



ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



March 8, 2021



VFW Virtual March Legislative Conference: Last week, the VFW virtually held the annual March Legislative Conference. VFW National Legislative Committee members lead their Department delegations along with the VFW-SVA Fellows to present the [VFW's legislative priorities](#) to members of Congress and their staffers. Attendees have showcased their legislative meetings in social media posts. Check out #VFWAdvocacy, #StillServing, and #FORVETERANS to see how the VFW is working hard to ensure veterans voices are heard on Capitol Hill.



Legislation Introduced to Improve Adaptive Automobile Grant Program: Sens. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Susan Collins (R-ME), and Reps. Daniel Meuser (R-PA) and David Trone (D-MD) introduced legislation to improve the VA adaptive automobile grant program. [S. 444](#) and [H.R. 1361](#) would allow eligible disabled veterans to receive an adaptive automobile grant every 10 years. Currently, they may only receive one adaptive automobile grant during their lifetime, despite the fact that automobiles are typically only useful for 10 years. [Learn more.](#)



VFW Commemorates 30th Anniversary of Operation Desert Storm: Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021, marked the 30th anniversary of the conclusion of *Operation Desert Storm*. The operation lasted 43 days from Jan. 17 - Feb. 28, 1991, and involved several hundred thousand service members. The VFW and its Auxiliary members will always be thankful for the service and sacrifice of all veterans who served during the Gulf War. Veterans who served in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert

Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn are eligible to complete the Gulf War Registry health exam to identify possible long-term health problems that may be linked to their military service. Please contact your local [VA Environmental Health Coordinator](#) to schedule an exam. [Learn more.](#)



March is Women's History Month: Women veterans comprise approximately 10% of the veteran population and are the fastest-growing cohort within the veteran community. A great way to show support for women veterans is to ensure their voices are heard. The University of Alabama is seeking women-veteran participants in a survey about your health care experiences. The results of the study are intended to help assess the needs of women veterans. [Take the survey](#) and share it with other women veterans.



AARP Foundation Providing Free Tax Assistance: AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide is available to assist people with filing their state and federal tax returns. Tax-Aide can provide in-person service, virtual assistance, and hybrid options for assistance. While the nationwide program is designed with individuals over 50 years old in mind, it is open to everyone free of charge. [Learn more.](#)



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one new identification and three burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II and Korea. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

- **Army Pfc. Juan F. Gutierrez**, 26, was a member of 200th Coast Artillery Regiment, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December 1941. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of the Bataan peninsula on April 9, 1942, and of Corregidor Island on May 6, 1942. Interment Services are pending. [Read about Gutierrez.](#)
- **Army Master Sgt. James Hart, Jr.**, 25, of Hopkins, Texas, was a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, when his

unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Hart will be buried June 8, 2021, in Winterfield, Texas. [Read about Hart.](#)

-- **Army Cpl. Ralph S. Boughman**, 21, of Union, South Carolina, was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Boughman will be buried May 15, 2021, in his hometown. [Read about Boughman.](#)

-- **Army Cpl. David B. Milano**, 17, of Chicago, was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Milano will be buried in Ogden, Utah. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Milano.](#)

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