



ACTION CORPUS WEEKLY



October 10, 2022



Last Chance to Apply for VFW-SVA Fellowship:

Only a few days remain to apply for individuals interested in the topics of challenges for service members and military families, transition from military to civilian life, improving veterans' health care and benefits, and student veteran success on campus and beyond. The VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship is a semester-long program open to ambitious student veterans who are currently VFW members or VFW-eligible, and who attend an accredited institution of higher learning. Highlights of the program include attending the Student Veterans of America (SVA) National Conference in Orlando, Florida, and the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. The application process for this valuable experience **closes at midnight on Oct. 15.** [Learn more and apply for the fellowship.](#)



Senate Passes COLA Increase for Veterans and

Survivors: The Senate passed VFW-supported [H.R. 7846, Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022](#). It will now head to the president's desk for signature. Certain VA benefits including disability compensation, clothing allowances, and dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors will receive the same cost-of-living adjustment as Social Security benefits. The increase is expected to be higher than in recent years to account for inflation. The adjustment will go into effect on Dec. 1, 2022, and the first checks to reflect the new rate will be on Dec. 31, 2022.



Debt Relief for Those Impacted by Hurricanes:

Veterans and families affected by Hurricanes Fiona or Ian can request a debt repayment suspension from VA by contacting the VA Debt Management Center at 800.827.0648. Requests for debt repayment suspension for medical care and pharmacy copayments may be made by contacting the Health Resource Center at 866.400.1238. You can check debt status through [VA's debt portal](#). [Read more.](#)



Beware PACT Act Scams: Scammers are taking advantage of new opportunities to commit fraud. There has been an increase in email, phone, and [social media scams](#) targeting veterans to access their PACT Act benefits or to submit claims on their behalf. Veterans should be cautious of anyone who guarantees a lucrative financial benefit or service, or asks you to sign complicated contracts. To report suspected fraudulent activity, email vaoighotline@va.gov or call 800.488.8244. [Read more](#) for tips to protect yourself against these new scams. Contact a [VFW Service Officer](#) for assistance with your VA claim.



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month:

Women veterans are 40 percent more likely to develop breast cancer, according to a recent Walter Reed Army Medical Center study. Although rare, male veterans comprise one percent of breast cancer cases, which continues to rise. VFW-supported [S. 2533 Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options for Veterans Act](#), and [S. 2102, Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act](#), were recently passed into law and require VA to expand and upgrade breast cancer screening and treatment services. As a part of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy's Cancer Moonshot Initiative, a VA discussion panel on breast and gynecological cancers will be available on YouTube on October 13 at 3:00 p.m. EDT. [Watch the event](#) or [read more.](#)



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced two burial updates and nine new identifications 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:

-- **Navy Electrician's Mate 1st Class Edward L. Conway, 29**, of Auburn, Illinois, 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 Conway. He will be buried in Decatur, Illinois, on Nov. 12, 2022. [Read about Conway.](#)

-- **Navy Machinist's Mate 1st Class Keith W. Tipsword, 27**, of Moccasin, Illinois, was assigned to the battleship USS West Virginia, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS West Virginia sustained multiple torpedo hits, but timely counter-flooding measures taken by the crew prevented it from capsizing. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 106 crewmen, including Tipsword. He will be buried in Beecher City, Illinois, on Nov. 15, 2022. [Read about Tipsword.](#)

-- **Army Cpl. Delbert L. White, 20**, was assigned to Company D, 2nd Engineer (Combat) Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division. On Dec. 1, 1950, White and many other 2nd ID soldiers were captured by the Chinese People's Volunteer Force (CPVF). After reviewing conflicting reports, the Army determined and declared March 18, 1951, as White's date of death. Interment services are pending. [Read about White.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Roy J. Searle, 22**, was assigned to Company D, 1st Battalion, 357th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division. He was mortally wounded during enemy engagement on Dec. 9, 1944, and was reported to have died near Rehligen, Germany. Interment services are pending. [Read about Searle.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. George E. Davies, 27**, was assigned to the 345th Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Davies was the assistant engineer 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 Davies.](#)

-- **Army Staff Sgt. James Rotunno, 27**, was assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. His unit was engaged in the Battle of Reipertwiller in France when it was surrounded by German forces. On Jan. 20, 1945, his unit and four other companies attempted a break-out through German lines. Rotunno was among those killed the following day and his body could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Rotunno.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Paul W. Schmidt, 20**, was assigned to the 161st Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 8th Air Force. On March 23, 1945, Schmidt was last seen piloting his F-6D Mustang fighter in an attack on an enemy train near Sedenhorst, Germany. He was declared missing in action, and there was no evidence he had been a prisoner of war. The War Department issued a presumptive finding of death on March 24, 1946. Interment services are pending. [Read about Schmidt.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Clinton E. Smith Jr., 19**, was assigned to Company D, 1st Battalion, 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. In January 1945, his unit was engaged with German forces during the Battle of Reipertwiller in France. Smith was killed in an artillery strike on Jan. 14, and his body could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Smith.](#)

-- **Army Cpl. Leo J. Barlosky, 24**, was assigned to the 7th Chemical Company, Aviation, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December 1941. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of the Bataan peninsula in April 1942. Barlosky was among those captured and held at the Cabanatuan POW Camp, where he reportedly died on July 27, 1942, and was buried. Interment services are pending. [Read about Barlosky.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces 1st Lt. John B. Thomas, 23**, was assigned to the 345th Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft Thomas was piloting 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 Thomas.](#)

-- **Navy Cmdr. Frederick R. Schrader, 31**, was the commander of Carrier Air Group Eleven on the USS Hornet. On Oct. 13, 1944, Schrader's F6F-5 Hellcat fighter was shot down during an attack on Toko

Seaplane Base on Formosa, now known as Taiwan. There was no evidence he exited the aircraft before it crashed, and no rescue attempts were possible. Interment services are pending. [Read about Schrader.](#)

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