

February 18, 2014

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5. Program Vancouver man developed recognized by VA.
6. China Spying on US Veterans, Active Service Members.
7. After 42 years, Robert Haley still has a passion for tackling medical mysteries.
8. Veteran's lawyer talks role of PTSD in Reseda shooting.
9. Money better spent caring for veterans.
10. Web of frustration for veterans affected by tainted water.
11. Veterans Journal: VA offers programs to improve health, well-being.
12. Navy veterans fight for return of Agent Orange-exposure benefits.
13. Medical Marijuana Sought by More Veterans.
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1. [Dempsey seen as slow to respond to ethics issues roiling military](#). The Pentagon's response to the recent spate of ethical lapses rocking the entire U.S. military has been devoid of the kind of dramatic moves that Washington craves.
2. [UN panel accuses North Korea of crimes against humanity](#). Torture, deliberate starvation and other abuses carried out by North Korean authorities — possibly on the orders of supreme leader Kim Jong Un himself — constitute crimes against humanity and should be referred to an international court or tribunal for prosecution, United Nations investigators said Monday.
3. [W. Va. bill would require flying of POW/MIA flag at courthouses](#). HB 2895 would require all 55 counties to fly a standard-sized POW/MIA flag — along with the already required U.S. and West Virginia flags — each day above their courthouses.
4. [Army is forcing out more soldiers for misconduct, data show](#). [Military.com/The Associated Press](#) The Army last year forced out nearly twice as many soldiers for misconduct as it did in 2007, according to data obtained by The Associated Press. The end of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and several recent scandals have contributed to the Army's renewed focus on character issues, officials say.
5. [Program Vancouver man developed recognized by VA](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Columbian:** A veterans-benefits program developed by Bill Allman of Vancouver received national recognition this week in a ceremony at the White House.
6. [China Spying on US Veterans, Active Service Members](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Epoch Times:** China is spying on U.S. veterans and military service members through a breach of the largest veterans' organization. The attack was uncovered by security researchers at FireEye, who have dubbed it "Operation SnowMan" due to its strategic timing when government workers may be distracted by winter storms and a national holiday.
7. **After 42 years, Robert Haley still has a passion for tackling medical mysteries.** [dallasnews.com](#) Look behind an epidemic and there's a good chance you'll find Dr. Robert Haley crunching numbers to find the causes and cures. Most physicians advise patients how to avoid or treat illness based on "the medical literature." Haley, the pre-eminent epidemiologist in North Texas, writes the literature. His is not a household name. Most people will ...

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8. [Veteran's lawyer talks role of PTSD in Reseda shooting. Hyperlink to Article](#) **KABC-TV:** A lawyer for an Iraq War veteran accused of murdering his neighbor in Reseda spoke out on Monday. He claims his client, Ricardo Tapia, suffers from posttraumatic stress disorder and sought help from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

9. [Money better spent caring for veterans. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review:** William Nicklas was a loving husband, father and grandfather. A proud and loyal veteran from Hampton Township, he served his country honorably in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Mr. Nicklas survived war but fell victim to Legionnaires' disease because of systemic failures at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (VAPHS).

10. [Web of frustration for veterans affected by tainted water. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Sarasota Herald-Tribune:** After providing a measure of relief to some retired U.S. Marines, the Department of Veterans Affairs continues to frustrate others seeking compensation for exposure to contaminated water while stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

11. [Veterans Journal: VA offers programs to improve health, well-being. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Providence Journal:** Whether you want to drop pounds, quit smoking or take other steps to prevent the onset of disease, the VA will give you the care you need when you need it, and help you achieve your personal health goals.

12. [Navy veterans fight for return of Agent Orange-exposure benefits. Hyperlink to Article](#) **Bellingham Herald:** Nearly half of the surviving 100,000 members of the United States Navy and fleet marine services who fought in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975 could be experiencing wartime injuries from the long term effects of dioxin exposure.

13. [Medical Marijuana Sought by More Veterans. Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Guardian Express:** Medical marijuana is being sought by more veterans returning from war zones. For decades, prescription medications were seen as the only viable solution for those who had been traumatized by war. The results have been less than ideal. Twenty two military veterans commit suicide every day, according to a study released by the Veteran's Administration in Washington D.C.

14. [VA Defends Bonus To Former Local Director. Hyperlink to Article](#) **KWTX-TV (Video):** In a letter to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs this month, a top VA official is standing behind the millions in bonuses Veterans Affairs handed out to a handful of VA executives nationwide, despite a growing backlog in disability claims.

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15. [A Watchful Eye in Hospitals](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The New York Times:** After doctors in a Veterans Affairs hospital in Tampa, Fla., secretly monitored the family of a brain-damaged patient, the decision was condemned by the chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Representative Jeff Miller, Republican of Florida. He subsequently proposed legislation that would “protect the sacred trust” between providers, patients and families from covert video.
16. [Innovative program is tailored to prevent homelessness among vets](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Los Angeles Times:** Kris Warren, a Marine veteran with combat duty in Iraq, remembers the disorientation and other problems that kept him from reentering civilian life... Finally he mustered the courage to ask for help from the Department of Veterans Affairs in Los Angeles. With that help over months, he was able to reunite with his wife and children and avoid slipping into homelessness.
17. [VA program is tailored to prevent homelessness among veterans of recent wars](#). To VA officials, San Diego seems an ideal location to test whether there is an advantage to having the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans together — veterans of roughly similar age who share common experiences and similar problems.
18. [Rental assistance available to eligible veterans](#). Richmond Register ... the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs to financially assist veterans who have ... future rent, and/or utility bills, according to a news release from the agency. The program also will help veterans and their families obtain permanent ...
19. [World War II veteran searches for his “Ginny”](#). World War II Army veteran Bill Burton was visiting the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum, in Birmingham, Ala., recently, when he saw a 1942 Harley Davidson WLA, identical to the one he rode in North Africa and Sicily. Could it be the same one?
20. [Confederate sub made history 150 years ago Monday](#). On a clear, moonlight night 150 years ago, the hand-cranked Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley glided out over glassy seas off South Carolina, sailing into history as the first submarine ever to sink an enemy warship.
21. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as February 18, 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.

22. Today in History:

- [1637](#) – [Eighty Years' War](#): Off the coast of [Cornwall](#), England, a [Spanish](#) fleet [intercepts](#) an important [Anglo-Dutch](#) merchant convoy of 44 vessels escorted by 6 warships, destroying or capturing 20 of them.
- [1766](#) – A mutiny by captive [Malagasy](#) begins at sea on the slave ship [Meermin](#), leading to the ship's destruction on [Cape Agulhas](#) in present-day South Africa and the recapture of the instigators.
- [1781](#) – [Fourth Anglo-Dutch War](#): Captain Thomas Shirley [opens his expedition](#) against [Dutch colonial outposts](#) on the Gold Coast of Africa (present-day [Ghana](#)).
- [1797](#) – [French Revolutionary Wars](#): Sir [Ralph Abercromby](#) and a fleet of 18 [British](#) warships [invade Trinidad](#).
- [1814](#) – [Napoleonic Wars](#): The [Battle of Montereau](#).
- [1861](#) – In [Montgomery, Alabama](#), [Jefferson Davis](#) is inaugurated as the provisional President of the [Confederate States of America](#).
- 1861 – With [Italian unification](#) almost complete, [Victor Emmanuel II](#) of [Piedmont](#), [Savoy](#) and [Sardinia](#) assumes the title of [King of Italy](#).
- [1865](#) – [American Civil War](#): [Union](#) forces under [Major General William T. Sherman](#) set the [South Carolina State House](#) on fire during the [burning of Columbia](#).
- [1873](#) – [Bulgarian](#) revolutionary leader [Vasil Levski](#) is executed by [hanging](#) in [Sofia](#) by the [Ottoman](#) authorities.

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- [1878](#) – [John Tunstall](#) is [murdered](#) by [outlaw Jesse Evans](#), sparking the [Lincoln County War](#) in [Lincoln County, New Mexico](#).
- [1885](#) – [The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn](#) by [Mark Twain](#) is published in the United States.
- [1900](#) – [Second Boer War](#): Imperial forces suffer their worst single-day loss of life on [Bloody Sunday](#), the first day of the [Battle of Paardeberg](#).
- [1911](#) – The first official flight with [air mail](#) takes place from [Allahabad, United Provinces, British India](#) (now India), when [Henri Pequet](#), a 23-year-old pilot, delivers 6,500 letters to [Naini](#), about 10 kilometres (6.2 mi) away.
- [1913](#) – [Pedro Lascuráin](#) becomes [President of Mexico](#) for 45 minutes; this is the shortest term to date of any person as president of any country.
- [1930](#) – While studying photographs taken in [January](#), [Clyde Tombaugh](#) discovers [Pluto](#).
- 1930 – [Elm Farm Ollie](#) becomes the first [cow](#) to fly in a [fixed-wing aircraft](#) and also the first cow to be milked in an aircraft.
- [1932](#) – The [Empire of Japan](#) declares [Manzhouguo](#) (the obsolete Chinese name for [Manchuria](#)) independent from the [Republic of China](#).
- [1938](#) – During the [Nanking Massacre](#) the Nanking Safety Zone International Committee is renamed "Nanking International Rescue Committee" and the safety zone in place for refugees falls apart.
- [1942](#) – [World War II](#): The [Imperial Japanese Army](#) begins the [systematic extermination](#) of perceived hostile elements among the [Chinese in Singapore](#).
- [1943](#) – The [Nazis](#) arrest the members of the [White Rose](#) movement.
- 1943 – [Joseph Goebbels](#) delivers his [Sportpalast speech](#).
- [1946](#) – Sailors of the [Royal Indian Navy mutiny](#) in [Bombay](#) harbour, from where the action spreads throughout the [Provinces of British India](#), involving 78 ships, twenty shore establishments and 20,000 sailors
- [1955](#) – [Operation Teapot](#): Teapot test shot "Wasp" is successfully detonated at the [Nevada Test Site](#) with a yield of [1.2 kilotons](#). Wasp is the first of fourteen shots in the Teapot series.
- [1957](#) – [Kenyan](#) rebel leader [Dedan Kimathi](#) is executed by the British colonial government.
- 1957 – [Walter James Bolton](#) becomes the last person [legally executed](#) in New Zealand.
- [1965](#) – [The Gambia](#) becomes independent from the United Kingdom.
- [1970](#) – The [Chicago Seven](#) are found not guilty of conspiring to incite [riots](#) at the [1968 Democratic National Convention](#).
- [1972](#) – The [California Supreme Court](#) in the case of [People v. Anderson](#), (6 Cal.3d 628) invalidates the state's [death penalty](#) and commutes the sentences of all [death row](#) inmates to life imprisonment.
- [1977](#) – The [Space Shuttle Enterprise](#) test vehicle is carried on its maiden "flight" on top of a [Boeing 747](#).
- [1978](#) – The first [Ironman Triathlon](#) competition takes place on the island of [Oahu](#) and is won by [Gordon Haller](#).
- [1979](#) – [Snow](#) falls in the [Sahara Desert](#) in southern [Algeria](#) for the only time in recorded history.
- [1983](#) – Thirteen people die and one is seriously injured in the [Wah Mee massacre](#) in [Seattle, Washington](#). It is said to be the largest robbery-motivated mass-murder in U.S. history.

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- [1991](#) – The [IRA](#) explodes bombs in the early morning at [Paddington station](#) and [Victoria station](#) in London.
- [2001](#) – [FBI](#) agent [Robert Hanssen](#) is arrested for [spying](#) for the [Soviet Union](#). He is ultimately convicted and sentenced to [life imprisonment](#).
- [2001](#) – Seven-time [NASCAR Sprint Cup Series](#) champion [Dale Earnhardt dies in an accident](#) during the [Daytona 500](#).
- [2001](#) – [Inter-ethnic violence](#) between [Dayaks](#) and [Madurese](#) breaks out in [Sampit, Indonesia](#), that will ultimately result in more than 500 deaths and 100,000 Madurese displaced from their homes.
- [2003](#) – Nearly 200 people die in the [Daegu subway fire](#) in South Korea.
- [2004](#) – Up to 295 people, including nearly 200 rescue workers, die near [Neyshabur](#) in [Iran](#) when a runaway freight [train](#) carrying [sulfur](#), [petrol](#) and [fertilizer catches fire and explodes](#).
- [2007](#) – Terrorist bombs [explode](#) on the [Samjhauta Express](#) in [Panipat, Haryana](#), India, killing 68 people.