



# ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



August 15, 2022



**Honoring our PACT Act Becomes Law:** VFW National Commander Tim Borland attended the White House bill signing ceremony as President Biden signed into law S.3373, *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022*, known as the PACT Act. Borland commented after the event, “Too many of our brothers and sisters have succumbed to illnesses connected to toxic exposure. That is why this bill has been the VFW’s number one priority for the past few years, and we weren’t going to give up until it was passed.” Also in attendance were staff members from the VFW Washington Office and fellow veteran advocates. [Read more](#) about the PACT Act or locate an accredited [VFW service officer](#) near you. [Watch the bill signing](#).



**Applications Now Being Accepted for 2023 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship:** The application process for the 2023 class of VFW-SVA legislative fellows is now open. VFW members who attend an accredited institute of higher learning with an approved Student Veteran of America chapter will be chosen for the semester-long program that focuses on real policy issues faced by veterans, service members, and their families. The capstone of the program is participation in the 2023 VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Alumni of the program have become more active at all levels of the VFW and have been instrumental in changing laws to improve care and benefits for veterans. [Learn more and apply for the fellowship](#).



### **Press Conference on Afghan Allies:** VFW

Associate Legislative Director Brittany Dymond spoke at a press conference urging Congress to pass newly introduced bipartisan legislation that would provide support for nationals of Afghanistan who were evacuated. The Afghan Adjustment Act would secure a means of recourse for these Afghan nationals to stay in the United States long term. “Thousands of VFW members worked side by side with Afghan allies during their deployments overseas. But now it’s time we help those same comrades in arms as they seek new lives in our great nation,” said Dymond.



**Reproductive Health Survey:** The House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs released a survey to better understand veterans and their reproductive health needs. The goal of the study is to gain awareness of barriers, challenges, and improvements to VA’s reproductive health services. The survey takes less than two minutes. [Take the survey.](#)



**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one burial update and two 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:

-- **Army Pfc. David N. Owens, 27**, of Green Hills, North Carolina, was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 22, 1944, when his unit was engaged in battle with German forces near Hürtgen, Germany. He was declared killed in action on Nov. 23, 1945. Owens will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Owens.](#)

-- **Army Sgt. Charles Garrigus, 24**, was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 1, 1950, during battle with enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the war, his remains could not be recovered and there is no evidence that he was a prisoner of war. Interment services are pending. [Read about Garrigus.](#)

-- **Army Cpl. Tommie T. Hanks, 27**, was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. On Nov. 26, 1950, he was reported missing in action while his unit was attempting to withdraw from east Ch'ongch'on River near Anju, North Korea. Following the war, his remains could not be recovered and there is no evidence that he was a prisoner of war. Interment services are pending. [Read about Hanks.](#)

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