



# ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



March 18, 2024



**VFW-SVA Legislative Fellows on Capitol Hill:** Six 2023/2024 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellows traveled to our nation's capital to participate in the VFW Washington Conference. Joining VFW delegations from their respective states, the fellows met with key staffers and congressional members, including some who serve on the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs. The fellows focused their discussions on the VFW's support for [H.R. 4157/ S. 928](#), *Not Just a Number Act*, which aims to improve veteran suicide prevention. Pictured from top left to bottom right are:

- Terren Wise, Navy veteran, Brown University
- Jamie Springston, Navy veteran, Marshall University
- Jennifer Ray, Air Force veteran, Southwestern College
- Bryce Kyle, Army veteran, University of Texas – San Antonio
- Lyssa Losa, Army veteran, Texas A&M University – College Station
- Alexander Thymmons, Army veteran, University of Hawaii – Manoa (not pictured)



**Celebrating Women Veterans:** VFW Junior Vice Commander Carol Whitmore and National Legislative Deputy Director Kristina Keenan attended a women veterans event hosted by the White House Office of Public Engagement. A panel discussion on the Administration's work supporting women service members and veterans included VA Deputy Secretary Tanya Bradsher, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Defense Policy Jason Israel, Special Assistant to the President for Veterans Affairs Terri Tanielian, and Strategic Partnerships Project

Director at Creative Forces Carolyn Bartley. Following the panel were poetry and storytelling performances by women veterans.



**VA Trauma Coordinators:** Military sexual trauma (MST) is sexual assault or harassment that occurs during military service. MST survivors can receive assistance from [MST Coordinators](#) at VA health facilities to connect with no-cost care. Community-based [Vet Centers](#) provide MST-related outpatient counseling and referral services in nonmedical settings.



**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced three 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:

-- **Navy Seaman 2nd Class Cecil H. Thornton, 21**, of Rogersville, Alabama, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. He was among 429 crewmen killed that day. He was buried in his hometown on March 11, 2024. [Read about Thornton.](#)

-- **Navy Radioman Third Class Starring B. Winfield, 22**, of San Rafael, California, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. He was among 429 crewmen killed that day. He will be buried on May 9, 2024, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. [Read about Winfield.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Raymond U. Schlamp, 28**, of Dubuque, Iowa, was assigned to Company G, 2nd Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division. He was killed in action in September 1944. The War Department issued a finding of death in September 1945. He will be buried on a date and location to be determined. [Read about Schlamp.](#)

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