



ACTION CORPS

WEEKLY

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

June 20, 2022



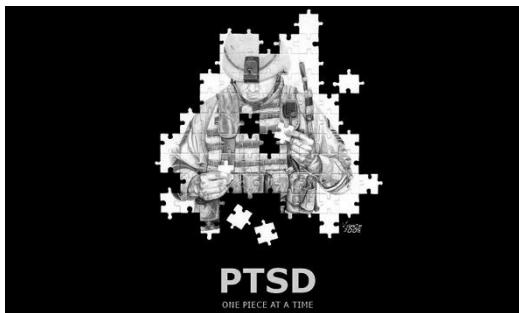
Senate Passes the PACT Act: The newly titled *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022*, known as the *Honoring our PACT Act*, passed the Senate with an 84–14 vote. “This is an enormous victory for veterans, service members, and their families,” said VFW National Commander Matthew “Fritz” Mihelcic. “I commend every senator who voted in favor for those who have borne the burden of toxic exposure, for the military families struggling to care for them, and for the military men and women who will face toxic exposure in the future. This was more than a vote for expanded health care and benefits. This was about honoring our promise to care for those who swore an oath to defend our nation and our way of life.” The [Senate-amended PACT Act](#) must now go back to the House for a vote before it can be sent to the president for signature. The VFW thanks all the advocates from around the country who reached out to their senators urging them to support this historic legislation.



VFW Testifies Before Senate: VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray testified at a Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs hearing to review VA’s budget request for fiscal year 2023 and 2024 advance appropriations. “We would like to thank this committee and especially the staff. We are on the eve of passing one of the largest veterans’ benefits expansions in generations,” said Murray. The aging infrastructure and budget are crucial now more than ever as we look to support VA into the future and with the impending passage of the *Honoring our PACT Act*. [Watch the hearing](#) or [read the testimony](#).



VFW Testifies Before House Subcommittee: The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on reducing veteran suicide by addressing economic risk factors. VFW National Legislative Associate Director Emily DeVito's testimony urged VA to use data from veteran education, employment, housing, and food assistance programs and benefits when studying protective factors for suicide mitigation. "VA must integrate this data, starting from when a service member transitions, as we believe this will help us combat suicide," said DeVito. She also stressed the need to communicate with veterans about the economic opportunity benefits available to them, especially as they transition from military service, and to provide suicide prevention resources at these touchpoints. [Watch the hearing](#) or [read the testimony](#).



VA Raises PTSD Awareness: June is National PTSD Awareness Month, and VA is raising awareness with daily activities and five steps to help spread the word. PTSD may result from factors such as war zone deployments, training accidents, or military sexual trauma. Unsure if you have PTSD? VA has a [self-screen](#) you can take and then share the results with your health care provider. VA counseling and treatment are available through in-person visits, telemental health care, or several VA apps. [Read more](#).



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced four burial updates and two new identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

-- **Army Pfc. Sanford K. Bowen, 26**, of Ashland, Ohio, was assigned to Company I, 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. He was reported killed in action on Jan. 20, 1945, when Company I and four other companies were engaged in battle with German forces near Reipertswiller, France. Bowen could not be recovered because of the ongoing fighting. He will be buried in Shiloh, Ohio, on July 22, 2022. [Read about Bowen](#).

-- **Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Arthur B.**

Summers, 27, of Poplar, Montana, was assigned to Company I, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, which landed against a stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in an attempt to secure the island. Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded, while the Japanese were virtually annihilated. Summers was reported killed on the fourth day of the battle, Nov. 23, 1943. He will be buried in East Wenatchee, Washington, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Summers](#).

-- **Army Tech. Sgt. Ross H. Thompson**, 50, of Maryville, Tennessee, was assigned to the Finance Department, U.S. Army Forces Far East, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December 1941. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of the Bataan peninsula in 1942.

Thompson was among those captured and held at the Cabanatuan POW Camp, where he reportedly died on Dec. 10, 1942, and was buried. He will be buried in Kent, Washington, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Thompson](#).

-- **Army Staff Sgt. Casimir P. Lobacz**, 25, of Kenosha, Wisconsin, was assigned to Company E, 11th Infantry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division. On Sept. 27, 1944, Lobacz's unit was part of the ground attack on Fort Driant near Metz, France. He was reported to have been killed during the first wave of the assault and his body was unable to be recovered. He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Lobacz](#).

-- **Army Pvt. Carl G. Dorsey**, 19, was assigned to Company I, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 4, 1945, when his unit was engaged in battle with German forces near Grosshau, Germany. He was declared killed in action Dec. 5, 1945. Interment services are pending. [Read about Dorsey](#).

-- **Army Pfc. David N. Owens**, 27, was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 22, 1944, when his unit was engaged in battle with German forces near Hürtgen, Germany. He was declared killed in action Nov. 23,

1945. Interment services are pending. [Read about Owens.](#)

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