



# ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



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**MilitaryTimes**

**Major Veteran Groups Say Time for Toxic Exposure Legislation is Now:** The leaders of the VFW, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) have written an op-ed calling for comprehensive toxic exposure legislation. There are currently multiple bills that address the issue of toxic exposure, and the VFW's recommendation is to combine all these bills into a large comprehensive package. "The time to pass toxic exposure legislation is now," said Hal Roesch, VFW national commander. "Veterans have waited long enough for our elected officials to act on their behalf. If Congress waits until the next conflict to address this issue, they are already too late." [Read the op-ed](#) and [watch the upcoming Senate hearing](#).

**VFW Joins Forces with Team RWB:** The VFW announced on Thursday that it [has joined forces](#) with Team Red, White & Blue (Team RWB). Focused on increasing veterans' access to a combined health and wellness network, Team RWB offers camaraderie and support from fellow service members, veterans, and their families. The organization is comprised of nearly 200 chapters and communities, made up of over 217,000 members, called Eagles, the majority of whom are post-9/11 veterans. "Camaraderie, commitment and service are core values to both our organizations, and together, we'll be unstoppable in our quest to ensure a better quality of life for every American veteran," said Hal Roesch, VFW national commander.





**VFW Participates in House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Roundtable:** On Wednesday, VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Tammy Barlet participated in a [roundtable discussion](#) hosted by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The purpose was to discuss the role of VSOs in helping to eliminate sexual harassment and assault across VA. Barlet cited the recent proposal of VFW-SVA Legislative Fellow Cameron Zbikowski in which the Patient Advocate Tracking System Replacement tool would be available for veterans to track their complaints. Chairman Takano stated that he is hopeful VA Secretary McDonough has set a positive tone by personally taking the [White Ribbon Pledge](#). White Ribbon VA encourages taking the pledge to stand against sexual harassment, sexual assault, and domestic violence, by promoting a positive change in culture.



**Need Help with Your VA Claim?:** The claims process can be confusing and one that you should not try to navigate alone. The VFW's National Veterans Service is a nationwide network of VA-accredited service officers and pre-discharge representatives who are experts in dealing with VA and are the key to your success. As skilled professionals, they assist in filing for disability compensation, rehabilitation and education programs, pension and death benefits, and employment and training programs. This is a service the VFW is proud to offer free of charge to anyone seeking assistance with the claims process. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many VFW service offices are operating via telework, and the VFW's network of service officers have the capability to assist veterans virtually. [Find a VFW Service Officer in your area.](#)



**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced two burial updates and five 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:

-- **Navy Radioman 3rd Class Theodore Q. Jensen, 22**, of Delta, Utah, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. 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 Jensen. He will be buried on June 2, 2021, in his hometown. [Read about Jensen.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. William H. Melville, 20**, of Minneapolis, was a pilot assigned to the 36th Fighter Squadron, 8th Fighter Group. On Oct. 28, 1943, he was on a combat mission over the island of New Guinea, Australian Territory of Papua, when his aircraft and two others disappeared after encountering severe weather. Search and recovery efforts in the days following were unable to find any of the aircraft. Melville will be buried July 16, 2021, in his hometown. [Read about Melville.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Philip T. Hoogacker, 23**, was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment. He was reported missing in action on July 27, 1950, after his unit was attacked near Anui, South Korea. He was last seen after receiving first aid for a minor shrapnel wound. DPAA historians believe Hoogacker was captured by the Korean People's Army and forcibly marched to Seoul and then on to Pyongyang, where he died as a prisoner of war. Interment services are pending. [Read about Hoogacker.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Ernest N. Vienneau, 25**, was a pilot assigned to the 340th Bombardment Squadron, 97th Bombardment Group, 15th Air Force, based out of Amendola, Italy. On Nov. 6, 1944, the bomber on which he was serving as co-pilot came under heavy anti-aircraft fire while on a mission over Maribor, Yugoslavia, in present-day Slovenia. During the barrage, a piece of flak penetrated the cockpit and struck Vienneau in the head, mortally wounding him. Interment services are pending. [Read about Vienneau.](#)

-- **Navy Water Tender 1st Class Charles E. Hudson, 39**, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. 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 Hudson. Interment services are pending. [Read about Hudson.](#)

-- **Navy Seaman 1st Class Walter C. Stein, 20**, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. 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 Stein. Interment services are pending. [Read about Stein.](#)

-- **Navy Fireman 1st Class Kenneth E.**

**Doernenburg, 23**, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. 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 Doernenburg. Interment services are pending. [Read about Doernenburg.](#)

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