



ReadBack JUNE 2021

Veteran's Easy Access Program



ReadBack

VEAP on its Way Again



The VEAP Steering Committee has been meeting monthly via zoom to work on three pivotal projects designed to assist veterans in understanding and obtaining the benefits available to them. Our desire is to acquaint them with the multitude of options they have in both the veteran's services and civilian services arenas and to help provide resources which will help resolve any challenges they may encounter.

The first goal is to develop a VEAP/Salvation Army website designed to direct a veteran to the service provider most capable of helping them in as direct a manner as possible. Assistance might come from either veteran services providers or community services providers or a combination of both. The website is in the design stage and will focus on 6 main categories ... Housing and shelter (both short term and long-term solutions), jobs, health, education, transportation and "other". "Other" might include emergency food, end of life planning, financial, legal services, fraternal and Federal/State/Local assistance to name a few.

The site would also include connections to allow the user to sign up for the VEAP ReadBack as well as learning how to plug into the volunteer network for a number of organizations needing volunteers. The proposed new site will be routinely monitored and updated to ensure that contact information is as current as possible. It's not the aim to list all providers, but to provide a few lead sources and to make it as simple to navigate as possible.

From the website, we hope to develop a one-page flyer/handout that will be made available to the public, listing a handful of key providers/contacts as well as the website. This can then be handed out at locations

where the neediest of veterans congregate who may not have use of a electronic devices.

From these projects, VEAP will officially join The Salvation Army and VEAP in print, by merging their logos for future recognition by these several media. That new "logo" will be introduced in a future issue of ReadBack.

The final project being worked on, is a veterans hour-long TV production, designed to get the word out about the website, The Salvation Army and VEAP. It's still very much in the planning stages, but would be held the weekend following Veterans Day ... tentatively Sunday November 14th at 5PM local. The actual format is still in the discussion stages; however, some components that could be included are four honorees (two local veterans and two Marines), profiling and interviewing six benefit providers, patriotic music (Salvation Army band and others), information regarding what the Salvation Army is doing, both world-wide and locally in the Coachella Valley. Discussion will cover the goal of the annual Red Kettle campaign.

We are working with many local and state organizations such as Sunline, CalVet, Riverside County VA, etc. We hope to include many more as sponsors. We welcome your thoughts and will be updating you in the months to come.



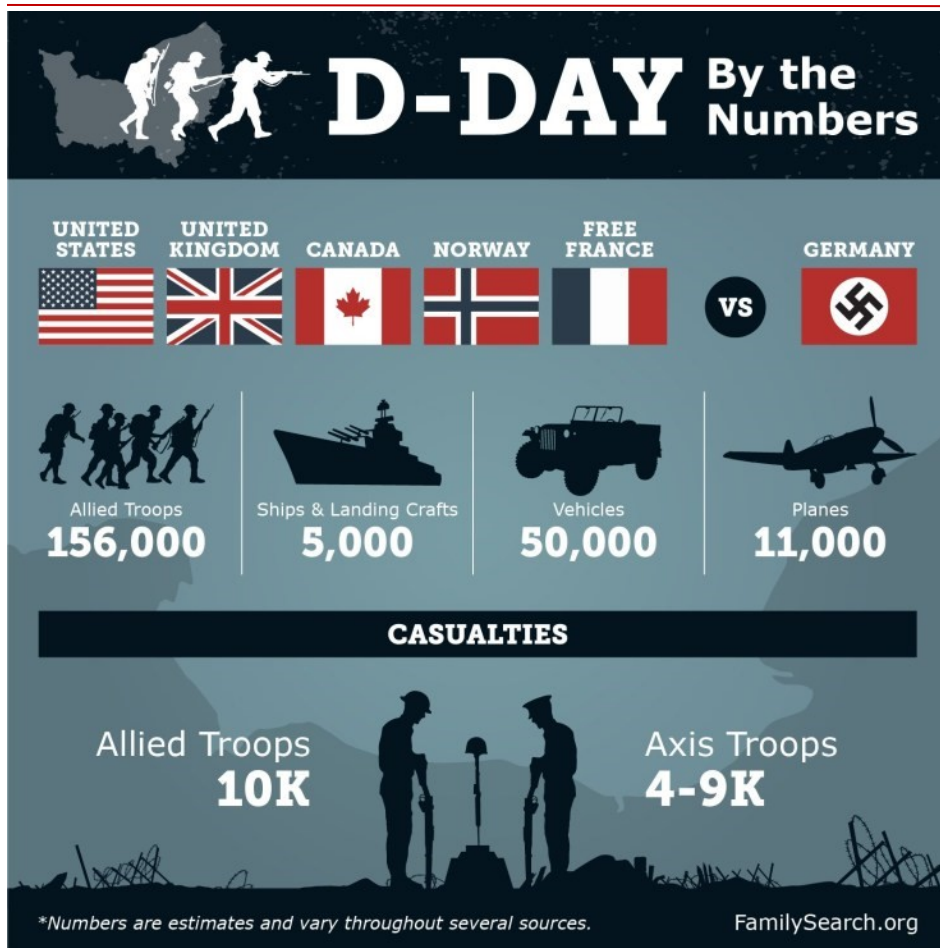
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D-Day, June 6



role and much thought and planning went into just that one aspect.

3. It was an International effort with over 12 million troops from more than 12 countries assembling in Britain to prepare for the invasion. Although the primary invasion force was made up of Americans, British and Canadians; troop/support groups from Australia, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Holland, France, Greece, New Zealand, Norway and Poland are among those involved.

4. It was the largest Naval, Air and land operation in history with over 18,000 Allied paratroopers, more than 14,000 air force sorties, nearly 7,000 naval vessels and over 132,000 ground troops. There were more than 4,400 Allied casualties on D-Day including 650 alone from the 6th Airborne Division.

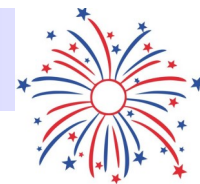
Think of all this and especially those who gave the ultimate sacrifice that day 77 years ago on the northern shores of France in order that we may enjoy the many freedoms we enjoy today. Let's not forget the sacrifices of D-Day and make it a point to pass this history on to the younger generations who have no idea what that day means to the history of our nation. Fly your flag proudly on June 6th.

Unfortunately, the significance and influence of special days in our history is being purged from the pages of text books these days. So, here is a refresher, and possibly a tool for extracurricular instruction to your family's youth and anyone who has forgotten the costs of freedom.

June 6, 1944 marked the turning of the tide for the war in Europe during World War II. On that day, the largest planned campaign of the war occurred and less than a year later, the Allies formally accepted Nazi Germany's surrender. A few things to remember about D-Day:

1. It was the start of Operation Overlord, the final push to defeat Nazi Germany.
2. Much detailed planning by many nations went into D-Day starting in December 1943 including building up the necessary resources and developing several deception campaigns. Weather played a very large

4th of July; 2021 Style



Since the start of COVID, many events have been cancelled or greatly modified. Traditional 4th of July activities were all but eliminated in 2020. In 2021, we are seeing a few of them return and we hope that by 2022, we will have many more patriotic choices of activities for the whole family. Do check with your local community to see what is available in your area this year. There are still a number of traditional and not so traditional activities such as barbeques, parades and virtual fireworks in the planning stages that offer opportunities through communities, churches and other organizations that are in your area and worth exploring.

Meanwhile, a couple of events here in the Coachella Valley are definitely

worth marking on your calendars and looking forward to. First is the Palm Springs Air Museum Freedom Fly Over. On the evening of the 4th, three aircraft, a C-47, P-63 and a T-28 will do a fly-over of the area starting about 6:15PM in the Yucca Valley area. They will then proceed to circle all of the greater Palm Springs area before returning to the Museum.

Later that evening, the Agua Caliente Resort and Spa in Rancho Mirage will have a great fireworks show. It will start at 9PM with synchronized music on Mix 100.5. It will also be broadcast live on NBC Palm Springs. A great place to view the fireworks is Lookout Point up on Highway 74.



Guarding the Tomb of the Unknown

2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. Significant dates in the history of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier are:

October 21, 1921: After legislation is passed earlier in the year (March), the original Unknown Soldier is escorted from the selection site in Chalons-en-Campagne France to Paris via train. An official Honor Guard and American Legion representative stayed with the soldier as he then traveled to the port of Le Harve where they met up with the USS Olympia which bought him home to America for official interment and recognition on **November 11th**. He was interred below a three-level marble tomb at Arlington National Cemetery. Originally, a civilian guard was posted and later a military guard for special events.

March 26, 1926: Following vandalism and other less-than-respectful activity by random visitors of the tomb, sunset-to-sunrise surveillance of the site by armed military personnel begins, at the urging of the American Legion.

July 2, 1937: Approval is given, after American Legion insistence for 24 hour military guarding of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

August 3, 1956: President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs an American Legion supported bill to select and honor the unknown military personnel who died fighting in

World War II and the Korean War, who will be added to separate crypts on the tomb plaza on Memorial Day weekend, 1958. President Eisenhower placed a Medal of Honor on each casket.

May 31, 1958: American Legion National Commander John Gleason presents the organization's prestigious Distinguished Service Medal to the Unknown Servicemen of World War I, World War II and the Korean War the day after they are interred in a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

March 15, 1969: Legionnaire President Richard M. Nixon flips the switch to permanently light the tomb and the amphitheater temple façade. Nearly \$200,000 was raised for the project by the American Legion, as its 50th anniversary "gift to the nation."

May 28, 1984: President Ronald Reagan acts as next of kin and accepts the interment flag for the then-Unknown Soldier of the Vietnam War, whose remains are added to a third crypt.

June 30, 1998: The Department of Defense formally identifies through DNA testing, that the Vietnam War Unknown Soldier is Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie who was shot down near An Loc in 1972. His remains are exhumed and repatriated to his family and the Vietnam War crypt that contained his remains is vacant today.



Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie



Air Force Association Chapter 134 Selects Teacher of the Year

Annually, AFA Chapters across the country select one or more teachers in their area, grades K through 12 for their Aerospace/STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Teacher of the Year award. Winners are then advanced to the state-wide competition and, if successful there, to a nation-wide competition.

AFA Chapter 134, Palm Springs has selected Mr. Shawn Kirby as this year's Coachella Valley recipient. Mr. Kirby is a Science/Physics teacher at Palm Springs High School. His background in sciences goes back to his time at CSULB (California State University Long Beach) working as a volunteer for their mobile science museum, in support of their bringing 40+ exhibits to local schools and community events. He also served as Co-Vice President of UCI (University of California Irvine) Discover Science Initiative, a unique STEM outreach organization focused on state-of-the-art STEM research. He holds an MS Degree in Materials Science and Engineering, UC Irvine 2016, a BS in Chemistry and BA in Physics, CSU Long Beach 2014.

During three college summers, Shawn worked as an intern at Edwards AFB Base Research Laboratory. This role allowed him to perform numerous experiments specifically related to issues concerning the USAF and flight support such as developing a new method of optimizing fuel purification solvents and utilizing various compounds as coatings for fuel tanks.

He was later able to share his research experience with his students to emphasize the importance of conducting scientific research and to help them realize that when something goes wrong, you can learn almost as much from your failures as from your successes. Many of his in-class experiments were hands on and many were also moved from the classroom to the outside.

Shawn became a teacher 10 years ago and has been in his current position for 4 years. His goal as a teacher is to show students that STEM concepts are interwoven into every aspect of their lives. He encourages his students to ask questions, challenge

long-standing theories, design and perform their own experiments and make meaningful connections with the world around them.

Mr. Kirby has adapted to the zoom teaching routine required over the past year and a half by developing his own brand of distance learning and video presentations to replace his normal hands-on approach. He looks forward to getting back to hands-on.

AFA Chapter 134 is proud to announce Shawn Kirby as their 2021 AFA Aerospace/STEM Teacher of the year. Several presentation events are currently in the works.



Chapter 134 VP of Aerospace Education **Becky Humphrey**
Teacher of the Year **Sean Kirby**, Palm Springs High School
Bill Young, Vice President Chapter 134 Air Force Association
Bill Bramer, President, Chapter 134 Air Force Association

DISCOUNTS ...Military Appreciation Month/Fathers Day

While many merchants still report offering discounts during this ever-changing time of closures and alternate schedules, some may not be available. Always check with the company for full details on their hours and offerings.

In addition to Military Appreciation Month, the third Sunday of every June is dedicated to the celebration of our military, and dads. Father's Day is the perfect time to let the special dads in our lives know how much they're loved and appreciated.. Thinking big this Father's Day? Is it time for a new car? Many automakers, including [Subaru](#) and [Toyota](#), want to show their appreciation for military families by offering [special pricing on their vehicles](#).

Golf

Through [Birdies for the Brave](#), the PGA TOUR offers free and discounted tickets to select PGA TOUR events for veterans, retirees, and active duty.

Most military installations have golf courses so visit your [local base](#) or check online to make reservations. And many courses off base offer [military discounts on golf rates](#), so make sure to call your local golf course to find out what they offer for the military.

Lowe's

Lowe's offers 10% off to all **veterans** and active duty service members every **day** by signing up for a MyLowe's card (not a credit card).

Idlewild and SoakZone

Idlewild and SoakZone offers free admission to military personnel on May 29, 30 and 31. You may also purchase discounted military admission for family members

online (when it becomes available mid-May).

Home Depot

All veterans are eligible for Home Depot's 10% military discount on Memorial Day with a DoD-issued ID, a DD214 or a Veterans Driver's License. (This discount is good for veterans on July 4th and Veterans Day as well.)

Navy Federal Credit Union

Navy Federal Credit Union is celebrating Military Appreciation Month with special offers for its members. Open a Navy Federal cashRewards credit card and get \$200 cash back when you spend \$2,000 within 90 days of account opening, refinance your current auto loan from another lender and get \$200 credited to your account, or open a new EasyStart or Special EasyStart Certificate and get a \$30 bonus after you make 3 automatic transfers.

SeaWorld

Military veterans and their families get free admission to SeaWorld Orlando, SeaWorld San Antonio, and SeaWorld San Diego, April 27 through June 27. You must register the free single-day ticket(s) for yourself and up to three dependents online before May 16, and after registering, all tickets must be redeemed by June 27. Veterans and active-duty service members can also purchase up to six additional tickets at 50% off.

Military.com | By [Heather Sweeney](#)

The VA Makes Moves on...

It started with the DEET cream, which troops used to protect themselves from insect-borne illness: AChE inhibitor. Then, as the war geared up and fear grew that Saddam Hussein would hit U.S. service members with nerve agent, ground troops took [pyridostigmine bromide](#)—a drug approved for treatment of [myasthenia gravis](#) but experimental as a nerve agent blocker: AChE inhibitor. They washed their laundry, often by hand, with another pesticide, [permethrin](#): AChE inhibitor. And then, as troops moved into Iraq, the United States [blew up containers filled with sarin gas](#): AChE inhibitor.

Gulf War illness has similarities to [fibromyalgia](#) and [chronic fatigue syndrome](#). And, just as people who deal with those illnesses have [fought for validation](#), sick veterans continue, 30 years later, to fight to prove service connection for disability benefits for an illness that, until recently, couldn't be physically seen, with [80% of their claims being disap-](#)

[proved](#), as well as fighting to show the symptoms are physical—not psychiatric.

Still, just as with the medical advancements made for war—prosthetics and blood-staunching bandages and brain injury tests—the treatments, some already in use, for Gulf War illness may also help those who suffer with everything from [fibromyalgia to multiple sclerosis to Alzheimer's](#), all of which may be tied to brain inflammation.

And the advocates, researchers, and VA officials all say it's time to move forward: to fix the disability claims issue, to celebrate research that will soon produce more treatments and possibly biomarkers for diagnosis, to work together for future generations of veterans.

After years of funding in spite of the fighting, new research is coming [that may provide relief for veterans](#) sick with Gulf War illness, as well as for other diseases where both the cause and the cure remain mysteries.



Flag Day JUNE 14...Fly your Flag



Flag Day is a celebration of the American Flag that occurs on the anniversary of the flag's official adoption. Our flag was adopted as the official American flag on June 14, 1777 in the midst of the Revolutionary War. Continental troops fought under many different flags prior to that time.

The Declaration of Independence made the adoption of a single American flag necessary. On the 14th of June 1777, Congress made the following resolution ... "The flag of the United States shall be 13 stripes, alternate red and white, with a union of 13 stars of white on a blue field." It's believed that the new American flag was first flown in battle during the Revolutionary War at the Battle of Cooch's Bridge, Delaware (a British victory) in September of 1777.

In 1818, after a few changes to the design, the U.S. Congress decided to re-

tain the flag's original 13 stripes and add additional stars for each new state thus today's 50 stars.

What do the colors stand for? White is for purity and innocence; red is for valor and hardiness and blue is for vigilance, perseverance and justice.

Over the years, our flag has been carried into combat around the world as a reminder to our soldiers and citizens of the values our nation stands for. It has flown in parades and been draped over far too many caskets of our brave heroes who fought for and believed in the values it stands for. So, we here at VEAP and the ReadBack ask that you keep all of this in mind as June 14th approaches and display your flag knowing the history that has gone into its making. It's truly the symbol of our country and what makes it the greatest. Make every day flag day at your home.

Resources for COVID-19 Veterans

The Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) offers education and training for high-demand jobs to Veterans who are unemployed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Am I eligible for this program?

To be eligible for this program, you must meet all the requirements listed here.

All of these must be true. You're:

At least 22 years old, but not older than 66, **and**

Unemployed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, **and**

Not rated as totally disabled because you can't work, **and**

Not enrolled in a federal or state jobs program

Note: You can't receive VRRAP benefits at the same time as you're receiving unemployment benefits (including CARES Act benefits).

If I'm eligible for other education benefits or VR&E, can I get VRRAP benefits?

No. At the time you apply for VRRAP, you can't be eligible for any of these other benefits:

[Post-9/11 GI Bill](#)

[Montgomery GI Bill](#)

[Veteran Readiness and Employment \(VR&E\)](#)

[Survivors' and Dependents' Educational As-](#)

[sistance \(DEA\)](#)

[Veterans' Educational Assistance Program \(VEAP\)](#)

Note: You can get VRRAP benefits if you were at one time eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill but you've transferred all of your benefits to family members.

VRRAP covers education and training programs approved under the GI Bill and Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) that lead to high-demand jobs. These include associate degrees, non-college degrees, and certificate programs. There is a list of qualified schools on the following website: a.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/ The Department of Labor determines what's considered a high-demand job for VRRAP.

VRRAP will be available until December 11, 2022. We'll stop making payments on this date—or when we reach either the \$386 million funding limit or the 17,250 participant limit.

Call us at [800-827-1000](tel:800-827-1000). We're here Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m to 9:00 p.m ET. If you have hearing loss, call TTY: [711](tel:711).



Memorial Day Tribute by Lee Greenwood and the Singing Sergeants



<https://dimpletimes.com/2020/07/03/new-acapella-version-of-god-bless-the-usa-from-lee-greenwood-and-friends/>

HOPE YOU ENJOY

State of California Re-opening

Reopening Update

We are less than two weeks away from California's full reopening on June 15.

Assuming sufficient vaccine supply for everyone and consistently low and stable COVID-19 hospitalizations, all industries may return to usual operations. There will be exceptions for large-scale, high-risk events. For instance, unless vaccination or testing status is verified, conventions will be capped at 5,000 attendees until Oct. 1.

In addition, face coverings will not be required for fully vaccinated individuals except when using public transportation, when required by your workplace or when required by local regulations or businesses. You are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after your single dose of Johnson and Johnson or two weeks after your second dose of Pfizer or Moderna.

In anticipation of the state's reopening, the state has announced "Vax for the Win," a new multifaceted vaccine incentive program designed to motivate Californians to get their vaccination. All Californians ages 12 and up who are at least partially vaccinated are automatically eligible for the cash prize drawings taking place in June. Thirty winners in total will be selected for the "\$50,000 Fridays" cash prize drawings on June 4 and June 11, totaling \$1.5 million. On June 15, \$1.5 million will be awarded to

10 lucky Californians – for a grand total of \$15 million in cash prizes. Winners must complete their vaccination in order to claim their prize. If someone under 18 wins, the cash will be put in a savings account for them until they turn 18.

Beginning on May 27, the next two million people who begin and complete their COVID-19 vaccination will automatically be eligible to receive a \$50 prepaid or grocery card, worth a total of \$100 million. Californians will receive a text message with an electronic prepaid card redemption code sent to their mobile phone or email address 7 to 10 days after their two-dose series of Pfizer or Moderna, or single dose of Johnson and Johnson. An incentive card will be held for those who start their vaccination at the launch of the program. Those who do not have a mobile phone or email address can receive a physical phone or email address can receive a physical card by calling 1-833-993-3873, 7-10 days after receiving their final dose. Those without a permanent address can also call to coordinate delivery.

For more information on these vaccination incentive programs, visit covid19.ca.gov/vax-for-the-win.



American Legion, and Chip Ganassi Racing Announce effort to Address and Reduce Veteran Suicide

The partnership between The American Legion and Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR) extended beyond the track May 27 and into a crisis in need of a long-overdue solution: veteran suicides.

With the Indianapolis Motor Speedway – where Tony Kanaan will drive The American Legion 48 Honda for CGR in the May 30 Indianapolis 500 – serving as the backdrop, addressing the veteran suicide issue was the focus for American Legion representatives, Kanaan, CGR owner Chip Ganassi and retired Sgt. Maj. Michael Barrett, who served as the 17th Sergeant Major of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Barrett, a member of American Legion Post 18 in Bloomington, Ind., shared what he called “daunting” facts about veteran suicides. “Upwards of 20 veterans take their lives every day. Our nation’s veterans are at 50% greater risk of committing suicide than those that have never worn the cloth of this nation,” he said. “Those numbers don’t include data from the COVID-19 pandemic. Mental health professionals have told us the numbers could be much worse. Folks, this is unacceptable, but it’s also personal.” (Barrett lost 3 comrades to suicide.)

Barrett used the press conference to announce what The American Legion has planned to help in those efforts. “First, we are going to fight for legislation that will bring about real, tangible solutions,” he said. “Second, we are going to leverage our vast footprint of over 12,000 American Legion (posts) in communities across the country to establish

peer-support programs.

“Third, we know that we must do more research, either on our own or in partnerships with others. (We) will share our findings to help make impactful change.”

Noting that taking on veteran suicide requires financial means, Barrett announced that Veterans United Home Loans has committed \$2 million to support The American Legion’s “Race to End Veteran Suicide.” The organization will use the funds to expand programs and opportunities for Legionnaires to obtain peer support training and distribute important mental health and wellness tools and resources through The American Legion infrastructure.

Barrett said he plans on being very vocal about this cause, which he added couldn’t come at a better time or from a better venue. “The Indy 500 is already the most famous race in motorsports, but today is a day that we are going to look back on in history and say, ‘It started here. It started with this race – the race to end veteran suicide,’” he said. “Help us save the lives of veterans who are suffering from the emotional scars of war or other overwhelming stressful life experiences. And for all those veterans who are looking for someone to talk with, I say ‘open the door – just open the door – to one of the 12,000 American Legion posts all across this wonderful nation. We are here. We care. We understand. Let us help.’”

By [Steven B. Brooks](#)
May 27, 2021



Mil-Tree Offers...



P.O. Box 1762, Joshua Tree, CA 92252 . info@mil-tree.org . 323-791-2986 . mil-tree.org

The community potting shed project is a collaboration between Mil-Tree Veterans Project, which brings together veterans, active duty and civilians through arts and dialogue to help transform the wounds of war, and the Joshua Tree Folk School, which aims to inspire creativity and build community through lifelong learning classes and workshops in traditional arts, crafts and woodworking.

This potting shed will be built adjacent to a future community garden at the Joshua Tree Retreat Center, and will share the desired goal of bringing different parts of community together.

***The build timeline is as follows:**

Weekend 1: Tool training and design discussion. Measure, mark, cut and organize materials.

Weekend 2: Assemble framing and set posts.

Weekend 3: Install interior shelving and worktables. Install floor platform, raise walls. Install exterior sheeting, roofing, doors and windows.

*(projected schedule)

The potting shed build, will support the following project outcomes:

- To empower veterans who are adjusting to life at home to find purpose through participation in a community impact project;
- To create a safe space for veteran reintegration;
- To build relationships and community bonds amongst veterans, active duty and civilians.

The short-term goals of the project, include:

1. Building a community potting shed with a diverse group of veteran, active duty and civilian participants over the span of four weekends;
2. Providing tool training, woodworking and project planning skills to participants;
3. Providing direction, focus, positive reinforcement, acceptance and support to veteran community members.

The long-term goals of the project, include:

1. Having participants and their families return to the potting shed and community garden on a monthly basis to plant vegetable starts and tend to the garden;
2. Creating a safe and welcoming environment where veterans continue building relationships within the community.

To sign up and for more information please contact us at info@mil-tree.org

Bits and Pieces

GUITAR ANYONE?

Lessons will be offered through Mission Veteran. Teaching is being planned to begin in Sept. Students are required to attend 8 weekly classes and upon completion of the program, will be presented with a new guitar No charge for veterans. For information contact: Ed Robles 760/883-0266 or Robert Puentes 760/409-3778 .

F-35 STRIKE FIGHTER

Military.com | By [Oriana Pawlyk](#)
The U.S. [Air Force's F-35 Joint Strike Fighter](#) fleet has officially surpassed the number of [F-15 Eagle](#) jets and [A-10 Thunderbolt II](#) attack aircraft, becoming the second largest fighter jet fleet in its aircraft inventory, the service's top general said Friday.

Chief of Staff Gen. Charles "CQ" Brown revealed the new statistic during a hearing about the fiscal 2022 budget before the House Appropriations defense subcommittee. As of this week, he said, the F-35 fighter fleet is second in size only to the [F-16 Fighting Falcon](#); the Air Force has 934 F-16 C and D models. Air Force spokeswoman Maj. Malinda Singleton told Military.com the service has 283 F-35s, which also surpasses the A-10 Warthog fleet [by two aircraft](#)

INFO SOURCES FOR RIVERSIDE VETS

All those interested in keeping up with the very latest in veteran's benefits and activities throughout Riverside County and adjacent areas, besides getting the monthly VEAP ReadBack, should inquire about getting plugged into the monthly Pass Area Veterans Expo Zoom meeting. The meeting is held on the third Thursday of each month at 9AM. Anita Worthen is the coordinator and she brings together a great variety of speakers and attendees to cover and discuss activities throughout the area as well as updates of benefits. Recent topics have included Legislative updates (Grant Gautsche, Director Riverside Veterans Services), American Legion Post 79 Honor Guard, Soldier and Family Read-

iness Services, California National Guard, the Cathedral City Corps of the Salvation Army's programs for veterans (VEAP) and VA Loma Linda Healthcare Services updates.

In order to get plugged in, you must contact Anita at abird82@aol.com in order to be included on the Zoom invitation meeting list. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 17th at 9AM.

FROM GRANT GAUSCH—RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPT OF VETS SERVICES

Greetings Veterans, Friends and Colleagues.

The video offered on page 7 of ReadBack this month, was shared from a good friend who said, and I couldn't agree more that, *"if you are like me, you will have a smile on your face, tears from your eyes, and pride in your heart."*

Please cut, paste, watch it and enjoy.

This Memorial Day, I hope you enjoyed your time, and in the months to come, please take time to remember with heartfelt gratitude, the men and women who gave their lives serving our country to preserve our freedom that we are blessed to enjoy to every day. We must remember that freedom isn't free. In their memory it is our duty to continue to fight for the freedom that they gave their lives defending. Let us never forget. God bless the men and women who paid the ultimate price for our freedom, God bless their families, and God bless America.

BLOOD DRIVE

In June, American Legion Post 739 will be hosting a blood drive through the LifeStream Blood Bank. On June 15th from Noon-5pm LifeStream will be at 44200 Sun Gold Street in Indio (in the main room) for the blood drive. to make an appointment call (800)879-4484 or visit www.LStream.org/post739/



UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

3 - Palm Springs Chapter of the Air Force Association (AFA) monthly meeting at Palm Springs Air Museum. 8:30AM to 10AM. No meetings in July or August. Contact Bill Bramer at wbramer@aol.com

6 - D-Day Landing (1944)

12/13 - Mil-Tree Community Potting Shed Project. In partnership with the Joshua Tree Folk School. 3 weekends in June: 12th/13th, 19th/20th, 26th/27th. 8AM to Noon. For more information or to RSVP, go to Info@Mil-Tree.org

14 - Flag Day. Fly your American flag proudly.

15 - Blood drive (see attached flyer)

15 - Free Veterans Legal Clinic. Riverside County Department of Veterans Services. 4360 Orange Street, Riverside, CA 92501. Appointments suggested. Call 951-955-3060. See attached flyer for more details regarding what is covered.

17 - Veterans Expo Services Meeting via Zoom. 9AM. Contact Anita Worthen at abirdr82@aol.com to learn more.

17 - 1st Marine Division monthly meeting. Contact Gunny Puentes for more information at puentesrc@gmail.com

20 - Father's Day

22 - GI Bill signed (1944)

25 - Input for the July/August Read-Back due.

July

3 - July VEAP ReadBack due out.

4 - Independence Day. Look online for local events and celebrations.

4 - Palm Springs Air Museum Freedom Fly Over. C-47, P-63 and T-28. Flying over Yucca Valley around 6:15 PM and then circling all of the Greater Palm Springs area before returning to the Air Museum.

4 - Agua Caliente Resort and Spa in Rancho Mirage. Fireworks show starts at 9 PM with synchronized music on Mix 100.5. Also will be broadcast live on NBC Palm Springs. Great viewing from lookout point up on Hwy 74.

15 - Veterans Expo Services Meeting via Zoom. 9AM. Contact Anita Worthen at abirdr82@aol.com to learn more.

15 - 1st Marine Division monthly meeting. Contact Gunny Puentes at puentesrc@gmail.com for more information.

AUGUST

6 - Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima (1945)

7 - VFW Post 1534 1st Annual Purple Heart Run 9am (motorcycles/cars) See attached flyer

15 - Hirohito announces Japanese surrender (1945)

19 - Veterans Expo Services Meeting via Zoom. 9AM. Contact Anita Worthen at abirdr82@aol.com to learn more.

25 - Input due for September Read-Back.

September

2 - V-J Day (1945)

2 - Palm Springs Chapter of the Air Force Association (AFA) monthly meeting at Palm Springs Air Museum. 8:30AM to 10AM. First meeting back after summer break. Bill Bramer at wbramer@aol.com

2 - Monthly meeting of Chapter 78 of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). Tentative. 5PM. IDK Buffet. 82485 Indio Blvd, Indio. First meeting back after summer break. Adjutantdavchapter78@gmail.com

6 - Labor Day

11 - Patriot Day ... fly your flag proudly

16 - Veterans Expo Services Meeting via Zoom. 9AM. Contact Anita Worthen at abirdr82@aol.com to learn more.

17 - 1st Marine Division monthly meeting. Contact Gunny Puentes at puentesrc@gmail.com for more information.

17 - Special POW/MIA event at Palm Springs Air Museum. 5PM. Contact Doctor Dave Thompson at dr.dave.psan@gmail.com More details to follow.

22 - First Day of Autumn

25 - Input for the October ReadBack due.

NOTE: Be sure to call ahead to determine if event is still being held or has been changed for any reason.



VETERANS RIDE FREE



*FREE healthcare appointment transportation for veterans**

(877) 932-4100

AVAILABLE TRANSPORTATION

- TAXI • FRIEND
- VSO's • SUN DIAL

**As funds are available. All requests must be approved three days in advance.*



INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY POTTING SHED PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE JOSHUA TREE FOLK SCHOOL

COME JOIN THE FUN AND HELP US BUILD A COMMUNITY POTTING SHED
FOR ALL TO ENJOY FOR YEARS TO COME AT THE NEW
JOSHUA TREE FOLK SCHOOL LOCATED AT THE JOSHUA TREE RETREAT CENTER




3 WEEKENDS IN JUNE: 12/13 - 19/20 - 26/27 8am-noon

FOR MORE INFO AND TO RSVP,
CONTACT US AT INFO@MIL-TREE.ORG

INSTITUTE OF MENTAL PHYSICS






BLOOD DRIVE

Have you given the **Gift of Life?** Assist patients and their loved ones at this critical time by giving blood.

PROUDLY HOSTED BY




Post 739

44200 Sun Gold St., Indio
Tuesday, June 15 from Noon to 5 PM
in the main room.

For appointments call **800.879.4484**
or visit LStream.org/post739/


All whole-blood and double-red cell donations are tested for presence of COVID-19 antibodies.



COUNT ON ME!

From **May - June** all donors will receive a "Count on Me" T-Shirt, while supplies last!

To maintain blood donations, donors should eat properly, rest adequately, and drink plenty of fluids. Total donations are limited. Please do not drink plenty of fluids overnight and avoid alcohol. Donors under the age of 17 must bring a parent/LifeStream parent's consent form.



LifeStream Blood Bank
GIVE HOPE | GIVE LIFE | GIVE BLOOD
800.879.4484 | [LSTREAM.ORG](https://LStream.org)



CAMPAÑA DE SANGRE

¿Ha dado el **Regalo de la Vida?** Ayude a los pacientes y a sus seres queridos en este momento crítico y done sangre.

ORGULLOSAMENTE ANFITRIONADA POR



Puesto 739

44200 Sun Gold St., Indio
Martes 15 de junio de 12 PM a 6 PM
en el salón principal.

Para hacer su cita llame al **800.879.4484**
o visite LStream.org/post739/

Todas las donaciones de sangre completa y de glóbulos rojos dobles se analizan para detectar la presencia de anticuerpos COVID-19.



¡CUENTE CONMIGO!

De **mayo a junio** todos los donantes recibirán una "¡Cuente Conmigo!" camiseta, hasta agotar existencias!

Para mantener los niveles de donación de sangre, los donantes deben comer bien, descansar adecuadamente y beber suficiente líquido. El total de donaciones está limitado. Por favor, no beban mucha agua y eviten el alcohol. Los donantes menores de 17 años deben traer un formulario de consentimiento firmado por un familiar.



LifeStream Blood Bank
GIVE HOPE | GIVE LIFE | GIVE BLOOD
800.879.4484 | [LSTREAM.ORG](https://LStream.org)



FREE VETERANS LEGAL CLINICS

The Riverside County Veterans' Services & Veterans Legal Institute (VLI) offer a free legal clinic for at risk and low-income veterans and their dependents.

Veterans are invited to join the RCVS and VLI for free legal advice and counsel, assistance, and resources in the areas of:

- Healthcare
- Consumer Law
- Discharge Upgrades
- Estate Planning
- Bankruptcy
- Expungements
- Immigration
- Landlord-Tenant
- License Renewals
- Other Civil Legal Issues

Riverside County
Department of Veterans' Services
4360 Orange Street
Riverside, CA 92501

3rd Tuesday of the Month

2020	8/18, 9/15, 10/20, 11/17, 12/15
2021	1/19, 2/16, 3/16, 4/20, 5/18, 6/15

Appointments are suggested
Call (951) 955 - 3060 to schedule



VFW Post 1534

1st ANNUAL PURPLE HEART RUN

Please join us to remember and support our Purple heart recipients.

August 7th 2021

50% of all proceeds will be donated to the Purple Heart Foundation.

We will rally at VFW Post 1534
1 Club House dr, Desert Hot Springs
9am

We will ride to General Patton's Museum
62-510 Chiriaco Rd, Chiriaco Summit, CA

\$20.00 a rider \$10.00 a passenger Lunch included

Hamburgers & hotdogs with sides

Must register at VFW Post 1534

Contact Jeff Horton for more info veteranspost1534@gmail.com

Motorcycles, cars are welcomed.