



# ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



February 24, 2025



## **VFW Reminds Members to Stay Focused Amid Confusion in the Capital:**

VFW National Commander Al Lipphardt sent a message to VFW members and supporters in response to recent changes made by the new Administration. The VFW has received a multitude of calls and emails from veterans worried about reductions in federal benefit programs and the federal workforce, including 1,000 VA probationary employees who were let go. Lipphardt stated, "Make no mistake, the staff at the VFW Washington Office is working hard behind the scenes to protect you and ensure you receive the care and benefits you have earned." [Read more.](#)



## **DOD Decommissioning TRICARE Online Patient Portal:**

The TRICARE Online Patient Portal will be decommissioned on April 1, 2025. It has been replaced by DOD's new electronic health record, MHS GENESIS. Your medical provider will continue to have access to your complete health record, but if you would like a copy for your own files you must download it before April 1. [Read more.](#)



## **Become a Sponsor to Support Transitioning Service Members:**

The Veteran Sponsorship Initiative (VSI) is a public-private partnership of the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Labor, along with national nonprofit and community-based organizations. This program aims to support transitioning service members by matching them with sponsors who can assist with housing, employment, education, and mental health resources. Sponsors receive training from VA and are backed by a network of specialized service providers to help ease the challenges and offer guidance and encouragement

for veterans reintegrating into civilian life. [Learn more](#) about how you can play an essential role in VSI.



**VA Preserving the Environment While Serving Veterans:** To develop an environmentally sustainable interment option, VA is piloting “green” burial sections at three national cemeteries: National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix; Pikes Peak National Cemetery in Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida. Green interment requires the remains to be prepared without chemicals or embalming fluid and to be buried in a biodegradable casket, urn, or securely wrapped in a biodegradable shroud. The pilot program will inform VA regarding the implementation of green burial sections at additional cemeteries. [Read more](#) about the program, including frequently asked questions.



**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced two identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II.

Identifications:

- [World War II Army Pvt. Erwin H. Schopp](#)
- [World War II Navy Aviation Chief Metalsmith John W. Reimer](#)

[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 119th 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).