

*** The next edition will be on Monday, December 7, 2026. We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving! ***

November 23, 2026



Tell the Senate to Protect Veterans' Earned Benefits: The House passed the clean, standalone Major Richard Star Act by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 392-18. Now the fight moves to the Senate. Despite proposed additions to the Take Care of America's Veterans Act (TCAVA), Section 108 would still reduce disability compensation for certain future veterans. A vote for TCAVA is a vote to cut veterans' benefits and sets the precedent for more cuts in the future. Email and call your senators to urge them to pass the clean Major Richard Star Act and oppose TCAVA. This Thanksgiving, ask your family and friends to make their voices heard, too. Take action now.



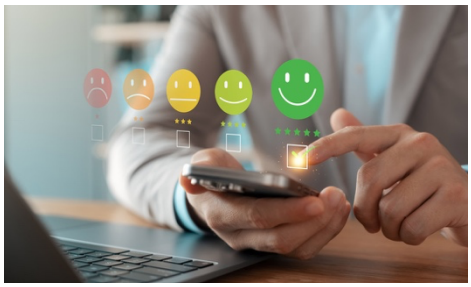
House Subcommittee Holds Oversight Hearing on Innovative Therapies: The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health held an oversight hearing on psychedelic-assisted therapies for veterans. In a statement submitted for the record, VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Meggan Coleman commented, "The VFW supports ongoing research on innovative therapies that may improve veterans' health and quality of life." The VFW urges VA to address regulatory and operational barriers, strengthen informed consent, and prepare its workforce and facilities alongside ongoing research to ensure timely access without compromising veteran safety. Read the testimony or watch the hearing, which begins at the 33:03 mark.



Congressional Committees Examine VA Electronic Health Record Modernization: VFW National Veterans Service Deputy Director Gregg Orto submitted statements for the record to the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs regarding VA's Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) program. He expressed the VFW's strong support for the continued nationwide deployment of the Federal Electronic Health Record and retirement of the legacy VistA system, emphasizing the importance of seamless medical record sharing between DOD and VA to ensure continuity of care and patient safety. Orto highlighted the successful completion of all 13 planned medical center deployments in 2026 and urged Congress to support continued implementation as VA prepares for 26 additional deployments in 2027. He also commended VA and Oracle Health for their progress and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration, staff training and veteran outreach throughout the rollout. Read the Senate testimony or the House testimony.



VFW Engages with Veterans at the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Supreme Court: VFW National Veterans Service (NVS) staff recently participated in two events supporting veterans. At the Department of State, NVS staff partnered with the Veteran Support Program to recognize veterans and provide information on VA benefits and healthcare, reaching approximately 50 in-person attendees and an additional virtual audience. At the U.S. Supreme Court, NVS met with 30 Supreme Court veteran staff members to discuss the benefits they have earned and how the VFW can assist them in navigating the VA claims process. Chief Justice John Roberts personally thanked the team for its continued dedication to veterans and expressed interest in the challenges veterans face when accessing their earned benefits, underscoring the importance of the VFW's work and continued advocacy on their behalf.



VFW Seeks Veterans' Feedback on VA Healthcare: The VFW is gathering feedback from veterans about their experiences with VA healthcare through its Veterans Healthcare Survey. The survey covers topics such as access to care, quality of services, community care and areas where improvements may be needed. The feedback will help the VFW better understand what is working well and where veterans are experiencing challenges. Survey results will also help guide the VFW's discussions with VA leadership and members of Congress as we continue advocating for improvements to veterans' healthcare. Take the survey.



Fort McClellan Veterans Invited to Listening Session: The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will host a public listening session on Dec. 2, 2026, in Anniston, Alabama. Veterans who served at Fort McClellan, particularly between 1979 and 1999, their families and members of the public are invited to share their experiences and concerns regarding potential environmental exposures and related health issues. The session will help inform an ongoing PACT Act-mandated study examining the health of Fort McClellan veterans. Learn more and register for the event.



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

Identifications:
-- World War II Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. Donald C. Kelley
-- World War II Army Tech. 5th Grade L. T. McNeely
-- Korean War Army 1st Lt. Raymond B. Gilbert
-- Korean War Army Cpl. William R. Laughlin, Jr.
-- Korean War Army Cpl. Richard N. Lennox
-- Korean War Army Sgt. Joseph A. Platzkoester
-- Korean War Army Cpl. Andrew R. Tischler
-- Korean War Army Cpl. Jackie Lee Thurman

Updates:
-- World War II Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Richard W. Kowal, Wisconsin

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View VFW-supported bills in the 119th Congress

Sign up as a veterans' advocate