



March 17, 2025



Washington Conference Hats in the Halls:

VFW leaders from all 50 states and the Department of Pacific Areas traveled to our nation's capital to personally meet their respective members of Congress on behalf of all veterans, active duty service members, and military families. Leadership and their corresponding delegations focused their messages on the following six legislative priorities: unaddressed toxic exposures, transition from service, exploring alternative PTSD treatments, cracking down on predatory claims companies, GI Bill parity, and retirement and military personnel. [Learn more.](#)



VFW Testifies Before Senate Committee:

VFW National Legislative Director Patrick Murray testified at a hearing on pending legislation before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Among several important issues, the proposals included prohibiting predatory claims practices and the recent massive layoffs within VA. "Reduction in Force efforts should not be bluntly used to satisfy an arbitrary budget goal," Murray said. "VA should always be fully staffed with competent and capable employees to serve the men and women who have earned their health care and benefits." [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 17:47 mark.



VFW Testifies at House Subcommittee

Hearing: VFW National Legislative Deputy Director Kristina Keenan testified at a hearing on pending legislation before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. The proposals focused on education benefits, expansions for the VA Home Loan Guaranty program, and how to improve services for veterans facing foreclosure or homelessness. She emphasized one of the VFW's legislative priorities, the *Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025*, to allow any day in uniform for which military pay is received to count toward Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility. [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 12:01 mark.



New Hours for Caregiver Support Line: The VA National Caregiver Support Line has new operational hours of Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. EST. Caregivers, family members, friends, veterans, and community partners can call toll-free at 1-855-260-3274 to learn more about the services that are available, and for assistance connecting with the Caregiver Support Team at a local VA Medical Center. [Read more.](#)



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

Identifications:

- [World War II Army Maj. James J. O'Donovan](#)
- [World War II Army 2nd Lt. William B. Bucey](#)
- [World War II Army Sgt. Ivor D. Thornton](#)
- [World War II Navy Fireman 3rd Class Royle B. Luker](#)
- [World War II Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Russell O. Chitwood](#)
- [World War II Army Chief Warrant Officer Charles G. Benthien](#)
- [Korean War Army Pfc. George A. Curley Jr.](#)
- [Korean War Army Sgt. Rosslyn E. Gresens](#)
- [Korean War Army Cpl. Lester William Bauer](#)

Updates:

- [World War II Army Pvt. James L. Harrington](#), Iowa
- [Korean War Army Cpl. Billie C. Driver](#), Texas

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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.