



ACTION CORPUS WEEKLY



October 3, 2022



House Hearing on Suicide Prevention: The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs conducted a hearing on VA programs for suicide prevention, intervention, postvention, and VA-sponsored research and community efforts. VFW National Legislative Deputy Director Tammy Barlet provided a statement for the record that outlined the VFW's priority to end veteran suicide, concerns regarding VA's [2022 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report](#), and results from VFW's Fall 2022 Health Survey. "The VFW is working to ensure a way forward in the collective mission to end veteran suicide once and for all," said Barlet. [Watch the hearing](#) or [read the testimony](#).



Oct. 15 Deadline for Fellowship Applications: Calling all changemakers who are interested in the topics of challenges for service members and military families, transition from military to civilian life, improving veterans' health care and benefits, and student veteran success on campus and beyond. The VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship is a semester-long program open to ambitious student veterans who are currently a VFW member or VFW-eligible, and who attend an accredited institution of higher learning. Highlights of the program include attending the Student Veterans of America (SVA) National Conference in Orlando, Florida, and the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. The application process for this valuable experience **closes at midnight on Oct. 15.** [Learn more and apply for the fellowship.](#)



TRICARE Network Pharmacy Changes Coming Soon: TRICARE has announced that beginning on Oct. 24, 2022, thousands of community pharmacies will leave the network. Express Scripts is the TRICARE pharmacy contractor with oversight of home delivery, military pharmacy, and civilian contract facilities. Walmart and Sam's Club pharmacies are among those impacted by this change. It is recommended that you contact your pharmacy to see if it will remain in network. Find a [participating pharmacy](#) near you. [Read more.](#)



VA Health Care Open Enrollment Period Begins: As of Oct. 1, 2022, VA is expanding health care eligibility for certain veterans as directed by the recent passage into law of the *Honoring our PACT Act*. A one-year open enrollment period will be available for eligible Vietnam veterans, Gulf War veterans, and Post-9/11 veterans. Eligibility is based on dates and locations of service, regardless of disability claim status. Once the open enrollment period has closed, veterans from these groups will be eligible for VA health care as part of a phased process depending on discharge date. Learn more about your [eligibility](#) and [apply today](#).



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced three burial updates and two 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 Sgt. Garland W. Collier, 25**, of Coleman, Texas, 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. He will be buried in his hometown, on Nov. 12, 2022. [Read about Collier.](#)
- **Army Pfc. Adelaido M. Solis, 19**, of Inez, Texas, was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 1, 1950, after his unit's withdrawal from Kunu-ri, North Korea, following the battle of Ch'ongch'on. Later findings indicated that Solis had been a prisoner of war and died at POW

Camp #5 in April 1951. He will be buried in Bloomington, Texas, on a date yet to be determined.

[Read about Solis.](#)

-- **Army Cpl. Joseph J. Puopolo, 19**, of East Boston, Massachusetts, was assigned to Battery C, 38th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division Artillery, 8th U.S. Army. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, after his unit attempted to withdraw from Kunu-ri, North Korea, following the battle of Ch'ongch'on. Later findings indicated that Puopolo had been a prisoner of war and died at POW Camp #5 in February 1951. He will be buried in Malden, Massachusetts, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Puopolo.](#)

-- **Army Pvt. James R. Tash, 20**, was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December 1941. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of the Bataan peninsula in April 1942. Tash was among those captured and held at the Cabanatuan POW Camp where he reportedly died on Jul. 19, 1942, and was buried. Interment services are pending. [Read about Tash.](#)

-- **Army Pvt. J.C. Brooks, 19**, was assigned to Company I, 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division. His unit was a part of Operation Husky, the Allied effort to capture Sicily. On Aug. 1, 1943, Brooks was killed during the Battle of Troina while leading an advance against German forces as first scout. He was unable to be recovered because of fighting. Interment services are pending. [Read about Brooks.](#)

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