



ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



May 16, 2022



Pass the PACT Act Now: The *Honoring our PACT Act* would help millions of veterans by providing VA health care access for exposed veterans. It would create a concession of exposure for burn pits and airborne hazards, establish a list of presumptive conditions, and a framework for assessing future presumptive conditions linked to any toxic exposure, foreign or domestic, past, present, and future. This bill is supported by more than 60 veteran organizations. We urge the Senate to pass the *Honoring our PACT Act*. Contact your senators and tell them to vote **YES** when the *Honoring our PACT Act* is brought to the Senate floor. Toxic-exposed veterans cannot afford to wait any longer for health care and benefits. [We must act now!](#)



VFW Testifies Before House Subcommittee: The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on improving VA infrastructure and operational efficiency. VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray testified on the need to upgrade aging infrastructure to increase the quality of care for veterans. "The CHIP IN program is not an everyday solution to VA infrastructure issues, but whenever an opportunity arises to accept donated facilities, VA must be able to accept any facility at any value if they are in VA's best interest," said Murray. [Watch the hearing](#) or [read the testimony](#).



VFW Welcomes Visitors from the French War

College: The VFW welcomed 20 officers from the French War College — known as the École de Guerre — for a presentation on the VFW's legislative efforts in Washington, D.C. The group consisted of officers from all branches of the French military making the shift from tactical level command to operational and strategic levels of command. Discussion focused on the VFW's long history of legislative advocacy and the priority goals for legislation today, as well as similarities and differences between the U.S. and French militaries and government support for veterans.



VFW Post Dedication Ceremony Honors Brigadier

General McGee: Staff from the VFW Washington Office attended a dedication ceremony to rename Post 341 of Washington, D.C., after Brigadier General Charles E. McGee, who was a Tuskegee Airman. McGee was one of the first African American aviators who flew 409 combat missions in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. He passed away in January of this year at the age of 102. VFW Executive Director Bob Wallace spoke at the dedication, calling him a "true American hero" and thanked McGee's daughter for allowing the VFW to dedicate the only post in Washington, D.C. in her father's name. [Learn more](#) about Brigadier General Charles E. McGee.



Armed Forces Day 2022: On May 21, 2022, millions of Americans will pay tribute to the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces for their service in support of our nation. First observed on May 20, 1950, Armed Forces Day was intended to not only give thanks for those who keep our nation safe, but also to educate the public about the various roles of our six branches of the military and the roles that those branches play in our community. In keeping with that theme, many DOD installations such as Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Dover Air Force Base will hold events that are open to the public to highlight our nation's military capabilities, as well as the men and women who proudly wear the uniform. Additionally, many VFW posts will participate in local parades and host events to garner community awareness and support for our men and women in uniform.



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 and Korea. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

-- **Navy Seaman 1st Class John R. Melton, 23**, of Liberty, Mississippi, was assigned to the battleship USS West Virginia, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS West Virginia sustained multiple torpedo hits, but timely counter-flooding measures by the crew kept it from capsizing. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 106 crewmen, including Melton. He will be buried in Glistler, Mississippi, on July 9, 2022. [Read about Melton.](#)

-- **Army Cpl. Lawrence L. Brown, 21**, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was assigned to Company M, 3rd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He was captured on Nov. 26, 1950, after his unit was attacked by the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces. Brown was reported as a POW in Camp #5, but his exact date of death could not be determined at that time. He will be buried in Prairieville, Louisiana, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Brown.](#)

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