

May 19, 2025



VFW Meets with House Subcommittee

Chairwoman: VFW National Senior Vice Commander Carol Whitmore and National Legislative Director Kristina Keenan met with House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health Chairwoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks. They discussed the VFW's [legislative priorities](#) including needed research on alternative treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder, and ways to improve VA's Foreign Medical Program.



VFW Joins Roundtable on Underserved Veterans:

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Ranking Member Mark Takano convened a roundtable with veteran organizations and advocacy groups to discuss disparities in access to VA care and benefits for minority and underserved veterans. VFW National Legislative Director Kristina Keenan highlighted the need for VA to collect more data to identify areas of need, conduct research on women veterans during all phases of life to include during menopause, reach veterans on tribal lands, and provide mandatory military cultural competency training for Community Care Network providers.



VFW Statement for House Subcommittee Hearing:

VFW National Legislative Associate Director Nancy Springer provided a statement for the record for a House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs hearing on improper VA compensation and pension payments. She commented on four common causes of irregular payments and how they affect beneficiaries. [Read the statement](#) or [watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 23:57 mark.



Honoring Fallen Veterans on Memorial Day: From May 1 to May 24, 2025, volunteers organized by the non-profit organization Carry The Load will honor veterans with a 20,000-mile Memorial Day tribute relay, stopping at 16 VA national cemeteries across the country. Volunteers will gather at each location to pay respects, carry banners and flags, and remember the fallen. Participants are encouraged to post online remembrances on VA's Veterans Legacy Memorial. The event will culminate in a Memorial Day rally on May 26 in Dallas, Texas. Those wishing to participate should register in advance. [Read more.](#)



Fourth Annual Flowers of Remembrance Day: Arlington National Cemetery will hold its fourth annual Flowers of Remembrance Day on Sunday, May 25, 2025, from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Visitors are invited to lay flowers that will be provided onsite in tribute to fallen service members. This is a solemn tradition rooted in the original Decoration Day of 1868, now known as Memorial Day. At 10 a.m. there will be a program on the history of the holiday, followed by a 10:30 a.m. walking tour highlighting sites connected to the Army's 250th anniversary. No registration is required. [Read more.](#)



Million Veteran Program Impact on Mental Health Care: VA's Million Veteran Program is committed to making health discoveries to improve care for mental health, including post-traumatic stress disorder, substance use disorders, and suicide prevention. [Learn more](#) about the program and how your participation can help can make a difference in the physical and mental well-being of yourself and others now and in the future.



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced five updates and eight identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II and the Korean War.

Updates:

- [World War II Army CWO Charles G. Benthien](#), California
- [World War II Army Pvt. Ben F. Leslie](#), New Mexico
- [World War II Army Air Forces 1st Lt. George F. Wilson Jr.](#), Utah
- [World War II Army Capt. Ralph L. Rowland](#), California
- [Korean War Army Sgt. Thomas J. O'Brien](#), California

Identifications:

- [World War II Army Air Forces Warrant Officer William J. McMichael](#)
- [World War II Army Pfc. Nicholas Hartman](#)
- [World War II Army Pfc. Edward J. Kramer](#)
- [World War II Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Jason K. Goldwater](#)
- [World War II Army Pvt. Mack Homer](#)
- [World War II Army Pfc. St. Clair M. Gibson](#)
- [World War II Navy Ensign Joseph L. Richey](#)
- [Korean War Army Cpl. Edwin C. Martin](#)

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[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.