



October 12, 2026



National Veterans Service Holds Semi-annual Training Conference: VFW's National Veterans Service recently hosted its annual service officer training in Annapolis, Maryland, bringing together more than 200 accredited representatives for a week of education, professional development and collaboration. Among them were 37 newly accredited representatives who completed their initial training, preparing them to serve veterans and their families. Experienced representatives participated in continuing education focused on changes to VA policy, procedures and benefits. Senior leaders from VA, including VA General Counsel James Baehr, and the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families joined the training, providing valuable insight into issues affecting veterans and the work of accredited service officers. VFW National Commander Cory Geisler and Senior Vice National Commander Glenn Umberger Jr. also attended and shared their perspectives on the VFW's mission and the critical role accredited service officers play in providing quality representation to veterans and their families.



VFW Attends Taiwan National Day Celebration: VFW National Commander Cory Geisler and Washington Office staff attended a reception in Washington, D.C., hosted by Taiwan's Representative to the United States Alexander Tah-ray Yui and his wife to celebrate the 115th National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan). The annual celebration, also known as Double Ten Day, is officially recognized on Oct. 10 to commemorate the Wuchang Uprising in 1911. The reception brought together members of the diplomatic, government and civic communities. The

VFW's participation reflects the organization's continued engagement with Taiwan's veteran community and the longstanding bonds between American and Taiwanese veterans.



Claim Shark Victims Could File Claims in Trajector Bankruptcy:

Veterans who paid Trajector Medical, formerly known as Vet Comp & Pen Medical Consulting, LLC, for assistance obtaining or increasing their VA disability benefits may have claims in the company's pending bankruptcy and should act now to protect their rights. Trajector Medical and affiliated companies filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in July 2026, and bankruptcy filings indicate that approximately 180,000 disabled veterans and others receiving disability benefits may have potential claims against the Trajector bankruptcy estates. Veterans may assert a claim by filing a Proof of Claim, which formally states that Trajector may owe them money. Importantly, filing a Proof of Claim will not cancel, reduce or otherwise affect a veteran's VA disability benefits or rating. The Bankruptcy Court has extended the deadline to Oct. 31, 2026; no claims will be accepted after that date. Veterans who have not yet filed should act immediately. To find filing information or submit a Proof of Claim, [click here](#).



VA Releases National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report:

VA has released the 2026 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, which states that 6,488 veterans died by suicide in 2024, averaging 17.7 deaths per day. Sixty-two percent had not received VA healthcare during the year of their death or the previous year. The data from 2023 to 2024 indicates suicide rates fell 4.8% among veterans enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration but increased 3.7% among unenrolled veterans. This highlights the need to continue outreach efforts to connect more veterans to VA for healthcare services and suicide prevention. "The fact that so many veterans who died by suicide weren't receiving VA health care shows we still have a lot of work to do," said VFW National Veterans Service Deputy Director Gregg

Orto. “We need to keep reaching out, making sure veterans know what help is available, and connecting them with the care and support they need.” [Read more.](#)



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

Updates:

- [World War II Army Staff Sgt. Charles H. Knecht](#), Pennsylvania
- [World War II Army Maj. Harry C. Hoffmeyer](#), Missouri
- [World War II Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Given C. Grooms](#), Ohio
- [World War II Army Pvt. Duane W. Payne](#), Minnesota

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