



# ACTION CORPUS WEEKLY



July 24, 2023



**VFW Testifies Before House Committee:** VFW National Legislative Deputy Director Kristina Keenan testified before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on pending legislation. H.R. 705, *Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act* would establish due process for veterans with fiduciaries before VA refers them to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Keenan stated, "VA's practice of referring all veterans with fiduciaries to NICS has had a negative impact on veteran trust. This has created a significant stigma around mental health and has created barriers to care." [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 08:41 mark.



**VFW Attends Roundtable with House Leaders:** The VFW attended a veterans organization roundtable hosted by House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (NY-8) and House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Ranking Member Mark Takano (CA-39). VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray and Deputy Director Kristina Keenan expressed the need to invest in VA infrastructure. Murray also highlighted the importance of VFW's Benefits Delivery at Discharge program, which provides claims assistance to service members who are about to transition from active duty.



### **Expeditionary Medal for Operation Atlantic**

**Resolve Service:** President Joe Biden has issued an executive order approving the mobilization of select reservists of the armed forces to active duty in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. VFW National Commander Tim Borland renewed his call for DOD to award the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal to those service members deployed to defend NATO's eastern flank. "Operation Atlantic Resolve is now a named contingency operation and the troops directly supporting this crucial mission deserve proper recognition," said Borland. "The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal was created for just this reason."

[Read the VFW press release.](#)



### **Phoenix Welcomes VFW National Convention:**

The 124th VFW National Convention is taking place July 22-27, 2023, in Phoenix. Every year, thousands of VFW and Auxiliary delegates gather to represent the organization's more than 1.5 million combined membership. The focus while there is to elect new VFW leadership and approve new resolutions to guide our priorities in Washington, D.C., as we advocate for our nation's veterans, service members, and their families.



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

--**Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. James M. Triplett, 36**, of Spokane, Washington, was assigned to the 700th Bombardment Squadron, 445th Bombardment Group, 2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force. He went missing in action on Sept. 27, 1944. The War Department issued a finding of death on Sept. 28, 1945. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, on Oct. 31, 2023.

[Read about Triplett.](#)

--**Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Howard L. Dickson, 30**, of Dayton, Ohio, was assigned to the 328th Bombardment Squadron, 93rd Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. He went missing in action on Aug. 1, 1943. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Dickson.](#)

--Navy Seaman 1st Class James R. Ward, 20, of Springfield, Ohio, 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. He was among 429 crewmen killed that day. Ward was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Ward.](#)

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