



ACTION CORPS WEEKLY



November 11, 2024



VFW Participates in Veterans Day Events: VFW National Jr. Vice Commander Tim Peters participated in activities in the Washington, D.C., area on Veterans Day, Nov. 11., beginning with a visit to the White House. From there Peters headed to Arlington National Cemetery where he and VFW Auxiliary National President Brenda Bryant presented a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. VFW National Commander Al Lipphardt visited VFW comrades in eastern Tennessee affected by Hurricane Helene, then followed up with a visit to soldiers on U.S. Army installation Fort Campbell for Veterans Day.



United States Marine Corps Birthday: On Nov. 10, the United States Marine Corps celebrated its 249th birthday. Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Eric M. Smith, published a [birthday message](#) urging Marines to reflect on their legacy of sacrifice and commitment to freedom since 1775. He stressed the need for exceptional standards and discipline to prepare for future threats, and asserted that while technology may evolve, the Marines' ethos remains steadfast. Happy Birthday, Marines!



VA Cares for Veterans in Any Clime or Place:

Natural disasters can happen anywhere at any time, but usually without substantial warning. VA benefits continue in these chaotic conditions, but unorthodox methods may be needed to ensure uninterrupted support. Mobile clinics, special one-time payments, additional months of certain benefits, instant loan approvals for life insurance, and extended grace periods for premiums are some of the tools VA uses to aid veterans in dire circumstances. Additionally, Public Contact Teams deployed to local shelters or Disaster Recovery Centers enable on-site VA

assistance to connect veterans with health care and other services including housing case management.

[Learn more.](#)



Military Recruitment Rises Despite Ongoing Challenges:

The Department of Defense (DOD) has reported it successfully recruited 12.5% more personnel in fiscal year 2024 than the previous year, increasing the number of recruits from 200,000 to 225,000. The armed services saw a rise in written contracts and a larger pool of candidates entering the delayed entry program. However, despite these gains recruitment remains challenging due to low interest among youth, a competitive job market, and a decline in eligibility of young adults. Many people who are 17-24 years of age have little to no connection to military service, and the majority would need waivers to serve. To improve awareness and understanding, DOD is launching campaigns on military service value and opportunities. [Read more.](#)



MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one identification and three burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II and the Korean War.

Identifications:

-- [World War II Army Cpl. Ernest H. Ulrich](#)

Updates:

-- [Korean War Army Corporal Howard Godwin Jr.](#)

-- [World War II Army Pvt. 1st Class Basil M. Cook](#)

-- [Korean War Army Corporal William Colby](#)

[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.