

March 19, 2014

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2. **Videos: Interviews with some participants in the March 18 Medal of Honor ceremony.**
3. **DOD issues new instructions based on Navy Yard shooting investigations.**
4. **Woman in Naval Academy sex assault case testifies .**
5. **Air Force cuts to continue, but retention board survivors safe for at least a year.**
6. **Some veterans will now have their Social Security disability benefits expedited.**
7. **Fully Disabled Vets Get Social Security Fast-track.**
8. **House asks VA for presumptive conditions for Gulf War vets.**
9. **Senators Press VA to Explain Delay in Burn Pit Registry.**
10. **Opinion: Critical success factors for online education.**
11. **PCC found in violation of veterans benefits.**
12. **Medical marijuana research for PTSD clears major hurdle.**
13. **Bush: Drop the 'D' in PTSD.**
14. **Online training for VA professionals dealing with mental health issues.**
15. **Congressman Perlmutter wants Army Corps to evaluate VA hospital project.**
16. **Safe Haven: VOA opens emergency housing for homeless veterans.**
17. **Lovell FHCC holds homeless veterans summit.**
18. **Michigan to pilot initiative to help vets get jobs.**
19. **The Grunts: Damned If They Kill, Damned If They Don't.**
20. **VA clinic gears up for big opening.**
21. **Justice for Veterans.**
22. **Raleigh summit, expo for women veterans set for April.**
23. **Washington needs to tend to veterans' needs.**
24. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 19, 2014:**
25. **Today in History:**

March 19, 2014

1. [Obama awards Medal of Honor to 24 veterans from three wars.](#) They were heroes who didn't get their due. On Tuesday, 24 ethnic or minority U.S. soldiers who performed bravely under fire in three of the nation's wars finally received the Medal of Honor that the government concluded should have been awarded a long time ago
2. [Videos: Interviews with some participants in the March 18 Medal of Honor ceremony.](#) A day before a White House ceremony at which 24 Army veterans are to be awarded the Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama, Stars and Stripes talked with one of the three living recipients-to-be and several relatives and friends of those who are to be honored posthumously.
3. [DOD issues new instructions based on Navy Yard shooting investigations.](#) The Defense Department issued new directives Tuesday to try to mitigate the "insider threat" to DOD personnel and facilities, based on the findings of three reviews of last year's Navy Yard shooting.
4. [Woman in Naval Academy sex assault case testifies.](#) The woman at the center of a sexual case against a former Naval Academy football player testified Tuesday that the midshipman "kind of laughed" when she asked him if they had sex at an alcohol-fueled party and said: "What? You don't remember?"
5. [Air Force cuts to continue, but retention board survivors safe for at least a year.](#) The Air Force's current round of unprecedented voluntary and involuntary personnel cuts won't be the last, but airmen who survive the scrutiny of retention boards this year won't be up again for compulsory separation next year, officials say.
6. [Some veterans will now have their Social Security disability benefits expedited.](#) The federal government has launched a new process to expedite Social Security disability claims for a special category of veterans, the Social Security Administration announced Tuesday.
7. [Fully Disabled Vets Get Social Security Fast-track.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Military.com:** The Social Security Administration will immediately begin fast-tracking paperwork for veterans who are rated 100 percent disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
8. [House asks VA for presumptive conditions for Gulf War vets.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **USA Today:** Gulf War veterans should have presumptive conditions associated with their service, including brain and lung cancer and chronic migraines, members of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs wrote in a letter Tuesday.

March 19, 2014

9. [Senators Press VA to Explain Delay in Burn Pit Registry.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **NBC News:** Two U.S. senators insisted Tuesday that Veterans Affairs Secretary Erik Shinseki reveal why his agency is nearly three months late in creating a legally-mandated registry of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans potentially poisoned — some lethally — by exposure to toxic trash-fire trenches.

10. [Opinion: Critical success factors for online education.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Military Times:** Active-duty service members and veterans tend to be nontraditional students — more likely to be married, have children, and to hold down a job while going to school... For these reasons, the flexibility and time-efficient environment of online programs is well-suited to military and veteran students.

11. [PCC found in violation of veterans benefits.](#) Tucson News Now The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has requested an examination of ... This is disheartening news for both veterans and PCC after the college ...

12. [Medical marijuana research for PTSD clears major hurdle.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **USA Today:** A researcher at the University of Arizona is a step closer to studying how medical marijuana affects veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.

13. [Bush: Drop the 'D' in PTSD.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Military Times:** Former President George W. Bush has joined the chorus of voices calling for dropping the “D” from “PTSD.”

14. [Online training for VA professionals dealing with mental health issues.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Salisbury Post:** A free online training series debuts March 20 for community and VA health care professionals to assist them in providing mental health care to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families.

15. [Congressman Perlmutter wants Army Corps to evaluate VA hospital project.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Denver Business Journal:** U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter is trying to give the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) a deadline to agree to an independent evaluation of the construction of its new hospital in Aurora by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

16. [Safe Haven: VOA opens emergency housing for homeless veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Times (Louisiana Gannett):** Thanks to the Veterans Administration and Volunteers of America-North Louisiana, a few more homeless veterans can look forward to a bed to sleep in and a regular meal... Safe Haven, which recently opened its doors in Shreveport's Highland neighborhood, is a six-month program that provides emergency housing for chronically homeless veterans.

March 19, 2014

17. [Lovell FHCC holds homeless veterans summit.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#)
Suburban Life Publications: If not for the extensive help he received from Lovell FHCC and its community partners and local homeless advocates, “I would have been dead in September of 2007,” he said. “Through the programs in the VA (Department of Veterans Affairs), I am now a self-sustaining, clear-thinking

18. [Michigan to pilot initiative to help vets get jobs.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#)
Island Packet: Michigan will partner with a major national business group to help active-duty members find jobs after leaving the military.

19. [The Grunts: Damned If They Kill, Damned If They Don't.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#)
The Huffington Post: Almost 2 million men and women who served in Iraq or Afghanistan are flooding homeward, profoundly affected by war... It is what experts are coming to identify as a moral injury: the pain that results from damage to a person's moral foundation.

20. [VA clinic gears up for big opening.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#)
Mansfield News-Journal: Veterans will receive services at the new \$14 million Veterans Affairs clinic by next week, officials confirmed Tuesday... The clinic will officially open to patients the following Wednesday, spokesperson Ashley Trimble said.

21. [Justice for Veterans.](#) TCPalm ... Department of Veteran Affairs and the Justice System to rehabilitate U.S. ... The good news is that the Government Accounting Office (GAO) reported ...

22. [Raleigh summit, expo for women veterans set for April.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#)
Wilmington Star-News: The Department of Veterans Affairs and the N.C. Division of Veterans Affairs are partnering to host a Women Veterans Summit and Expo from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17, at the N.C. National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters,

23. [Washington needs to tend to veterans' needs.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#)
The Times: Some 400,000 veterans suffering from service-related medical conditions are waiting months, even years for the VA to process their claims for benefits. Everyone seems outraged about the delays, but it seems no one is willing to spend the money to fix the problem.

24. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 19, 2014:**
 - **March 25, 2014.** SAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.

March 19, 2014

- **March 25, 2014.** HVAC, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity will hold a hearing on Veterans Affairs Bills.
 - H.R. 2942 — A bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to reestablish the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - H.R. 3056 — A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the provision of outreach and support services to veterans pursuing higher education under the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - H.R. 3614 — A bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to improve the recognition by states of skills learned in the military by a Veteran when issuing licenses and credentials.
 - H.R. 4031 — Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014.
 - H.R. 4037 — A bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to training and rehabilitation for Veterans with service-connected disabilities, and for other purposes.
 - H.R. 4038 — A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain improvements in the information technology of the Veterans Benefits Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs to process claims more efficiently, and for other purposes.
 - H.R. 4147 — Student Veterans IT Upgrade Act.
 - H.R. 4150 — Veterans Employment and Training Service Longitudinal Study Act of 2014.
 - H.R. 4151 — Veterans Education Survey Act of 2014.

- **March 25, 2014.** HVAC O&I will hold legislative hearing with issues related to construction, health, and other matters.
 - *HR 3593* – Mandating arrangement with US Army Corps of Engineers for three major construction projects
 - *Draft bill* – informed consent for psychotropic drugs
 - *Draft bill* – oversight of contracts with service-disabled veteran owned small businesses
 - *Draft bill* –Gulf War Illness
 - *Draft bill* –Improve information security by implementing actions to improve transparency and governance
 - *Draft bill* –Biological implant protocol and procurement

- **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 19, 2014

- **March 26, 2014:** HVAC DAMA will hold a Legislative Hearing on bills related to NCA and VBA.
 - HR 2018 – Honor Those Who Served Act
 - HR 2088 – Centers for Excellence
 - HR 2119 – Veterans Access to Speedy Review (Video Hearing)
 - HR 2529 – Veterans Spouse Equal Treatment Act
 - HR 3671 – NCA Medallion Bill
 - HR 3876 – Burial with Dignity Act
 - HR 4095 – Annual COLA
 - HR 4102 – Require Payment for Accrued Benefits to Veterans Estate
 - HR 4141 – Expand Enhanced Use Leases to Cemeteries
 - HR 4191 – Quicker Veterans Benefits Delivery Act (REVISED)

- **March 27, 2014.** HAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.

- **March 27, 2014.** HVAC Health intends to hold a Legislative Hearing on health related bills.
 - H.R. 183 – The Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act
 - H.R. 2527 – Veterans counseling and treatment for sexual trauma that occurred during inactive duty training
 - H.R. 2661 – The Veterans Access to Timely Medical Appointments Act
 - H.R. 2974 – To provide for the eligibility for beneficiary travel for veterans seeking treatment or care for military sexual trauma in specialized outpatient or residential programs at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes
 - H.R. 3387 – The Classified Veterans Access to Care Act
 - H.R. 3508 – Qualifications of hearing aid specialists
 - H.R. 3180 – To include contracts and grants for residential care for veterans in the exception to the requirement that the Federal Government recover a portion of the value of certain projects (Kaptur)
 - H.R. 3831 – The Veterans Dialysis Pilot Program Review Act of 2014 (Roe)
 - H.R. 4198 – The Appropriate Care for Disabled Veterans Act
 - DRAFT – To authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2014 and for other purposes. (VA FY14 Construction Package)

25. Today in History:

- 1687 – Explorer [Robert Cavelier de La Salle](#), searching for the mouth of the [Mississippi River](#), is murdered by his own men.
- 1861 – The [First Taranaki War](#) ends in [New Zealand](#).

March 19, 2014

- [1863](#) – The [SS Georgiana](#), said to have been the most powerful [Confederate cruiser](#), is destroyed on her [maiden voyage](#) with a cargo of munitions, medicines and merchandise then valued at over \$1,000,000.
- [1865](#) – [American Civil War](#): The [Battle of Bentonville](#) begins. By the end of the battle two days later, Confederate forces had retreated from [Four Oaks, North Carolina](#).
- [1885](#) – [Louis Riel](#) declares a [Provisional Government](#) in [Saskatchewan](#), beginning the [North-West Rebellion](#).
- [1895](#) – [Auguste and Louis Lumière](#) record their first footage using their newly patented [cinematograph](#).
- [1918](#) – The [U.S. Congress](#) establishes [time zones](#) and approves [daylight saving time](#).
- [1920](#) – The [United States Senate](#) rejects the [Treaty of Versailles](#) for the second time (the first time was on November 19, 1919).
- [1921](#) – [Irish War of Independence](#): One of [the biggest engagements](#) of the war takes place at [Crossbarry, County Cork](#). About 100 [Irish Republican Army](#) (IRA) volunteers escape an attempt by over 1,300 British forces to encircle them.
- [1921](#) – [Italian Fascists](#) shoot from the [Parenzana train](#) at a group of children in [Strunjan \(Slovenia\)](#): two children are killed and five wounded.
- [1931](#) – [Gambling](#) is legalized in [Nevada](#).
- [1941](#) – [World War II](#): The 99th Pursuit Squadron also known as the [Tuskegee Airmen](#), the first all-black unit of the [Army Air Corp](#), is activated.
- [1943](#) – [Frank Nitti](#), the [Chicago Outfit](#) Boss after [Al Capone](#), commits suicide at the Chicago Central Railyard.
- [1944](#) – World War II: [Nazi](#) forces occupy [Hungary](#).
- [1945](#) – World War II: Off the coast of [Japan](#), a [dive bomber](#) hits the [aircraft carrier USS Franklin](#), killing 724 of her crew. Badly damaged, the ship is able to return to the U.S. under her own power.
- [1945](#) – World War II: [Adolf Hitler](#) issues his "[Nero Decree](#)" ordering all industries, military installations, shops, transportation facilities and communications facilities in [Germany](#) to be destroyed.
- [1946](#) – [French Guiana](#), [Guadeloupe](#), [Martinique](#) and [Réunion](#) become [overseas départements](#) of [France](#).
- [1954](#) – [Joey Giardello](#) knocks out Willie Tory in round seven at [Madison Square Garden](#) in the first [televised](#) prize [boxing](#) fight shown in colour.
- [1954](#) – [Willie Mosconi](#) sets a world record by running 526 consecutive balls without a miss during a straight pool exhibition at East High Billiard Club in [Springfield, Ohio](#). The record still stands today.
- [1958](#) – The [Monarch Underwear Company fire](#) leaves 24 dead and 15 injured.
- [1962](#) – Highly influential artist, [Bob Dylan](#) releases his first album, [Bob Dylan](#), on [Columbia Records](#) label.
- [1965](#) – The wreck of the [SS Georgiana](#), valued at over \$50,000,000 and said to have been the most powerful [Confederate cruiser](#), is discovered by teenage diver and pioneer [underwater archaeologist E. Lee Spence](#), exactly 102 years after its destruction.
- [1966](#) – [Texas Western](#) becomes the first college [basketball](#) team to win the [Final Four](#) with an all-[black](#) starting lineup.
- [1979](#) – The [United States House of Representatives](#) begins broadcasting its day-to-day business via the cable television network [C-SPAN](#).

March 19, 2014

- [1982](#) – [Falklands War](#): [Argentinian](#) forces land on [South Georgia](#) Island, precipitating war with the [United Kingdom](#).
- [1987](#) – Televangelist [Jim Bakker](#) resigns as head of the [PTL Club](#) due to a brewing sex scandal; he hands over control to [Jerry Falwell](#).
- [1989](#) – The [Egyptian](#) Flag is raised on [Taba, Egypt](#) announcing the end of the Israeli occupation after the [Yom Kippur War](#) in [1973](#) and the peace negotiations in [1979](#).
- [1990](#) – The [ethnic clashes of Târgu Mureș](#) begin four days after the anniversary of the [Revolutions of 1848 in the Habsburg areas](#).
- [2002](#) – [Zimbabwe](#) is [suspended](#) from the [Commonwealth](#) on charges of [human rights](#) abuses and of [electoral fraud](#), following a turbulent presidential election.
- [2004](#) – [Konginkangas bus disaster](#): A [semi-trailer truck](#) and a bus crash head-on in [Äänekoski, Finland](#). 24 people are killed and 13 injured.
- 2004 – A Swedish [DC-3](#) shot down by a Russian [MiG-15](#) in 1952 over the [Baltic Sea](#) is finally recovered after years of work. The remains of the three crewmen are left in place, pending further investigations.
- 2004 – [3-19 Shooting Incident](#): [Taiwanese](#) president [Chen Shui-bian](#) is shot just before the country's presidential election on [March 20](#).
- [2008](#) – [GRB 080319B](#): A cosmic burst that is the farthest object visible to the naked eye is briefly observed.
- [2011](#) – [Libyan civil war](#): After the failure of [Muammar Gaddafi](#)'s forces [to take Benghazi](#), [French Air Force](#) launches [Opération Harmattan](#), beginning [foreign military intervention in Libya](#).