



# ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



February 26, 2024



**Independent Budget Released:** Leading veterans service organizations — Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), DAV (Disabled American Veterans), and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) — have released *The Independent Budget Recommendations for the Department of Veterans Affairs for Fiscal Years 2025-2026*. This report serves as a roadmap to ensure VA is fully funded and capable of carrying out its mission to serve veterans and their families, both now and in the future. “While this year’s Independent Budget is once again complete, it is now imperative that Congress and VA work together, along with veterans service organizations and other stakeholders, to make the needs and interests of all veterans a top priority,” said VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci. “We have co-authored this report and offered budgetary recommendations to ensure the timely delivery of specialized health care and earned benefits for the men and women who served.” [Read the report.](#)



**VA Direct Deposit Consolidation:** Starting April 20, 2024, VA will no longer send benefit payments for veterans or family members to more than one bank account. This is due to an IT modernization effort by VA for its GI Bill payment system. This change will impact approximately 50,000 students who receive the GI Bill and other VA benefits in separate direct deposit accounts. VA is sending weekly emails and text messages to this group of veterans and beneficiaries informing them of the upcoming change and asking them to select one bank account going forward. If students do not consolidate their bank accounts by April 20, VA will continue to send payments but will designate the non-education benefit

payment account as the primary bank account. [Read more](#) for details on how to choose a single bank account for direct deposit.



**VFW Washington Conference App Now Available:**

In anticipation of the Washington Conference being held next week, the VFW has provided a mobile app to give event attendees the tools needed to make the most of their visit to our nation's capital. The app is available for download at both the [Apple App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store](#). View our [VFW Events App Quick Start Guide](#) for downloading assistance.



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

[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).