



ACTION CORPUS WEEKLY



December 12, 2022



VA | U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VA to Host Town Halls for “PACT Act Week of Action”:

VA will be hosting 90+ town hall events to discuss new eligibilities and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances while in service. These events will take place in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia this week, **December 10-17**, dubbed by VA as the “PACT Act Week of Action.” These sessions will provide veterans and survivors of toxic-exposed veterans needed information and resources such as potential eligibility, help enrolling in benefits, and claims assistance. [Read more](#) to find a town hall meeting near you.



THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MARK TAKANO, CHAIRMAN

House Hearing on PACT Act Implementation:

VFW National Legislative Assistant Director Kristina Keenan provided a statement for the record for a House Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing on VA's implementation of the *Honoring our PACT Act of 2022*. She included observations made by VFW Service Officers who have been assisting veterans with their VA disability claims for toxic exposure conditions. "About one third reported that they have already seen PACT-Act-related claims adjudicated and some being granted by VA, primarily for Vietnam War veterans with hypertension and for those who served in Thailand," said Keenan. She added that while VA has reported a large increase in claims since the passage of the PACT Act, VA is also processing claims faster at nearly the same rate as the increase. She stated that the VFW recommends that VA maintains its overtime staffing in order to continue managing the increased claims workload. [Watch the hearing](#) or [read the testimony](#).



Exposure Registry for Hawaii Red Hill Water Contamination:

DOD has created an exposure registry for service members, their families, and all residents affected by the Navy Water Distribution System in and around Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, to include the recent water contamination from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. Individuals are encouraged to call 1.800.984.8523 to join the Oahu Military Water Contamination Incident Report Registry. Service members should also ensure their exposure is documented in their medical records. All affected personnel are encouraged to request toxic exposure screenings from their primary care providers. [Read more.](#)



Donate Blood this Holiday Season: The American Red Cross is asking those who can to give with meaning this holiday season. Your blood donations or humanitarian support are needed. Please schedule an appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor app, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, or calling 1.800.RED.CROSS (1.800.733.2767).



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced three burial updates and one new identification 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 Air Forces 2nd Lt. Theodore F.**

Scarborough, 21, of Brooklyn, Mississippi, was assigned to the 345th Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Scarborough was serving as bombardier crashed as a result of anti-aircraft fire during Operation Tidal Wave. His remains could not be identified following the war. He will be buried in his hometown on April 21, 2023. [Read about Scarborough.](#)

-- **Army Air Force Pvt. Joseph E. Lescaut, 21**, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, was assigned to the 16th Bombardment Squadron, 27th Bombardment 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 26, 1942, and was buried. Lescaut will be in buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Lescaut.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Arthur L. Pierce, 26**, of Malden, Massachusetts, was assigned to the 803rd Engineer Battalion in the Philippines, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December 1941. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of the Bataan peninsula when thousands of U.S. and Filipino service members were captured. They were subjected to the 65-mile Bataan Death March and held captive at Cabanatuan POW camp. According to prison camp and other historical records, Pierce died on July 19, 1942. He will be buried in Augusta, Maine, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Pierce.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Dale D. Thompson, 18**, was assigned to the Heavy Mortar Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, during a battle with enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the war, his remains could not be recovered, and there is no evidence that he was a prisoner of war. Interment services are pending. [Read about Thompson.](#)

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