



November 3, 2025



VFW Testifies at Senate Committee Hearing:

VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci testified before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs during an oversight hearing on the VA disability system prompted by recent news reports alleging fraudulent practices within the compensation claims process. Gallucci emphasized the VFW's challenge to "Honor the Contract" between service members and the government. He asserted, "Our veterans didn't ask what was in the air they breathed or the water they drank. And unlike many other public servants, they couldn't just walk away if they didn't want to do it anymore. They served in accordance with the contract they signed. Many now live with illnesses that steal their sleep, their breath and their ability to work. Suggesting that they embellish their suffering for money is insulting." Accordingly, the federal government must fulfill its responsibility to care for those injured or sickened in service. [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#) which begins at the 15:43 mark.



VFW Engages in Dialogue on Veteran

Education Benefits: VFW National Legislative Associate Director Joe Grassi participated in a panel discussion hosted by the National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators (NAVPA) on the current state of VA education benefits and challenges. Focus was on the impact of the government shutdown on benefit access and delivery, legislative priorities and collaboration among advocacy groups. Grassi highlighted the need for GI Bill fairness for National Guard and Reserve members, proper adjustment of school supply stipends, improved staffing for the Veteran

Readiness and Employment program, and reduced administrative burdens on schools. [Learn more.](#)



TRICARE Open Season Begins Soon: TRICARE Open Season runs Nov. 10 through Dec. 9, giving eligible beneficiaries the chance to enroll in or change health plans for 2026. Active duty members and those with TRICARE For Life are not affected. Beneficiaries can make changes online through milConnect, by phone, or by mail, and should verify their Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System information. Changes made during this period will take effect on Jan. 1. [Read more.](#)



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced no identifications or burial updates this week.

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