



# ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



January 29, 2024



**Volunteer to Vet the Vote:** Tuesday, Jan. 30, is Help America Vote Day. This event provides an opportunity for veterans and military family members to volunteer as poll workers for Election Day 2024. In addition to recruiting poll workers, the nonpartisan Vet the Vote team will be at the Super Bowl next month educating the public on the voting process and directing voters to their polling stations around the country. Continue your service by becoming a poll worker in 2024 to help support democracy in your community. [Sign up now.](#)



**Setback for Toxic Exposures Fund:** The Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General investigated VA's initial spending plan for toxic exposures and found that a number of expenditures did not align with regulations. Among those were costs belonging to the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). The removal of \$1.1 million to update the Memorial Benefits Management System for the NCA will no doubt create a setback in the progress VA anticipated relating to the allocation of funds. The VFW's 2024 Priority Goals include an increase in burial allowances to account for inflation. Proper funding to facilitate benefits management for eligible veterans is a crucial step in meeting this key objective. [Read more.](#)



**VFW 2024 Priority Goals:** The 118th Congress is now in its second session, and there is still work to be done. The [VFW 2024 Priority Goals](#) include many issues concerning benefits and services for veterans, service members, and their families. The VFW will continue to advocate diligently to ensure members of Congress and the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Labor provide the resources and care our nation's veterans have earned and deserve.



**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced four 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 Master Sgt. Roy E. Barrow, 39**, of Valdosta, Georgia, was a member of King Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 12, 1950. He will be buried in his hometown on Jan. 27, 2024. [Read about Barrow.](#)

-- **Navy Pharmacist's Mate 2nd Class Merle C. J. Hillman, 25**, of Holyoke, Massachusetts, was assigned to the battleship USS California, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. He was among 104 crewmen killed that day. He will be buried in his hometown on Jan. 27, 2024. [Read about Hillman.](#)

-- **Army Staff Sgt. Leroy C. Cloud, 24**, of Thrall, Texas, was assigned to Company A, 744th Tank Battalion. He was reported missing in action on July 26, 1944, and the Army issued a report of death on Aug. 16 that same year. He will be buried in Taylor, Texas, on April 7, 2024. [Read about Cloud.](#)

-- **Army Master Sgt. Thomas Crayton, 28**, of Austin, Texas, was a member of Alpha Battery, 503rd Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, Eighth U.S. Army. He went missing in action on Dec. 1, 1950, and died while a prisoner of war on Feb. 11, 1951. Interment services are pending. [Read about Crayton.](#)

[Click here to view this week's edition.](#)

[Click here for past editions of the VFW Action Corps Weekly.](#)

[Click here to view VFW-supported bills in the 118th Congress.](#)

[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).