



ACTION CORPS WEEKLY

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

October 14, 2024



VFW Answers Call for Hurricane Relief: As Hurricane Helene relief efforts continue in North Carolina and other impacted regions, the VFW is now taking action to provide aid to veterans, service members, and military families in Florida following Hurricane Milton. “My deepest gratitude goes out to all VFW and Auxiliary members, and our supporters for the time, supplies, financial contributions, and forward efforts in assisting those whose lives were suddenly thrust into devastation and despair in the wake of these natural disasters,” said VFW National Commander Al Lipphardt. To support the VFW Disaster Relief Fund, you may [donate online](#) or mail checks payable to the VFW and earmarked “Disaster Relief” to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation Disaster Relief, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.



VFW at Military Influencers Conference: VFW National Commander Al Lipphardt shared the VFW’s message of veteran assistance and advocacy at the 2024 Military Influencers Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. This conference gathers industry leaders, transitioning service members, and entrepreneurs connected to the military and veterans’ communities. The VFW announced it will soon be including one of the world’s most popular social media platforms as part of an overall social media strategy. “Look for some great things coming from VFW and TikTok!” Lipphardt said. “Stay tuned!”



DOD Health Care Supplement Pilot Program: The Department of Defense (DOD) has announced a one-year pilot program for DOD civilian employees serving in Japan to provide no-cost supplemental health support services. This program is expected to begin on Jan. 1, 2025, and will help enhance the patient care of approximately 11,000 civilians. Employees must be enrolled in a participating health plan through the Federal Employees Health Benefits program to be eligible. Open enrollment season runs this year from Nov. 11 through Dec. 9. [Read more.](#)



New VA Character of Discharge Regulation: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is implementing a new regulation pertaining to character of discharge determinations that will allow more former service members to qualify for VA benefits regardless of discharge type. Generally, a former service member must have a discharge under honorable conditions. Though VA cannot change the status of a DOD military discharge, it will review less than honorable discharges for benefits eligibility. VA encourages former service members to whom it previously issued a negative character of discharge determination to reapply under the new regulation using a [VA Form 21-0995](#), Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim. Contact an [accredited service representative](#) for more information.



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced 13 identifications and four burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Identifications:

- [World War II Army Air Forces Corporal Glenn H. Hodak](#)
- [World War II Army Pvt. 1st Class Estle E. Corvin](#)
- [World War II Army Pvt. James G. Loterbaugh](#)
- [World War II Army Pvt. Harland J. Hennessey](#)
- [World War II Army Air Forces Sgt. James H. Murray](#)
- [World War II Army Private James S. Mitchell](#)
- [World War II Army Pvt. 1st Class Kenneth D. Burgess](#)
- [World War II Army Sgt. Simon Garelick](#)
- [World War II Army Pvt. 1st Class Leon R. Karwacki](#)
- [World War II Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Thomas V. Kelly Jr.](#)
- [Korean War Army Pvt. 1st Class Willard H. Edwards](#)
- [Korean War Army Pvt. 1st Class James C. Bowman](#)
- [Korean War Army Sgt. Thomas J. O'Brien](#)

Updates:

- [Korean War Army Sgt. Clayton M. Pierce](#)
- [World War II Merchant Marine Wiper Elvis N. Spotts](#)
- [World War II Army First Lieutenant Herman J. Sundstad](#)
- [Vietnam War Navy Reserve Lt. Cmdr. Larry R. Kilpatrick](#)

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