



ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



March 1, 2021



VFW Virtual March Legislative Conference:

Beginning March 1, the VFW will hold our annual March Legislative Conference. Our National Legislative Committee members will lead their department delegations along with the VFW-SVA Fellows to present the [VFW's legislative priorities](#) to members of Congress and their staffers. Although the format will be virtual this year, rest assured that the VFW will still make sure that veterans' voices are heard by our legislators on Capitol Hill. The conference will kick off with a briefing on Monday, March 1 at 1:00 p.m. EST that VFW members can login and [watch live](#).



VFW Participates in Event on C&P Exam Delays:

Last Monday, House Veterans' Affairs Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee Chairwoman Elaine Luria hosted a virtual event on compensation and pension (C&P) exam delays. VA halted C&P exams in April 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and although exams have become available again, veterans report significant delays with the entire disability claims process. "These delays are adding to the ever-growing backlog of disability claims, unnecessarily prolonging veterans from receiving their benefits," said VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Kristina Keenan. [Learn more](#).



Major Richard Star Act: This week, Sens. Jon Tester (D-MT), Mike Crapo (R-ID), and Jerry Moran (R-KS) introduced the VFW-supported [Major Richard Star Act](#). Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) along with 58 bipartisan original cosponsors have introduced the House companion bill. The bill would eliminate the unjust offset for Chapter 61 military retirees who suffered injuries in combat. The bill is named in honor of Maj. Richard Star who [lost his battle](#) with cancer on February 13, 2021. Maj. Star was a father, husband, and decorated war veteran who was medically retired as a result of his combat-related injuries.



VA Secretary Participates in Caregiver Event: Last Wednesday, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation held a virtual fireside chat with Secretary of VA, Denis McDonough where he introduced the new Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Families, Caregivers, and Survivors, Meg Kabat. The conversation highlighted the VA's priorities and vision to provide support, services, and resources to veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. [Watch the video](#).



COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A Session: On March 3, 2021, RallyPoint will host a Veteran Experience Live question and answer session with VA, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Health and Human Services experts regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. Questions can be submitted before or during the session and will be answered live between 3-4 p.m. EST. [Learn more](#).



DPAA Releases New Video Series: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced the release of the first videos in a series covering World War II battles and operations. These first videos highlight and give historical perspective on DPAA's Hürtgen Forest Project, Enoura Maru Project, and World War II European-Mediterranean Disinterments. [Watch the videos](#).



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one new identification for a service member who has been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II. Returning home for burial with full military honors is:
-- **Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. J.L. Hancock**, 21, was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands, in an attempt to secure the island in November 1943. Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded, while the Japanese were virtually annihilated. Interment Services are pending. [Read about Hancock.](#)

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