



ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



June 19, 2023



VFW Testifies Before House Subcommittee: VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray testified at a House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity hearing to discuss pending legislation. Murray stated that currently there is a lack of equitable access for service members to utilize pre-separation benefit services depending on which base they are stationed. This unequal access leads to fewer service members being connected to their benefits upon separation. [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#).



Cost of Living Bill Signed into Law: President Biden signed S. 777, *Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2023* into law. The bipartisan, bicameral bill was led by Sens. Tester (D-MT) and Moran (R-KS) and Reps. Luttrell (TX-8) and Pappas (NH-1). This legislation will increase certain VA benefits including disability compensation, clothing allowances, and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) for surviving spouses and children to reflect increases in the cost of living. It will directly benefit millions of disabled veterans and military survivors nationwide. The VFW applauds our supporters in Congress for making this adjustment a priority.



Senate Hearing on Substance Use Disorder: The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a hearing on improving access to substance use disorder (SUD) care for veterans, especially those living in rural America. Chairman Tester pressed witnesses from VA on its policies and procedures to ensure veterans receive timely and quality SUD care. [Watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 14:25 mark.



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 Cpl. Leo J. Barlosky, 24**, of Audenried, Pennsylvania, was a member of the 7th Chemical Company, Aviation, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December 1941. Barlosky died in captivity on July 27, 1942. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, in Arlington, Virginia, on a date to be determined. [Read about Barlosky](#).

-- **Army Pvt. David S. Whipple, 23**, of Plymouth, Indiana, was a member of the 27th Materiel Squadron, 20th Air Base Group, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December 1941. Whipple died in captivity on July 26, 1942. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, in Arlington, Virginia, on a date to be determined. [Read about Whipple](#).

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