



# ACTION CORPUS WEEKLY



October 30, 2023



**VFW-Supported Amendment Passes Senate:** The Senate passed an amendment to the *Military Construction, Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024*. In July, the VFW testified in favor of H.R. 705, *Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act*, which mirrors the aforementioned bill. This amendment would block VA from automatically referring veterans with fiduciaries to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), which prohibits the ownership of firearms. It would also require that any VA referrals to NICS must first have the order of a judge indicating that the person is a danger to themselves or others. The VFW sees this as a necessary step to ensure the right of due process for veterans. [Read more.](#)



THE UNITED STATES SENATE  
COMMITTEE on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

**Senate Committee Hearing on VA Accountability:** The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held an oversight hearing on VA accountability and transparency. Efforts to streamline VA's ability to hire and fire employees in an efficient manner were discussed. "Accountability and transparency must be cornerstones of fulfilling VA's mission to provide high quality care and benefits to our veterans. We can all agree that bad actors at VA cannot and will not be tolerated," said Chairman Jon Tester. [Watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 12:18 mark.



**Expected COLA Increases Announced:** The Social Security Administration (SSA) announced a 3.2% benefit increase for 2024. VA compensation payment rates will match the rates from SSA. Veterans can expect to see the new amounts starting with their January 2024 payment. [Read more.](#)



**Free Veterans Infographics Available:** The RAND Epstein Family Veterans Policy Research Institute is offering four thoroughly researched and up-to-date charts for your use. These charts, also known as infographics, cover veterans' social, economic, and physical well-being. They can be used in presentations when educating your fellow veterans and communities in the interest of bolstering support and improving policies affecting veterans' needs. [Get the infographics.](#)



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

--**Army Pvt. 1st Class Henry C. Wade, 24**, of Decatur, Kentucky, was assigned to Company K, 3d Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. He was killed in action in November 1944. He will be buried on Nov. 29, 2023, in Russell Springs, Kentucky. [Read about Wade.](#)

--**Army Staff Sgt. Robert G. Rudd, 34**, of Gatesville, Texas, was assigned to Company C, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2D Infantry Division. He was killed in action on Jan. 30, 1945. The War Department issued a Report of Death on Feb. 20, 1945. He will be buried in Belton, Texas, on a date to be determined. [Read about Rudd.](#)

[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](mailto:vfwac@vfw.org).