



July 28, 2025



VFW Priority Included in NDAA: The VFW is pleased to report that one of our top legislative priorities, [H.R. 1845](#), *Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Promotion Act*, has been included as Section 551 of the House draft version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2026. This provision would strengthen TAP by ensuring all transitioning service members have access to VA-accredited representatives from counties, states, and Veterans Service Organizations like the VFW. The VFW urges Congress to retain this provision in the final NDAA.



2025 VA Healthcare Summit: VFW staff attended the VA 2025 Healthcare Summit held in Washington, D.C. The event highlighted advancements in health care with an emphasis on improving mental health services, expanding telehealth access, and enhancing the use of digital tools to best serve veterans in rural and underserved areas. Discussions included efforts to reduce wait times, streamline the claims process, and integrate technologies like AI for more efficient, veteran-centered care. “We were thrilled to learn about innovative approaches to address the unique challenges VA faces in delivering timely, high-quality health care across the nation,” said VFW National Legislative Associate Director Meggan Coleman.



Temporary Expanded Burial Benefit: In an attempt to implement provisions in the Dole Act, VA has announced a temporary burial benefit expansion for certain individuals. Veterans who are discharged from VA medical or nursing care to VA-provided home hospice care and who subsequently die between July 1, 2025, and Oct.

1, 2026, may qualify for a full burial allowance. Previously, many of these veterans were not eligible for this benefit, creating gaps in the support of their survivors. This law allows veterans to spend their last days at home with loved ones, assured they will not struggle with a financial burden while grieving their loss. [Read more.](#)



VA Extending Program Eligibility for Legacy Caregivers: VA has announced it will soon propose a rule extending eligibility for legacy veterans and caregivers in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) through Sept. 30, 2028. During this extension period, legacy participants can keep their current status and benefits unless they request a new assessment. Legacy participants are defined as veterans, service members, and caregivers who applied prior to Oct. 1, 2020, and were accepted into the program on or after Oct. 1, 2020. [Read more.](#)



VA Financial Resource Center for Veterans: VA's new FINVET helps you take charge of your money. This one-stop shop has resources and tools on how to pay for basics like food and housing, how to manage debt, and protect your finances. You can also find information for free financial counseling and planning, and lots more. [Learn more.](#)



Combat Patch Eligibility Expansion: The Army has updated its policy on the Shoulder Sleeve Insignia for Military Operations in Hostile Conditions, commonly known as the combat patch. Soldiers from the Army, Army National Guard, and U.S. Army Reserve who served for at least a day in one of 14 countries in the Middle East and Africa between Oct. 7, 2023, and June 24, 2025, are now eligible. This change ensures that more soldiers are appropriately recognized for their service in evolving combat environments. However, it does not authorize entitlement to hostile fire pay, imminent danger pay, or combat zone tax exclusion. [Read more.](#)



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

Identifications:

- [World War II Army Pfc. Claude A. Dewberry](#)
- [Korean War Army Cpl. Thomas W. Daniels](#)
- [Korean War Army Cpl. Lonnie Fields](#)

Updates:

- [Vietnam War Air Force Tech. Sgt. Willis R. Hall](#), Kansas
- [World War II Army Pvt. Blanchard E. Pruitt](#), Louisiana
- [World War II Army Pfc. Edward J. Kramer](#), Michigan
- [World War II Army Air Forces Tech Sgt. Truman G. Causey](#), Louisiana
- [World War II Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Henry J. Carlin](#), Virginia
- [World War II Army Pfc. Nicholas Hartman](#), Texas
- [World War II Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Jason K. Goldwater](#), Virginia
- [World War II Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. John H. Mann](#), Virginia
- [World War II Army Pfc. Charles N. Milam](#), Location to be determined

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