



# ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



November 29, 2021



**TRICARE Open Season:** TRICARE Open Season is currently open through Dec. 13, 2021. This is the time when beneficiaries can enroll in or change their health care coverage. Any changes will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2022. If you are satisfied with your current plan then your coverage will continue automatically for 2022, as long as you remain eligible. Beneficiaries should verify their information is up to date and those making benefit changes need to set up an allotment with their regional contractors for enrollment coverage to begin Jan. 1, 2022. Individuals who do not set up their allotment by the deadline will be unenrolled due to nonpayment. [Learn more.](#)



**Network Pharmacy Changes Coming to TRICARE:** TRICARE has announced that beginning on Dec. 15, 2021, there will be changes to the retail in-network pharmacies. [Express Scripts](#) is the TRICARE pharmacy contractor with oversight of home delivery, military pharmacy, and civilian contract facilities. It is recommended that you contact your pharmacy to see if it will remain in network. [Find a participating pharmacy](#) near you and [read more](#) on pharmacy changes.



**Bring Christmas Joy Through Toys for Tots:** Since 1947, Marine Toys for Tots has been bringing the joy of Christmas to America's less-fortunate children and fostering community engagement. Every holiday season, new, unwrapped toys are distributed to children in need. Donated items may be dropped off at designated locations, or you may make a virtual donation. [Learn more.](#)



**National Family Caregivers Month:** VA is honoring the estimated 5.5 million family members and friends who provide much-needed care for chronically ill, injured, or disabled veterans during National Family Caregivers Month. Resources for caregivers have significantly increased since the passing of the VFW-supported *VA Mission Act of 2018*. The [VA Caregiver Support Program](#) offers tools and information for caregivers and the veterans they serve. Additionally, [Building Better Caregivers](#) provides an online workshop with self-paced lessons and a connection with the caregiver community. [Learn more.](#)



**Men's Health Awareness Month:** Male veterans die five years earlier than most female veterans according to VA. Many of the reasons are preventable, such as [prostate cancer](#), testicular cancer, [mental health](#) and [suicide prevention](#). VA created a [recommendation chart](#) for preventive care listing recommended screenings and immunizations. As more individuals have received the COVID-19 vaccine and restrictions have been lifted, veterans who are overdue for preventive care need to schedule appointments as soon as possible.



**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one burial update and one new identification for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:  
-- **Army Sgt. Larry S. Wassil, 33**, of Bloomfield, New Jersey, was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, 8th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 28, 1944, after his unit was part of the Hürtgen Forest offensive, near Hürtgen, Germany. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Wassil will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Wassil.](#)  
-- **Navy Fire Controlman 2nd Class Lawrence J. Overley, 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 Overley. Interment services are pending. [Read about Overley.](#)

[Click here to view this week's edition.](#)  
[Click here for past editions of the VFW Action Corps Weekly.](#)

[Click here to sign up new veterans' advocates.](#)

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](mailto:vfwac@vfw.org).