



ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



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**Veterans
Crisis Line**
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

988 Veterans Crisis Hotline: Veterans now have the option to **Dial 988 then Press 1** to connect with caring, qualified responders for 24/7 crisis assistance. “During a crisis, every second counts,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “This new, shorter number makes it easier for veterans and those who care about them to reach lifesaving support without having to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care.” While [Dial 988 then Press 1](#) is a new option for contacting the Veterans Crisis Line, the original number, 1.800.273.8255 and press 1, remains available, and individuals can make contact via chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](#) or by texting 838255.



Improvements to Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry: VA is making several changes to its [Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry](#) to expand eligibility and make it easier to use. Veterans are now eligible to participate if they have deployed to one of three new locations – Syria or Uzbekistan since Sept. 11, 2001, or Egypt since August 1990. Other veterans and service members who can participate include those who deployed to the Southwest Asia theater of operations any time after Aug. 2, 1990, or Afghanistan or Djibouti on or after Sept. 11, 2001. In addition, VA is making the registry more user friendly and ensuring that veterans have the option to have an in-person health exam. [Read more.](#)



Veterans Needed for Million Veteran Program: The world's largest medical research biobank, [Million Veteran Program](#) (MVP), enrolled its 900,000th veteran and is seeking more to reach one million in the next calendar year. MVP seeks to learn how genes, lifestyles, and military exposures affect health and illness. Women veterans are encouraged to participate as they are often underrepresented in biomedical research which can leave gender-specific health questions unanswered. By contributing a blood sample to the biobank, veterans can help ensure that the research is more comprehensive. [Read more.](#)



VA Resources for Prostate Cancer Awareness:

One in five veterans will develop prostate cancer. It is commonly diagnosed via a prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test and digital rectal examination. VA recommends talking with your provider about prostate cancer [screening](#) if you are between 55-69 years old. VA utilizes [genetic testing](#) to ensure precision treatments. [Read more.](#)



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced four burial updates and six 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 Air Forces 2nd Lt. David M. Lewis, 20**, of Dallas, was assigned to 345th Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Lewis was piloting crashed as a result of anti-aircraft fire during Operation Tidal Wave. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. He will be buried in Saltillo, Texas, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Lewis.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Worley D. Jacks, 21**, of Rutland, Ohio, was assigned to Company L, 232nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry Division. His unit was engaged in battle with German forces near Lichtenberg, France, when he was wounded and reported missing. With no body recovered and the Germans never reporting him as a prisoner of war, on Oct. 4, 1945, the War Department declared Jacks killed in action. He will be buried in Marion, Ohio, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Jacks.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Donald R. Duchene, 19**, of St. Paul, Minnesota, was assigned to 344th Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Duchene was a tail gunner crashed as a result of anti-aircraft fire during Operation Tidal Wave. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. He will be buried in Minneapolis on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Duchene.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Donald Hofman, 19**, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, was assigned to Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. Elements of his unit were supporting five companies attempting to secure terrain near Reipertswiller, France, when they were surrounded by German forces. On Jan. 20, 1945, Hofman was killed as the surrounded companies attempted a break-out through German lines. His body could not be recovered due to the ongoing battle. He will be buried in Byron Center, Michigan, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Hofman.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. Harold Kretzer, 32**, was assigned to 66th Bombardment Squadron, 44th Bombardment Group, 8th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Kretzer was a gunner-engineer crashed as a result of anti-aircraft fire during Operation Tidal Wave. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. Interment services are pending. [Read about Kretzer.](#)

-- **Army Air Force Pvt. Joseph E. Lescaut, 21**, was assigned to the 16th Bombardment Squadron, 27th Bombardment Group, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December 1941. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of the Bataan peninsula in 1942. He was among those captured and held at the Cabanatuan POW Camp, where he reportedly died on July 26, 1942, and was buried. Interment services are pending. [Read about Lescaut.](#)

-- **Army Sgt. Alfred H. Sidney, 23**, was assigned to Company H, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on May 18, 1951, after his unit was attacked near Hangye, South Korea. Repatriated POWs reported he had been captured and held as a prisoner of war at Camp #1, where he died in July 1951. Interment services are pending. [Read about Sidney.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Howard L. Dickson, 30**, was assigned to 328th Bombardment Squadron, 93rd Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943,

the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Dickson was a gunner and instructor crashed as a result of anti-aircraft fire during Operation Tidal Wave. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. Interment services are pending. [Read about Dickson.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. John F. Minogue, 24,** was assigned to 328th Bombardment Squadron, 93rd Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Minogue was the co-pilot crashed as a result of anti-aircraft fire during Operation Tidal Wave. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. Interment services are pending. [Read about Minogue.](#)

-- **Army Master Sgt. Merritt L. Wynn, 31,** was assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. On Nov. 26, 1950, he was reported as missing in action while fighting with the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces east of Unsan, North Korea. As Wynn's body was not recovered nor was he listed as a prisoner of war, he was declared nonrecoverable on Jan. 16, 1956. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star. Interment services are pending. [Read about Wynn.](#)

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