

**From:** [Wayne Gatewood, Jr](#)  
**To:** [Wayne Gatewood, Jr](#)  
**Subject:** Veterans News for Wednesday, March 12, 2014  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014 6:54:58 PM

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Happy Wednesday good people. Hope you and yours are well.

**For Today:** *Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.*

*Aristotle*

**DOD Contracts Awarded for Wednesday, March 12, 2014.**

<http://www.defense.gov/contracts/contract.aspx?contractid=5240>

**DOD Contracts Awarded for Tuesday, March 11, 2014.**

<http://www.defense.gov/contracts/contract.aspx?contractid=5239>

**California Disabled Veteran Business Alliance (CADVBE) Weekly Newsletter.**

<http://track.namastelight.com/v/443/bb78f36a078aaa88e58268052cfb9f54b33dfad1903dcf53>

**Reserve Officers Association (ROA) SmartBrief for Wednesday, March 12, 2014.**

<http://www2.smartbrief.com/servlet/encodeServlet?issueid=AE6357DD-AC51-4462-8B26-85CDFE512CF6&sid=22cbe9eb-3ef0-4eca-8105-ef9f466dc32d>

**Reserve Officers Association (ROA) SmartBrief for Tuesday, March 11, 2014.**

<http://www2.smartbrief.com/servlet/encodeServlet?issueid=4047D220-C49E-40A6-9ED9-8BC8862B9FD1&sid=22cbe9eb-3ef0-4eca-8105-ef9f466dc32d>

**Augusta VA Chief of Staff Remains on Payroll After Resignation. From HCVA, Kurt Cashour.**

<http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/health/2014-03-11/augusta-va-chief-staff-remains-payroll-after-resignation?v=1394567450>

**FBC Presents - 24th Annual Government Procurement Conference.** Wednesday, April 16, 2014, Walter E.

Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.. Hope to see you there!

[http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=qc5crxr7&v=001tP2d4sszXqoq5myDMQbGH46YT7IEG1V8hn\\_yEDktPpHyDsPskXHWTh56GhcEsHh7fm-9YrtJY6Wjy-LdTIWK7JTTCnjDwZ2Yyc8Hz5d7sEFCu5yxKkf1Fd\\_dfTaJrS7pzaR5OETSQza9qMhSmD5o-NotaTiAK42gzDRQW4Lqia203ay8iunbyg%3D%3D](http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=qc5crxr7&v=001tP2d4sszXqoq5myDMQbGH46YT7IEG1V8hn_yEDktPpHyDsPskXHWTh56GhcEsHh7fm-9YrtJY6Wjy-LdTIWK7JTTCnjDwZ2Yyc8Hz5d7sEFCu5yxKkf1Fd_dfTaJrS7pzaR5OETSQza9qMhSmD5o-NotaTiAK42gzDRQW4Lqia203ay8iunbyg%3D%3D)

**Remarkable Women Veterans in American History:** The names of these women may not be immediately recognizable but these are women who opened the way for millions of women in the American military who followed their lead.

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

Sincerely.....Wayne

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**VA HQ News for Wednesday, March 12, 2014. Thanks to Kevin Secor, VA VSO Liaison.**

1. **[2014 QDR Presumes Future Includes More Risk, Less Money.](#)**
2. **[Legislators call on DOD to fully accommodate Sikh troops.](#)**
3. **[Restriction of 'good soldier' defense at center of Senate bill.](#)**
4. **[Senators rally behind military sexual assault bill.](#)**
5. **[The effort to make sure troops' gear never fails. Ever.](#)**
6. **[Large US contingent to take part in South Korean exercise.](#)**

7. [Air Force to eliminate nearly 500 aircraft in 25 states, D.C. and overseas.](#)
8. [VA gets \\$567 million for telehealth services in 2015 budget.](#)
9. [Bill will allow posttraumatic stress disorder as mitigating factor in sentencing combat vets.](#)
10. [VA budget tackles two major goals.](#)
11. [Budget Funds Process to Eliminate VA Disability Claims Backlog.](#)
12. [Bill would gather data for military families.](#)
13. [Congress Must Step Up for Veterans.](#)
14. [Vets battle VA on post-Vietnam Agent Orange claims.](#)
15. [Fla. Legislature passes tuition break for veterans.](#)
16. [Bilirakis Calls For Post-9/11 GI Bill Study.](#)
17. [Supporting Our Heroes.](#)
18. [DAV, Salvation Army team up to help homeless vets.](#)
19. [Coffman, Other Colo. Reps, Ask VA To Pair With Army Engineers For Bloated VA Project.](#)
20. [Memo confirms VA Pittsburgh officials knew of Legionella threat long before made public.](#)
21. [Nurses' Training To Focus On Health Care For Veterans.](#)
22. [Michigan medical marijuana panel recommends adding post-traumatic stress disorder to law.](#)
23. [More vets suffer from ALS, but the VA moves effectively to help.](#)
24. [First-of-its-kind clinic 'saved my marriage,' Iraq veteran says.](#)
25. [Legion hears from vets about VA care.](#)
26. [Monday letters: Care at Dorn excellent.](#)
27. [Second Chances: A Patient's Journey.](#)
28. [Annual muster set to provide valuable information to veterans.](#)
29. [Homeless veteran buried in National Cemetery after 55 months unclaimed in morgue.](#)
30. [From war to Paralympics, US veterans compete on ice.](#)
31. [Aynor residents plead guilty in federal court to defrauding government.](#)
32. [VA employee sentenced for trading vets' info for crack cocaine.](#)
33. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 12, 2014:
34. Today in History:

1. [2014 QDR Presumes Future Includes More Risk, Less Money.](#) The 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review isn't like previous reviews, a senior Defense Department official said here yesterday. Christine E. Wormuth, deputy undersecretary of defense for strategy, plans and force development spoke at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. The QDR is a congressionally mandated review of ...
2. [Legislators call on DOD to fully accommodate Sikh troops.](#) A group of legislators is asking the Pentagon for a policy change to ensure Sikh troops are never forced to violate their religion by shaving their beards, cutting their hair or getting rid of their turbans.
3. [Restriction of 'good soldier' defense at center of Senate bill.](#) The U.S. Senate unanimously passed an amendment Monday that will severely restrict the use of the "good soldier" defense and, supporters say, strengthen reforms to the Uniform Code of Military Justice to protect and empower victims of sexual assault. Critics say the move does not go far enough.
4. [Senators rally behind military sexual assault bill.](#) Senators rallied behind significant changes in military law to curb rape and sexual assault within the ranks, approving steps to protect the victims and barring the "good soldier defense" to ensure evidence alone determines a defendant's fate.
5. [The effort to make sure troops' gear never fails. Ever.](#) Since 2007, Project Executive Officer Soldier has collected more than 25,000 pieces of equipment, and research shows that not one single helmet, not one single plate has failed. Ever.

6. [Large US contingent to take part in South Korean exercise](#). Nearly 10,000 U.S. troops will join the South Korean military later this month in the peninsula's largest joint amphibious landing drill, South Korean media reported Tuesday.
7. [Air Force to eliminate nearly 500 aircraft in 25 states, D.C. and overseas](#). The Air Force plans to cut nearly 500 planes from its inventory over the next five years if the Defense Department's Fiscal 2015 budget request is approved by Congress, the service announced Monday.
8. [VA gets \\$567 million for telehealth services in 2015 budget](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **EHR Intelligence:** Already deeply involved in bringing remote mental and physical healthcare to veterans across the country, the Department of Veterans Affairs [received a \\$23 million boost](#) for its [telehealth](#) programs in [the FY 2015 federal budget](#), bringing the total to \$567 million for the year.
9. [Bill will allow posttraumatic stress disorder as mitigating factor in sentencing combat vets](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Republic (AP):** Posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries could be used as a mitigating factor in the sentencing of combat veterans convicted of crimes under a bill considered Tuesday in the House Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee.
10. [VA budget tackles two major goals](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The News-Star:** The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has proposed \$68.4 billion in discretionary spending, largely for health care, with [goals](#) to eliminate years of medical claims backlog and a focus on reducing homelessness among veterans.
11. [Budget Funds Process to Eliminate VA Disability Claims Backlog](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **FEDweek:** The VA has praised the President's fiscal 2015 budget request for providing for full implementation of the Veterans Benefits Administration's transformation plan for reducing the disability claims backlog and process all claims within 125 days with 98 percent accuracy.
12. [Bill would gather data for military families](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **San Francisco Chronicle (AP):** The [House Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee](#) heard a bill Tuesday on gathering educational data on military family students for use by deployment families coming to the state.
13. [Congress Must Step Up for Veterans](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Huffington Post:** Congress and the administration are saying the right things. But they need to act. Our veterans don't have the luxury of waiting. The numbers who need our help are growing, and they need that help. And they need it now.
14. [Vets battle VA on post-Vietnam Agent Orange claims](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Marine Corps Times:** Last July, Bailey, then 67, won a hard-fought and groundbreaking battle when the Veterans Affairs Department finally approved his claim that Agent Orange caused his prostate cancer and metastatic pelvic cancer.
15. [Fla. Legislature passes tuition break for veterans](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Miami Herald (AP):** The Florida Legislature on Tuesday passed the "Florida GI" bill that supporters say will help the state become the most "military friendly" in the nation.
16. [Bilirakis Calls For Post-9/11 GI Bill Study](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Tampa Tribune:** So how well is the Post-9/11 GI Bill working for veterans? That's what Rep. Gus Bilirakis wants to know.
17. [Supporting Our Heroes](#). [Hyperlink to Video](#) **Fox News Channel, Fox and Friends (Video):** In this 1:00 video, the reporter discusses an Obama Administration policy that offers benefits to the illegal alien relatives of Veteran immigrants.

- 18.DAV, Salvation Army team up to help homeless vets.** [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Daytona Beach News-Journal:** Disabled American Veterans Chapter 86, Flagler Beach, is joining forces with the Salvation Army to help end homelessness among American veterans.
- 19.Coffman, Other Colo. Reps, Ask VA To Pair With Army Engineers For Bloated VA Project.** [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Aurora Sentinel:** Negotiations between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide oversight for a bogged down Aurora VA hospital may have broken down, U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman said Monday, and the Aurora congressman wants to know why.
- 20.Memo confirms VA Pittsburgh officials knew of Legionella threat long before made public.** [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review:** The top physician in the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System encouraged doctors to give bottled water to high-risk patients more than a year before the hospital system disclosed dangerous Legionella bacteria levels in its tap water, the Tribune-Review has learned.
- 21.Nurses' Training To Focus On Health Care For Veterans.** [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Courant:** To address what it calls an "urgent need" for better health care for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, a foundation has awarded grants to four Connecticut nursing schools for scholarships designed to improve the care.
- 22.Michigan medical marijuana panel recommends adding post-traumatic stress disorder to law.** [Hyperlink to Article](#) **MLive.com:** Michigan residents suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder may soon have another legal treatment option.
- 23.More vets suffer from ALS, but the VA moves effectively to help.** [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Charlotte Observer:** No one knows why U.S. military veterans are twice as likely to develop ALS than the general population, or why those who deployed during the Gulf War in 1990-91 may be twice as likely to get the disease as other troops.
- 24.First-of-its-kind clinic 'saved my marriage,' Iraq veteran says.** [Hyperlink to Article](#) **CNN (Video):** Typically, the VA does not treat family members unless the veteran asks for it. But at the center, family members are equally empowered to get treatment, and they can get it with their soldiers in a single, shared space.
- 25.Legion hears from vets about VA care.** [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The American Legion:** At a March 10 town hall meeting in Augusta, Ga., local veterans shared their concerns about the quality of VA health care they are receiving at the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center.
- 26.Monday letters: Care at Dorn excellent.** [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The State:** My wife, Jean, and I want to thank the staff for all that has been done for us these years that the William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center has been my home for medical care.
- 27.Second Chances: A Patient's Journey.** [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Register-Herald:** Eventually, Russell found his way to the Beckley VA Medical Center, what he calls the "Taj Mahal" of facilities for veterans. He met Dr. Jorge Gordinho, whom he reveres as "One of the finest physicians that's ever been."
- 28.Annual muster set to provide valuable information to veterans.** [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Bucks County Courier Times:** A wide range of benefits and services are available to military veterans, but finding out how to take advantage of them can be a complicated endeavor. So, for the third consecutive year, the Lower Southampton Veterans Advisory Council is hosting its annual veterans muster — a one-stop shop

designed to provide the latest information and contacts to vets.

**29. [Homeless veteran buried in National Cemetery after 55 months unclaimed in morgue.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Michigan Radio (Audio):** A homeless navy veteran died in Ann Arbor last October. No family members came forward to claim his body. So for five months, the veteran's body lay in the morgue.**

**30. [From war to Paralympics, US veterans compete on ice](#) .** Less than five years after stepping on an improvised explosive device while on patrol in Afghanistan, retired U.S. Marine Sgt. Joshua Sweeney is serving his country again overseas - in the sporting arena.

31. **[Aynor residents plead guilty in federal court to defrauding government.](#)** MyrtleBeachOnline.com ... firearms, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office. ... the Department of Veterans Affairs were notified because the newspaper ...

**32. [VA employee sentenced for trading vets' info for crack cocaine.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Washington Times (Video):** A former Veterans Affairs employee is facing six years in prison after it was revealed he traded veterans' personal information in exchange for crack cocaine.**

### **33. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 12, 2014:**

- **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, NCOA, AXPOW.
- **March 12, 2014.** SVAC, Full Committee, "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015."
- **March 13, 2014.** HVAC, Full Committee, "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015."
- **March 25, 2014.** SAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.
- **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 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.

➤ **March 27, 2014.** HVAC Health intends to hold a Legislative Hearing on health related bills.

#### **34. Today in History:**

- **1689** – The [Williamite War in Ireland](#) begins.
- **1811** – [Peninsular War](#): A day after a successful [rear guard](#) action, [French Marshal Michel Ney](#) once again successfully delayed the pursuing Anglo-Portuguese force at the [Battle of Redinha](#).
- **1864** – [American Civil War](#): The [Red River Campaign](#) begins as a US Navy fleet of 13 Ironclads and 7 Gunboats and other support ships enter the Red River.
- **1868** – [Henry O'Farrell](#) attempts to assassinate [Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh](#).
- **1881** – [Andrew Watson](#) makes his [Scotland](#) debut as the world's first [black](#) international [football](#) player and [captain](#).
- **1894** – [Coca-Cola](#) is bottled and sold for the first time in [Vicksburg, Mississippi](#), by local soda fountain operator Joseph Biedenharn.
- **1912** – The [Girl Guides](#) (later renamed the [Girl Scouts of the USA](#)) are founded in the [United States](#).
- **1913** – [Canberra Day](#): The future capital of [Australia](#) is officially named [Canberra](#). ([Melbourne](#) remains temporary capital until [1927](#) while the new capital is still under construction.)
- **1918** – [Moscow](#) becomes the capital of [Russia](#) again after [Saint Petersburg](#) held this status for 215 years.
- **1928** – In [California](#), the [St. Francis Dam](#) fails; the resulting floods kill over 600 people.
- **1930** – [Mahatma Gandhi](#) leads a 200-mile march, known as the [Salt March](#), to the sea in defiance of [British](#) opposition, to protest the [British](#) monopoly on salt
- **1933** – [Great Depression](#): [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) addresses the nation for the first time as [President of the United States](#). This is also the first of his "[fireside chats](#)".
- **1934** – [Konstantin Päts](#) and General [Johan Laidoner](#) stage a coup in [Estonia](#), and ban all political parties.
- **1938** – [Anschluss](#): [German](#) troops occupy [Austria](#).
- **1940** – [Winter War](#): [Finland](#) signs the [Moscow Peace Treaty](#) with the [Soviet Union](#), ceding almost all of [Finnish Karelia](#). Finnish troops and the remaining population are

immediately evacuated.

- [1947](#) – The [Truman Doctrine](#) is proclaimed to help stem the spread of [Communism](#).
- [1961](#) – First Winter Ascent of the [Eiger north face](#).
- [1967](#) – [Suharto](#) takes over from [Sukarno](#) to become [Acting President](#) of [Indonesia](#).
- [1968](#) – [Mauritius](#) achieves independence from the United Kingdom.
- [1971](#) – [The March 12 Memorandum](#) is sent to the [Demirel](#) government of Turkey and the government resigns.
- [1992](#) – [Mauritius](#) becomes a [republic](#) while remaining a member of the [Commonwealth of Nations](#).
- [1993](#) – Several [bombs explode](#) in [Bombay](#) (Mumbai), [India](#), killing about 300 and injuring hundreds more.
- [1993](#) – [North Korea nuclear weapons program](#): [North Korea](#) says that it plans to withdraw from the [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty](#) and refuses to allow inspectors access to its nuclear sites.
- [1993](#) – The [Blizzard of 1993](#) – Snow begins to fall across the eastern portion of the US with tornadoes, thunder snow storms, high winds and record low temperatures. The storm lasts for 30 hours.
- [1993](#) – [Janet Reno](#) was sworn in as the [United States'](#) first female attorney general.
- [1994](#) – The [Church of England](#) ordains its first female priests.
- [1999](#) – Former [Warsaw Pact](#) members the [Czech Republic](#), [Hungary](#) and [Poland](#) join [NATO](#).
- [2003](#) – [Zoran Đindić](#), [Prime Minister](#) of [Serbia](#), is [assassinated](#) in [Belgrade](#).
- [2004](#) – The [President of South Korea](#), [Roh Moo-hyun](#), is impeached by its [National Assembly](#): the first such impeachment in the nation's history.
- [2005](#) – [Karolos Papoulias](#) becomes [President of Greece](#).
- [2009](#) – Financier [Bernard Madoff](#) pleads guilty in New York to scamming \$18 billion, the largest in Wall Street history.
- [2011](#) – A reactor at the [Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant](#) melts and explodes and releases radioactivity into the atmosphere a day after Japan's [earthquake](#).

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**VA HQ News for Tuesday, March 11, 2014. Thanks to Kevin Secor, VA VSO Liaison.**

1. [Poll: Even in GOP, little appetite for military involvement in Ukraine.](#)
2. [At Crimea base, Ukraine troops who fought in Iraq now face Russian 'brothers'.](#)
3. [Judge rules Army command interfered in Sinclair sex assault case.](#)
4. [Suicide awareness hike a personal journey for Army reservist, mother.](#)
5. [Immigration change gives legal status to undocumented relatives of US military.](#)
6. [VA budget tackles two major goals.](#)
7. [Secretary Shinseki and the VA are doing the best they can.](#)
8. [Bill would speed progress on claims backlog.](#)
9. [Veterans explain frustrations with VA delays to American Legion panel.](#)
10. [Veterans Blast VA Medical Center, American Legion Takes Note.](#)
11. [Veterans Help Each Other In Sacramento State College Course.](#)
12. [Veterans make up growing share of federal workforce so why is their morale faltering?](#)
13. [Fighting for space on a new front.](#)
14. [Welcome efforts to connect veterans to jobs.](#)
15. [Long Beach vocational assistance program helps veterans with spinal injuries find jobs.](#)
16. [3 ways to manage patient pain.](#)
17. [After a conviction, help for incarcerated veterans.](#)
18. [Veteran group's donation prompts free Tri-Rail rides, new legislation.](#)
19. [This week: Vet Center Visit.](#)
20. [Veteran, active-duty counseling center coming to Prattville.](#)

21. [Hockey player Josh Sweeney among U.S. veterans in Sochi.](#)
22. [William 'Wild Bill' Guarnere dies; was member of WWII 'Band of Brothers'.](#)
23. [Veteran recalls reaching targets first in nose turret of B-24 over Japan.](#)
24. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 11, 2014:
25. Today in History:

1. [Poll: Even in GOP, little appetite for military involvement in Ukraine.](#) The rallying cry at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference here last week was that President Obama had failed to show strength on foreign policy, but a new CNN poll found that even among Republicans, few support U.S. military involvement — or even military assistance — in the Ukraine crisis.
2. [At Crimea base, Ukraine troops who fought in Iraq now face Russian 'brothers'.](#) “I tell you the truth, I would have been less surprised to find men from the moon surrounding our base,” the Ukrainian officer said. “Right now, the Russians are our captors. But I cannot get my mind around the idea that they are the enemy. The Russians have always been my brothers.”
3. [Judge rules Army command interfered in Sinclair sex assault case.](#) A military judge ruled Monday that the U.S. Army improperly interfered with a decision to reject an offer by Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair to plead guilty to lesser charges in his sexual assault case.
4. [Suicide awareness hike a personal journey for Army reservist, mother.](#) Come Saturday, Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Ilene Henderson and her mother, Inge, plan to embark on a 2,180-mile hike of the Appalachian Trail to raise awareness of the rising suicide rate among veterans and to undergo some emotional rehabilitation.
5. [Immigration change gives legal status to undocumented relatives of US military.](#) [Hyperlink to Article FOXNews.com:](#) Immigration reform may be stalled in Congress, but a new Obama administration policy is extending legal status and military benefits to thousands of illegal immigrants who are the spouses, parents and children of American military members.
6. [VA budget tackles two major goals.](#) [Hyperlink to Article The News-Star:](#) The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has proposed \$68.4 billion in discretionary spending, largely for health care, with goals to eliminate years of medical claims backlog and a focus on reducing homelessness among veterans.
7. [Secretary Shinseki and the VA are doing the best they can.](#) [Hyperlink to Article The Daily Caller:](#) For clarification, the recent op-ed by Derrick Storms entitled “How veterans can fight back against VA abuse,” does not accurately portray the position of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, nor does Mr. Storms speak for the organization or its members.
8. [Bill would speed progress on claims backlog.](#) [Hyperlink to Article Military Times:](#) Their bill, the 21st Century Veterans Benefits Delivery Act, would provide better customer service for veterans with pending claims, offer more money to veterans who file “fully developed” claims and mandate stricter oversight of claims officials.
9. [Veterans explain frustrations with VA delays to American Legion panel.](#) [Hyperlink to Article Augusta Chronicle:](#) More than 50 veteran patients joined Kelly at the meeting to relay issues about care to the American Legion’s System Worth Saving Task Force, a decade-old group that chose Augusta this year as one of 15 VA systems it plans to assess for improvements.
10. [Veterans Blast VA Medical Center, American Legion Takes Note.](#) [Hyperlink to Article WJBF-TV \(Video\):](#) The Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center is under the microscope again for review of how it cares for patients. This time, national members of the American Legion’s System Worth Saving (SWS)



met at the Jack Fortune VFW Post 205 on Highland Ave. in Augusta to hear from veterans about their VA Medical Center issues.

- 11. Veterans Help Each Other In Sacramento State College Course.** [Hyperlink to Article](#) **KOVR-TV:** A professor at Sacramento State started the class for students who served our country... There are a few classes at other colleges for just veterans, but this class appears to be a first, where veterans end up mentoring other veterans.
- 12. Veterans make up growing share of federal workforce so why is their morale faltering?** [Hyperlink to Above Article](#) **WFED-AM (Federal News Radio):** In 2012, nearly 29 percent of new hires were veterans — by the government's count, the highest percentage of new veteran hires in some 20 years. That equated to more than 56,000 veterans joining the ranks of the civil service that year... But even as the federal government has found success onboarding veteran employees, new questions have been raised about the workplace environments veterans are encountering.
- 13. Fighting for space on a new front.** [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Daily Californian:** With few employment prospects, Wiltshire turned to the GI Bill to keep himself afloat financially — the legislation covers educational costs and a living stipend. His initial motivation was primarily economic, and his attitude was decidedly ho-hum.
- 14. Welcome efforts to connect veterans to jobs.** [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The News Tribune:** Tens of thousands of veterans will be hunting for jobs and support services, and the new Lakewood nonprofit [Rally Point 6] is uniquely poised to help them. With close ties to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the organization founded by retired Army helicopter pilot Anne Sprute has a mission: Don't leave anyone behind. Do what it takes to help each veteran succeed in the post-military world.
- 15. Long Beach vocational assistance program helps veterans with spinal injuries find jobs.** [Hyperlink to Above Article](#) **Press-Telegram:** Counselors are assigned to veterans hospitals that are equipped to treat people living with the kinds of serious injuries that would require a person to use a wheelchair or a walker, either of which Metal needs to use, depending on how far he has to move in a given situation.
- 16. 3 ways to manage patient pain.** FierceHealthcare ... approach developed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to treat ... decrease reliance on pain medications, according to Pain Medicine News.
- 17. After a conviction, help for incarcerated veterans.** [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Baltimore Sun:** Haskell is a clinical social worker in Baltimore with the Department of Veterans Affairs, which has piloted a program in Maryland that allows the agency to identify more veterans in prison. That program — which matches VA records with prison records, enabling the VA to locate twice as many former service members — is now expanding nationwide.
- 18. Veteran group's donation prompts free Tri-Rail rides, new legislation.** [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Sun Sentinel:** The goal was to make life a little easier for disabled veterans in Deerfield Beach... But money raised by the city's chapter of the Disabled American Veterans to subsidize Tri-Rail trips to VA hospitals has instead had a much wider reach.
- 19. This week: Vet Center Visit.** [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Asbury Park Press:** The Vet Center, an arm of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, will offer mobile counseling services in southern Ocean County later this month.
- 20. Veteran, active-duty counseling center coming to Prattville.** [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Montgomery Advertiser:** The Birmingham Veterans Center is coming to Prattville to service active-duty military members and their families in counseling, March 28... According to the Department of Veterans Affairs

eligibility requirements have expanded to include more than just Veterans.

**21. [Hockey player Josh Sweeney among U.S. veterans in Sochi](#). [Hyperlink to Article USA Today](#):** The U.S. Paralympic team has no shortage of compelling stories, especially with slightly more than 20% of the 80-person roster comprised of military members... As with many veterans in the Sochi Games, Lujan first got his start to adaptive winter sports at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, sponsored by the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs.

**22. [William 'Wild Bill' Guarnere dies; was member of WWII 'Band of Brothers'](#).** "Wild Bill" Guarnere, earning his nickname as a fearless combat soldier against the Germans, was a member of the legendary "Band of Brothers" — Easy Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division — celebrated in books and an HBO miniseries in 2001.

**23. [Veteran recalls reaching targets first in nose turret of B-24 over Japan](#).** As the "lead" crew member, Paul E. Allan realized there was a good chance the enemy, if coming head-on, would most likely take aim at him first.

#### **24. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 11, 2014:**

- **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, NCOA, AXPOW.
- **March 12, 2014.** SVAC, Full Committee, "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015."
- **March 13, 2014.** HVAC, Full Committee, "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2015."
- **March 25, 2014.** SAC-MILCON-VA FY15 Budget Hearing.
- **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 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.
- **March 27, 2014.** HVAC Health intends to hold a Legislative Hearing on health related bills.

## 25. Today in History:

- **1784** – The signing of the [Treaty of Mangalore](#) brings the [Second Anglo-Mysore War](#) to an end.
- **1811** – During [André Masséna's](#) retreat from the [Lines of Torres Vedras](#), a division led by [French Marshal Michel Ney](#) fights off a combined Anglo-Portuguese force to give Masséna time to escape.
- **1824** – The [United States Department of War](#) creates the [Bureau of Indian Affairs](#).
- **1845** – [The Flagstaff War](#): Unhappy with translational differences regarding the [Treaty of Waitangi](#), chiefs [Hone Heke](#), [Kawiti](#) and [Maori](#) tribe members chop down the British flagpole for a fourth time and drive settlers out of [Kororareka](#), [New Zealand](#).
- **1861** – [American Civil War](#): The [Constitution of the Confederate States of America](#) is adopted.
- **1872** – Construction of the [Seven Sisters](#) Colliery, [South Wales](#), begins; located on one of the richest coal sources in Britain.
- **1879** – [Sho Tai](#) formally abdicated his position of King of Ryukyu, under orders from [Tokyo](#), ending the [Ryukyu Kingdom](#)
- **1888** – The [Great Blizzard of 1888](#) begins along the eastern seaboard of the United States, shutting down commerce and killing more than 400.
- **1916** – [USS Nevada \(BB-36\)](#) is commissioned. The first US Navy "[super-dreadnought](#)".
- **1917** – [World War I](#): [Baghdad falls](#) to [Anglo-Indian](#) forces commanded by [General Stanley Maude](#).
- **1918** – The first case of [Spanish flu](#) occurs, the start of a devastating worldwide pandemic.
- **1927** – In [New York City](#), [Samuel Roxy Rothafel](#) opens the [Roxy Theatre](#).
- **1931** – [Ready for Labor and Defense of the USSR](#), abbreviated as [GTO](#), is introduced in the [Soviet Union](#).
- **1941** – [World War II](#): [President Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) signs the [Lend-Lease](#) Act into law, allowing American-built war supplies to be shipped to the [Allies](#) on loan.
- **1942** – World War II: [General Douglas MacArthur](#) leaves [Corregidor](#).
- **1945** – World War II: The [Imperial Japanese Navy](#) attempts a large-scale [kamikaze](#) attack on the [U.S. Pacific Fleet](#) anchored at [Ulithi](#) atoll in [Operation Tan No. 2](#).
- **1945** – World War II: The [Empire of Vietnam](#), a short-lived [puppet state](#), is established

- with [Bảo Đại](#) as its ruler.
- [1946](#) – [Rudolf Höss](#), the first commandant of [Auschwitz concentration camp](#), is captured by British troops.
  - [1977](#) – The [1977 Hanafi Muslim Siege](#): more than 130 hostages held in [Washington, D.C.](#), by [Hanafi](#) Muslims are set free after ambassadors from three [Islamic](#) nations join negotiations.
  - [1978](#) – [Coastal Road massacre](#): At least 37 are killed and more than 70 are wounded when [Al Fatah](#) hijack an [Israeli](#) bus, prompting Israel's [Operation Litani](#).
  - [1983](#) – [Pakistan successfully conducts a cold test](#) of a [nuclear weapon](#).
  - [1990](#) – [Lithuania declares itself independent](#) from the Soviet Union.
  - [1990](#) – [Patricio Aylwin](#) is sworn in as the first democratically elected [President of Chile](#) since 1970.
  - [1993](#) – [Janet Reno](#) is confirmed by the [United States Senate](#) and sworn in the next day, becoming the first female [Attorney General of the United States](#).
  - [1999](#) – [Infosys](#) becomes the first [Indian](#) company listed on the [NASDAQ](#) stock exchange.
  - [2004](#) – [Madrid train bombings](#): Simultaneous explosions on rush hour trains in [Madrid, Spain](#), kill 191 people.
  - [2006](#) – [Michelle Bachelet](#) is inaugurated as first female president of Chile.
  - [2007](#) – [Georgia](#) claims [Russian](#) helicopters [attacked](#) the [Kodori Valley](#) in [Abkhazia](#), an accusation that Russia categorically denies later.
  - [2009](#) – [Winnenden school shooting](#): 16 are killed and 11 are injured before recent-graduate Tim Kretschmer shoots and kills himself, leading to tightened weapons restrictions in [Germany](#).
  - [2010](#) – Economist and businessman [Sebastián Piñera](#) is sworn in as [President of Chile](#), while [three earthquakes](#), the strongest measuring magnitude 6.9 and all centered next to [Pichilemu](#), capital of [Cardenal Caro Province](#), hit central Chile during the ceremony.
  - [2011](#) – An [earthquake](#) measuring 9.0 in magnitude strikes 130 km (81 mi) east of [Sendai](#), Japan, triggering a [tsunami](#) killing thousands of people. This event also triggered the [second largest nuclear accident](#) in history, and one of only two events to be classified as a Level 7 on the [International Nuclear Event Scale](#).
  - [2012](#) – A US soldier [kills 16 civilians](#) in the [Panjwayi District](#) of [Afghanistan](#) near [Kandahar](#).

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**From: Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)**

**Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 3:01 PM**

**Subj: LEGISLATIVE ALERT #113-37: URGE Congress to Reject Military Compensation & Benefit Changes and Navy Cuts in Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request**

[Take Action!](#)

**Issue Background:** On 4 March 2014, the Administration sent to Congress the President's Budget (PB) request for Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15). The PB requests a total of **\$495.6 billion** for the Department of Defense (DOD) budget; about **\$31 billion** less than FY14 requested levels. Despite some programs seeing positive steps forward, there are significant 'cost saving' measures being proposed as well as significant cuts to Navy platforms, which could impact overall morale, recruitment, retention and readiness in the military. Of particular concern are proposals within DOD's budget to reduce military pay raises (1% rather than 1.8%), lowering Commissary subsidies (resulting in a roughly 20% price spike), reducing the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) (a 6% reduction) and merging three different TRICARE plans; Prime, Standard and Extra, into one Consolidated TRICARE Health plan while instituting TRICARE for Life (TFL) enrollment fees and increasing pharmacy copays. All of this is being proposed as the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) is still doing its work and won't be done until 2015. The Navy also will see funding cuts for programs, particularly the Littoral Combat Ship

(LCS), F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), MQ-8 Fire Scouts and P-8A Poseidon's. Finally, despite the decision to preserve the USS *George Washington* (CVN-73), and maintain an 11 carrier fleet, the FY15 PB does note that there is potential to look at reducing carrier presence to 10 in Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16).

**Action Required:** Contact your Representatives and Senators and urge them to REJECT radical DOD Military Compensation & Benefits changes being proposed, even before the MCRMC completes its work. In addition, vital Navy programs are being reduced which inhibits our Navy's ability to strengthen our presence in the Asia-Pacific Theater.

**Details (To Be Put Into Letter):**

The Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) President's Budget (PB) that was recently released imposes significant changes to Military Compensation and Benefits and could harm our Navy's readiness. First, there are drastic proposals being offered to change the current TRICARE system, consolidating Prime, Standard and Extra into one plan, instituting TRICARE for Life (TFL) enrollment fees as well as increasing pharmacy copayments. A reduction in military pay, down .8%, is also being proposed along with a 6% reduction in Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) and 20% spike in prices at Commissary's. All told, these changes of DOD, which come before the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) have devised their report, propose for in a two year time frame, an E-5 to lose **\$593** in pay, **\$1,224** in BAH, **\$2,400** in Commissary savings and **\$206** on average with TRICARE changes being imposed. This totals a loss of about **\$4,423** in purchasing power. For an O-3, the average loss of purchasing power with these changes would be **\$5,320**.

In addition, the Navy at 283 vessels today, seems poised to shrink even further as sea-power investments are regularly deferred in the name of savings in the FY15 PB. Despite the recent 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) and 2012 Strategic guidance emphasizing growing our naval presence, particularly in the Asia-Pacific, the DOD budget includes removing 11 of our 22 cruisers (CGs) from the fleet, canceling the planned procurement of 20 relatively inexpensive Littoral Combat Ships (LCS), and DOD appears ready to reduce our aircraft-carrier fleet by forgoing needed maintenance on the USS *George Washington* (CVN-73) in FY16, shortening her service life and stretching the demands of not only our carrier force, but putting excess burdens upon our Sailors being asked to do more with less, potentially resulting in longer deployments. Along with these ship cuts, which threatens plans for a 300 plus sized fleet, the FY15 PB proposes decreases in the 5 year Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) plan for Navy aviation platforms including cutting 8 P-8A 'Poseidon' aircraft, 4 Navy F-35C Joint Strike Fighters (JSF), 7 E-2D "Advanced Hawkeyes" and 17 MQ-8 "Fire Scouts."

**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](mailto:Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org)

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**From:** JS Pentagon OCJCS Mailbox Warrior and Family Support  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014 4:11 PM  
**Subj:** Warrior & Family Support News: Wednesday, 12 March 2014

**CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED**

**LINK OF THE WEEK:** [Warrior Care Blog - DoD Office of Warrior Care Policy](#)

**WELLNESS**

**[ARMED FORCES: Competition helped Marine get his 'competitive edge back'](#)**

Press-Enterprise

DeYoung, a cancer survivor, was one of 300 ill or injured Marines and allied service members who have been competing this week in the 2014 **Wounded Warrior** Trials at Camp Pendleton. It's an eight-sport paralympic-style invitational event made up of...

**[US Department of Veterans Affairs Leads the Way in Helping Patients Conquer ...](#)**

## Pain Medicine News

On the front lines in helping veterans cope with pain is the U.S. Department of **Veterans Affairs (VA)** premier pain clinic—the Chronic Pain Rehabilitation Program (CPRP) at James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital (JAHVH) in Tampa, Fla. A two-time winner of...

### [First-of-its-kind clinic 'saved my marriage,' Iraq veteran says](#)

wtkr.com

In January 2013, the couple began getting therapy at the Unified Behavioral **Health** Center for Military **Veterans** and their Families in Bay Shore, on Long Island's South Shore. A counselor at the local VA told Joe that he should check out this clinic...

### [City Council approves veteran suicide prevention plan in wake of recent study](#)

Medill Reports: Chicago

The issue has been prevalent in the media lately since the Veterans Health Administration released a recent study showing that the number of **veteran suicides** is increasing and that 22.2 percent of all suicides committed between 1999-2010 were veterans.

## COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

### [Waco named as one of the cities participating in Homeless Veteran Leadership ...](#)

Northdallasgazette

“It is a tragedy that even a single **veteran** faces **homelessness** after serving in our nation's armed forces,” said NLC President Chris Coleman, Mayor of Saint Paul, Minn. “I challenge all municipal leaders to engage in a friendly competition to advance...

### [Service dog helps veterans find a purpose for living](#)

Community Advocate

Valiant **Veterans**, based in Worcester, is one of the many organizations working to lower that number through programs to help **veterans** return home to civilian life and overcome afflictions associated with military service. Amanda Sullivan, a Shrewsbury...

## EMPLOYMENT

### [Using Cultural Guides to Bridge the Veterans' Employment Gap](#)

Huffington Post

**Veterans' employment** is a national topic; look no further than the constant media and White House attention it receives. Yet, current efforts are failing; post 9/11 veterans have a 10.1 percent unemployment rate, or nearly 50 percent greater than...

### [UP garners military hiring recognition from diversity magazine](#)

Progressive Rail Roding

The railroad offers various **employment** opportunities for **military** veterans, including train crews, diesel mechanics, diesel electricians, assistant signal workers and track laborers. Leadership and teamwork skills, wide-ranging areas of expertise...

### [Technology, Engineering Among 'Hottest' Jobs for New Vets](#)

NBC News

Military members swapping stripes for ties, blue jeans or office casual should seek jobs in the fields of technology, operations management and engineering, according to an annual ranking of “Top 20 Hot Jobs For Veterans,” released Monday. The rundown of leading employment opportunities for new veterans is based on surveys completed by many of the top “military-friendly” employers within the Fortune 1000...

## EDUCATION

### [Bill aims to improve access to education for veterans](#)

Lodi News-Sentinel

Last week, Rep. Jerry McNerney, D-Stockton, joined colleagues as a co-sponsor of the Fair Access to Benefits for

Student **Veterans** Act. This bipartisan legislation aims to make it easier for **veterans** to access the **education** and training benefits they...

[Senate passes bill encouraging state-level collaboration for military charter ...](#)

Tampabay.com

The bill allows commanders to "work with the commissioner of **education** to increase **military** family student achievement, which may include the establishment of charter schools on **military** installations." Similar high-level involvement took place last...

[Bill would gather data for military families](#)

Beaumont Enterprise

Dan Saddler, R-Eagle River, calls for the Alaska Department of **Education** and Early Childhood Development to work with local school districts in gathering data on the **educational** performance of students of **military** families. The data would be used in...

Best regards,

Randall E. "Smitty" Smith, Lt Col, USAF

Deputy Director, Warrior & Family Support, Office of the Chairman

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**Below sent in by our fellow Veteran Bill Apostol, The Elite SDVOSB Network, MD Chapter**

**From: Hairston, Joan M. [mailto:JHairston@washgas.com]**

**Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 10:30 AM**

**Subj: Request for diverse Vendors**

Washington Gas is looking for an independent management auditor to conduct an independent management audit of the progress and the overall costs of the company's mechanical coupling replacement and encapsulation program. Specifically the auditor will examine the following:

- 1) the processes by which repair and replacement projects are assigned to the Program;
- 2) the processes by which projects are configured and costs are estimated;
- 3) cost experience, including the accuracy of cost estimates, the reasons for cost overruns, and the reasonableness of actual costs
- 4) the existence of non-qualifying costs assigned for recovery.

In summary, the overarching purpose of the audit is to provide the basis to examine the effectiveness and efficiency of the Program to determine whether the costs being incurred and allocated to the Program are reasonable and appropriate. The diverse auditor should have an understanding of and experience with natural gas pipelines and natural gas underground work.

Please send diverse vendors to my attention by COB Monday, March 17. If you need additional information, please feel free to give me a call.

Thank you.

Joan M. Hairston, Washington Gas, Supplier Diversity  
703-750-4733 (o) - 703-408-5192 (cp)

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***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](http://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***