



**\*The next edition of the Action Corps Weekly will be on Monday, Aug. 5, 2024.\***

**July 22, 2024**



### **Louisville Welcomes VFW National Convention:**

The 125th VFW National Convention is taking place July 27 – Aug. 1, 2024, in Louisville, Kentucky. Every year, thousands of VFW and Auxiliary delegates gather to represent the organization’s more than 1.4 million combined membership. The focus while there is to elect new VFW leadership and approve resolutions to guide our priorities in Washington, D.C., as we advocate for our nation’s veterans, service members, and their families. Be sure to search #VFWConvention on social media, view [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), and download the [VFW Events App](#) for helpful information and convention news.



### **VFW Participates in Transition Assistance Summit:**

Staff members from the VFW Washington Office attended the 2024 Military-Civilian Transition Summit 7.0. This event is a collaboration between VA, the Departments of Defense and Labor, and military community partners. VFW National Veterans Service Assistant Director of Field Operations Cindy Noel participated in a panel discussion about how Veterans Service Organizations help in the process from assisting with VA benefits to integrating service members and families into communities.



### **VFW Hosts First of Historic War Commission**

**Hearings:** The VFW hosted the first hearing of the Afghanistan War Commission (AWC) at our headquarters in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the AWC is to investigate the entirety of the 20-year war in Afghanistan, from first boots on the ground to when the last Americans left in 2021. The VFW is honored to host the very first hearing. A live stream of the hearing can be found on the [commission's YouTube channel](#).



### **Imminent Filing Deadline for PACT Act Claims:**

The deadline is fast approaching in August to file a claim with the earliest possible effective date for benefits in accordance with the *Honoring our PACT Act of 2022* (P.L.117-168). Prospective claimants who submitted an intent to file notice by Aug. 14, 2023, must follow up with a completed claim within 365 days to preserve eligibility for retroactive benefits dating back to the law's enactment. [Read more](#) about the PACT Act and find an [accredited service officer](#) to assist with your claim.



**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced two burial updates and four identifications 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:

-- **Army Pvt. 1st Class Luther E. Bagley, 22**, of Fitzgerald, Georgia, was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion. He was killed in action on July 25, 1944. He will be buried in his hometown on Aug. 10, 2024. [Read about Bagley.](#)

-- **Army Corporal Edward J. Smith, 18**, of Allentown, Pennsylvania, was a member of Baker Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Aug. 31, 1950. He will be buried in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, on Aug. 23, 2024. [Read about Smith.](#)

-- **Army Pvt. Robert L. Skaar** was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry Division. He was killed in action on March 10, 1945. Interment services are pending. [Read about Skaar.](#)

-- **Army Private Rodger D. Andrews** was assigned to Company C, 37th Engineer Combat Battalion. He was killed in action in June 1944 during the Omaha

Beach invasion in Normandy, France. Interment services are pending. [Read about Andrews.](#)

-- **Army Corporal Robert A. Bartlett** was assigned to Company A, 744th Tank Battalion. He was killed in action on July 26, 1944. Interment services are pending. [Read about Bartlett.](#)

-- **Army Cpl. Robert P. Raess** was a member of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Sept. 1, 1950, and declared deceased on Dec. 31, 1953. Interment services are pending. [Read about Raess.](#)

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[Click here for past editions of the VFW Action Corps Weekly.](#)

[Click here to view VFW-supported bills in the 118th Congress.](#)

[Click here to sign up new veterans' advocates.](#)

As always, we want to hear your advocacy stories. To share your stories or photos with us, simply email them directly to [vfwac@vfw.org](mailto:vfwac@vfw.org).