



ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



September 4, 2023



Progress Against Claim Sharks: New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed state legislation which makes it a violation of the Consumer Fraud Act for unaccredited individuals to receive unlawful compensation for advising or assisting with veterans' benefits. VFW Post 1333 in Neptune City hosted the law's signing. "Our veterans put their lives on the line in service to our country and have more than earned the benefits for which they and their loved ones are eligible," said Murphy. "We must protect veterans and their families from unscrupulous individuals who would take advantage of them by overcharging for assistance with those benefits. This legislation will help ensure these bad actors either follow all applicable federal standards or face the consequences." [Read more.](#)



Don't Wait to Apply for PACT Act Benefits: VFW Communications and Public Affairs Director Rob Couture, and VFW National Veterans Service Director Mike Figlioli participated in a Facebook Live event to discuss PACT Act benefits and eligibility. One clear message from the discussion was don't wait to apply for benefits or appeal denials from previous claim applications. Military service in areas covered by law from 1955 to the present that resulted in a diagnosis of a presumptive condition may result in compensation by VA. Survivors are also encouraged to apply as deceased veterans may have benefits that extend to eligible family members. [Watch the video.](#)



Access Vet Center Mental Health Counseling: Vet Centers offer free and confidential mental health and readjustment counseling in communities across the United States and its territories. While widely known as a resource for veterans, they also assist eligible service members and families. Available services include individual and group therapy, family and bereavement counseling, and referral assistance. [Learn more.](#)



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has not announced any new identifications or burial updates this past week.

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