



# ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



August 30, 2021



### **Dog Training Pilot Program Becomes**

**Law:** President Biden signed into law VFW-supported [H.R. 1448](#), the *PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act*. This legislation will establish a 5-year pilot program on dog training therapy for veterans diagnosed with PTSD and require VA to provide service dogs for those veterans, including veterinary insurance. In recent congressional statements for the record submitted to both the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs, VFW National Legislative Service Deputy Director Tammy Barlet noted that studies and anecdotal evidence indicate veterans diagnosed with PTSD who have service dogs experience increased participation in social settings and overall satisfaction with life.



### **VA Information on Third COVID-19 Vaccine Dose:**

Recent CDC guidelines recommend that certain individuals with weakened immune systems who received either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine get a third COVID-19 vaccine dose. An additional dose is different from a booster shot. In response to this new guideline, VA is providing information to help clarify the difference in shots, who is eligible, and how to get a third dose. [Read more.](#)



**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced three burial updates and four 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:

-- **Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Jack E. Hill, 21**, was a member of Company D, 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. 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. Hill died on the third day of battle, Nov. 22, 1943. He will be buried Nov. 11, 2021, in Seattle. [Read about Hill.](#)

-- **Army Sgt. 1st Class Frank G. Vejar, 19**, of Douglas, Arizona, was a member of Heavy Mortar Company, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 30, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Vejar will be buried in his hometown. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Vejar.](#)

-- **Army Cpl. Roy H. Thomas, 22**, of St. Charles, Virginia, was a member of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 12, 1950, after his unit was attacked by enemy forces as they attempted to withdraw near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Thomas will be buried in Woodway, Virginia. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Thomas.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Berton J. McQueen, 20**, was assigned to Company D, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division. In August 1944, his unit landed on the southern coast of France as part of Operation Dragoon. On Nov. 22, 1st Battalion engaged in a battle with enemy troops in Clefcy, a town in the Alsace region. McQueen was mortally wounded by German artillery shrapnel and taken to an aid station where he died on Nov. 23, 1944. Interment services are pending. [Read about McQueen.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Richard W. Horrigan, 24**, was a pilot with the 22nd Fighter Squadron, 36th Fighter Group, 9th Air Force, serving in Germany. He was a part of an armed reconnaissance mission to the Alt Lönnewitz Airfield on April 19, 1945, piloting a P-47D Thunderbolt fighter. He crashed while strafing enemy planes parked at the airfield, likely due to anti-aircraft fire. Interment services are pending. [Read about Horrigan.](#)

-- **Navy Electrician's Mate 1st Class Harvey C. Herber, 34**, 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. 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 Herber. Interment services are pending. [Read about Herber.](#)

-- **Navy Seaman 1st Class Edward E. Talbert, 19**, 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. 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 Talbert. Interment services are pending. [Read about Talbert.](#)

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