



# ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



February 27, 2023



## House Introduces Bill to Crack Down on Claim

**Sharks:** Reps. Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (AS), Chris Pappas (NH-01), Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01), and Jeff Van Drew (NJ-02) have introduced the VFW-supported *Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act*, known as the *GUARD VA Benefits Act*. Reintroduced in the new Congress with sixty-nine cosponsors, this bipartisan legislation would reinstate criminal penalties for unaccredited claim representatives who charge unauthorized fees for helping veterans file claims for VA disability compensation benefits. These companies are incentivized to operate outside of the law due to the lack of penalties. Cracking down on Claim Sharks is one of the VFW's top legislative priorities for the 118th Congress. [Read more.](#)



## VFW Legislative Conference App Now Available:

As the official guide to the 2023 VFW Legislative Conference, the VFW has launched its updated mobile event app to give attendees the tools needed to make the most of their visit to our nation's capital. The **VFW Events** mobile app is available now for download at both the [Apple App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store](#). For assistance and instructions on how to download and update the app, view our [VFW Events App Quick Start Guide](#).



### **VFW Participates in Semiannual Congressional**

**Staff Training:** The VFW and PsychArmor, in collaboration with the For Country Caucus, held its third training for congressional staffers on how to connect with organizations like the VFW, as well as national, state, and local resources. The overarching goal of the training sessions is to help military and veteran legislative staff better meet the needs of service members, veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors. Topics included current policy issues, the importance of hosting veterans town halls, and reaching out to accredited service officers.



**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one new identification for a service member who has been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II.

-- **Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Cecil E. Barncord, 24**, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits causing it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Barncord. Interment services are pending. [Read about Barncord.](#)

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