

July 3, 2013

1. Department of Veterans Affairs clears 2800 backlogged Ohio disability claims.
2. Disabled veterans to be feted at Fenway.
3. Op-ed: Our Veterans Are Still Waiting for Their Rights.
4. "The Durkheim Project" Will Analyze Opt-In Data From Veterans' Social Media.
5. VA Makes Progress in Claims Backlog.
6. Subject of Gazette series granted medical benefits.
7. VA clinic bogged down again.
8. My HealtheVet - Keeping the Promise – Access.
9. After DOMA, Agency Rules Still a Hurdle.
10. WLKY News at Noon.
11. Area veterans ask for better agency communication.
12. Program helps military medical personnel with jobs at local facilities.
13. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as July 3, 2013:
14. Today in History:

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1. [Department of Veterans Affairs clears 2800 backlogged Ohio disability claims.](#) [NewsNet5.com](#) The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs says it has completed nearly 2,800 disability compensation claims for Ohio veterans who had waited more than two years as the agency deals with a backlog of claims. The VA says the nationwide ...
2. [Disabled veterans to be feted at Fenway.](#) [The Providence Journal](#) The veterans, from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire and New York, are participants in the New England Adaptive Sports Program of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. CVS Caremark said in a news release Tuesday that the ...
3. [Op-ed: Our Veterans Are Still Waiting for Their Rights.](#) [Advocate.com](#) Last year the Southern Poverty Law Center and the law firm of WilmerHale filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of Tracey and Maggie, arguing that both DOMA and Title 38 are unconstitutional because they prevent the Department of Veterans Affairs from ...
4. ["The Durkheim Project" Will Analyze Opt-In Data From Veterans' Social Media.](#) [Wall Street Journal](#) The Durkheim Project is further comprised of a multi-disciplinary team of artificial intelligence and medical experts, including personnel from Dartmouth, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Together these professionals have formed a team ...
5. [VA Makes Progress in Claims Backlog.](#) [Hyperlink to Story Military.com](#): The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today that as a result of the initiative launched in April to expedite disability compensation claims decisions for Veterans who have waited a year or longer, more than 65,000-claims -- or 97 percent of all claims over two years old in the inventory -- have been eliminated from the backlog.
6. [Subject of Gazette series granted medical benefits.](#) [Hyperlink to Story The Gazette](#): Kash Alvaro, an Army veteran who has been suffering from seizures since being hit by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan in 2009 but was stripped of medical benefits when he was kicked out of the Army for minor misconduct in 2012, has been granted health-care and disability benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
7. [VA clinic bogged down again.](#) [Hyperlink to Above Story KPLC-TV](#): For years veterans have had to drive out of town for medical care at a VA facility. A new mobile clinic helped those who thought they could see the light at the end of the tunnel. Now, it seems a bureaucratic logjam has put 38 future leases in 22 states in jeopardy.
8. [My HealthVet - Keeping the Promise – Access.](#) [Hyperlink to Story Federal News Radio \(Audio\)](#): With the June 2013 enhancements to Blue Button, Veteran patients now have more timely access to data, more options for self-reported information and improved data refresh options to keep their personal health record up-to-date and complete.

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9. [After DOMA, Agency Rules Still a Hurdle. Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Nation:** What's not as clear is how many of those benefits can be quickly extended to same-sex couples. In particular, the Social Security Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs have some thorny rules that may leave elderly couples and gay veterans in a legal no-man's land for years to come.

10. [WLKY News at Noon. Hyperlink to Story](#) **WLKY (Video):** This 1:59 minute video discusses Veteran suicides and highlights the Kentucky Military Behavior Health Initiative. The report includes comments by Kentucky First Lady Jane Beshear.

11. [Area veterans ask for better agency communication. Hyperlink to Story](#) **Lancaster Eagle-Gazette:** When it comes to veterans' issues, the major stumbling blocks facing former military personnel trying to make it back to the civilian world is a lack of communication between agencies trying to help them and training for people who can help them, area veterans said Monday.

12. [Program helps military medical personnel with jobs at local facilities. Hyperlink to Story](#) **KGTV-TV:** ...the Department of Veterans Affairs started something called the Intermediate Care Technician program, which sought former corpsmen and medics to work in emergency departments.

13. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as July 3, 2013:**

➤ **July 9, 2013.** The House Veterans Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Health intends to hold a legislative hearing on health related bills. 10:00 A.M.; 334 Cannon

Tentative Bill List:

- Draft Bill XXX-- "Veterans Choice-Long Term Care" Certified Adult Foster Home (Miller(FL)
- H.R. 1612-- To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to convey a parcel of land in Tuskegee, Alabama, to Tuskegee University, and for other purposes (Rogers (AL)
- H.R. 2065-- Safe Housing for Homeless Veterans Act (McKinley (WV)
- H.R. 1143-- Tinnitus Research and Treatment Act of 2013 (Michaud (ME)
- H.R. 1702-- Veterans Transportation Service Act (Barber (AZ)

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- **July 10, 2013.** The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs will hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Armed Services entitled, "DOD and VA Collaboration to assist Service Members Returning to Civilian Life." 10:00 A.M.; 2118 Rayburn

14. Today in History:

- [1775](#) – [American Revolutionary War](#): [George Washington](#) takes command of the [Continental Army](#) at [Cambridge, Massachusetts](#).
- [1778](#) – American Revolutionary War: British forces kill 360 people in the [Wyoming Valley massacre](#).
- [1844](#) – The last pair of [Great Auks](#) is killed.
- [1848](#) – Slaves are freed in the Danish West Indies (now [U.S. Virgin Islands](#)) by [Peter von Scholten](#) in the culmination of a year-long plot by enslaved Africans.
- [1849](#) – The French enter [Rome](#) in order to restore [Pope Pius IX](#) to power. This would prove a major obstacle to [Italian unification](#).
- [1852](#) – Congress establishes the [United States' 2nd mint](#) in [San Francisco, California](#).
- [1863](#) – [American Civil War](#): The final day of the [Battle of Gettysburg](#) culminates with [Pickett's Charge](#).
- [1866](#) – [Austro-Prussian War](#) is decided at the [Battle of Königgratz](#), resulting in [Prussia](#) taking over as the prominent German nation from [Austria](#).
- [1884](#) – [Dow Jones and Company](#) publishes its first stock average.
- [1886](#) – [Karl Benz](#) officially unveils the [Benz Patent Motorwagen](#) – the first purpose-built [automobile](#).
- [1890](#) – [Idaho](#) is admitted as the 43rd [U.S. state](#).
- [1898](#) – [Spanish-American War](#): The Spanish fleet, led by [Pascual Cervera y Topete](#), is destroyed by the [U.S. Navy](#) in [Santiago, Cuba](#).
- [1913](#) – [Confederate](#) veterans at the [Great Reunion of 1913 reenact Pickett's Charge](#); upon reaching the [high-water mark of the Confederacy](#) they are met by the outstretched hands of friendship from [Union](#) survivors.
- 1938 – [President Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) dedicates the Eternal Light Peace Memorial and lights the eternal flame at [Gettysburg Battlefield](#).
- [1940](#) – [World War II](#): the French fleet of the Atlantic based at [Mers el Kébir](#), is [bombarded by the British fleet](#), coming from [Gibraltar](#), causing the loss of three battleships: [Dunkerque](#), [Provence](#) and [Bretagne](#). One thousand two hundred sailors perish.
- [1944](#) – World War II: [Minsk](#) is liberated from Nazi control by [Soviet troops](#) during [Operation Bagration](#).
- [1952](#) – The [Constitution of Puerto Rico](#) is approved by the [Congress of the United States](#).
- 1952 – The [SS United States](#) sets sail on her maiden voyage to [Southampton](#). During the voyage, the ship takes the [Blue Riband](#) away from the [RMS Queen Mary](#).
- [1962](#) – The [Algerian War of Independence](#) against the French ends.
- [1969](#) – The biggest explosion in the history of rocketry occurs when the Soviet [N-1 rocket](#) explodes and subsequently destroys its launchpad.

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- [1970](#) – [The Troubles](#): the "[Falls Curfew](#)" begins in [Belfast](#), [Northern Ireland](#).
- [1979](#) – [U.S. President Jimmy Carter](#) signs the first directive for secret aid to the opponents of the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul.
- [1988](#) – [United States Navy](#) warship [USS Vincennes](#) shoots down [Iran Air Flight 655](#) over the [Persian Gulf](#), killing all 290 people aboard.
- 1988 – The [Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge](#) in Istanbul, Turkey is completed, providing the second connection between the continents of [Europe](#) and [Asia](#) over the [Bosporus](#).
- [1996](#) – [Stone of Scone](#) is returned to Scotland.
- [2006](#) – [Valencia metro accident](#) leaves 43 dead in [Valencia](#), [Spain](#).