



# ACTION CORPUS WEEKLY



February 7, 2022



## VFW Testifies Before House Health

**Subcommittee:** VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray testified before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health. The hearing focused on Vet Centers and their importance in meeting the needs of service members, veterans, and their families. Murray stated, "The VFW is encouraged by the proposals in Congress to expand Vet Center services. However, with all expansions of eligibility, there also needs to be an expansion of resources to handle the increased workload." [Watch the hearing](#) or [read the testimony](#).



## Military Sexual Harassment Now Punishable

**Offense:** On January 26, 2022, President Biden formally made sexual harassment a crime punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. As directed in the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022*, the executive order is part of historic military justice reforms to eradicate sexual harassment from the military. [Read more](#).



## House Holds Hearing on Securing High-Demand

**Jobs for Veterans:** The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing focused on the impact of new VA education and training programs such as [Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses \(VET TEC\)](#) and [Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program \(VRRAP\)](#) in securing veteran employment. Since its launch in 2019, VET TEC has placed over 1,700 graduates in new employment, earning an average salary of \$60,000. It is currently a five-year pilot program and the VFW continues to advocate for funding to support its success. [Watch the hearing](#).



### **Senate Committee Advances Bill for Post-9/11 Toxic-Exposed Vets:**

The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs unanimously passed the *Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act*, introduced by Chairman Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Ranking Member Jerry Moran (R-Kan.). The VFW-supported legislation would extend VA health care eligibility for combat veterans from five to ten years after separation from the military. The bill would require VA to screen veterans regarding their exposures during service, furnish training for VA health care providers and disability claims processors, and provide additional reporting and tracking of veteran health conditions due to toxic exposures. "This legislation is a step in the right direction to take care of this group of veterans and we look forward to additional expansions of health care and benefits to cover all toxic exposed veterans," said VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray. [Read more.](#)



**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one burial update and seven 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 Pvt. Andrew J. Ladner, 30**, of Harrison City, Mississippi, was assigned to 126th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Division. On Nov. 30, 1942, his unit was part of the effort to cut off the Japanese supply and communications line, called the Huggin Roadblock, on the island of New Guinea. Ladner was killed in the initial assault and buried near the blockade. Following the war, his remains could not be recovered. Ladner will be buried in Gulfport, Mississippi. The date has yet to be determined. [Read about Ladner.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces Pfc. Edward H. Benson, Jr., 22**, was assigned to the 1562nd Army Air Force Base Unit on Biak Island. A Japanese air raid of Sorido Airstrip on March 22, 1945, resulted in the deaths of 39 service members, including Benson. Interment services are pending. [Read about Benson.](#)

-- **Army Staff Sgt. Grady H. Canup, 30**, was assigned to Company C, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. He was reported killed in action on Nov. 14, 1944, when enemy artillery fire hit near his foxhole during the Hürtgen Forest offensive in Germany. Following the battle, his remains could not

be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Canup.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Kenneth L. Bridger, 17**, was assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 30, 1950, on the last night of his unit's stand at the defensive perimeter near the east side of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Bridger.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. William B. Coleman, 21**, was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 134th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division. On Nov. 1, 1944, Coleman was attempting to remove a booby-trap mine when it exploded, killing him and severely wounding two soldiers who were with him. Following the war, his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Coleman.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Adolph Olenik, 19**, was assigned to the 345th Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Olenik was serving as a gunner crashed as a result of enemy anti-aircraft fire. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. Interment services are pending. [Read about Olenik.](#)

-- **Army Pvt. Walter G. Wildman, 20**, was assigned to Company M, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. On Nov. 13, 1944, his unit was part of the Hürtgen Forest offensive in Germany, when he was reported killed in action. Following the battle his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Wildman.](#)

-- **Army Cpl. Donald L. Menken, 21**, was assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action after being wounded on June 10, 1953, while his unit was guarding Outpost Harry on the main road to Seoul. Following the battle, Menken could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Menken.](#)

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