



# ACTION CORPUS WEEKLY



September 2, 2024



**Applications Now Being Accepted for 2024-2025 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship:** The application process for the 2024-2025 class of VFW-SVA legislative fellows is now open. VFW members who attend an accredited institute of higher learning will be chosen for the semester-long program that focuses on real policy issues faced by veterans, service members, and their families. The capstone of the program is participation in the 2025 VFW Washington Conference in Washington, D.C. Alumni of the program have become more active at all levels of the VFW and SVA, and have been instrumental in changing laws to improve care and benefits for veterans. [Learn more](#) and [apply for the fellowship](#).



**Access Issues with 988 Veterans Crisis Line:** Veterans calling the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) (VCL) are experiencing issues with the “988 then press 1” audio prompt. VA is working with VCL to reroute calls and ensure dropped calls receive a callback. If you or someone you know have experienced these difficulties, please use the [VCL Chat](#) option or connect through text messaging by using number 838255 as alternate ways to receive support. These options are not impacted by the current phone line issues. Additionally, veterans can call 1.800.MYVA411 and then press 7 for further crisis assistance. The VFW will continue to monitor the situation.



### **Pre-Need Assistance for Final Arrangements:**

Proactive planning can assist veterans and reassure their survivors regarding final arrangements. Pre-need determination of eligibility for burial benefits enables family members to honor final wishes and settle personal affairs. Veterans can apply to find out if they are eligible for interment in a VA national cemetery. Though participation does not guarantee burial in a specific cemetery, it does inform VA of preferences and helps to fulfill requests. [Read more](#) about the program and [learn how](#) to report a veteran's death to VA. Locate an [accredited representative](#) for assistance with survivor benefits claims.



**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one burial update for a service member who has been missing and unaccounted for from the Korean War.

Update:

-- [Korean War Army Pvt. 1st Class Arlie P. Barrett](#)

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

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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).