



# ACTION CORPS WEEKLY

**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

March 6, 2023



**VFW March Legislative Conference:** The VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., is taking place this year on March 5–9, during which hundreds of attendees will make sure veterans' voices are heard on Capitol Hill. Our National Legislative Committee members will lead their department delegations, some including the 2023 VFW-SVA Fellows, to present our legislative priorities to members of Congress and their staffs. VFW National Commander Timothy Borland will testify before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs on Wednesday, March 8, at 10:00 a.m. EST. [Watch the hearing.](#)



**VFW Attends Major Richard Star Act Press Conference:** In a show of united support, VFW Washington Office staff stood with fellow veteran and military advocacy organizations as Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) and Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-12) discussed the necessity of this Congress passing the *Major Richard Star Act*, which was recently reintroduced in both the Senate and the House. This legislation would grant full concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and disability compensation to combat-injured veterans who were medically retired before serving 20 years. It amassed overwhelming bipartisan and bicameral support in the last Congress, and continues to be a top legislative priority of the VFW. [Watch the press conference.](#)



### **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](#).



**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one new identification and two burial updates 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 Air Forces 2nd Lt. Pharis E. Weekley, 21**, of Bradley Junction, Florida, was assigned to the 329th Bombardment Squadron, 93rd Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Weekley was the navigator was hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire and crashed during Operation Tidal Wave, north of Bucharest, Romania. His remains were not identified immediately following the war. Weekley will be buried in Avon Park, Florida, on May 20, 2023. [Read about Weekley](#).

--**Army Master Sgt. Merritt L. Wynn, 31**, of St. Louis, Missouri, was a member of K Company, 3rd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 26, 1950, while fighting with the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces east of Unsan, North Korea. Wynn was awarded the Silver Star for his leadership and bravery that day. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered, and there is no evidence that he was ever a prisoner of war. He was declared nonrecoverable on Jan. 16, 1956. He will be buried in Centralia, Illinois, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Wynn](#).

-- **Army Cpl. Carmen Carrillo, 20**, was a member of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on May 17, 1951, after fighting against the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces in Gangwon Hongchun, Republic of Korea. The Army issued a presumptive finding of death on Dec. 31, 1953, and his remains were determined to be

nonrecoverable in January 1956. Interment details are pending. [Read about Carrillo.](#)

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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](mailto:vfwac@vfw.org).