



# ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



November 4, 2024



**Veterans Volunteer to Vet the Vote:** VFW National Legislative Associate Director Joe Grassi participated in a veterans-service leaders meeting hosted by the nonpartisan organization We the Veterans and Military Families. To date, more than 162,400 veterans and military family members have answered the Vet the Vote program's call to serve as poll workers for the 2024 presidential election. "The integrity of the election is strengthened because of the selfless patriots who volunteer to safeguard and facilitate this process which is vital to our way of life," Grassi said. "We congratulate and thank all our outstanding veterans and military family members who have volunteered to serve as poll workers for the 2024 presidential election. If you haven't already, be sure to vote!" [Learn more.](#)



## **VA Secretary Briefs National Press Club**

**Audience:** VFW staff members attended an event held at The National Press Club in Washington, D.C., to hear remarks from VA Secretary Denis R. McDonough. The Secretary complimented veterans for their dedication to our nation's defense, praised VA employees for record-breaking performance caring for our veterans, provided an implementation update on the PACT Act, and recognized the plight of those who served at Karshi-Khanabad (K2). Acknowledging K2 veterans as some of the first to deploy after the 9/11 attacks, he noted the unhealthy environment to which they arrived in Uzbekistan, their consequent adverse medical conditions, and VA's actions to ameliorate their suffering. [Read](#) the transcript or [learn more](#) about K2 veterans.



**TRICARE Open Enrollment:** The annual TRICARE open enrollment season kicks off on Nov. 11, bringing important updates to beneficiary enrollment and premium payments. Starting on Jan. 1, 2025, TriWest Healthcare Alliance will take over as the new regional contractor for the TRICARE West Region. Payments currently made through military allotments will be automatically transferred to TriWest, but it's crucial for affected veterans to set up their recurring monthly payments directly with TriWest before the new year. Failing to do so may result in disenrollment from their TRICARE health plan. Notably, the TRICARE West Region will now encompass [26 states](#), an increase of six from the previous coverage. Be sure to check your state's status and find out more details.



**Take VFW Health Care Survey:** The VFW has developed a new survey to evaluate your health and your experiences navigating health care. Your feedback is vital to our advocacy efforts and to compile a report on this important topic. Help the VFW hold VA and Congress accountable by taking this short survey no matter where you receive care. [Take the survey.](#)



**Honoring Past and Preserving Future:** As Veterans' Day approaches, attention will focus on VA national cemeteries and their need for volunteers. Varied opportunities abound for civic groups, veteran organizations, service members, and individuals to assist with the smooth functioning of these hallowed grounds and to learn about the sacrifices of those interred. Possible volunteer activities include laying holiday wreaths at gravesites, participating in beautification and restoration projects, playing live "Taps" at military funerals, and providing walking tours to visitors, among many others. [Learn more](#) about volunteering at a VA national cemetery and [locate one](#) near you.



**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one burial update for a service member who has been missing and unaccounted for from World War II.

Update:

-- [World War II Army Pvt. Jeremiah P. Mahoney](#)

[Click here to view this week's edition.](#)

[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).