

# February 17, 2014

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6. Obama bid for US-Russia reset slips as Cold War iciness recurs.
7. SC archeologists race to uncover Civil War POW camp .
8. Wounded at War Yet Skiing at the Winter Games.
9. Stakeholders gather to discuss veterans criminal justice diversion program for Jefferson County.
10. Letter: How much does freedom cost?
11. Female vets interviewing counterparts in a national historic program.
12. VA offers veterans a variety of financial benefits.
13. New resource center addresses needs of veterans attending IUP.
14. 'We can do it better'.
15. VA Medical Center construction bogged in delays.
16. Peninsula's VA clinic services will triple with new Port Angeles location.
17. New parking ramp set to improve Iowa City VA hospital's parking problem.
18. New veterans' medical center set to break ground.
19. Unique VA rehab center opens.
20. Money for Walla Walla veterans home in peril.
21. Personnel Carriers: Vans to help veterans make Dallas appointments.
22. Helping Homeless Veterans.
23. Tulsa police program teaches officers to deal with PTSD in veterans.
24. Advocate says Utah veterans being cheated by U.S. Census policy.
25. Maine veterans find creative outlet at Togus hospital.
26. Willard veteran of Korean War battles for Purple Heart.
27. Son waits almost 71 years to get father's flag.
28. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as February 17, 2014:
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1. [Navy lawyer warns about debt advice for active duty, calls it fraud](#). A tactic to reduce credit card balances and other debt that's making its way around the Internet is being called fraud by a Navy lawyer at Pearl Harbor, who advised in an email that sailors steer clear.
2. [Photo gallery: Arlington National Cemetery in winter](#). As snow gently fell in the Washington, D.C. area Saturday morning, visitors to Arlington National Cemetery quietly strolled among the graves.
3. [US Coast Guard takes on Afghan retrograde mission](#). Hundreds of miles from the nearest coastline, members of the U.S. Coast Guard are playing an essential role in helping international troops pack up and leave Afghanistan.
4. [Pentagon said to seek 34 of Lockheed's F-35s instead of 42](#). The Pentagon will request 34 Lockheed Martin Corp. F-35 jets in its budget for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1, eight fewer than previously planned, according to officials.
5. [Roadside bomb blasts' effects on brain still a mystery](#). Too little is known about how or whether bomb blasts cause long-term damage to the human brain and body, according to a scientific panel focusing on wounds caused by roadside bombs, the most common enemy weapon used in Iraq and Afghanistan.
6. [Obama bid for US-Russia reset slips as Cold War iciness recurs](#). Public displays of U.S. dissatisfaction with Russia, almost five years after the Obama administration set out to "reset" ties with Russia, reflect growing U.S. dismay as Russian President Vladimir Putin seeks a more prominent international role for his nation and positions it as an alternative to the U.S.
7. [SC archeologists race to uncover Civil War POW camp](#). Racing against time, South Carolina archeologists are digging to uncover the remnants of a Civil War-era prisoner-of-war camp before the site in downtown Columbia is cleared to make room for a mixed-use development.
8. [Wounded at War Yet Skiing at the Winter Games](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#)  
**Military.com:** U.S. military veterans competing in next month's Paralympics in Sochi, Russia, say the sports they learned -- or-relearned -- through a Department of Veterans Affairs program did more than set them on the path to the Winter Games: They gave them back their lives and their families.

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9. [Stakeholders gather to discuss veterans criminal justice diversion program for Jefferson County](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Watertown Daily Times:** All of the stakeholders needed to create a criminal justice system diversion program for military veterans in Jefferson County gathered together Friday to learn more about the program that has been successfully rolled out in Onondaga and Oneida counties.
  
10. [Letter: How much does freedom cost?](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Sun-Journal:** The Ruth Moore Act of 2013 goal is to make it easier for veteran sexual assault victims to receive service connected benefits and treatment for mental-health conditions linked to military sexual trauma. The bill was named after a woman who sought Veterans Affairs benefits for 23 years after being raped several times while serving in the Navy.
  
11. [Female vets interviewing counterparts in a national historic program](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Pensacola News Journal:** Robin Grantham is among the dozens of volunteers from Pensacola to the Pacific Coast recording first-person accounts of female military veterans' experiences in uniform and the emotions they evoke.
  
12. [VA offers veterans a variety of financial benefits](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Daily Republic:** Compensation and pensions is one of the main categories of benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs... The primary VA benefit is a service-connected compensation commonly called disability compensation. This tax-free benefit is paid to veterans with disabilities resulting from a disease or injury experienced or aggravated during active military service.
  
13. [New resource center addresses needs of veterans attending IUP](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review:** Indiana University of Pennsylvania's new Military Resource Center is committed to its motto of 'Serving Those Who Served' even if the finishing touches at the center might not be in place yet and the search for a director to lead the facility is still under way.
  
14. ['We can do it better'](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Journal Gazette:** The capital-improvements wish list for Fort Wayne's VA Medical Center exceeds \$29 million.... But only two of eight projects turned up on the Department of Veterans Affairs' tally of 1,270 construction priorities for fiscal 2014... The director of the VA Northern Indiana Health Care System said some of the local construction proposals, particularly the fourth-floor revamp, might someday be authorized.

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15. [VA Medical Center construction bogged in delays.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Sacramento Bee:** Long awaited but beset by delays, the VA Medical Center at Lake Nona likely will not see its first patients before 2015.
16. [Peninsula's VA clinic services will triple with new Port Angeles location.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Peninsula Daily News:** The doors of an expanded outpatient clinic for North Olympic Peninsula veterans will open Tuesday... It will triple the primary care and mental health service offerings to Peninsula veterans, according to the VA Puget Sound Health Care System and U.S. Sen. Patty Murray's office.
17. [New parking ramp set to improve Iowa City VA hospital's parking problem.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **KWWL-TV (Video):** Administrators at Iowa City's Veterans Affairs Hospital say their ongoing parking situation is about to improve... An official groundbreaking ceremony for the new parking ramp was held on Saturday, and is expected to bring some parking relief for veterans and employees.
18. [New veterans' medical center set to break ground.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Miami Herald (AP):** Veterans Affairs officials have told U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson that they're ready to break ground on a national simulation center to train doctors and nurses in the latest procedures for veterans' illnesses and injuries.
19. [Unique VA rehab center opens.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **U-T San Diego:** More than four years in the making, including pushback from the surrounding neighborhood, the VA Aspire Center opens Monday in San Diego to serve Iraq and Afghanistan veterans suffering from invisible battle scars.
20. [Money for Walla Walla veterans home in peril.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The News Tribune:** A bill that would help bring an 80-bed veterans home to Walla Walla is getting another chance in the state House of Representatives... Senate Bill 5691, which passed 48-0 earlier this week, would authorize the state Department of Veterans Affairs to add the Veterans Home to a list of similar homes operated in Washington.
21. [Personnel Carriers: Vans to help veterans make Dallas appointments.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Tyler Morning Telegraph:** Until recently, veterans could secure transportation to and from Dallas only two days a week... But with the addition of two vehicles — a 14-passenger bus and a 10-passenger van — and a driver, transportation is available five days a week.

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22. [Helping Homeless Veterans. Hyperlink to Article](#) **WWSB-TV**: The Stand Down event was held Saturday to help hundreds of homeless veterans . Many veterans and homeless families in the community came to the American Legion Kirby Stewart Post Saturday morning to receive things they need on a daily basis: sleeping bags, clothes and blankets.
23. [Tulsa police program teaches officers to deal with PTSD in veterans. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Tulsa World**: She reached out to the Tulsa County Veterans Treatment Court program for help in creating a video explaining the causes and symptoms of PTSD. In it, three Veterans Treatment Court participants and a few Tulsa police officers explain their combat experiences and the long-lasting mental effects that followed.
24. [Advocate says Utah veterans being cheated by U.S. Census policy. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Standard-Examiner**: How many veterans live in Utah? According to one local veterans advocate, the state has a pretty good idea, but the federal government is just guessing.
25. [Maine veterans find creative outlet at Togus hospital. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Morning Sentinel**: World War II veteran Leroy Peasley served at Iwo Jima, guarded one president and spoke ahead of another. Neal Caron never saw combat during his Navy stint... Even so, the two men from two generations found an audience for their writing on Saturday at the Maine Veterans Creative Arts Festival at the VA Maine Healthcare System-Togus, put on by the veterans' hospital and the Maine American Legion Auxiliary.
26. [Willard veteran of Korean War battles for Purple Heart. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Standard-Examiner**: It took more than 60 years for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to finally recognize the wounds Roy Torgeson sustained during the Korean War, but the 81-year-old Willard resident's battle isn't over yet -- he's still fighting for the Purple Heart he says he earned six decades ago.
27. [Son waits almost 71 years to get father's flag.](#) Kenneth "Red" and Betty Hendrix received a very special package in the mail. On Jan. 8, Red received a box containing his father's flag and a small metal box containing several pieces of paper.
28. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as February 17, 2014:**
  - **February 20, 2014.** HVAC Health will be holding a field hearing in Camarillo, California.
  - **February 25, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a hearing to receive a legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.

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- **February 26, 2014.** HVAC, Subcommittee on Health will conduct an oversight hearing entitled, “VA Accountability: Assessing Actions Taken in Response to Subcommittee Oversight.”
- **February 27, 2014.** Hearing of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs (HVAC EO) entitled, “VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program: Further Performance and Workload Management Improvements Needed.”
- **March 5, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee 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: BVA, JWV, MOPH, AMVETS, TREA, MOAA, VVA, NGUAS and NASDVA.
- **March 12, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of Veterans Organizations: PVA, IAVA, GSW, WWP, FRA, AFSA, NCAO, AXPOW.
- **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.

## 29. Today in History:

- [1801](#) – An [electoral](#) tie between [Thomas Jefferson](#) and [Aaron Burr](#) is resolved when Jefferson is elected [President of the United States](#) and Burr [Vice President](#) by the [United States House of Representatives](#).
- [1814](#) – [War of the Sixth Coalition](#): The [Battle of Mormans](#).
- [1819](#) – The United States House of Representatives passes the [Missouri Compromise](#) for the first time.
- [1838](#) – [Weenen massacre](#): Hundreds of [Voortrekkers](#) along the Blaukraans River, [Natal](#) are killed by [Zulus](#).
- [1854](#) – The [United Kingdom](#) recognizes the independence of the [Orange Free State](#).
- [1863](#) – A group of citizens of [Geneva](#) founded an International Committee for Relief to the Wounded, which later became known as the [International Committee of the Red Cross](#).
- [1864](#) – [American Civil War](#): The [H. L. Hunley](#) becomes the first [submarine](#) to [engage and sink a warship](#), the [USS Housatonic](#).
- [1865](#) – American Civil War: [Columbia, South Carolina](#), is [burned](#) as [Confederate](#) forces flee from advancing [Union](#) forces.
- [1871](#) – The victorious [Prussian](#) Army parades through [Paris, France](#) after the end of the [Siege of Paris](#) during the [Franco-Prussian War](#).
- [1904](#) – [Madama Butterfly](#) receives its première at [La Scala](#) in [Milan](#).

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- [1913](#) – The [Armory Show](#) opens in [New York City](#), displaying works of artists who are to become some of the most influential painters of the early 20th century.
- [1933](#) – The [Blaine Act](#) ends [Prohibition in the United States](#).
- [1944](#) – [World War II](#): The [Battle of Eniwetok Atoll](#) begins. The battle ends in an American victory on [February 22](#).
- [1944](#) – World War II: [Operation Hailstone](#) begins. U.S. naval air, surface, and submarine attack against [Truk Lagoon](#), Japan's main base in the central [Pacific](#), in support of the [Eniwetok invasion](#).
- [1949](#) – [Chaim Weizmann](#) begins his term as the first [President of Israel](#).
- [1959](#) – [Project Vanguard](#): [Vanguard 2](#) – The first [weather satellite](#) is launched to measure [cloud](#)-cover distribution.
- [1964](#) – In [Wesberry v. Sanders](#) the [Supreme Court of the United States](#) rules that [congressional](#) districts have to be approximately equal in population.
- [1964](#) – Gabonese president [Leon M'ba](#) is toppled by [a coup](#) and his rival, [Jean-Hilaire Aubame](#), is installed in his place.
- [1965](#) – [Project Ranger](#): The [Ranger 8](#) probe launches on its mission to photograph the [Mare Tranquillitatis](#) region of the [Moon](#) in preparation for the manned [Apollo](#) missions. *Mare Tranquillitatis* or the "Sea of Tranquility" would become the site chosen for the [Apollo 11](#) lunar landing.
- [1968](#) – In [Springfield, Massachusetts](#), the [Naismith](#) Memorial [Basketball Hall of Fame](#) opens.
- [1972](#) – Sales of the [Volkswagen Beetle](#) exceed those of the [Ford Model-T](#).
- [1974](#) – [Robert K. Preston](#), a disgruntled [U.S. Army](#) private, buzzes the [White House](#) in a stolen [helicopter](#).
- [1978](#) – [The Troubles](#): The [Provisional IRA](#) detonates an [incendiary bomb](#) at the [La Mon restaurant](#), near Belfast, killing 12 and seriously injuring 30.
- [1979](#) – The [Sino-Vietnamese War](#) begins.
- [1980](#) – [Mount Everest](#), 1st Winter Ascent by [Krzysztof Wielicki](#) and [Leszek Cichy](#).
- [1992](#) – [Nagorno-Karabakh War](#): [Armenian](#) troops [massacre](#) more than 20 [Azerbaijani](#) civilians in the village of [Qaradağlı](#)
- [1995](#) – The [Cenepa War](#) between [Peru](#) and [Ecuador](#) ends on a [cease-fire](#) brokered by the [UN](#).
- [1996](#) – In [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#), world champion [Garry Kasparov](#) beats the [Deep Blue supercomputer](#) in a [chess](#) match.
- [1996](#) – [NASA's](#) [Discovery Program](#) begins as the [NEAR Shoemaker](#) spacecraft lifts off on the first mission ever to orbit and land on an asteroid, [433 Eros](#).
- [2003](#) – The [London Congestion Charge](#) scheme begins.
- [2006](#) – A [massive mudslide](#) occurs in [Southern Leyte](#), [Philippines](#); the official death toll is set at 1,126.
- [2008](#) – [Kosovo](#) declares independence.
- [2011](#) – [Libyan protests](#) begin. In [Bahrain](#), [security forces](#) launched a deadly [pre-dawn raid](#) on protesters in [Pearl Roundabout](#) in [Manama](#), the day is locally known as [Bloody Thursday](#).