgen Forest, when he was reported missing in action on Dec. 16, 1944. His body was not recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Sweeney.](#)

**Navy Seaman 1st Class Joseph C. Rouse**, 23, Rouse 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 Rouse. Interment services are pending. [Read about Rouse.](#)

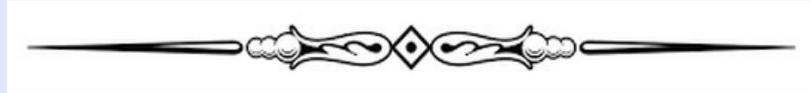
**Army Air Forces Sgt. Francis W. Wiemerslage**, 20, was assigned to the 549th Bombardment Squadron, 385th Bombardment Group, 8th Air Force, serving in Germany. He was the ball turret gunner on a B-17G Flying Fortress bomber during a mission over Dresden, on March 2, 1945. Enemy fighters attacked the bomber between Berlin and Leipzig, and the plane was shot down. Two of the nine crew members survived the incident, while the rest, including Wiemerslage, were killed. Interment services are pending. [Read about Wiemerslage.](#)

**Navy Seaman 2nd Class John G. Bock, Jr.**, 18, 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 Bock. Interment services are pending. [Read about Bock.](#)

**Marine Corps Cpl. Andrew Pellerito**, 22, was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands. Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded, while the Japanese were virtually annihilated. Pellerito was killed on the first day of the battle, Nov. 20, 1943. Interment services are pending. [Read about Pellerito.](#)

**Navy Hospital Apprentice 1st Class Keefe R. Connolly**, 19, 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 Connolly. Interment services are pending. [Read about Connolly.](#)



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

Riverside County, CA

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

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