



# ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



October 7, 2024



### **VFW National Capital Region Open House:**

Members from VFW Departments of Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia met with staff from National Legislative Service and National Veterans Service at the VFW Memorial Building to discuss the latest legislative and benefits initiatives. Speakers included VFW Junior Vice Commander Tim Peters and VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci. Attendees shared plans to encourage more collaboration and participation in volunteer opportunities in and around the nation's capital. [Learn more](#) about our grassroots advocacy.



### **Vietnam Dustoff Crews to Receive Congressional**

**Gold Medal:** President Biden has signed the *Dustoff Crews of the Vietnam War Congressional Gold Medal Act* into law. Long sought by advocates, this legislation recognizes the pilots, crew chiefs, and medics who served honorably during the Vietnam War aboard helicopter air ambulances. The honor is collectively awarded to the more than 3,000 service members who flew between combat zones and field hospitals. Plans for the official Congressional Gold Medal presentation ceremony are under way and will be announced by the White House. [Read more.](#)



### **VA to Review Possible Toxic Exposure and Kidney Cancer Connection:**

In the first step of the presumption of exposure process, VA will assess scientific literature and historical claims data to determine if an association exists between per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) exposure and kidney cancer, potentially streamlining the VA disability claims process for PFAS-exposed veterans. These synthetic chemicals are found in many common products including clothing, non-stick

cookware, and adhesives. They are also a major ingredient in aviation fire-fighting foams. [Read more](#), learn more about [toxic exposures](#), or locate an [accredited representative](#) for help in filing a claim.



**MIA Update: MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced two burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II.

Updates:

- [World War II Army Sgt. Jack Zarifian](#)
- [World War II Army Private Rodger D. Andrews](#)

[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).