



ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



April 15, 2024



VFW Testifies Before House Subcommittee: VFW National Veterans Service Deputy Director Christopher Macinkowicz testified at a pending legislation hearing before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. Macinkowicz commented on proposed legislation to improve the quality of veterans claims for VA benefits by providing training and oversight for those deciding VA claims. He noted, "While training and oversight is essential, without proper funding for these programs, the development and execution could be severely impacted, thus limiting the effectiveness of these programs." He also communicated the VFW's approval for legislation to assess VA notice letters sent to claimants by stating, "The VFW supports effective notification and believes that veterans should not be penalized for not understanding the complex laws of the VA claims process." [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 39:52 mark.



VFW Testifies with Partner VSOs on VA Budget Request: The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs held an oversight hearing on VA's budget request for fiscal years 2025 and 2026. VFW National Legislative Director Patrick Murray offered testimony based on [The Independent Budget Recommendations for the Department of Veterans Affairs for Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026](#). This report serves as a comprehensive roadmap to ensure VA is fully funded and capable of carrying out its mission to serve veterans and their families, both now and in the future. [Watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 13:03 mark.



VA Program to Help Veterans Facing Foreclosure:

In October 2022, VA ended its COVID-19 Veterans Assistance Partial Claim Payment program (COVID-VAPCP), which offered a financial option for veterans who lost their jobs during the pandemic and needed mortgage forbearance. Since the sunset of this temporary program, tens of thousands of veterans have ended their mortgage forbearances with few affordable options to pay back their missed payments and have been faced with foreclosure of their homes. On May 31, 2024, VA will launch the Veterans Affairs Servicing Purchase (VASP) program to help more than 40,000 veterans facing foreclosure on their homes. Through VASP, VA will purchase defaulted VA loans from mortgage servicers, modify the loans, and then place them in the VA-owned portfolio as direct loans. This will empower VA to work directly with eligible veterans to adjust their loans and monthly payments so they can keep their homes. Veterans with questions about avoiding foreclosure can contact a VA loan technician by calling 877-827-3702. [Read more.](#)



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced four burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II and the Korean War. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

-- **Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Charles D. Brown, 22**, of Arcola, Illinois, 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. He was among 106 crewmen killed that day. He will be buried on April 20, 2024, in Humboldt, Illinois. [Read about Brown.](#)

-- **Navy Seaman 2nd Class George T. George, 26**, of St. Louis, Missouri, 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 13, 2024, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Honolulu, Hawaii. [Read about George.](#)

-- **Army Pvt. 1st Class Anthony J. Lopa, 17**, of North Arlington, New Jersey, was a member of Delta Battery, 82nd Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division. He was killed in action on Aug. 31, 1950. He will be buried in Wrightstown, New Jersey, on a date to be determined. [Read about Lopa.](#)

-- **Army Private 1st Class Harold D. Wilder, 19**, of Pennington Gap, Virginia, was a member of L Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 11, 1950. Interment services are pending. [Read about Wilder.](#)

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