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1. [5 More Ways VA Is Helping Out Vets](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Huffington Post (Blog)**: The [Department of Veteran Affairs](#) doesn't get the recognition it deserves. It's really working hard to help vets. As [the official VA Nerd-in-Residence](#), I'd like to [begin 2014 by reminding folks](#) of a few of the VA's efforts.
2. [VA will strive to be better](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Augusta Chronicle**: One adverse outcome is one too many, and we owe it to these veterans and families to ensure that this does not happen again. That is our pledge to them and to the veteran community we serve.
3. [Up to 48,000 Afghan, Iraq vets homeless](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **USA Today**: Nearly 50,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans were either homeless or in a federal program aimed at keeping them off the streets during 2013, almost triple the number in 2011, according to numbers released Thursday by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
4. [How Cities Are Eradicating Homelessness Among Veterans](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Gawker**: In the past month, two major American cities—Salt Lake City and Phoenix—have both announced that they have ended "chronic homelessness" among military veterans in their town. How?
5. [Soldiers Are Not Victims](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Esquire**: But it is obvious that our civilian health-care (physical and mental) is not equipped to deal with the unique presentation of veterans, so it must rest with the specialists at the VA.
6. [Find root causes of vet suicides](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Odessa American**: The wars are winding down, but the nation's responsibilities to its veterans are not — particularly to those veterans who are suffering.
7. [Veterans Advocate: Budget Bill a 'Total Betrayal'](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **NewsMax (Video)**: The House's \$1.1 trillion spending bill, [passed Wednesday](#), cuts most veterans' retirement benefits and is a "total betrayal" of those who served in the military, says the founder of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.
8. [Jon Stewart Would Really Like To Know Why It's So Difficult To Treat Our Vets The Way They Deserve](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Huffington Post (Blog)**: Jon Stewart pressed former defense secretary Robert Gates on a number of issues on Wednesday night. But things got particularly heated when the two got to the topic of the benefits backlog at the Department of Veteran Affairs.

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9. [Veterans riled by proposed benefits changes](#). [Hyperlink to Video](#)
FOXNews.com (Video): In this 3:39 video, Concerned Veterans For America's Pete Hegseth weighs in on the VA proposal to change the disability claims process.
10. [Proposed changes to VA policy spark debate](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#)
Standard-Journal: Veterans who are seeking disability compensation often face months or even years of frustrating waiting to have their claims evaluated.
11. [Hidden Wounds helps vets who suffer from demons of war](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#)
Columbia Star: The Department of Veterans Affairs says it is working to dispel its reputation as a questionable provider of good health care, potentially great news for the 421,000 South Carolina vets served by the VA's Columbia Regional Office. However, that goal is still unmet.
12. [New student vet leader details priorities](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#)
Navy Times: Six years ago, a few student-veteran groups on various college campuses connected with each other using social media and formed a joint organization.
13. [Mobile clinic coming to area](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#)
Bluefield Daily Analysis: In just a few short weeks the long-awaited mobile clinic for veterans will make its arrival in Bluefield.
14. [Groundbreaking for VA Health Care Center in Kernersville to be held next week](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#)
Triangle Business Journal: The official groundbreaking for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Center in Kernersville will be held Jan. 24.
15. [Nashua man pleads guilty in New York 'Cannibal Cop' case](#). **Nashua Telegraph** The news outlet Reuters reported Thursday that Richard Meltz, who was ... Meltz, a deputy chief of police for the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs ...
16. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as January 17, 2014:**
 - **January 28, 2014.** House Committee on Veterans' Affairs will hold a hearing entitled "What can the Federal Government Learn from the Private Sector's Successful Approach to Hiring Veterans?"

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- **February 5, 2014.** HVAC-DAMA will hold a hearing entitled, “Beyond Transformation: Reviewing Current Status and Secondary Effects of VBA Technology.”
- **February 25, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Miller, R-Fla.) will hold a hearing to receive a legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.
- **March 5, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Miller, R-Fla.) and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Sanders, I-Vt.) will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentation of Veterans of Foreign Wars.
- **March 6, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of Veterans Organizations.
- **March 26, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of The American Legion.

17. Today in History:

- **1773** – Captain [James Cook](#) and his crew become the first Europeans to sail below the [Antarctic Circle](#).
- **1781** – [American Revolutionary War: Battle of Cowpens](#) – Continental troops under Brigadier General [Daniel Morgan](#) defeat British forces under Lieutenant Colonel [Banastre Tarleton](#) at the battle in [South Carolina](#).
- **1799** – [Maltese](#) patriot [Dun Mikiel Xerri](#), along with a number of other patriots, is executed.
- **1811** – [Mexican War of Independence](#): In the [Battle of Calderón Bridge](#), a heavily outnumbered [Spanish](#) force of 6,000 troops defeats nearly 100,000 Mexican revolutionaries.
- **1852** – The United Kingdom recognizes the independence of the [Boer](#) colonies of the [Transvaal](#).
- **1873** – A group of [Modoc](#) warriors defeats the [United States Army](#) in the [First Battle of the Stronghold](#), part of the [Modoc War](#).
- **1885** – A British force defeats a large [Dervish](#) army at the [Battle of Abu Klea](#) in the [Sudan](#).
- **1893** – The [Citizen's Committee of Public Safety](#), led by [Lorrin A. Thurston](#), overthrows the government of Queen [Liliuokalani](#) of the [Kingdom of Hawaii](#).
- **1899** – The United States takes possession of [Wake Island](#) in the Pacific Ocean.
- **1903** – [El Yunque National Forest](#) in [Puerto Rico](#) becomes part of the United States [National Forest System](#) as the Luquillo Forest Reserve.
- **1912** – Captain [Robert Falcon Scott](#) [reaches the South Pole](#), one month after [Roald Amundsen](#).
- **1917** – The United States pays Denmark \$25 million for the [Virgin Islands](#).
- **1918** – [Finnish Civil War](#): The first serious battles take place between the [Red Guards](#) and the [White Guard](#).

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- [1929](#) – [Popeye the Sailor Man](#), a [cartoon character](#) created by [Elzie Segar](#), first appears in the [Thimble Theatre comic strip](#).
- 1929 – [Inayatullah Khan](#), king of the [Emirate of Afghanistan](#) abdicates the throne after only three days.
- [1941](#) – [Franco-Thai War](#): [French](#) forces [inflict a decisive defeat](#) over the [Royal Thai Navy](#).
- [1944](#) – [World War II](#): [Allied](#) forces launch the first of [four assaults](#) on [Monte Cassino](#) with the intention of breaking through the [Winter Line](#) and seizing [Rome](#), an effort that would ultimately take four months and cost 105,000 Allied casualties.
- [1945](#) – World War II: [Soviet](#) forces capture the almost completely destroyed Polish city of [Warsaw](#).
- 1945 – The [Nazis](#) begin the evacuation of the [Auschwitz concentration camp](#) as Soviet forces close in.
- 1945 – Swedish diplomat [Raoul Wallenberg](#) is taken into [Soviet](#) custody while in Hungary; he is never publicly seen again.
- [1946](#) – The [UN Security Council](#) holds its first session.
- [1949](#) – [The Goldbergs](#), the first [sitcom](#) on American [television](#), airs for the first time.
- [1950](#) – The [Great Brinks Robbery](#) – 11 thieves steal more than \$2 million from an armored car company's offices in [Boston, Massachusetts](#).
- [1961](#) – [U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower](#) delivers a televised [farewell address to the nation](#) three days before leaving office, in which he warns against the accumulation of power by the "[military-industrial complex](#)".
- 1961 – Former [Congolese](#) Prime Minister [Patrice Lumumba](#) is murdered in circumstances suggesting the support and complicity of the governments of Belgium and the United States.
- [1966](#) – [Palomares incident](#): A [B-52](#) bomber collides with a [KC-135 Stratotanker](#) over Spain, dropping three 70-kiloton [nuclear bombs](#) near the town of [Palomares](#) and another one into the sea.
- [1969](#) – [Black Panther Party](#) members [Bunchy Carter](#) and [John Huggins](#) are killed during a meeting in Campbell Hall on the campus of [UCLA](#).
- [1977](#) – Convicted murderer [Gary Gilmore](#) is executed by a [firing squad](#) in [Utah](#), ending a ten-year moratorium on [capital punishment](#) in the United States.
- [1981](#) – [President of the Philippines Ferdinand Marcos](#) lifts [martial law](#) eight years and five months after declaring it.
- [1982](#) – "[Cold Sunday](#)": in numerous cities in the United States temperatures fall to their lowest levels in over 100 years.
- [1983](#) – The tallest department store in the world, [Hudson's](#) flagship store in downtown [Detroit](#), closes due to high cost of operating.
- [1989](#) – [Cleveland School massacre](#): Patrick Purdy opens fire with an [assault rifle](#) at the Cleveland Elementary School playground in [Stockton, California](#), killing five children and wounding 29 others and one teacher before taking his own life.
- [1991](#) – [Gulf War: Operation Desert Storm](#) begins early in the morning. [Iraq](#) fires 8 [Scud](#) missiles into [Israel](#) in an unsuccessful bid to provoke Israeli retaliation.
- 1991 – [Harald V](#) becomes [King of Norway](#) on the death of his father, [Olav V](#).
- [1992](#) – During a visit to South Korea, [Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa](#) apologizes for forcing Korean women into [sexual slavery](#) during [World War II](#).

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- [1994](#) – [1994 Northridge earthquake](#): A magnitude 6.7 [earthquake](#) hits [Northridge, California](#).
- [1995](#) – The [Great Hanshin earthquake](#): A magnitude 7.3 [earthquake](#) occurs near [Kobe, Japan](#), causing extensive property damage and killing 6,434 people.
- [1997](#) – A [Delta 2](#) carrying a [GPS2R](#) satellite explodes 13 seconds after launch, dropping 250 tons of burning rocket remains around the launch pad.
- [1998](#) – [Lewinsky scandal](#): [Matt Drudge](#) breaks the story of the [Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky](#) affair on his website [The Drudge Report](#).
- [2001](#) – U.S. President Bill Clinton posthumously promotes [Meriwether Lewis](#) from [Lieutenant](#) to [Captain](#).
- [2002](#) – [Mount Nyiragongo](#) erupts in the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#), displacing an estimated 400,000 people.
- [2007](#) – The [Doomsday Clock](#) is set to five minutes to midnight in response to [North Korea](#) nuclear testing.
- [2008](#) – [British Airways Flight 38](#) crash lands just short of [London Heathrow Airport](#) in England with no fatalities. It is the first complete [hull loss](#) of a [Boeing 777](#).
- [2010](#) – [Rioting](#) begins between [Muslim](#) and [Christian](#) groups in [Jos, Nigeria](#), resulting in at least 200 deaths.