



May 5, 2025



#### **VFW Briefs DPAA on Recent Southeast Asia Site Visits:**

VFW Junior Vice Commander Tim Peters and staff from the VFW Washington Office visited with Kelly McKeague, director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), to provide a briefing on Peters' recent visit to recovery sites in Thailand and Vietnam. The VFW has long-standing resolutions in support of DPAA's mission to provide the fullest possible accounting of our nation's missing, which is why VFW leaders routinely visit with the DPAA Detachments overseas to see firsthand how American service members, partner organizations, and local nations work to bring missing American service members home. Peters also took the opportunity to explore ways in which the VFW could provide further coordinated support to DPAA's mission in the coming years.



**VFW Urges Action on Suicide Prevention:** The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a legislative hearing on enhancing mental health services and programs. In a statement submitted for the record, VFW National Legislative Associate Director Meggan Coleman emphasized the importance of strengthening the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program as essential to ensure the program's effectiveness in the unique communities it serves. She also expressed the VFW's recommendation to combine the four proposed bills into a comprehensive package to better address veteran suicide prevention efforts. [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 19:35 mark.



**Oversight Hearing on State Veterans Homes:** The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health held an oversight hearing on reform at State Veterans Homes. In a statement submitted for the record, VFW National Legislative Associate Director Meggan Coleman emphasized the importance for VA to proactively address the geriatric-specific needs of the aging veteran population, the growing demand for long-term care services, and the integration of mental and behavioral health support. She also stated that the VFW urges Congress to provide full funding for VA to eliminate the backlog of pending State Home Construction Grants to ensure facilities are available and safe for veterans. [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 26:11 mark.



**VFW Post Hosts Women Veteran Roundtable:** Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs member Sen. Patty Murray led a women veteran roundtable at VFW Post 3063 in Seattle. Local veterans had the opportunity to explain issues directly affecting them such as barriers to accessing VA benefits and services, and mental health and specialty care. The discussion included both state and federal legislation to address these issues.



**Honoring Vietnam POW/MIA:** Members of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, the Vietnamese Office for Seeking Missing Persons, and U.S. Ambassador Marc Knapper met in Vietnam for a repatriation ceremony acknowledging recent recovery and identification efforts for Americans still missing from the Vietnam War. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the war's end. [Read more.](#)



**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced four updates and six identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II and the Korean War.

Update:

-- [World War II Army Air Forces Pvt. Donald E. Bays](#), Virginia

-- [Korean War Army Sgt. George M. Barbieri](#), Virginia

- [Korean War Army Pfc. Roland Lee Bowser, Virginia](#)
- [World War II Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Justice J. Buttala, Virginia](#)

Identifications:

- [World War II Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Charles W. McCook](#)
- [World War II Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Henry J. Carlin](#)
- [World War II Army Air Forces Sgt. Sidney Burke](#)
- [World War II Army 1st Sgt. David D. Crouse](#)
- [Korean War Army Sgt. Celestino Chavez Jr.](#)
- [Korean War Army Cpl. Shirley B. Andrews Jr.](#)

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