



# ACTION CORPUS WEEKLY



June 27, 2022



**PACT Act Passage Delayed:** Following the 84-14 Senate vote on the *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022*, known as the *Honoring our PACT Act*, the House discovered a parliamentary procedure issue regarding one of the provisions in the bill. Since Congress is now in recess, passage of the PACT Act will be delayed. The VFW continues to advocate for the swift passage of this historic legislation.



**VFW Testifies on Pending Health Legislation:** VFW National Legislative Service Deputy Director Tammy Barlet testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health regarding several pieces of pending legislation. She spoke on expanding reproductive health counseling, infertility treatment eligibility, removal of mental health copayments, and cost savings of on-site medical waste treatment sites. In addressing [H.R. 6273](#), *VA Zero Suicide Demonstration Project Act of 2021*, Barlet stated, "VHA has a unique opportunity to support all VA providers with the tools and knowledge to screen their patients for suicide at every appointment." [Watch the hearing](#) or [read the testimony](#).



**House Passes STRONG Act:** The House passed VFW-supported [H.R. 6411](#), *Support The Resiliency of Our Nation's Great (STRONG) Veterans Act of 2022*. The bill would improve VA's mental health provider workforce, strengthen the Veterans Crisis Line, expand Vet Center eligibility to include students and survivors of suicide loss, and bolster mental health research. Language crafted by 2021 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellow Eric Sowers to improve the Veterans Justice Outreach Program can also be found in the bill text.



**Public Service Loan Forgiveness Waiver:** On April 25, 2022, the Department of Education (ED) began allowing student loan borrowers seeking financial relief through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program to submit a DD-214 to certify periods of eligible employment. Many individuals with outstanding federal student loans may be eligible for PSLF, including eligibility from time served on active duty. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ED is offering a limited-time waiver to allow borrowers to receive credit for past periods of repayment on loans that would otherwise not qualify. Individuals must have been working full time for a qualifying employer. This waiver is available through October 31, 2022. [Learn more and check your eligibility.](#)



**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced three 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 Pvt. John P. Cooper, 37**, was assigned to Company B, 778th Tank Battalion, as a crewmember of a M4 Sherman tank. On March 7, 1945, while his unit was engaged in battle with German forces near Lampaden, Germany, his tank was struck by an enemy rocket. Witnesses saw Cooper escape the tank but never saw or heard from him again, and he was initially declared missing in action. With no evidence he survived, the War Department issued a presumptive finding of death on March 8, 1946. Interment services are pending. [Read about Cooper.](#)
- **Army Sgt. Garland W. Collier, 21**, was assigned to Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. In the fall of 1944, he was reported killed in action

during Operation Market Garden when his unit was attacked by German forces near Opheusden, Netherlands. Following the war his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending. [Read about Collier.](#)

-- **Army Air Force Staff Sgt. Roy Carney, 20**, was assigned to the 345th Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Carney was a gunner crashed as a result of anti-aircraft fire during Operation Tidal Wave. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. Interment services are pending. [Read about Carney.](#)

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