



ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



March 21, 2022



Ranking Member Holds Mock Hearing with Student Veteran Fellowship Class:

House Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member Mike Bost (R-Ill.) held a mock hearing with this year's VFW-SVA Legislative Fellows. Each fellow had the opportunity to testify on their proposal and answer questions. Topics included work-study parity, preventing toxic exposure, ensuring non-VA health care provider awareness of veterans, VA health care services, and extending the Forever GI Bill to include all veterans who left service after Dec. 2001. [Read more about the fellowship.](#)



House Hearing on Pending Health Legislation:

The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health held a hearing to discuss pending health care legislation. VA representatives responded to questions on its policies and procedures regarding non-VA emergency care reimbursement, long-term care alternatives, lactation stations, and an increase in the structural alterations amount for disabled veterans. In a statement submitted for the record, VFW National Legislative Deputy Director Tammy Barlet commented on [H.R. 5754](#), the *Patient Advocate Tracker Act*, which stemmed from a proposal by 2021 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellow Cameron Zbikowski. [Watch the hearing](#) or [read the testimony.](#)



House Hearing on Pending Economic Opportunity

Legislation: The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing to review legislation regarding education, employment, transition, and housing. Proposals included creating permanent policies to protect VA education benefits in cases of national emergency, expanding eligibility of the self-employment track within Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E), and making it easier for veterans facing housing insecurity to receive rental assistance. In a statement submitted for the record, VFW National Legislative Associate Director Emily DeVito commented, "The COVID-19 pandemic's massive impact on higher education and training, including unforeseen closures and rapid changes to modalities, brought to the forefront the urgent need for permanent legislation that would direct VA in these times of crisis." [Watch the hearing](#) or [read the testimony](#).



House Hearing on Health Care Workforce: The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs conducted a hearing to address VA health care workforce recruitment and retention challenges. VA highlighted steps it is taking to attract and retain employees, such as maximizing bonuses, increasing opportunities to advance, and investing in programs like VHA Reduce Employee Burnout and Optimize Organizational Thriving (REBOOT) to ensure employee well-being. [Watch the hearing](#).



VA Claim Sharks: Have you been charged unnecessary fees to file a VA disability claim? If so, we want to hear from you. The VFW reported in the June/July 2021 issue of the [VFW Magazine](#) that predatory companies, referred to as "claim sharks," coach veterans in filing VA disability claims with promises of increased ratings while charging them fees and taking a portion of their compensation. Veterans service organizations like the VFW have [accredited service officers](#) who provide claims assistance to veterans free of charge, as is the law. If you or someone you know has been charged unnecessary fees for VA claims assistance, please contact the VFW at vfwac@vfw.org.



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

-- **Army Staff Sgt. Grady H. Canup, 30**, of Greenwood, South Carolina, was assigned to Company C, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. He was reported killed in action on Nov. 14, 1944, when enemy artillery fire hit near his foxhole during the Hürtgen Forest offensive in Germany. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Canup will be buried in Anderson, South Carolina, on April 10, 2022. [Read about Canup.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Richard G. Salsbury, 19**, of Canaan, Maine, was assigned to 345th Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Salsbury was a gunner crashed as a result of enemy anti-aircraft fire. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. Salsbury will be buried in his hometown. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Salsbury.](#)

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