



ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



February 22, 2021



New VFW ALTAS Site Open for Patients: This week, VFW Post 7842 in Linesville, Pennsylvania, became the second VFW Project Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations (ALTAS) location, allowing veterans and their families to virtually connect to care with the Erie VA Medical Center. For many rural and underserved veterans, connectivity remains a critical issue. Through Project ATLAS, the VFW has worked with VA and Philips to leverage VA's anywhere-to-anywhere authority to expand telehealth options for rural veterans. More than 20 VFW Posts have been identified as possible Project ATLAS telehealth locations. The VFW-supported *Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019* will provide grant programs to expand telehealth capabilities such as [ATLAS](#) sites. [Read more.](#)



VA Continues COVID-19 Debt Relief: VA will continue to suspend debts in order to provide critical financial relief for veterans affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. VA's suspension of collections will apply to all veteran benefit overpayments and medical copayment debts incurred after April 1, 2020. VA will notify veterans of their current debt and their options for relief. For benefit overpayment questions, you can [submit a request online](#) or call 800.827.0648. For health care debts, veterans should contact the Health Resource Center at 866.400.1238.



VA Extends Existing Moratorium on Evictions and Foreclosures: VA's current moratorium on evictions and foreclosures was set to expire on March 31, and is now extended to June 30, 2021. VA will also extend VA loan forbearance requests. VA home loan borrowers can find helpful information from the [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#), [online from VA](#), or they can call VA at 877.827.3702.



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced three new identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II and Korea. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

-- **Navy Fireman 1st Class William D. Tucker**, 19, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Tucker. Interment Services are pending. [Read about Tucker.](#)

-- **Army Cpl. Paul Mitchem**, 20, was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 7, 1950, after his unit sustained heavy casualties while defending against the North Korean army's advance near Ch'onan, South Korea. His body was not recovered because his unit was forced to retreat, nor were any remains found that could be identified as Mitchem. Interment Services are pending. [Read about Mitchem.](#)

-- **U.S. Army Pfc. Michaux Turbeville**, 31, was a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 1, 1950, after his unit was attacked by enemy forces as they attempted to withdraw near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Turbeville.](#)

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