



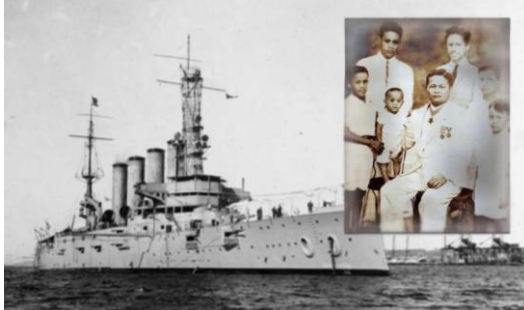
ACTION CORPS WEEKLY

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

October 25, 2021



VFW Remembers General Colin Powell: The VFW is mourning the passing of retired former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, retired U.S. Army General Colin L. Powell, who was also a Life member of the VFW Department of Maryland. “On behalf of the entire 1.5 million-member VFW family, our deepest condolences go out to the entire Powell family, and we salute this extraordinary man whose life of selfless service is a stalwart example for all of us,” said VFW National Commander Matthew “Fritz” Mihelcic. [Read more.](#)



VFW Urges Navy to Honor Hero: VFW National Commander Matthew “Fritz” Mihelcic sent a letter urging Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro to name the newest commissioned surface ship the “USS Telesforo Trinidad” after a sailor who earned the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions on Jan. 21, 1915. Fireman Second Class Telesforo de la Cruz Trinidad is the only Filipino in the U.S. Navy to have received this award. “The high honor of naming United States Navy ships is the prerogative of the Secretary of the Navy,” Mihelcic wrote, “and there is no ship in the United States Naval fleet with a name that recognizes the Asian Pacific Islanders legacy and their unique alliance forged in war and peace.” [Read more.](#)



House Holds Hearing on Pending Legislation: The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing on pending legislation focused on survivor benefits, VA disability claims for military sexual trauma, and fiduciary program improvements. Included in the discussion was [H.R. 3402](#), the *Caring for Survivors Act of 2021*. This bill concerns a VFW priority issue and would increase the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) to 55%, making it the same as what other federal survivor programs offer. [Read VFW testimony.](#)



Veterans Oral Health Survey: Veterans oral health is chronically under-served. Preventive dental care can significantly impact a veteran's overall health and quality of life, including job security. The VFW is collaborating with CareQuest Institute for Oral Health on a survey to gain an understanding of the barriers and challenges veterans face concerning their dental care. This survey can be completed by all veterans and service members. You do not need to be enrolled in VA or TRICARE Health Programs. [Take the survey.](#)



2022 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship Application Deadline: The 2022 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship application window will close at **midnight Nov. 1, 2021**. The program is for VFW-eligible members who attend an accredited institute of higher learning. Select student veterans will be chosen for the semester-long program that focuses on real policy issues faced by veterans, service members, and their families. The highlight of the program is participation in the VFW Legislative Conference. Alumni of the program have become more active at all levels of the VFW and have been instrumental in changing laws to improve care and benefits for veterans. [Watch a video](#) on their experience. [Learn more and apply for the fellowship.](#)



Deadline for VFW Youth Scholarships: It's not too late to participate in the annual VFW Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay competitions. Open to eligible high school students, the Voice of Democracy program is one of the top patriotic audio-essay competitions in the nation, with more than \$2 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded, including a first-place prize of \$30,000. This year's theme is, "*America: Where Do We Go From Here?*" The Patriot's Pen competition is open to eligible sixth through eighth grade students and offers a chance at more than \$1.4 million in state and national awards, with a first-place prize of \$5,000. This year's theme is, "*How Can I Be a Good American?*" Entries must be submitted through a participating local VFW Post by **midnight Oct. 31, 2021**. [Learn more](#) or [find a VFW Post](#).



Deadline for VFW National Citizenship Teacher Award: Nominations for the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Award will be accepted by local VFW posts until **midnight Oct. 31, 2021**. In educating our youth, we must recognize the dedicated teachers who deeply care about our children and America. This award recognizes educators who inspire interest in America's history, traditions, Americanism, civic responsibility, flag etiquette, and patriotism. If you know a deserving teacher, the VFW and its Auxiliary would like to honor them. [Learn more](#) and nominate a teacher today!



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced seven burial updates and three 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 Staff Sgt. William R. Linder, 30**, Piedmont, South Carolina, was assigned to Company E, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 16, 1944, after his unit was part of the Hürtgen Forest offensive, near Hürtgen, Germany. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. He will be buried Oct. 29, 2021, in Anderson, South Carolina. [Read about Linder](#).

-- **Army Pvt. Emmet W. Schwartz, 24**, of Dover, Ohio, was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion,

121st Infantry Regiment, 8th Infantry Division. He was reported killed in action on Dec. 27, 1944, by an artillery blast while his unit was part of an effort to capture Obermaubach, Germany. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. He will be buried Nov. 18, 2021, in New Philadelphia, Ohio.

[Read about Schwartz.](#)

-- **Navy Fireman 1st Class James O. McDonald, 25**, of Levelland, Texas, 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 McDonald. He will be buried Jan. 19, 2022, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. [Read about McDonald.](#)

-- **Navy Seaman 1st Class Walter C. Stein, 20**, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, 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 Stein. He will be buried on March 23, 2022, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

[Read about Stein.](#)

-- **Army Cpl. Robert C. Agard, Jr., 19**, of Buffalo, New York, was assigned to 2nd Platoon, 24th Reconnaissance Company, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 19, 1950, while conducting a night recon patrol with his unit near Tejon, South Korea. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. He will be buried May 30, 2022, in Elmira, New York. [Read about Agard.](#)

-- **Navy Mess Attendant 1st Class Octavius Mabine, 21**, of Portsmouth, Virginia, 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 Mabine. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Mabine.](#)

-- **Navy Ship's Cook 1st Class Rodger C. Butts, 47**, of Portsmouth, Virginia, 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 Butts. He will be buried in Newton, Pennsylvania. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Butts.](#)

-- **Navy Fireman 2nd Class Edward E. Casinger, 21**, 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 Casinger. Interment services are pending. [Read about Casinger.](#)

-- **Navy Fireman 1st Class Hal J. Allison, 21**, 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 Allison. Interment services are pending. [Read about Allison.](#)

-- **Army Sgt. Howard R. Belden, 19**, was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 1, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Belden.](#)

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