



ACTION CORPUS WEEKLY



August 29, 2022



Women Veterans Task Force Holds Roundtable:

Members of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Women Veterans Task Force, VA, women veterans, and veteran organizations discussed issues faced by women veterans, its reproductive health survey, and recent site visits. VFW National Legislative Deputy Director Tammy Barlet, a Coast Guard veteran, shared data from the VFW 2022 COVID-19 Health Survey that indicates 52 percent of women veterans report good general health compared to 40 percent of male veterans. Other critical issues discussed were inconsistent services at different VA locations, women veteran peer specialists, the parity in the standard of proof for PTSD claims related to military sexual trauma, and strengthening VA Women's Health Reengagement Training ([heaRT](#)) outreach.



VA | U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

The PACT Act and Your VA Benefits: Following the recent passage of the *Honoring our PACT Act*, VA is providing responses to commonly asked questions. What is the PACT Act and how will it affect my benefits? What does it mean to have a presumptive condition for toxic exposure? What is the eligibility for veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras? [Read more](#) from VA regarding both veteran and survivor benefits. For more information or assistance filing a claim, please contact a [VFW Service Officer](#).



VFW Participates in Congressional Staff Training:

The VFW, PsychArmor, and HillVets, in collaboration with the For Country Caucus, held training for congressional staffers on how to connect with organizations like the VFW, as well as national, state, and local resources. The overarching goal was to help staff better meet the needs of service members, veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors. Topics included the importance of hosting veteran town halls, reaching out to accredited service officers, and how military families can help inform policy.



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

-- **Army Pvt. John P. Cooper, 37**, of Athens, Texas, was assigned to Company B, 778th Tank Battalion, as a crewmember of a M4 Sherman tank. On March 7, 1945, while his unit was engaged in battle with German forces near Lampaden, Germany, his tank was struck by an enemy rocket. Witnesses saw Cooper escape the tank but never saw or heard from him again, and he was initially declared missing in action. The War Department issued a presumptive finding of death on March 8, 1946. He will be buried in Fort Smith, Arkansas, on October 22, 2022. [Read about Cooper.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Edward J. Reiter, 17**, of Northampton, Pennsylvania, was assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 7, 1950, after his unit sustained heavy casualties while defending against the North Korean army near Ch'onan, South Korea. With no body or remains found, the Army declared him non-recoverable and issued a presumptive finding of death after the end of the war in January 1956. Reiter will be buried in his hometown in the fall of 2022. [Read about Reiter.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Robert L. Alexander, 27**, of Tolley, North Dakota, was assigned to 105th Infantry Regiment, 27th Infantry Division. On July 7, 1944, Alexander was killed when the Japanese general on Saipan ordered his forces into a mass suicide attack against the 105th's lines. He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Alexander.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Donald R. Duchene, 19**, was assigned to 343rd Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Duchene was a tail 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 Duchene.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Robert A. Wright, 18**, was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 16, 1950, while fighting the North Korean People's Army along the Kum River, north of Taejon, South Korea. As Wright's body was not recovered nor was he listed as a prisoner of war, the Army issued a presumptive finding of death on Dec. 31, 1953. Interment services are pending. [Read about Wright.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Adelaido M. Solis, 19**, was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 1, 1950, after his unit's withdrawal from Kunu-ri, North Korea, following the battle of Ch'ongch'on. Later findings indicated that Solis had been a prisoner of war and died at POW Camp #5 in April 1951. Interment services are pending. [Read about Solis.](#)

-- **Army Staff Sgt. Sanford I. Finger, 29**, was assigned to U.S. Army Element Vietnam, Army Air Force Regional Exchange, Pacific Exchange, U.S. Army Headquarters Area Command. On Oct. 26, 1971, Finger was lost when the CH-47B Chinook helicopter on which he was a passenger went down over water in bad weather while flying from Tuy Hoa to Cam Ranh Bay Vietnam. He was not accounted for during search and rescue operations. Interment services are pending. [Read about Finger.](#)

-- **Army Cpl. Joseph J. Puopolo, 19**, was assigned to Company C, 38th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division Artillery, 8th U.S. Army. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, after his unit attempted to withdraw from Kunu-ri, North Korea, following the battle of Ch'ongch'on. Later findings indicated that Puopolo had been a prisoner of war and died at POW Camp #5 in February 1951. Interment services are pending. [Read about Puopolo.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Thomas F. Green, 19**, was assigned to 68th Aviation Company, 52nd Aviation Battalion 17th Aviation Group. On Oct. 26, 1971, he was serving as the door gunner on a CH-47B Chinook helicopter that

went down over water in bad weather while flying from Tuy Hoa to Cam Ranh Bay Vietnam. Green was not accounted for during search and rescue operations. Interment services are pending. [Read about Green.](#)

-- **Army Air Force Staff Sgt. David E. Holeman, 39,** was assigned to the 17th Pursuit Squadron, 24th Pursuit Group, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December 1941. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of the Bataan peninsula in 1942. He was among those captured and held at the Cabanatuan POW Camp, where he reportedly died on July 19, 1942, and was buried. Interment services are pending. [Read about Holeman.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. John M. Carroll, 32,** was assigned to 328th Bombardment Squadron, 93rd Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Carroll was the radio operator 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 Carroll.](#)

-- **Marine Corps Pfc. Lawrence E. Garrison, 23,** was assigned to Company H, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in an attempt to secure the island. Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded, while the Japanese were virtually annihilated. Garrison was reported killed on the first day of the battle, Nov. 20, 1943. Interment services are pending. [Read about Garrison.](#)

-- **Army Capt. Donald H. Froemke, 33,** was assigned to Company B, 326th Airborne Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division. On Oct. 5, 1944, he was reported killed in action during Operation Market Garden when his unit was attacked by German forces near Opheusden, Netherlands. Following the war his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Froemke.](#)

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