

February 12, 2024



VFW, Senators, and Partners Support Afghan

Allies: The VFW hosted Sens. Amy Klobuchar, Jerry Moran, Richard Blumenthal, and Chris Coons, along with other veteran organization partners at the VFW Washington Office for a press conference addressing the need to help Afghans who assisted U.S. troops. The participants called on all lawmakers to support our wartime Afghan allies by voting in favor of an amendment to the legislation. [Watch the press conference.](#)



VFW Updates County Service Officers on Claim

Sharks: VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci joined the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers ([NACVSO](#)) conference to discuss the scourge of predatory Claim Sharks, and ways the VFW and NACVSO's network of accredited representatives can work more closely to provide quality claims representation for veterans. The VFW accredits thousands of county service officers around the country to help reach communities so veterans can easily access their earned benefits. NACVSO leaders have worked with the VFW on the Claim Sharks issue and asked for an update before advocating on Capitol Hill. [Learn more](#) about the VFW's efforts to combat Claim Sharks.



VFW Washington Conference App Now Available:

In anticipation of the Washington Conference being held next month, the VFW has launched its mobile app to give event attendees the tools needed to make the most of their visit to our nation's capital. The app is available for download at both the [Apple App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store](#). View our [VFW Events App Quick Start Guide](#) for downloading assistance.



Senate Hearing on Vet Centers Supporting Mental Health:

The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held an oversight hearing on how Vet Centers support the mental health needs of service members, veterans, and their families. The witness panel consisted of two representatives from VA and one from the Government Accountability Office. "Due to recent efforts by this committee, more veterans are eligible for services at Vet Centers than ever before. That's why it's critically important the Vet Center program is delivering high-quality services to the veterans who utilize it," said Chairman Jon Tester. [Watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 15:35 mark.



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced ten burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II and the Korean War. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

-- **Navy Fireman First Class Walter F. Schleiter, 22**, of Massillon, Ohio, 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. He was among 429 crewmen killed that day. He will be buried on April 11, 2024, in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania. [Read about Schleiter.](#)

-- **Navy Seaman 2nd Class Joseph M. Robertson, 18**, of Cincinnati, Ohio, 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. He was among 429 crewmen killed that day. He will be buried on July 9, 2024, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. [Read about Robertson.](#)

-- **Army Air Force Pvt. 1st Class Robert L. Colter, 23**, of Lakeland, Florida, was a member of 91st Bombardment Squadron, 27th Bombardment Group. He was among those captured in the surrender of the Bataan peninsula on April 9, 1942, and he died while a prisoner of war on July 28 that same year.

Interment services are pending. [Read about Colter.](#)

--**Army Pfc. Richard G. Pitsor, 18**, of Ft. Bayard, New Mexico, was a member of G Company of the 200th Coast Artillery Regiment. He was among those captured in the surrender of the Bataan peninsula on April 9, 1942, and he died while a prisoner of war on Aug. 28 that same year. He will be buried in his hometown on a date to be determined. [Read about Pitsor.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces 1st Lt. James A. Deeds, 23**, of Oakland, California, was assigned to the 345th Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. He was killed in action on Aug. 1, 1943. He will be buried in San Diego, California, on a date to be determined. [Read about Deeds.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces Tech Sgt. William L. Leukering, 28**, of Metropolis, Illinois, was assigned to the 816th Bomber Squadron, 483rd Bomber Group, 15th Air Force. He was reportedly killed in action during the summer of 1944, and the War Department issued a finding of death on July 19, 1945. He will be buried in Round Knob, Illinois, on a date to be determined. [Read about Leukering.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. Harold L. Seifreid, 31**, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was a member of the 436th Bombardment Squadron, 7th Bombardment Group. He was reportedly killed in action on Dec. 1, 1943. He will be buried in Marana, Arizona, on a date to be determined. [Read about Seifreid.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. James H. Marrah, 22**, of London, Ohio, served with the 415th Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. He was killed in action on Aug. 1, 1943. He will be buried in his hometown on a date to be determined. [Read about Marrah.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Dan W. Corson, 27**, of Middletown, Ohio, was assigned to the 401st Bombardment Squadron, 91st Bombardment Group, Eighth Air Force. He was reportedly killed in action on Dec. 20, 1942, and the War Department issued a finding of death on Dec. 20, 1943. He will be buried in his hometown on a date to be determined. [Read about Corson.](#)

-- **Army CPL Adin C. Norris Jr., 21**, of Kansas City, Missouri, was a member of K Company, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 20, 1950, and the Army issued a presumptive finding of death on Dec. 31, 1953. He will be buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific on a date to be determined. [Read about Norris.](#)

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