



ACTION CORPUS WEEKLY



April 11, 2022



Take Action Now on Toxic Exposure: Thanks to your action last month, the *Honoring our PACT Act* passed the House with a broad bipartisan vote. Now it is time for the Senate to do its job. This historic legislation would ensure toxic-exposed veterans receive the VA health care and benefits they need. It would provide a list of presumptive conditions associated with burn pits and establish a permanent presumptive framework to address any toxic exposure, foreign or domestic, past, present, and future. It would help Post-9/11 veterans, Persian Gulf War veterans, K2 veterans, Atomic veterans, and Vietnam veterans, including those who served in Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos. Contact your Senators and tell them to vote YES when the *Honoring our PACT Act* is brought to the Senate floor. [Click to take action!](#)



HVAC Markup Hearing: The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs conducted a full committee markup on legislation previously discussed in pending legislation hearings. The committee recommended that 17 bills be moved to the House floor. These bills would improve VA's claim process, extend VA work-study allowance, improve Office of Inspector General oversight, increase entrepreneurship opportunities, and offer medical foster homes to veterans who qualify for long-term care. One of the advanced bills, [H.R. 5754](#), *Patient Advocate Tracker Act*, stemmed from a proposal by 2021 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellow Cameron Zbikowski. The VFW has provided congressional testimony on several of these bills and will closely monitor their progress. [Watch the markup.](#)



Month of the Military Child: April is a time to acknowledge and reflect on the sacrifices and challenges military children experience as a result of their parents' service to our nation. These children maneuver childhood like their civilian peers but with stressors that are unique to the military lifestyle. Separations from parents, frequent relocations, and missed milestones like birthdays are commonplace. Further still, some of them must care for service-injured parents while others experience the loss of a parent as a result of service. Learn more about children's [monthly activities](#) or [health resources](#).



Sexual Assault Awareness Month: VA is raising awareness of its [available resources](#) for military sexual trauma (MST) survivors. One in three women and one in fifty men stated "yes" when asked by a VA provider if they experienced MST. Like other types of trauma, MST can negatively impact a person's physical and mental health. Some MST survivors may feel unsafe and isolated, or struggle with sleep or substance use issues. VA offers a wide range of mental and physical treatments for those who experienced MST. [Watch a VA video](#) or contact your local [VA MST Coordinator](#) for more information. If you need assistance with a VA claim, reach out to a [VFW Accredited Service Officer](#).



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

- **Navy Seaman 2nd Class Walter R. Pentico, 17**, of Lexington, Nebraska, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Pentico. He will be buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in Honolulu, on April 29, 2022. [Read about Pentico](#).
- **Navy Storekeeper 3rd Class Harry E. Nichols, 21**, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7,

1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Nichols. Interment services are pending. [Read about Nichols.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces Sgt. Elvin L. Phillips, 23**, was assigned to 66th Bombardment Squadron, 44th Bombardment Group, 8th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Phillips was serving as gunner crashed as a result of anti-aircraft fire during Operation Tidal Wave. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. Interment services are pending. [Read about Phillips.](#)

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