



ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



May 24, 2021



VFW Memorial Day Remembrance: “Comrades, I would like to remind each and every one of you of the somber reason for Memorial Day,” said Hal Roesch, VFW Commander-in-Chief. “We must not forget the service members buried in hollowed grounds throughout the country and around the world. For many in our nation, this Memorial Day weekend will be like a breath of fresh air, as more and more of this past year’s restrictions are lifted across the U.S., marking a moment of needed relief for many of our fellow Americans. While there is an air of elation around us, let us take time to give pause, reflect and honor our fallen brothers and sisters, reminding everyone of the selfless sacrifices that secured the freedoms we enjoy. May we continue to honor their legacy, living lives worthy of those who laid down their lives for us.”



Memorial Day Ceremonies in Nation’s Capitol:

This year Memorial Day ceremonies are not open to the general public but will be streamed virtually. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund will be hosting a small in-person ceremony at The Wall which can be [watched online](#) on Monday, May 31, at 1 p.m. EDT. The National Memorial Day Concert will not be held in person again this year, but there will be a special presentation with new performances and tributes. The 2021 National Memorial Day concert will be live on your local PBS station, on Sunday, May 30, at 8 p.m. EDT, as well as PBS.org, YouTube, and Facebook. You can also enjoy The National Memorial Day Parade which will air over Memorial Day weekend on American Forces Network, ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, and CW affiliate stations nationwide.



VA to Review Previously Denied Blue Water

Claims: As a result of a recent U.S. district court case, VA is automatically reviewing the cases of veterans who were previously denied service connection for one or more condition related to Agent Orange exposure. Previous denials based on military service not performed in the Republic of Vietnam or on its inland waterways will have the evidence of record reviewed and replacement decisions provided. These reviews will also apply to eligible survivors of deceased Vietnam-era veterans. We encourage affected veterans to [contact their VFW Department Service Officer](#) with any questions or concerns they may have or if they may be interested in filing a claim.



VFW-Supported Legislation Passes House:

On Tuesday, the House passed VFW-supported, [H.R. 1510](#), the Veterans' Camera Reporting Act, [H.R. 2494](#), to establish a fourth administration in VA, and [H.R. 2441](#), the *Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act*. H.R. 1510 would provide a review of VA's policies and procedures on camera placement, surveillance, equipment maintenance, data storage, and any gaps or barriers VA faces in providing a sense of security and trust to veterans, their families, and VA staff. H.R. 2494 would establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration to oversee programs for vocational rehabilitation, employment, education assistance, veterans' housing loans, veteran-owned business, and the transition assistance program. H.R. 2441 would expand VA's Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement (RANGE) program and assess the mental health needs of rural and highly rural veterans.



Reschedule Overdue Preventive Care

Services: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many people postponed or canceled annual preventive care services appointments. As more and more individuals receive the COVID-19 vaccine and restrictions are lifted, veterans who are overdue for preventive care need to reschedule as soon as possible. Preventive services include primary and specialty care appointments, pneumonia and shingles vaccines, and screenings such as a colonoscopy, mammogram, or pap smear. [Read more.](#)



Walk-in COVID-19 Vaccines Available at

VA: Eligible veterans, spouses, and caregivers nationwide can walk into their local VA facility's vaccine clinic to receive their COVID-19 vaccines. Veterans not enrolled in VA care should [pre-register](#) online at least one hour before arrival to save time. The expanded access to the COVID-19 vaccine at VA is a result of the [SAVE LIVES Act](#). See the VA's answers to frequently asked questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine in [Part I](#) and [Part II](#) for more information.



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

-- **Army Chaplain (Capt.) Emil J. Kapaun**, of Pilsen, Kansas, served in the Korean War with the 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. On Nov. 2, 1950, his unit was near Unsan when they came under heavy fire from Chinese forces and received orders to withdraw. Approximately a quarter of the unit's soldiers made their way back to friendly lines. The others, including many wounded soldiers, became trapped. Kapaun volunteered to stay with the wounded and was soon captured and taken to a Chinese-run prison camp on the Yalu River's south bank known as Camp 5. Kapaun will be buried Sept. 29, 2021, in Wichita, Kansas. [Read about Kapaun.](#)

-- **Navy Fireman 2nd Class Carl M. Bradley, 19**, of Shelley, Idaho, 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 Bradley. He will be buried on June 26, 2021, in his hometown. [Read about Bradley.](#)

-- **Navy Musician 2nd Class Charlton H. Ferguson, 19**, of Kosciusko, Mississippi, 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 Ferguson. He will be buried on July 9, 2021, at the NMCP. [Read about Ferguson.](#)

-- **Navy Fireman 1st Class William D. Tucker, 19**, of Bedford, Iowa, 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. He will be buried on June 30, 2021, in his hometown. [Read about Tucker.](#)

-- **Naval Reserve Cmdr. Paul C. Charvet, 26**, was the pilot of an A-1H Skyraider airplane assigned to Attack Squadron 215 aboard the USS Bon Homme Richard. During a mission near Thanh Hoa Province, Vietnam, his plane disappeared in an area of low cloud cover and fog a kilometer northeast of Hon Me Island. His remains were not recovered after a search of the area. On March 22, 1967, Radio Hanoi Broadcast reported an American aircraft was shot down the day before off the coast of Thanh Hoa Province. Charvet's plane was the only U.S. aircraft loss in that area March 21. Charvet was considered missing in action until Dec. 2, 1977, when his status was changed to "Presumed Killed in Action." Interment services are pending. [Read about Charvet.](#)

-- **Navy Fireman 1st Class Robert J. Harr, 25**, 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 Harr. Interment services are pending. [Read about Harr.](#)

-- **Navy Fireman 1st Class Everett C. Titterington, 21**, 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 Titterington. Interment services are pending.

[Read about Titterington.](#)

-- **Navy Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Leaman R. Dill, 25**, 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 Dill. Interment services are pending. [Read about Dill.](#)

-- **Navy Seaman 2nd Class Raymond D. Boynton, 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 Boynton. Interment services are pending. [Read about Boynton.](#)

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