

September 12, 2022



Eliminate Unjust Offset for Chapters 61 Retirees:

Reform to retirement pay and disability compensation policy is long overdue. Many of our nation's combatdisabled veterans are prohibited by Congress from receiving their full earned Department of Defense retirement pay and Department of Veterans Affairs service-connected disability compensation. Over 50,000 Chapter 61 retirees with combat-related disabilities are required to forfeit every dollar of their retirement pay for every dollar they receive in disability compensation. No veteran should have to choose between two fundamentally different benefits that they earned for two entirely different reasons. Tell Congress to end this extremely unjust offset by immediately passing the Major Richard Star Act. Click here to send a letter to your congressional offices requesting action.



VFW PACT Act Podcast: Your VFW legislative team and Jon Stewart held a tell-all on the ups, downs and drama leading to the passage of the Honoring our PACT Act. This is the most comprehensive legislation for toxic exposure that Congress has passed to date. Watch the Podcast.



Complete VFW's Fall 2022 Health Survey: The VFW regularly surveys our members and supporters in order to best inform Congress and VA. We have developed a quick survey for you to evaluate your physical and mental health over the past 30 days. Your feedback is vital to our advocacy efforts. Help us hold VA and Congress accountable by taking this short survey.



September is Suicide Prevention Month: On average, 17 veterans die by suicide each day. While VA reports a slight decline in veteran suicides from years past, the number must be reduced to zero and remain there. VA's Don't Wait. Reach Out. campaign encourages veterans who are struggling to seek help before they reach a crisis point. The solution to suicide prevention involves everyone. For any veterans in crisis, you are not alone. The Veterans Crisis Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by phone (988, press 1), text (838255), or online chat, VeteransCrisisLine.net.



VA Extends Hardship Suspension for Benefit Debts: VA has extended its financial hardship suspension on benefit debts through Dec. 31, 2022. This relief option was established to help veterans through the COVID-19 pandemic and was set to expire on Sep. 30. Beginning this month, VA will mail debt notification letters to affected veterans advising them of the extended hardship suspension option, as well as extended debt repayment plans, waivers, or compromises. This includes debts related to disability compensation, non-service-connected pension, and education benefits. Veterans and beneficiaries can manage their debt online or call 800.827.0648 with questions regarding benefit overpayments. For information about medical care and pharmacy copayment debt, contact the Health Resource Center at 866.400.1238. Read more.



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has not announced any new identifications or burial updates this past week.

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.