

February 24, 2014

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2. **George W. Bush encourages civilians to hire veterans.**
3. **'We've got a problem'.**
4. **VA study: E-records enhance veterans' health care.**
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1. [George W. Bush Speaks Out On New Veterans Initiative](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Huffington Post (AP):** Former President George W. Bush says his focus on a new initiative helping returning veterans also aids him emotionally.
2. [George W. Bush encourages civilians to hire veterans](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **USA Today:** Former President George W. Bush has taken on the high unemployment rate of veterans this week, announcing a study at Syracuse University of how best to reintegrate service members into civilian society and asking that post-traumatic stress be classified as an "injury" not a "disorder."
3. [‘We’ve got a problem’](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Hill:** Former President George W. Bush is calling attention to the plight of returning veterans, saying in an interview broadcast Sunday that too many are unemployed.
4. [VA study: E-records enhance veterans' health care](#). Monroe News Star ... the country's veterans, according to a recent U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs study and local veteran ...
5. [VA, Congress shrug as sleep apnea claims ‘surge’](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The News Tribune:** Last June the VA Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation privately recommended to Allison A. Hickey, undersecretary for benefits, that the Department of Veterans Affairs consider four steps to address a “recent surge” in VA compensation awards for sleep apnea.
6. [A Left-Right Coalition To Help Veterans and Cut the Debt](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Truthout: Keep Your Promise:** Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders has introduced a bill that would improve veterans' health care, expand educational opportunities, help the Veterans Affairs Department address its disability claims backlog, and help veterans find jobs.
7. [View from the ledge: Veterans Affairs](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **News Press:** Rubio has joined another Florida Republican — Rep. Jeff Miller — in demanding more accountability from the Department of Veterans Affairs.
8. [Compass: Uninsured Alaska vets need health care, not another study](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Anchorage Daily News:** We don't thank our veterans by denying them access to medical care. Although most can rely on the Veterans Administration for their health care, not every veteran is eligible. Many have to turn elsewhere. Gov. Sean Parnell's decision to reject federal funds for Medicaid expansion in Alaska denies affordable health coverage for a significant number of veterans.

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9. [Managing medical device security requires better collaboration.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Healthcare IT News:** Who's responsible when a medical device breaks down or is hacked – the manufacturer who made it or the healthcare provider who's using it? ...And as the daylong Medical Device Security Risks and Challenges Symposium kicked into gear Sunday morning at the Orlando County Convention Center, that conversation kept things lively.

10. [Military using unproven programs to take on mental illness.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **PBS NewsHour:** A report out Thursday by the Institute of Medicine said that despite dozens of programs by the military to help treat the mental illnesses that veterans suffer, few of them are proving effective. For more we're joined by Gregg Zoroya of USA Today who has been covering this story.

11. [East Carolina University gets extension for Gulf War illness research.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Fayetteville Observer:** Researchers at East Carolina University have another year to study an illness linked to Gulf War veterans... A \$1.1 million study on the illness had been set to end this year, according to school officials. But it will now be extended through 2015.

12. [Pikes Peak Community College opens veterans center in response to more military in transition.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **News-Gazette:** The 25 percent of Pikes Peak Community College students who are veterans, active military or military family members have a new Military and Veterans Center of Excellence at the college's Centennial campus near Fort Carson.

13. [Women veterans of Kern County receive assistance.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **KBAK-TV (Video):** Identify, enrich and empower! That was the strong message Saturday at the first ever Kern County Women's Veterans stand-up... The event, held at the Double Tree in Bakersfield, provided services to include veteran's benefits counseling, mental health counseling, medical assessments, employment and housing assistance, professional clothing resources and much more.

14. [VA loans surge in popularity as applicants seek second homes.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Spokesman-Review:** The rebound of the housing market is being pushed along by lower-than-expected long-term interest rates and the idea that real estate is once again a wise investment... Military families and veterans seem to be especially active. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced that the number of loans it guaranteed reached a record high in 2013 to nearly 630,000, up an amazing 372 percent since 2007.

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15. [Olympia man suing Veterans Administration after he contracted MRSA.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Olympian:** A Vietnam veteran living in Olympia is suing the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs two years after he developed a severe bacterial infection while he was receiving care at the system's Seattle hospital that led to the amputation of his right leg.
16. [Special court for veterans gaining momentum.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Star Tribune:** After a slow start, an innovative effort to reduce crime by veterans in Washington County is showing encouraging signs of lowering recidivism rates among vets, county court officials say.
17. [Brevard veterans thankful for new national cemetery in Scottsmoor.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **News 13 (Brevard County Reporter):** A plan to bring a national cemetery to Brevard County is now a reality, as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has approved the creation of what will be called Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, in Scottsmoor.
18. [Civil War veteran's grave will remain unmarked.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Stars and Stripes (The Honolulu Star-Advertiser):** Nanette Napoleon has identified about 48 Native Hawaiians who served in the Civil War — a number that's remarkable given that the American war was fought a world away... Napoleon's group would like the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide an upright marble marker for Kealoha... The VA said no.
19. [Arizona State Parks employ homeless veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **AllVoices:** A little controversy has arisen in the Arizona State Parks. Firstly, the executive director has done a great thing by employing homeless veterans to work as Arizona State Park Rangers. However, secondly, the same guy got into trouble for employing his own three sons.
20. [Janesville housing program help homeless veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Madison.com (The Janesville Gazette):** Gross is one of about 40 veterans in a transitional housing program called Housing 4 Our Vets, located south of Janesville. In 2011, the nonprofit Rock Valley Community Programs opened the housing, which is funded by the Veterans Administration and community donations.
21. [New transitional living facility will house up to 16 veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Journal Star:** Gress said veterans seeking transitional housing will be able to stay for up to six months, and services, ranging from mental health help to substance abuse issues, will be offered to them. Ruth Simpkins of South Side said Home Depot donated half of the paint and painting supplies. She said the store gave "very generous discounts and donations."

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22. [Veterans caught in limbo while searching for mental health help.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Waco Tribune-Herald:** Veteran Brad Marsh is a retired U.S. Marine who moved to Waco in an effort to control his mental disorders. But found himself homeless for three months when a filing error prevented his immediate admittance to the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System.
23. [The community helps recovery.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **MSNBC (Taking the Hill):** (Part 4 of 4) Jason and his family have made a huge effort to get him back into the community, and his doctors believe that has helped his recovery.
24. [Mobile service center for veterans to make monthly visits to Lima.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Lima News:** On Monday, area combat war veterans and their families can find needed counseling and social services in a recreational vehicle called a Mobile Veterans Center parked on the east side of North Street across from the Allen County Courthouse.
25. [Ohio military veterans get personal finance training in pilot program.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Stars and Stripes (AP):** Military veterans have received some personal finance training through a pilot program launched this week by Ohio's treasurer at the University of Toledo.
26. [Tucson raising money to get Fisher House for veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Arizona Daily Star:** But the Maryland-based Fisher House Foundation plans to open a Fisher House in Tucson at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System campus. The Foundation donates half the money, and a local fundraising committee needs to raise the other half. The effort needs to raise \$3 million by this summer to start construction next year, said fundraising committee Chairman Dana Staggs.
27. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as February 24, 2014:**
 - **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.
 - **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."

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- **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 25, 2014.** SAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.
- **March 25, 2014.** SVAC, Full Committee, "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015."
- **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.
- **March 27, 2014.** HAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.

28. Today in History:

- **1803** – In [*Marbury v. Madison*](#), the [Supreme Court of the United States](#) establishes the principle of [judicial review](#).
- **1826** – The signing of the [Treaty of Yandaboo](#) marks the end of the [First Burmese War](#).
- **1831** – The [Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek](#), the first removal treaty in accordance with the [Indian Removal Act](#), is proclaimed. The [Choctaws](#) in [Mississippi](#) cede land east of the river in exchange for payment and land in the [West](#).
- **1848** – [King Louis-Philippe of France](#) abdicates the throne.
- **1863** – [Arizona](#) is organized as a [United States territory](#).
- **1868** – [Andrew Johnson](#) becomes the first [President of the United States](#) to be [impeached](#) by the [United States House of Representatives](#). He is later acquitted in the [Senate](#).
- **1875** – The [SS Gothenburg](#) hits the [Great Barrier Reef](#) and sinks off the [Australian](#) east coast, killing approximately 100, including a number of high profile civil servants and dignitaries.
- **1881** – [China](#) and [Russia](#) sign the Sino-Russian Ili Treaty.
- **1895** – [Revolution](#) breaks out in [Baire](#), a town near [Santiago de Cuba](#), beginning the [Cuban War of Independence](#), that ends with the [Spanish-American War](#) in 1898.
- **1916** – [Governor-General of Korea](#) established clinic called *Jahyewon* in [Sorokdo](#) to segregate [Hansen's disease patients](#).

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- [1917](#) – [World War I](#): The [U.S.](#) ambassador to the [United Kingdom](#) is given the [Zimmermann Telegram](#), in which [Germany](#) pledges to ensure the return of [New Mexico](#), [Texas](#), and [Arizona](#) to [Mexico](#) if Mexico declares war on the [United States](#).
- [1918](#) – [Estonian Declaration of Independence](#).
- [1920](#) – The [Nazi Party](#) is founded.
- [1942](#) – The [Battle of Los Angeles](#), one of the largest documented UFO sightings in history; the event lasted into the early hours of February 25, 1942.
- 1942 – An order-in-council passed under the [Defence of Canada Regulations](#) of the [War Measures Act](#) gives the [Canadian federal government](#) the power to intern all "persons of Japanese racial origin".
- [1944](#) – [Merrill's Marauders](#): The Marauders begin their 1,000-mile journey through Japanese occupied Burma.
- [1945](#) – [Egyptian Premier Ahmed Maher Pasha](#) is killed in [Parliament](#) after reading a decree.
- [1968](#) – [Vietnam War](#): The [Tet Offensive](#) is halted; [South Vietnam](#) recaptures [Hué](#).
- [1971](#) – The [All India Forward Bloc](#) holds an emergency central committee meeting after its chairman, Hemantha Kumar Bose, is killed 3 days earlier. P.K. Mookiah Thevar is appointed as the new chairman.
- [1976](#) – [Cuba](#): [national Constitution](#) is proclaimed.
- [1980](#) – The United States [Olympic Hockey](#) team completes their [Miracle on Ice](#) by defeating [Finland](#) 4-2 to win the gold medal.
- [1981](#) – An earthquake registering 6.7 on the [Richter scale](#) hits [Athens](#), killing 16 people and destroying buildings in several towns west of the city.
- [1983](#) – A special commission of the [U.S. Congress](#) releases a report that condemns the practice of [Japanese internment](#) during [World War II](#).
- [1984](#) – [Tyrone Mitchell](#) perpetrates the 49th Street Elementary School shooting in Los Angeles, killing two children and injuring 12 more.
- [1989](#) – [Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini](#) offers a [US\\$3 million bounty for the death](#) of [The Satanic Verses](#) author [Salman Rushdie](#).
- 1989 – [United Airlines Flight 811](#), bound for [New Zealand](#) from [Honolulu, Hawaii](#), rips open during flight, blowing 9 passengers out of the business-class section.
- [1996](#) – The last occurrence of February 24 as a [leap day](#) in the [European Union](#) and for the [Roman Catholic Church](#).
- [1999](#) – The [State](#) of [Arizona](#) executes [Karl LaGrand](#), a [German](#) national convicted of murder during a botched bank robbery, in spite of [Germany's](#) legal action to attempt to save him.
- [2006](#) – [Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo](#) declares [Proclamation 1017](#) placing the country in a [state of emergency](#) in attempt to subdue a possible military coup.
- [2007](#) – [Japan](#) launches its fourth [spy satellite](#), stepping up its ability to monitor potential threats such as [North Korea](#).
- [2008](#) – [Fidel Castro](#) retires as the [President of Cuba](#) after nearly fifty years.
- [2011](#) – Final Launch of Space Shuttle [Discovery](#) (OV-103).
- [2013](#) – [Patriarch Neofit of Bulgaria](#) is elected and enthroned as a [Patriarch](#) of [Bulgaria](#) and all [Bulgarians](#).