



ACTION CORPUS WEEKLY



August 14, 2023



44 Attorneys General Agree with VFW to Pass

GUARD Act: The National Association of Attorneys General issued a letter on behalf of a bipartisan coalition of 44 attorneys general expressing support for the passage of the *Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act*. The letter to congressional leaders stated, “The GUARD VA Benefits Act would remove the ability of unaccredited, unregulated, and often unscrupulous actors to target and prey upon those veterans with impunity. It holds them accountable not just to the law but also to the veterans and their families by giving them options for redress when they find themselves victims of those same actors.” [Read the letter.](#)



PACT Act Claims Continue: VA extended the deadline to file a PACT Act claim and receive *retroactive benefits backdated to last year* to 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, Aug. 14, 2023. However, veterans and survivors are still eligible to apply for benefits after this date. If you have already submitted an Intent to File, be sure to contact an accredited representative to ensure your claim is submitted properly. The VFW-championed PACT Act added more than 20 presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxins. Learn more about your eligibility at [PACTActInfo.org](#) or connect with an [accredited representative](#) for assistance with your VA claim.

The logo for inTransition, featuring the word "inTransition" in a stylized font with "in" in yellow and "Transition" in white. Below it, the words "COACHING · CONNECTING · EMPOWERING" are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

inTransition
COACHING · CONNECTING · EMPOWERING

Mental Health Care Services During Transition:

The Military Health System's inTransition program aids service members, veterans, and retirees — regardless of component, time served, or discharge category — to establish or transfer mental health care during times of transition. This program is a free service that is not time limited. It is staffed with qualified coaches familiar with military culture who stand ready to assist individuals to connect with the care they need. [Read more.](#)



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

--**Army Sgt. Bernard J. Sweeney Jr., 22**, of Waterbury, Connecticut, was assigned to Company I, 330th Infantry Regiment, 83rd Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 16, 1944. He will be buried in Wading River, New York, on Oct. 10, 2023. [Read about Sweeney.](#)

--**Army Air Forces Sgt. Willard S. Kendall, 23**, of Chicago, Illinois, was assigned to the 32d Bombardment Squadron, 301st Bombardment Group, 15th Air Force. He was reported killed in action on Feb. 25, 1944. He will be buried in Forest Park, Illinois, on a date to be determined. [Read about Kendall.](#)

--**Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Alfred W. Pezzella, 27**, of Newton, Massachusetts, was assigned to the 328th Bombardment Squadron, 93d Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. He went missing in action on Aug. 1, 1943. He will be buried in Bourne, Massachusetts, on a date to be determined. [Read about Pezzella.](#)

--**Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Walter B. Miklosh, 21**, of Chicago, Illinois, was assigned to the 678th Bombardment Squadron, 444th Bombardment Group, 58th Bombardment Wing, Twentieth Bomber Command. He was killed in action on June 26, 1944. He will be buried in Sierra Vista, Arizona, on a date to be determined. [Read about Miklosh.](#)

--**Army Cpl. Francis James Jury, 23**, of Clearfield, Pennsylvania, was a member of Heavy Mortar Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950. He will be buried in Annville, Pennsylvania, on a date to be determined. [Read about Jury.](#)

--Marine Corps Capt. Ralph J. Chipman, was assigned to Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 533, Marine Attack Group 12, 1st Marine Air Wing. He went missing in action on Dec. 27, 1972, and was reported killed in action in July 1974. His burial date and location are to be determined. [Read about Chipman.](#)

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