



ACTION CORPUS WEEKLY



August 7, 2023



Applications Now Being Accepted for 2023-2024

VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship: The application process for the 2023-2024 class of VFW-SVA legislative fellows is now open. VFW members who attend an accredited institute of higher learning will be chosen for the semester-long program that focuses on real policy issues faced by veterans, service members, and their families. The capstone of the program is participation in the 2024 VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Alumni of the program have become more active at all levels of the VFW and SVA, and have been instrumental in changing laws to improve care and benefits for veterans. [Learn more](#) and [apply](#) for the fellowship.



National Defense Authorization Act Concerns:

In comments regarding the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024*, VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci stated that housing for military families is a major concern. Though service members receive a basic allowance for housing, it has not kept up with the market. Also, only 37% of active duty family respondents were likely to recommend military service according to the latest Blue Star Families survey. Gallucci said, "There's a realization that in order to encourage Americans to volunteer to join the military, the benefits package needs to take care of their families, that you can't have service members in poverty and expect to maintain the all-volunteer force." [Read more](#).



President Implements UCMJ Reforms: President Biden has enacted historic Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) reforms aimed at holding more offenders accountable for crimes. Passed as part of the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022*, changes to the military justice system include placing prosecutorial decisions for cases like sexual assault and child abuse in the hands of independent prosecutors instead of unit commanders, as has been the status quo. The new rules come on the heels of recommendations from the 2021 Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military, and years of effort by advocates and lawmakers to increase process fairness and justice for victims of sexual assault and other serious offenses. [Learn more.](#)



Review for Potential New Toxic Exposure Conditions: The Department of Veterans Affairs announced it will conduct a scientific review to determine whether there is a relationship between three conditions — acute leukemias, chronic leukemias, and multiple myeloma outside of the head and neck — and toxic exposures for service members who deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, and the entire Southwest Asia theater of operations. The review will help VA determine whether these conditions will be considered presumptive for veterans. This presumptive framework was a key VFW-championed provision of the PACT Act. [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 the Korean War. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:
--**Army Cpl. Donald "Donny" L. DuPont, 22**, of Alma Center, Wisconsin, was a member of B Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950. He will be buried in Fairchild, Wisconsin, on Aug. 23, 2023. [Read about DuPont.](#)

--**Army Air Forces Tech Sgt. Elton L. Gomillion, 22**, of Iola, Texas, was assigned to the 409th Bombardment Squadron, 93rd Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. He went missing in action on Aug. 1, 1943. He will be buried in his hometown on Sept. 12, 2023. [Read about Gomillion.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Albert A. Gosnell, 18**, of Greenville, South Carolina, was a member of Heavy Mortar Company, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 16, 1950. The Army issued a presumptive finding of death on Dec. 31, 1953. He will be buried in Anderson, South Carolina, on a date to be determined. [Read about Gosnell.](#)

--**Army Pfc. James L. Miller, 21**, of Detroit, Michigan, was a member of K Company, 3rd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. He was reported killed in action on July 30, 1950. He will be buried in Holly, Michigan, on a date to be determined. [Read about Miller.](#)

--**Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Wesley L. Jones, 22**, of Wichita, Kansas, was assigned to the 345th Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. He went missing in action on Aug. 1, 1943. He will be buried in his hometown on a date to be determined. [Read about Jones.](#)

[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.