



ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



July 3, 2023



USAA Launches Initiative to Combat Veteran Suicide:

USAA has launched an initiative focused on veteran suicide prevention. Face the Fight is a coalition of 40 corporations, foundations, nonprofit and veteran-focused organizations that have joined together to raise awareness and provide support. VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci was one of the many representatives of the coalition partners in attendance at a special event held on June 29 to support the mission of breaking the stigmas surrounding suicide in order to open conversation on the topic. [Learn more.](#)



VA Legal Services Grants for Homeless Veterans:

The Department of Veterans Affairs has awarded \$11.5 million in legal services grants to help homeless veterans or those who are at risk of experiencing homelessness. These first-of-their-kind grants were made available through VA's new Legal Services for Veterans Grant Program. They were awarded to 79 public or non-profit organizations to help veterans with various legal needs to ensure they retain their housing. [Learn more.](#)



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced five burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II and Vietnam. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

--**Air Force Colonel Ernest L. De Soto, 37**, of San Francisco, California, was assigned to 390th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 336th Tactical Fighter Wing. He was piloting an F-4D Phantom II that went missing on April 12, 1969. He was buried in Burlingame, California, on June 30, 2023. [Read about De Soto.](#)

--**Army Pfc. George B. Thomas, 31**, of East Providence, Rhode Island, was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, 8th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 24, 1944. The War Department subsequently issued a finding of death on Nov. 25, 1945. He will be buried in Exeter, Rhode Island, on July 30, 2023. [Read about Thomas.](#)

--**Army Pvt. J.C. Brooks, 19**, of Rockfield, Kentucky, was a member of Company I, 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division. He was killed in action on Aug. 1, 1943. He will be buried in Cecilia, Kentucky, on September 24, 2023. [Read about Brooks.](#)

--**Air Force Capt. Frederick M. Hall, 25**, of Waynesville, North Carolina, was assigned to 390th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 336th Tactical Fighter Wing. He was navigator on an F-4D Phantom II that went missing on April 12, 1969. He will be buried in his hometown on Oct. 10, 2023. [Read about Hall.](#)

--**Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Paul W. Schmidt, 20**, of Rockville Center, New York, was assigned to 161st Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 8th Air Force. His F-6D went missing during an attack on March 23, 1945. The War Department subsequently issued a presumptive finding of death on March 24, 1946. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, on a date to be determined. [Read about Schmidt.](#)

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