



ACTION CORPUS WEEKLY



This is the last edition of the Action Corps Weekly for 2021. The next edition will be on Monday, Jan. 10, 2022. We wish you a wonderful holiday season!

December 20, 2021



Congress Passes FY 2022 NDAA: The House and Senate passed the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022* (NDAA). This includes a 2.7 percent pay raise for service members, updates to the Uniform Code of Military Justice regarding sexual assault, and authorization to locate a Global War on Terrorism Memorial on the National Mall. Other important VFW-supported provisions included preservation and update of the Chaplains Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, the Troops to Teachers Program, the VET Rent Act, an ILER Study improvement, and the establishment of the U.S. Naval Community College. The NDAA now goes to the president's desk for signature.



Student Veteran Bill Passes Congress: Congress passed [H.R. 5545](#), the *REMOTE Act*, which would extend the COVID-19 protections for students using VA education benefits. These protections, which were scheduled to expire on Dec. 21, 2021, include allowing students to continue to receive resident Monthly Housing Allowance even if their courses have temporarily shifted online during the pandemic. Additionally, this legislation would allow students to "round out" during their final term and take additional courses using their VA education benefits to maintain full-time status. The bill now heads to the president's desk for signature.



Senate Committee Advances VA Nominee and 25 Veterans Bills: The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs voted to confirm Kurt D. DeBene for the position of VA Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology. The committee also passed numerous VFW-supported bills to the Senate floor. These legislative proposals address the VA claims process, health care, education, and burial benefits. [Read more.](#)



Critical Need for Blood Donations: The American Red Cross is experiencing the worst blood shortage in over a decade. The dangerously low blood supply levels have forced some hospitals to postpone major surgeries, including organ transplants. Your donation is desperately needed this holiday season. Please schedule an appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor app, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, or calling 1.800.RED.CROSS (1.800.733.2767).



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:

-- **Army Pfc. Jimmy Rowland, 19**, of Baldwyn, Mississippi, was assigned to Heavy Mortar Company, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 16, 1950, while fighting North Korean forces along the Kum River north of Taejon, South Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Rowland will be buried in his hometown on Jan. 15, 2022.

[Read about Rowland.](#)

-- **Army Cpl. Marvin D. Actkinson, 18**, of Sudan, Texas, was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Actkinson will be buried in Colorado City, Texas. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Actkinson.](#)

-- **Navy Lt. Cmdr. Hugh R. Alexander, 43**, of Potters Mills, Pennsylvania, 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 Alexander. He will be buried in San Diego. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Alexander.](#)

-- **Navy Fire Controlman 1st Class Hubert P. Clement, 30**, 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 Clement. Interment services are pending. [Read about Clement.](#)

-- **Navy Seaman 2nd Class Tceollyar Simmons, 18**, was assigned to the battleship USS California, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS California sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to catch fire and slowly flood. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 104 crewmen, including Simmons. Interment services are pending. [Read about Simmons.](#)

-- **Navy Electrician's Mate 1st Class Edward L. Conway, 29**, 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 Conway. Interment services are pending. [Read about Conway.](#)

-- **Navy Seaman 1st Class Wilbur F. Newton, 29**, 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 Newton. Interment services are pending. [Read about Newton.](#)

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