

From: [Wayne Gatewood, Jr](#)
To: [Wayne Gatewood, Jr](#)
Subject: Veterans News for Monday, February 24, 2014
Date: Monday, February 24, 2014 7:53:12 PM
Attachments: [SDVOSB RAND RPT.pdf](#)

Greetings good people. Hope you and yours had a great weekend. Spring cannot get here fast enough!

Sorry to have to share that our great friend, USN Retired Master Chief, extraordinary Veterans Advocate, and long time senior member of VET Force, Bob Hesser, passed away on Friday, February 21, 2014. Many of you know that Bob had been ill and had been hospitalized for the past year. Bob devoted just about every hour of every day to serving and supporting his fellow Veterans. I loved Bob and I shall miss him. May Bob Hesser's Soul Rest in Eternal Peace, and may his Wife Gail and the entire family be comforted during this extremely sad time.

For Today - For Bob: *I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.*

Rabindranath Tagore

DOD Contracts Awarded for Monday, February 24, 2014.

<http://www.defense.gov/contracts/contract.aspx?contractid=5229>

American Legion Legislative Update for Monday, February 24, 2014.

<http://editor.legionemail.com/vo/?FileID=59316fa3-d188-4507-b9df-1ecc07f82e9b&m=f60ba55a-761b-463f-8a2b-c1a65794d1dd&MailID=28124750&listid=84772>

Reserve Officers Association SmartBrief for Tuesday, February 24, 2014.

<http://www2.smartbrief.com/servlet/encodeServlet?issueid=C1AD1F69-A968-41DD-ADC9-AB7C7486A616&sid=22cbe9eb-3ef0-4eca-8105-ef9f466dc32d>

Southwest Veterans' Business Resource Center Event Announcement: Attention Veterans – Meet Rhett Jepson, SBA Administrator, Office of Veterans Business Affairs Development. Wednesday, February 26, 2014.

<http://wheremunitiesserveveterans.org/Events?eventId=858216&EventViewMode=EventDetails>

On-Line GI Bill Comparison Tool. VA recently launched the online [GI Bill® Comparison Tool](#) at <http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/comparison>, to make it easier for Veterans, Servicemembers and dependents to calculate their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and learn more about VA's approved colleges, universities and other education and training programs across the country. "We are pleased that post-9/11 Veterans are taking advantage of this significant benefit program," said Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. "The new GI Bill Comparison Tool will help future beneficiaries as they make decisions about what education or training program best fits their needs." The GI Bill Comparison Tool provides key information about college affordability and brings together information from more than 17 different online sources and three federal agencies, including the number of students receiving VA education benefits at each school. In related news, VA also instituted a GI Bill online complaint system designed to collect feedback from Veterans, Servicemembers and their families experiencing problems with the educational institutions that receive funds from Federal military and Veterans educational benefits programs; this includes benefits programs provided by the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the DoD Military Tuition Assistance Program. Information is available from MilitaryOneSource, http://www.militaryonesource.mil/voluntary-education?content_id=274604, and the GI Bill website at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/feedback.asp>.

Century-old Experiment Helps Researchers Understand PTSD: Why do posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms persist in some people and not others? An experiment performed more than 100 years ago is helping us find answers. A team and researchers at other top universities are learning more about PTSD using Russian scientist Ivan Pavlov's famous "conditioned response" experiment. Working with service members with and without PTSD, we hope to better understand the disorder to improve diagnosis and treatment. [Read more](#)

"Improving Federal & DOD Use of Service-Disabled Vet-Owned Businesses" - A Rand Report.

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR300/RR322/RAND_RR322.pdf

A pdf is also attached for your convenience. Sent in by our friend, Marc Goldschmitt, SDVOSB and Vets Advocate. Thanks Marc!

Pentagon Set To Slash Military to Pre-WWII Levels. Please see NBC News story by Tracy Connor and Jim Miklaszewski. <http://www.nbcnews.com/#/storyline/military-spending-cuts/pentagon-set-slash-military-pre-world-war-ii-levels-n37086>

U. S. Patent and Trademark Office IT Security Day – April 3, 2014. Presented by Federal Business Council (FBC). http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=qc5crxr7&v=001bnszpz862ywextb0-yixxyio9abxjc-r0fbaaitw141pvlc2wp4_clh3r9ssckn0x0chehjtcj80_slfubpg-yxzvo02tk7uigzkgpq4b7sjw8osqy1f5vlzcy9cbaxdliwor2asotz-ckkmy_y72tub8usy1spe_zx45pcjccryrq1c4-pcw%3d%3d

Prayers and blessings for you and your loved ones and for our dear Troops and their loved ones everywhere.

Sincerely.....Wayne

VA HQ Veterans News for Monday, February 24, 2014. From Kevin Secor, VA VSO Liaison.

1. **George W. Bush Speaks Out On New Veterans Initiative.**
2. **George W. Bush encourages civilians to hire veterans.**
3. **'We've got a problem'.**
4. **VA study: E-records enhance veterans' health care.**
5. **VA, Congress shrug as sleep apnea claims 'surge'.**
6. **A Left-Right Coalition To Help Veterans and Cut the Debt.**
7. **View from the ledge: Veterans Affairs.**
8. **Compass: Uninsured Alaska vets need health care, not another study.**
9. **Managing medical device security requires better collaboration.**
10. **Military using unproven programs to take on mental illness.**
11. **East Carolina University gets extension for Gulf War illness research.**
12. **Pikes Peak Community College opens veterans center in response to more military in transition.**
13. **Women veterans of Kern County receive assistance.**
14. **VA loans surge in popularity as applicants seek second homes.**
15. **Olympia man suing Veterans Administration after he contracted MRSA.**
16. **Special court for veterans gaining momentum.**
17. **Brevard veterans thankful for new national cemetery in Scottsmeer.**
18. **Civil War veteran's grave will remain unmarked.**
19. **Arizona State Parks employ homeless veterans.**
20. **Janesville housing program help homeless veterans.**
21. **New transitional living facility will house up to 16 veterans.**
22. **Veterans caught in limbo while searching for mental health help.**
23. **The community helps recovery.**
24. **Mobile service center for veterans to make monthly visits to Lima.**
25. **Ohio military veterans get personal finance training in pilot program.**
26. **Tucson raising money to get Fisher House for veterans.**
27. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as February 24, 2014:**
28. **Today in History:**

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. Hyperlink to Article](#) 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.
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.
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.”
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."
- 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](#).
- [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](#).

From: Secor, Kevin, VA, VSO Liaison
Sent: Saturday, February 22, 2014 8:21 AM
Subj: President Obama to Award Medal of Honor

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 21, 2014

President Obama to Award Medal of Honor

On March 18th, 2014, President Barack Obama will award 24 Army veterans the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry. These veterans will receive the Medal of Honor in recognition of their valor during major combat operations in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Each of these Soldiers' bravery was previously recognized by award of the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest military award; that award will be upgraded to the Medal of Honor in recognition of their gallantry, intrepidity and heroism above and beyond the call of duty.

In 2002, Congress, through the Defense Authorization Act, called for a review of Jewish American and Hispanic American veteran war records from WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, to ensure those deserving the Medal of Honor were not denied because of prejudice. During the review, records of several Soldiers of neither Jewish nor Hispanic descent were also found to display criteria worthy of the Medal of Honor. The 2002 Act was amended to allow these Soldiers to be honored with the upgrade - in addition to the Jewish and Hispanic American Soldiers.

The 24 recipients of the Medal of Honor follow below.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

The President will award the Medal of Honor to:

Specialist Four Santiago J. Erevia will receive the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions while serving as radio telephone operator in Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) during search and clear mission near Tam Ky, Republic of Vietnam.

Staff Sergeant Melvin Morris will receive the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions while serving as Commander of a Strike Force drawn from Company D, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, during combat operations against an armed enemy in the vicinity of Chi Lang, Republic of Vietnam on September 17, 1969.

Sergeant First Class Jose Rodela will receive the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions while serving as the company commander, Detachment B-36, Company A, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces during combat operations against an armed enemy in Phuoc Long Province, Republic of Vietnam on September 1, 1969.

The President will posthumously award the Medal of Honor to:

The following individuals distinguished themselves by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving during the Vietnam War

Sergeant Candelario Garcia will receive the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions while serving as an acting Team Leader for Company B, 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Lai Khe, Republic of Vietnam on December 8, 1968.

Specialist Four Leonard L. Alvarado will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving as a Rifleman with Company D, 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) during combat operations against an armed enemy in Phuoc Long Province, Republic of Vietnam on August 12, 1969.

Staff Sergeant Felix M. Conde-Falcon will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving as an acting Platoon Leader in Company D, 1st Battalion, 505th Infantry Regiment, 3d Brigade, 82d Airborne Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Ap Tan Hoa, Republic of Vietnam on April 4, 1969.

Specialist Four Ardie R. Copas will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving as a Machinegunner in Company C, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy near Ph Romeas Hek, Cambodia on May 12, 1970.

Specialist Four Jesus S. Duran will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving as an acting M-60 machinegunner in Company E, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) during combat operations against an armed enemy in the Republic of Vietnam on April 10, 1969.

The following individuals distinguished themselves by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving during the Korean War.

Corporal Joe R. Baldonado will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving as an acting machine gunner in 3d Squad, 2d Platoon, Company B, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment during combat operations against an armed enemy in Kangdong, Korea on November 25, 1950.

Corporal Victor H. Espinoza will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving as an Acting Rifleman in Company A, 23d Infantry Regiment, 2d Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Chorwon, Korea on August 1, 1952.

Sergeant Eduardo C. Gomez will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving with Company I, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Tabu-dong, Korea on September 3, 1950.

Private First Class Leonard M. Kravitz will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving as an assistant machinegunner with Company M, 5th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Yangpyong, Korea on March 6 and 7, 1951.

Master Sergeant Juan E. Negron will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving as a member of Company L, 65th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Kalma-Eri, Korea on April 28, 1951.

Master Sergeant Mike C. Pena will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving as a member of Company F, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division during combat operations against

an armed enemy in Waegwan, Korea, on September 4, 1950.

Private Demensio Rivera will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving as an automatic rifleman with 2d Platoon, Company G, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Changyong-ni, Korea on May 23, 1951.

Private Miguel A. Vera will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving as an automatic rifleman with Company F, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2d Infantry Division in Chorwon, Korea, on September 21, 1952.

Sergeant Jack Weinstein will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while leading 1st Platoon, Company G, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division in Kumsong, Korea on October 19, 1951.

The following individuals distinguished themselves by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving during World War II.

Private Pedro Cano will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving with Company C, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Schevenhutte, Germany on December 3, 1944.

Private Joe Gandara will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving with Company D, 2d Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 17th Airborne Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Amfreville, France on June 9, 1944.

Private First Class Salvador J. Lara will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving as the Squad Leader of a rifle squad with 2d Platoon, Company L, 180th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Aprilia, Italy on May 27 and 28, 1944.

Sergeant William F. Leonard will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving as a Squad Leader in Company C, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy near St. Die, France on November 7, 1944.

Staff Sergeant Manuel V. Mendoza will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving as a Platoon Sergeant with Company B, 350th Infantry, 88th Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy on Mt. Battaglia, Italy on October 4, 1944.

Sergeant Alfred B. Nietzel will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving as a section leader for Company H, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Heistern, Germany on November 18, 1944.

First Lieutenant Donald K. Schwab will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving as the Commander of Company E, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division, during combat operations against an armed enemy near Lure, France on September 17, 1944.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

THE MEDAL OF HONOR:

The Medal of Honor is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who distinguishes themselves conspicuously by gallantry above and beyond the call of duty while:

- engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;
- engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
- serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

VA HQ Veterans News for Saturday, February 22, 2014. Thanks to Kevin Secor, VA VSO Liaison.

1. **JOHNSTON: Congress must put veterans' funding first.**

2. [Agent Orange Posed A Health Threat To Servicemen Long After Vietnam: Study.](#)
3. [Keep Your Promise: A Left-Right Coalition to Help Veterans and Cut the Debt.](#)
4. [Can't hear you now! VA leaves vets waiting weeks for hearing aids.](#)
5. [Kirk urges veterans to pressure agency over backlog.](#)
6. [Modern War Wounds Can Devastate Vets' Sexual, Emotional Health.](#)
7. [Web of frustration for veterans affected by tainted Lejeune water.](#)
8. [Arizona parks program helps homeless veterans become rangers.](#)
9. [Ex-Marine walking 15,000 miles on behalf of homeless veterans.](#)
10. [VA changes policy on catchments.](#)
11. [Florida Hosts Women Only Vets Conference.](#)
12. [Scams against veterans prowl foothills.](#)
13. [Hampton man to serve 5 years for identity theft.](#)
14. [New VA Clinic opens March 3 in Roane.](#)
15. [New veterans center opens in Chicago.](#)
16. [Special lodging planned for local VA campus.](#)
17. [Local veteran honored in Congress.](#)
18. [Veterans raise awareness of unclaimed health benefits.](#)
19. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as February 22, 2014:
20. Today in History:
 1. [JOHNSTON: Congress must put veterans' funding first.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Washington Times:** Members of our three organizations are meeting and calling their representatives and senators, urging them to end gridlock for veterans by passing the bipartisan Putting Veterans Funding First Act, which would authorize advance appropriations for all VA programs, benefits and services.
 2. [Agent Orange Posed A Health Threat To Servicemen Long After Vietnam: Study.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Huffington Post:** Military veterans who say they were sickened by lingering amounts of the herbicide Agent Orange aboard repurposed airplanes after the Vietnam War now have some strong scientific support for their claims.
 3. [Keep Your Promise: A Left-Right Coalition to Help Veterans and Cut the Debt.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Huffington Post:** A key question in the current federal budget environment is how we are going to pay for increased veterans' benefits, given broad Republican resistance to raising revenue or increasing the deficit.
 4. [Can't hear you now! VA leaves vets waiting weeks for hearing aids.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Washington Times:** The Veterans Affairs Department is taking weeks to provide or repair hearing aids for its patients, leaving hearing-impaired veterans at risk in the latest failure by the agency charged with caring for America's war heroes.
 5. [Kirk urges veterans to pressure agency over backlog.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The News-Gazette:** When Illinois American Legion Division Commander Bob Henderson meets with central Illinois veterans, the disability claims backlog is the No. 1 concern he hears about.
 6. [Modern War Wounds Can Devastate Vets' Sexual, Emotional Health.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Philly.com (HealthDay News):** The tools of war have changed. With the increased use of powerful explosive devices, men and women patrolling on foot in bomb-laced areas of combat are increasingly suffering traumatic injuries to the groin and genitals, experts say.
 7. [Web of frustration for veterans affected by tainted Lejeune water.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Daily News:** 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.

8. [Arizona parks program helps homeless veterans become rangers.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **FOXNews.com**
(Video): Working as an Arizona State Park Ranger isn't just a job for Army veteran Carlos Garcia, it's a second chance. He is taking part in the Arizona Action Plan to End Homelessness Among Veterans, and he said it has changed his life.
9. [Ex-Marine walking 15,000 miles on behalf of homeless veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Alexandria Daily Town Talk:** Mac McQuown is a man on a mission. The 52-year-old former Marine is on a journey in which he'll walk more than 15,000 miles to reach the steps of the state capitols in all 50 states to raise awareness of and funds for homeless veterans.
10. [VA changes policy on catchments.](#) West Hawaii Today There's good news trickling down from Washington, D.C., for Hawaii Island's 17,000 veterans. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will once again ...
11. [Florida Hosts Women Only Vets Conference.](#) WGCU News The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs top legislative priority is getting ... The fact that it's gender specific is a plus for Chava Grier – a former US ...
12. [Scams against veterans prowl foothills.](#) Calaveras Enterprise Home · News False claims of veteran affiliations can be quickly checked with your community service office. ... United States veterans, the very people we have to thank for our freedoms and who deserve ... “The V.A. does not charge money, nor do local recognized veterans groups, to get you help,” ...
13. [Hampton man to serve 5 years for identity theft.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Virginian-Pilot:** A Hampton man will serve a little more than five years in prison for stealing and using the identities of other people to obtain passports and to enlist in the Navy and Army then receive VA benefits.
14. [New VA Clinic opens March 3 in Roane.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Knoxville News-Sentinel:** Roane County has hired its first veteran services officer, and a new full-time veterans clinic will open March 3, officials said.
15. [New veterans center opens in Chicago.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **WGN-TV (Video):** Veterans and their families have a new place to go in Chicago to get help.
16. [Special lodging planned for local VA campus.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Columbian:** A home away from home in Vancouver for families of veterans receiving medical care is closer to reality. The National Fisher House Foundation has announced that it is moving forward with a facility for the Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center, which includes a Vancouver campus.
17. [Local veteran honored in Congress.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Bluefield Daily Telegraph:** A local veteran was honored recently in Congress for his efforts to create a clinic serving veterans in Mercer County and the surrounding area.
18. [Veterans raise awareness of unclaimed health benefits.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **WINK-TV (Video):** Millions of dollars in military benefits are unclaimed by the men and women who need them.
19. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as February 22, 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."
- **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.

20. Today in History:

- [1651](#) – [St. Peter's Flood](#): A storm surge floods Germany coast, drowning 15,000 people.
- [1744](#) – [War of the Austrian Succession](#): The [Battle of Toulon](#) begins.
- [1797](#) – The [Last Invasion of Britain](#) begins near [Fishguard](#), Wales.
- [1819](#) – By the [Adams-Onís Treaty](#), Spain [sells Florida](#) to the United States for five million U.S. dollars.
- [1821](#) – [Greek War of Independence](#): [Alexander Ypsilantis](#) crosses the [Prut](#) river at [Sculeni](#) into the [Danubian Principalities](#).
- [1847](#) – [Mexican-American War](#): The [Battle of Buena Vista](#) – 5,000 American troops defeat 15,000 [Mexicans](#).
- [1848](#) – The [French Revolution of 1848](#), which would lead to the establishment of the [French Second Republic](#), begins.
- [1855](#) – The [Pennsylvania State University](#) is founded in [State College, Pennsylvania](#) (as the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania)
- [1856](#) – The [Republican Party](#) opens its first national meeting in [Pittsburgh](#).
- [1862](#) – [Jefferson Davis](#) is officially inaugurated for a six-year term as the [President of the Confederate States of America](#) in [Richmond, Virginia](#). He was previously inaugurated as a provisional president on February 18, 1861.
- [1872](#) – The [Prohibition Party](#) holds its first national convention in [Columbus, Ohio](#), nominating [James Black](#) as its presidential nominee.
- [1879](#) – In [Utica, New York](#), [Frank Woolworth](#) opens the first of many of 5 and dime

[Woolworth](#) stores.

- [1889](#) – United States President [Grover Cleveland](#) signs a bill admitting [North Dakota](#), [South Dakota](#), [Montana](#) and [Washington](#) as [U.S. states](#).
- [1899](#) – [Filipino forces](#) led by General [Antonio Luna](#) launch counterattacks for the first time against the American forces during the [Philippine–American War](#). The Filipinos fail to regain Manila from the Americans.
- [1904](#) – The United Kingdom sells a meteorological station on the [South Orkney Islands](#) to [Argentina](#), the islands are subsequently claimed by the United Kingdom in 1908.
- [1909](#) – The sixteen [battleships](#) of the [Great White Fleet](#), led by [USS Connecticut](#), return to the United States after a voyage around the world.
- [1915](#) – [World War I](#): Germany institutes [unrestricted submarine warfare](#).
- [1921](#) – After Russian forces under Baron [Roman von Ungern-Sternberg](#) drive the Chinese out, the [Bogd Khan](#) is reinstated as the [emperor](#) of Mongolia.
- [1924](#) – U.S. President [Calvin Coolidge](#) becomes the first President to deliver a radio broadcast from the [White House](#).
- [1942](#) – [World War II](#): President [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) orders General [Douglas MacArthur](#) out of the [Philippines](#) as the Japanese victory becomes inevitable.
- [1943](#) – World War II: Members of the [White Rose](#) resistance, [Sophie Scholl](#), [Hans Scholl](#), and [Christoph Probst](#) are executed in [Nazi Germany](#).
- [1944](#) – World War II: American aircraft mistakenly bomb the Dutch towns of [Nijmegen](#), [Arnhem](#), [Enschede](#) and [Deventer](#), resulting in 800 dead in Nijmegen alone.
- [1948](#) – [Communist](#) revolution in [Czechoslovakia](#).
- [1957](#) – [Ngo Dinh Diem](#) of [South Vietnam](#) survives a [communist](#) shooting assassination attempt in [Ban Me Thuot](#).
- [1958](#) – [Egypt](#) and [Syria](#) join to form the [United Arab Republic](#).
- [1959](#) – [Lee Petty](#) wins the first [Daytona 500](#).
- [1972](#) – The [Official Irish Republican Army](#) detonates a [car bomb](#) at [Aldershot](#) barracks, killing seven and injuring nineteen others.
- [1973](#) – [Cold War](#): Following President [Richard Nixon](#)'s [visit](#) to the People's Republic of China, the two countries agree to establish [liaison](#) offices.
- [1974](#) – The [Organisation of the Islamic Conference](#) summit begins in [Lahore](#), Pakistan. Thirty-seven countries attend and twenty-two heads of state and government participate. It also recognizes [Bangladesh](#).
- [1974](#) – [Samuel Byck](#) tries and fails to assassinate U.S. President Richard Nixon.
- [1979](#) – Independence of [Saint Lucia](#) from the United Kingdom.
- [1980](#) – [Miracle on Ice](#): In [Lake Placid, New York](#), the United States hockey team defeats the [Soviet Union](#) hockey team 4–3.
- [1983](#) – The notorious [Broadway](#) flop [Moose Murders](#) opens and closes on the same night at the [Eugene O'Neill Theatre](#).
- [1986](#) – Start of the [People Power Revolution](#) in the [Philippines](#).
- [1994](#) – [Aldrich Ames](#) and his wife are charged by the [United States Department of Justice](#) with spying for the Soviet Union.
- [1995](#) – The [Corona reconnaissance satellite](#) program, in existence from 1959 to 1972, is declassified.
- [1997](#) – In [Roslin, Scotland](#), scientists announce that an adult sheep named [Dolly](#) has been successfully [cloned](#).
- [2002](#) – [Angolan](#) political and rebel leader [Jonas Savimbi](#) is killed in a military ambush.
- [2006](#) – At least six men stage Britain's [biggest robbery](#), stealing £53m (about \$92.5 million or €78 million) from a Securitas depot in [Tonbridge, Kent](#).
- [2011](#) – An [earthquake](#) measuring 6.3 in magnitude strikes [Christchurch](#), New Zealand,

killing 185 people.

- 2011 – [Bahraini uprising](#): Tens of thousands of people [march in protest](#) against the deaths of seven victims killed by police and army forces during previous protests.

From: Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)

Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 5:01 PM

Subj: Legislative Alert #113-35: SUPPORT S. 1982 & Boozman-Begich Amendment, Providing Advanced Appropriations for VA Programs, Benefits and Services

[Take Action!](#)

Issue Background: This week, the Senate will consider on the floor the bill S. 1982, the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014, introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT). This omnibus Veteran bill makes important improvements to health and benefit programs for Veterans by including a variety of provisions from approved Veteran bills marked up by members of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC). This bill is the most recent version of S. 1950. Given the limited amount of Veteran legislation, passed last year, a comprehensive Veterans bill is needed. In addition, an amendment will be offered during debate which will provide Advanced Appropriations to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). During the recent government shutdown while many VA offices and services were closed, VA hospitals and clinics were able to provide uninterrupted health care to Veterans. By contrast, the shutdown delayed, disrupted and suspended other critical services. Advance appropriations is not just for government shutdowns, but makes VA health care funding more sufficient, timely and predictable and can do the same for the rest of VA's programs, benefits and services. Advance appropriations mitigate disruptions caused by late budgets and Continuing Resolutions (CR's), which have occurred in 22 of the past 25 years.

Action Required: Contact your Senators and urge them to support S. 1982, the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014, introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders (VT). Also, urge your Senators to support the Boozman-Begich Amendment to S. 1982, introduced by Senator John Boozman (R-AR) and Senator Mark Begich (D-AK), providing advance appropriations for vital Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) programs.

Details (To Be Put Into Letter):

The Senate will be considering legislative action on S. 1982 in the coming week. This bill, the latest form of S. 1950, contains provisions of S. 944 which includes language to amend Title 38, United States Code, to require courses of education, approved for purposes of the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program and Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, to charge Veterans tuition and fees at the in-State tuition rate. Additionally, there is a provision, based on S. 629, the Honor America's Guard and Reserve Retirees Act, to recognize twenty-plus year career service in the Reserve Components of the Armed Forces by honoring such Reservists with status as Veterans under law. Furthermore there are a number of other provisions in S.1982 addressing Veterans issues including provisions of S. 495, the Careers for Veterans Act, which would improve opportunities for Federal and State agencies to hire Veterans.

When S. 1982 is brought up on the Senate floor, an amendment will be offered by Senators Boozman and Begich which will provide advanced appropriations measures to cover mandatory accounts within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Boozman-Begich amendment contains the substance of, S. 932, the Putting Veterans Funding First Act, which was previously approved by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Adoption of the Boozman-Begich amendment would not result in any additional spending by the Federal government, there is no PAYGO "score" and no offsets would be required, since projected spending if the amendment were enacted exactly matches the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) baseline. Advance appropriations process not only helps the VA during government shutdowns, but makes VA health care funding more sufficient, timely and predictable every year. Adopting S. 1982 and the Boozman-Begich amendment are essential to fulfilling our promises to our nation's Veterans. By making legislative improvements to VA healthcare and benefits while ensuring sufficient, timely and predictable funding, S. 1982 and the Boozman-Begich amendment are crucial steps towards keeping such promises.

Take Action: Click the [“Take Action”](#) link at the top of the Alert to immediately email and/or write to your Senators and Representatives. This is the quickest and most effective method of expressing your views to Congress. You can also write and/or e-mail the ‘Details’ section or edit as you desire for a more personalized communication. Also, contact friends and family and urge them to use the Contact Congress feature on AUSN’s website as well. Please direct any questions concerning this issue to our Director of Legislation, Anthony Wallis, at 703-548-5800 or at Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org.

From: Curt Cashour, House Committee on Veterans Affairs
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 4:43 PM

Subj: ADVISORY: HVAC to Examine VA Progress in Improving Accountability and Quality of Care

Media Advisory

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Curt Cashour, (202) 225-3527

HVAC to Examine VA Progress in Improving Accountability and Quality of Care

WASHINGTON, D.C.— On Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in room 334 of the Cannon House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Health will hold an oversight hearing to review the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration’s efforts to fix deficiencies in care previously identified by the subcommittee.

Over the past year, the subcommittee held oversight hearings on a litany of issues facing VHA, including [VA physician staffing and productivity standards](#); [the care and treatment available to veteran survivors of military sexual trauma](#); [VA’s skyrocketing narcotics prescription rate](#). Additionally, the subcommittee has hosted roundtable discussions regarding the impact department-wide procurement reform has had on access and quality of care for veteran patients as well as opportunities to improve patient care by optimizing VA’s existing authority to bill and collect from third-party health insurance companies for nonservice-connected care provided to veterans.

This hearing will examine the progress VA has made in these areas, what steps department officials have taken to increase accountability within VHA and determine where additional subcommittee oversight is needed.

The following event is open to the press:

WHO: Subcommittee on Health

WHAT: Hearing: [“VA Accountability: Assessing Actions Taken in Response to Subcommittee Oversight”](#)

WHEN: Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 10:00 am

WHERE: Room 334, Cannon House Office Building and streaming at veterans.house.gov

Witness List

Panel 1

The Honorable Robert Petzel, M.D.

Under Secretary for Health

Veterans Health Administration

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Accompanied by:

Robert Jesse, M.D.

Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health

Veterans Health Administration

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Madhulika Agarwal, M.D., M.P.H.

Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Services

Veterans Health Administration

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Rajiv Jain, M.D.
Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Patient Care Services
Veterans Health Administration
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Phillip Matkovsky
Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Administrative Operations
Veterans Health Administration
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

For more news from the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, please visit:

Veterans.House.Gov

Find us on Facebook at: [Facebook.com/HouseVetsAffairs](https://www.facebook.com/HouseVetsAffairs) or follow us on Twitter at:

[@HouseVetAffairs](https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs)

From: JS Pentagon OCJCS Mailbox Warrior and Family Support

Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 6:51 PM

Subj: Warrior & Family Support News: Monday, 24 February 2014

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

[Piper Hill's mission is to give veterans hope](#)

Newnan Times-Herald

“A couple of the soldiers got sponsored by the **Semper Fi Fund**. In that first year, we had nine veterans that finished the program and our size has doubled every year until last year,” said Hill. “Finances aside, it's hard training a dog,” said Hill ...

[City, Jaguars Launch Community Grants Program Supporting Veterans Services](#)

Jacksonville Jaguars

Veterans are a tremendous asset to Jacksonville. We welcome them and their families to our **community**, and we want to make sure they have every opportunity to thrive here. That's how we make Jacksonville into the most **veteran-** and military-friendly city ...

[The Rocket City is Running for Wounded Warriors](#)

whnt.com

“We raise money at this 5k to raise not only **funds**, but also awareness for the wounded warrior project and the programs that they offer for wounded warriors.” ... “We have vets with vets, **Semper Fi Riders Patriot Guard** riders, future soldiers, future ...

[Community rallies around wounded veteran after Valentine's Day fire destroys ...](#)

Fox News

A Tennessee **community** is rallying around a wounded **veteran** and her family after their home was destroyed by a Valentine's Day fire. U.S. Army Cpl. Susan Downes returned to find her home engulfed in flames Friday after authorities say a friend tried to ...

EMPLOYMENT

[Why employing military veterans should be a national priority](#)

DallasNews.com

To be clear, most veterans who come home are just fine and simply want an opportunity for a good job or an education. What concerns us, however, is that after 13 years of war, the American public may simply feel relief and assume the problems are over. In fact, they will be just beginning...

[Report: 90 Percent of Military Spouses Underemployed](#)

Associations Now

New research by a **military** officers' group reveals that **military** spouses—most of them women—face challenges in finding and keeping **employment**, and many who are **employed** are overqualified for their **jobs**. The results of the '2013 **Military Spouse ...**

[JPMorgan Chase gives \\$122,000 to UT Arlington veterans project](#)

Star-Telegram

Alexa Smith-Osborne, principal investigator of the Student Veteran Project, will begin recruiting eight to 10 social work majors this summer to serve as peer facilitators for veterans throughout their first year on campus. The facilitators will be trained in the assistant social work professor's Student Veteran Program, created in 2007 to act as an intervention mechanism for veterans...

[Military personnel held back from employment](#)

HRmagazine.co.uk

An examination of the transition of armed forces **employees** from the **military** to civilian life found employers were confused by their experience and qualifications. Service leavers also reported finding it hard to explain their skills and experiences to...

[Arizona parks program helps homeless veterans become rangers](#)

Fox News

Working as an Arizona State Park Ranger isn't just a **job** for Army **veteran** Carlos Garcia, it's a second chance. Under a program the state launched in partnership with a host of public and private agencies to put homeless **veterans to work**, he is earning...

[Q&A: Rethinking Veterans' Employment for OFCCP Compliance](#)

Bloomberg BNA

Contractors can set the **hiring** benchmarks for their written affirmative action programs by using either "the current national percentage of **veterans** in workforce," which is about 8 percent, or "their own benchmark based on the best available data..."

EDUCATION

[Pikes Peak Community College opens veterans center in response to more ...](#)

Colorado Springs Gazette

... Special to The Gazette Pikes Peak **Community** College held. Michael S. Humphreys / Special to The Gazette Pikes Peak **Community** College held a grand opening for its new , \$1.5 million **veterans** center earlier this month on its campus near Fort Carson.

[Veterans and their families have new college comparison tool: Higher Education ...](#)

The Plain Dealer

The U.S. Department of **Veterans** Affairs released the GI Bill comparison tool on Tuesday. The site features data on the price and student outcomes of more than 10,000 VA-approved **education** and training programs. With information on colleges' overall...

Best regards,

Randall E. "Smitty" Smith, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Director, Warrior & Family Support, Office of the Chairman

Godspeed all..... Wayne

Wayne M. Gatewood, Jr., USMC (Ret)

Founder/President/CEO

Quality Support, Inc., Established 1989

A VA CVE-Verified SDVOSB
8201 Corporate Drive, Suite 220
Landover, MD 20785
301-459-3777 EXT 101 - Fax 301-459-6961
www.qualitysupport.com

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their Nation." - George Washington