



November 1, 2021



VFW Testifies Before Senate Committee: The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a hearing on economic opportunity issues including improvements for veterans employment, education, and home loan opportunities. VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray testified on the importance of the Transition Assistance Program stating, "A proper and well-rounded transition from the military is one of the most important things our service members need to ease back into society with minimal hardships." He also stressed the need for oversight and continued funding for retraining programs such as VR&E and VET TEC, and the urgency to pass measures extending student veteran COVID-19 protections which are set to expire on December 21, 2021. [Watch the hearing](#), which starts at the 19:18 mark or [read VFW testimony](#).



Last Day to Apply for VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship: The 2022 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship application window will close at **midnight tonight**. 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](#).



CareQuest
Institute for Oral Health®



Veterans Oral Health Survey Closing Soon:

Veterans oral health is chronically underserved. 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 to take the survey. [Take the survey.](#)



TRICARE Open Enrollment Season Coming Soon:

TRICARE Open Season will run Nov. 8 - Dec. 13, 2021. This is your chance to enroll or change your health care plan for the next year. If you are satisfied with your current plan, no action is necessary, and your coverage will continue automatically for 2022. It is important to note that new retirees have only one year to enroll for TRICARE Prime. Enrollment in TRICARE Prime or Select is not automatic for retirees. [Learn more.](#)



Troops to Teachers: The Troops to Teachers program has been sunsetted, effectively ending a 28-year program that provided tens of thousands of veterans with financial support and job placement services to become teachers. Recently, the VFW joined fellow VSOs in a letter to Congress advocating for the return of funding for the Troops to Teachers program in the FY2022 NDAA, citing America's critical need for teachers and the positive outcomes the program has demonstrated since 1993. [Read more.](#)



VA | U.S. Department
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Bystander Intervention Training for Veterans:

VA is offering [free online training](#) to teach veterans the skills needed to contribute to a safe and welcoming environment at all VA facilities. This training provides practical techniques that veterans can use to recognize, respond, and prevent situations of harassment or sexual assault. You do not need to register, and the training takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. [Read more.](#)



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced two 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:

-- **Navy Seaman 2nd Class Harold W. Lindsey, 26**, of San Antonio, 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 Lindsey. He will be buried on Nov. 5, 2021, in Dallas. [Read about Lindsey.](#)

-- **Army Pvt. Robert J. Herynk, 27**, of Hanover, Kansas, was assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 126th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Division. His unit participated in a coordinated attack against Japanese defenses on Nov. 26, 1942. Early casualty reports listed Herynk as killed in action. He will be buried on Nov. 11, 2021, in his hometown. [Read about Herynk.](#)

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As always, we want to hear your advocacy stories. To share your stories or photos with us, simply email them directly to vfwac@vfw.org.