



ReadBack SEPTEMBER 2021

## Veteran's Easy Access Program

# ReadBack

### 9/11 On Remembrance and Perspective...



9/11 Memorial,  
La Quinta, CA

The date was September 11, 2001...20 short years ago. Four California-bound commercial airliners took off in the northeastern United States. Commuter flights and flights bound from other states left routinely with no fanfare, from their various airports. Mid flight, all four planes were hijacked by a group of 19 al-Qaeda terrorists who were divided into groups of five and four respectively.

At 8:46am, the first plane hit the North tower of the World Trade Center. At 9:03, the second plane hit the South tower. At 9:37, the third plane crashed into the Pentagon.

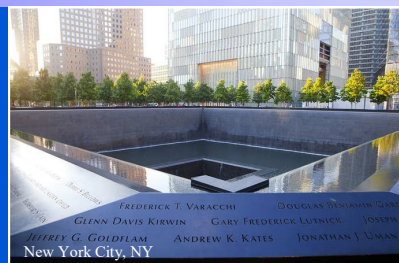
So what happened to the fourth plane? At 10:03 the fourth plane was downed by passengers who bravely diverted and crashed the plane from its intended target in Washington, D.C. All passengers perished in a field in Ohio.

That day, a total of 2,977 fatalities were reported and 25,000 injuries. In addition, count at least \$10 billion in infrastructure and property damage. This terrorist attack remains the deadliest in human history and the single deadliest incident for firefighters and law enforcement officers in the history of the United States, with 340 firefighters and 72 police officers killed.

We remember this incident each year, to commemorate those innocent citizens who lost their lives that day, and to honor the public servants, or what are now called, "first responders"/heroes. A tragedy to be sure and of the utmost severity. We know how to grieve, and we know how to be incensed by such unholy, evil, and senseless actions.

So, twenty years, later, how can we put a learned perspective on this tragedy and not continue to let it sear into our hearts and fears? Someone once said that harboring bitterness and resentment is like you drinking poison and waiting for the other guy to die. A Chinese fortune cookie once said...Be an optimist. There does not seem too much use being anything else.

So if there is any good to be had, it should make a difference to dwell on the heroes in the fourth plane, and on the ground; and to know that there are 9/11 memorials in nearly every state of our union, and in so many foreign countries. Here is an assortment of the memories of thoughtful artists, the grateful public, dedicated associations, and cities and states who have been made thoughtful and reflective, and who will NEVER FORGET.



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Boston, MA  
Clovis, CA  
Grapevine, TX  
Hudson, NH  
Jersey City, NJ  
La Quinta, CA  
London, England

Los Angeles, CA  
Padua, Italy  
Ramot, Jerusalem  
St. Louis, MO

...But a very few.

## Updates

### VA Palm Desert Clinic Relocation



*Rough Entrance*



*Ample parking. Next to Arizona Tile*

The new Clinic on Dinah Shore in the Costco shopping center, Palm Desert, is well underway. Originally slated to open this fall, the official opening date is now February 1, 2022. At this writing, the infrastructure is being installed, including air conditioning, and the “vault” for the audiology equipment. Regularly provided services will still be provided and Women’s Health facilities will be enhanced. In all, there will be somewhere around 60 offices. Lab work and testing will be done onsite. Although not dynamic from the outside, and the building is looking forward to a paint job and the installation of a flag pole, and appropriate signage the inside of the new clinic will be up to date and more comfortable. There are 4 such facilities being built at this time, of which the Palm Desert clinic is the largest by far. Close to freeways, and with ample parking, the VA is to be commended for putting their funding and efforts to good use in the Coachella Valley. Meanwhile, the current clinic will remain open. Updates in the ReadBack will be forthcoming.



*Air conditioning/Electrical*



**ONE NUMBER**  
**Call 1-800-MyVA411**  
**(1-800-698-2411)**

*The number to call when you  
don’t know who to call.*

You only need to remember **one number** for information on **VA care, benefits, and services** or to speak to a **live agent** for assistance!

## Updates



*"Construction of Veterans Village Housing Community of Cathedral City commenced during the first week of April 2021. The original construction schedule was expected to require 15 months, with an estimated construction completion date of June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022. To date, we are on pace to complete construction 30 days early."*

*Fantastic progress has been made so far. While there have been some challenges, 90% of the trades have been bought out, under slab plumbing and electrical conduit are complete. On and offsite curb and gutter is 90% complete, fire risers have been installed and the slab pours have begun on the north side of the building. Electrical vault has been installed. Framing is to begin at the end of August and should be completed in six weeks."*



The Riverside County Department of Veterans Services was able to retain Ralph Duarte, so operations are continuing at the Indio office. We have been interviewing last week and will be interviewing more this week to file vacancies in Indio, Hemet and Riverside.

Edward Hernandez is the new veterans representative for Indio to fill John Dagneau's position, who retired. Edward Hernandez training at the Indio office. We also are recruiting to fill an OAI position for Indio.

## Positions at The Post Office

USPS is specifically reaching out to Veterans as they staff up. USPS has a [long history](#) of providing career opportunities to those who've previously served and values the leadership, reliability, and high-tech skills Veterans can bring, as well as their loyalty, leadership, reliability, and integrity.

Nearly 100,000 Veterans currently work for USPS and more than 100,000 positions are available across the nation such as:

- City and rural postal carriers
- City carrier assistants
- Tractor trailer operators
- Sales and support
- Mail processors
- Mail handler assistants

These positions are available full time, or just on weekends and holidays. Apply online at:

<https://www.postofficeplacement.com/apply/>

Veterans, disabled Veterans, Reservists, spouses of disabled Veterans, widows or widowers of Veterans all receive special preference for these USPS positions.

To view positions near you or across the country visit [USPS.com/Careers](https://USPS.com/Careers)





## VA , Indio Updates

More updates at the Indio office of the VA.

Readback reported last issue that there had been a new employee hired to join Ralph Duarte in the VA office. That employee has been offered a new position and she has now been replaced. In addition to Ralph being promoted to better meet the needs of the veterans in Riverside's 4th District an additional position will be filled which will give that location a total of 3 representatives.

The new representative already hired is:



Edward S. Hernandez.  
USMC Retired

GySgt Hernandez was born in Los Angeles in 1981 and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps upon completion of high school.

Edward attended boot camp in June of 1999 graduated in October of 1999 and would proceed to the School of Infantry Marine Combat Training at Camp Pendleton, California and would follow on to Marine Corps Communications Electronic School in Twenty-Nine Palms, California.

Edward served with the following units; Battery R, 5th Battalion 10th Marines in Camp LeJeune, N.C., 2nd Battalion 8th Marines and deployed to Afghanistan until May of 2004 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) from March to September of 2005, and Fallujah, Iraq from July of 2006 to February of 2007. He was then assigned to 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, Company E at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego CA, Combat Logistics Regiment 1 at Camp Pendleton, CA for one year, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Communications Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group, and

Communication Training Battalion, Company D as Chief Instructor for the Telecommunications Systems Chief Course.

Edward attained the rank of Gunnery Sergeant and retired from the Marine Corps on June 30, 2019 achieving 20 years of honorable and faithful service.

Edward possesses a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Homeland Security and Emergency Management from Ashford University and is currently Attending Brandman University to attain a Master's in Business Administration with a concentration in Organizational Leadership.



### TRICARE Dental Program Covers Braces. But Does it Cover Clear Aligners?

By TRICARE Communications

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – Are you wondering if you can get clear aligners with the [TRICARE Dental Program](#) (TDP)? That's a common question many TDP enrollees have—and we've got the answer for you. The TDP covers 50% of the cost of clear aligners and other orthodontic services up to the [lifetime orthodontic maximum](#) of \$1,750. Your dentist must administer the clear aligners for them to be covered by the TDP.





## World War II Veteran, 96, Knits 400 Hats for The Salvation Army During Pandemic



“Volunteering does something to a person. You’re working for others,” he [explained](#) to KARE 11. “There’s people here that want me to sell them, but I won’t.”

Cornish, who sometimes stitches messages from the Bible into the wool, knows why he does what he does. “I feel I’m working for the Lord,” he explained, “and that’s a good feeling.”

Taking almost four hours to knit one hat, Cornish managed to donate 400 hats to The Salvation Army in 2020 alone.

The veteran’s son, Jerry Cornish, says his father has always lent support to others.

“This is how he got to be 96 years old, because he’s helping everybody else,” said Jerry. “Everybody’s more important than he is, in his mind.”

Cornish’s service to others began when he volunteered to join the Second World War effort fresh out of high school. After serving in the Pacific, the Navy man continued to volunteer back home in Minnesota while helping raise five children with his late first wife, Lorraine.

The volunteering tradition also continued with his second wife, Marvel.

According to The Salvation Army, Cornish has been [knitting](#) “off and on” for around 20

years, and took up the hobby more seriously when Marvel passed away. Each hat costs the veteran about \$6 to make, but he jokes that each would cost \$3 more if he didn’t buy his yarn on sale.

Salvation Army warehouse manager Beth Koski praised Cornish for being a remarkable man, exclaiming that he is always so pleased to give his handiwork to people in need.

The veteran has received both shots of the COVID-19 vaccine but doesn’t plan to give up his helping hobby. He has also taught others at Champlin Shores how to weave hats.

“Other people are getting something out of my labor,” he [told](#) CNN. “It’s better than playing cards or looking out the window.”

While the winter season has come to an end, for Cornish there is no stopping. He is already planning to knit baby hats that he also plans to donate to the Salvation Army.

He said he intends to continue his newfound hobby “until I take my last breath.”



By Louise Bevan  
Reprinted with permission  
Epoch Times  
April 9, 2021  
([www.epochtimes.com](http://www.epochtimes.com))

## Code Names

In the July 2021 issue of the American Legion Magazine there is a great article by Alan W. Dowd on the use of code names by the American military. Many are well known such as the Manhattan Project, Desert Storm, Rolling Thunder, Operation Overlord and Enduring Freedom, but many are not as well known.

“Naming operations seems to have originated with the German General Staff during the last two years of World War I,” Army intelligence officer Gregory Sieminski explains in an Army War College essay. Among the code names used by Imperial Germany were Archangel, Mars and Achilles. For the U.S. Military, the use of code names took hold during WWII. “In early 1942,” Sieminski writes, “the War Plans Division culled words from an unabridged dictionary to come up with a list of 10,000 common nouns and adjectives that were not suggestive of operational activities or locations.”

Here are some code names that cropped up during WWII: Operation Overlord (France). Torch (North Africa), Dynamo (Dunkirk evacuation) and Tube Alloys (atomic bomb research). A lesser known one was Operation Toenails (allied invasion of New Georgia and the Solomon Islands) which was part of Operation Cartwheel in the Pacific. On the German side, there was Case White (invasion of Poland), Barbarossa (invasion of Russia) and Autumn Mist (Battle of the Bulge/Ardennes). Japan’s Pearl Harbor attack was Operation Z. The U.S. shoot down of the plane carrying Yamamoto, who planned Pearl Harbor, was Operation Vengeance.

Downfall was “the grand plan for the invasion of Japan,” an Army history recounts. It contemplated a gargantuan blow so large and complex that it enfolded two other code-named operations: Olympic (targeting Kyushu in December 1945) and Coronet (Targeting Honshu in March 1946), but they were made unnecessary by Centerboard I and II each carried out by a single U.S. bomber delivering two nuclear weapons code named Little Boy and Fat Man as part of the Manhattan Project which was successfully tested at Trinity (code for bombing range in New Mexico)

Code names have been developed for many other uses such as Presidents (Truman was General, Eisenhower Providence and Kennedy Lancer), the White House was Crown and the presidential limousine Stagecoach. Military exercises have code names such as REFORGER in Germany Team Spirit in South Korea and Bright Star in Egypt. The Berlin Airlift was Operation Vittles.

The Korean War produced Chromite and Ripper and Viet Nam Rolling Thunder and Linebacker I and II as well as the lesser known Operation Breakfast. Later efforts were Desert Storm (Iraq/Kurdistan), Restore Hope (Somalia), Red Dawn (capture of Saddam Hussein) and Enduring Freedom (our post 9/11 campaign). Even as recent as last year, Operation Warp Speed was developed to create COVID-19 vaccines in record time.

Great article! Only a few of the codes are covered here. If you have a chance to pick up a copy or view on-line, it’s well worth the time.

### Clean Code

### #002 Names

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# A Message to Soldiers Who Served in Afghanistan

## You are not alone.

Veterans may question the meaning of their service or whether it was worth the sacrifices they made. They may feel more moral distress about experiences they had during their service. **It's normal to feel this way.** Talk with your friends and families, reach out to battle buddies, connect with a peer-to-peer network, or sign up for mental health services. Scroll down for a list of common reactions and coping advice.

### Common Reactions

In reaction to current events in Afghanistan, Veterans may:

- Feel frustrated, sad, helpless, grief or distressed
- Feel angry or betrayed
- Experience an increase in mental health symptoms like symptoms of PTSD or depression
- Sleep poorly, drink more or use more drugs
- Try to avoid all reminders or media or shy away from social situations
- Have more military and homecoming memories

Veterans may question the meaning of their service or whether it was worth the sacrifices they made. They may feel more moral distress about experiences they had during their service. Veterans may feel like they need to expect and/or prepare for the worst. For example, they may:

- Become overly protective, vigilant, and guarded
- Become preoccupied by danger
- Feel a need to avoid being shocked by, or unprepared for, what may happen in the future

Feeling distress is a normal reaction to negative events, especially ones that feel personal. It can be helpful to let yourself feel those feelings rather than try to avoid them. Often, these feelings will naturally run their course. If they continue without easing up or if you feel overwhelmed by them, the suggestions below can be helpful.

### Strategies for Managing Ongoing Distress

At this moment, it may seem like all is lost, like your service or your sacrifices were for nothing. Consider the ways that your service made a difference, the impact it had on others' lives or on your own life. Remember that now is just one moment in time and that things will continue to change.

It can be helpful to focus on the present and to engage in the activities that are most meaningful and valuable to you. Is there something you can do today that is important to you? This can be as an individual, a family member, a parent, or a community member. Something that is meaningful to you in regard to your work or your spirituality? Such activities won't change the past or the things you can't control, but they can help life feel meaningful and reduce distress, despite the things you cannot change.

It can also help to consider your thinking. Ask yourself if your thoughts are helpful to you

right now. Are there ways you can change your thinking to be more accurate and less distressing? For example, are you using extreme thinking where you see the situation as all bad or all good? If so, try and think in less extreme terms. For example, rather than thinking "my service in Afghanistan was useless" consider instead "I helped keep Afghanistan safe."

Finally, consider more general coping strategies that you may want to try including:

**Engage in Positive Activities.** Try to engage in positive, healthy, or meaningful activities, even if they are small, simple actions. Doing things that are rewarding, meaningful, or enjoyable, even if you don't feel like it, can make you feel better.

**Stay Connected.** Spend time with people who give you a sense of security, calm, or happiness, or those who best understand what you are going through.

**Practice Good Self Care.** Look for positive coping strategies that help you manage your emotions. Listening to music, exercising, practicing breathing routines, spending time in nature or with animals, journaling, or reading inspirational text are some simple ways to help manage overwhelming or distressing emotions.

**Stick to Your Routines.** It can be helpful to stick to a schedule for when you sleep, eat, work, and do other day-to-day activities.

**Limit Media Exposure.** Limit how much news you take in if media coverage is increasing your distress.

**Use a mobile app.** Consider one of VA's self-help apps (see <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/appvid/mobile/>) such as PTSD Coach which has tools that can help you deal with common reactions like, stress, sadness, and anxiety. You can also track your symptoms over time.

**PTSD Coach Online.** A series of online video coaches will guide you through 17 tools to help you manage stress. PTSD Coach Online is used on a computer, rather than a mobile device, and therefore can offer tools that involve writing.

If you develop your own ways of adapting to ongoing events and situations, you may gain a stronger sense of being able to deal with challenges, a greater sense of meaning or purpose, and an ability to mentor and support others in similar situations.

There is a list of help sources at the end of ReadBack.





## Welcome Back!!



California is finally open!  
The Palm Springs Air Museum is completely open and back to normal.  
At the present time our third annual National POW/MIA Recognition Day event is officially a GO!  
Looking forward to seeing you then.

### FRIDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 17, 2021.

5:00 - Check In

5:30 - National Anthem and Prayer Service

5:45 - Introductions

6:00 – Featured Speaker (U.S. Navy Captain Steve “Shep” Shepard - an Intelligence officer who recently retired after 31 years of service. Captain Shepard was a Vietnam Analyst with the Defense POW/MIA Office

from 1993 -1996 who traveled to Vietnam/ Laos/ Cambodia to assist in MIA recovery efforts.

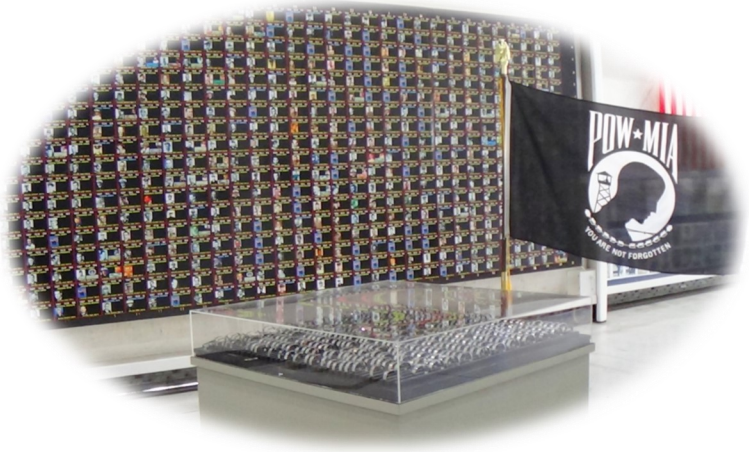
6:30 - Social Gathering (wine and appetizers served by LULU of Palm Springs)

POWs and POW/MIA family members are invited complements of the Museum.  
Cost for bracelet donors and guests is \$10.00.

Attire – Evening Casual (Men – shirt & slacks) (Ladies – something cool)

Tickets are available at the door, or in advance to Dr. Dave Thompson:

[Dr.Dave.psam@gmail.com](mailto:Dr.Dave.psam@gmail.com)



## Local Benefits for Vets



From Gunny Sgt. Robert Puentes: The First Marine Division Association Chapter meeting will be held on 9/16 at 1130 am. Lunches are at Classic Club 1130am. \$20 . Please give advance notice for headcount .  
[puentesrc@gmail.com](mailto:puentesrc@gmail.com)

The Veterans Services Division of the VA is offering guitar classes for a few wanna-be guitar players. Only a few spots remain. Contact the FaceBook address below if a vet wants to get on the list. Classes will be once a week for 7-8

weeks. Exact time and date to be announced this fall. It is anticipated that a professional instructor will be leading the group.

Also...

Gunny is offering free fitness and nutrition consultation to veterans.

Sign up thru Facebook  
[@gunnystrainingcenter](https://www.facebook.com/gunnystrainingcenter) FB

## Military Designation ID

Most states offer a free veteran's designation on their driver's licenses, and if you want to get your full benefits as a veteran, you will want to make sure you get yours.

Having your driver's license updated with your veteran status ensures you easily can get special veteran's-only discounts and other benefits that are offered by private businesses as well as state and local governments.

For What Kind of Discounts Are Veterans Eligible?

. These discounts cover almost every type of business you can imagine: from golf courses to drug-stores to theme parks. However it can be cumbersome to carry your [DD-214](#) with you all the time in order to get these discounts, and that really isn't something you should be doing.

To make it easy to get these discounts, you can apply for a [veteran's ID card](#) from the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#), but the VA only gives this card to honorably discharged veterans, and having to carry an extra ID card with you can be a hassle. That's why it's always good to get that veteran's designation on your driver's license.

Either your VA ID card or your state-issued ID or license with a veteran designation is usually all you need to take advantage of the many discounts listed in our discounts section as well as other discounts. These "other" discounts can be extremely beneficial if you take advantage of them.

Besides the usual discounts that national retailers and other businesses offer, many local companies offer veterans discounts. While most of these discounts are usually around 10% on goods and services, they can be worth a lot of money depending on the company. Sure, a 10% discount on breakfast isn't necessarily something that will make a big difference in your life, but if you are purchasing a big-ticket item, that discount can be a game changer.

Buying a new refrigerator? That 10% discount can be over \$200. Just found out you need a new \$10,000 furnace? That 10% discount is \$1,000. How about home improvement? Many contractors offer 5%

or 10% discounts on construction services like siding or a new roof. Those savings can add up very quickly.

So, all things being equal, you always should seek out the business that offers a veterans discount if you want to save money. It never hurts to ask whether the business offers a veterans discount when you are shopping around for services.

Also, many states offer a ton of discounts and other benefits for veterans that you may not be aware of, and having an easily accessible veteran's ID card can make it much simpler for you and your family to receive them.

For example, most states offer veterans some type of discount for admission to state parks or state fairs; others offer free or discounted hunting and fishing licenses. One thing you may not know is that many states offer these discounts to non-resident veterans.

So if you're planning a vacation this summer, or staying in and doing some home-improvement, you may be able to save hundreds of dollars just by using your veterans discount.



Military.com | By [Jim Absher](#)

## Remarriage Rules Relaxed for Surviving Spouses Seeking VA Benefits

A little-noticed provision in Public Law 116-315, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2020, makes it easier for surviving [spouses](#) to continue receiving Department of Veterans Affairs benefits if they remarry.

The law made changes to the remarriage rules for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). Effective Jan. 5, 2021, a veteran's surviving spouse who remarries after the veteran's death will remain eligible for the benefit paid by the [VA](#) if the spouse is at least 55 years old. The remarriage must have occurred on or after that date.

Prior to this change in the law, surviving spouses who remarried before their 57th birthday lost eligibility for the benefit.

### What Is Dependency and Indemnity Compensation?

DIC is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of certain deceased veterans, including survivors of:

- Military members who died while on active duty
- Veterans whose death was the result of a service-related injury or disease
- Veterans whose death wasn't related to

their service but who received VA disability compensation

The monthly tax-free benefit is currently more than \$1,300.

To be eligible for DIC, the surviving spouse must have been married to a service member who died on active duty or married a veteran whose death was service-connected. There are other rules regarding when the marriage occurred, if there are children or if the marriage was terminated due to divorce.

See: [Details about the dependency and Indemnity Compensation program](#)

If the spouse remarries after the veteran dies, they can remain eligible for the benefit if the date of remarriage is on or after Dec. 16, 2003, and they are at least 57 years old.

Effective Jan. 5, 2021, that age limit dropped to 55.

The surviving children of a qualifying veteran are also eligible for the DIC benefit if they are unmarried and under 18, or between the ages of 18 and 23 and attending school. Certain adult children who cannot provide for themselves due to physical or mental disabilities also can be entitled to DIC. Some surviving parents may be eligible for the benefit if they meet income limits.

Keep Up with the Ins and Outs of Military Life

For the latest military news and tips on military family benefits and more, [subscribe to Military.com](#) and have the information you need delivered directly to your inbox.

Military.com | By [Jim Absher](#)





## Bits and Pieces

### HOW IS GETTING MARRIED A QUALIFYING LIFE EVENT?

Getting married is one of TRICARE's QLEs, like giving birth, moving, or retiring. These life changes may mean different [health plans](#) are available to you and your family. And they allow you to make eligible enrollment changes outside of [TRICARE Open Season](#). As outlined in the [TRICARE Qualifying Life Events Fact Sheet](#), you can stay in the same plan, change plans, or enroll in a plan after a QLE. These rules apply to [TRICARE Prime](#) and [TRICARE Select](#). If you use [TRICARE For Life](#), marriage would be a QLE for your spouse if they're under age 65. And keep in mind that premium-based plans ([TRICARE Reserve Select](#), [TRICARE Retired Reserve](#), [TRICARE Young Adult](#), and the [Continued Health Care Benefit Program](#)) offer continuous open enrollment throughout the year.

### COVID VISITS NOT PERMITTED

At this time, children are not allowed (under 18) at VA Loma Linda Facilities until further notice due to Covid-19. (Please share with your Veterans & their loved ones, thank you!)

### BLUE WATER NAVY - NEHMER

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it will readjudicate claims for Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

This review is part of the Veterans Benefits Administration's implementation of the November 5, 2020, U.S. District Court of the Northern District of California decision to readjudicate previously denied claims as applied in *Nehmer vs. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*. Readjudication means VA will review the evidence of record and provide replacement decisions in the cases of Veterans who were previously denied service connection for one or more herbicide related conditions on the basis that military service was not performed on the landmass of the Republic of Vietnam or on its inland waterways. This review will also apply to eligible survivors of deceased Vietnam era Veterans. VA is dedicated to ensuring all Veterans receive the benefits they have earned. VA ensures that we have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of the Veteran community. Eligible survivors of deceased Veterans may also benefit from the policy and may be eligible for benefits based on the Veterans' service. Veterans who have a condition caused by herbicide exposure during military service can learn more about Agent Orange exposure at this website: <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/>

### EXPRESS SCRIPTS MOBILE APP

Looking for an easier way to manage your prescriptions? Tired of waiting at a pharmacy to pick up your medications? The [Express Scripts mobile app](#) can help you access your [TRICARE pharmacy benefit](#) and securely manage the medicine you take.

[Read the article](#) to learn more about the app and what you can do with it.

Keep up with [TRICARE](#) and [COVID-19](#) updates. [Tricare.com](#)

### WORK AT VA, JOIN US IN OUR MISSION TO SUPPORT VETERANS

[VA Careers "Talk About It Tuesday" LinkedIn Live broadcast](#) on July 27th features special guest Angie Weldon, Director, Human Capital Management Operations, Office of Information and Technology. Join our broadcast at noon to hear Ms. Weldon discuss **IT Careers at VA**.



### VA TO REQUIRE VACCINATIONS

The Department of Veterans Affairs will require its health care employees to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, becoming the first major federal agency to implement such a mandate.

### VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER

The PD public library veterans Resource Center is back open on Monday and Wednesday from 10-2:00 PM to assist Veterans complete Disability claims. Interested veterans must bring a copy of their DD-214. First come/ first served... no appointments needed.

## VA Program Provides Veterinary Care for Some Service Dogs



20 Jul 2021 Military.com | By [Jim Absher](#)

If you have a service dog from an accredited agency you may be able to get veterinary care for it from the VA.

Veterans who have a service dog to assist them in functioning because of a severe mobility impairment due to visual, hearing or mental health issues are eligible for the program.

VA doesn't provide service dogs for veterans, however in some cases, VA may help eligible veterans locate an accredited dog provider so the vet-

eran can get their own dog. Veterans approved for service dogs are referred to Assistance Dogs International accredited agencies or International Guide Dog Federation accredited agencies.

To be eligible for the veterinary benefit the dog and veteran must have successfully completed a training program offered by an organization accredited by [Assistance Dogs International](#) or the [International Guide Dog Federation](#).

Veterans who have their own medically approved service dogs are able to access comprehensive veterinary services from the VA. This care includes annual visits for preventive care and maintenance care (e.g., immunizations, dental cleanings, screenings, etc.), as well as urgent/emergent care, prescription medications, and care for chronic illnesses and/or disorders when treatment enables the dog to perform its duties in service to the veteran.

Veterans are not billed for covered services.

## A Prayer for the Troops and Their Loved Ones Tiffany Curtis | Crosswalk Faith Editor



Lord, we lift up the military troops that are in or being deployed to Afghanistan right now. Protect them as they give up their safety to protect us. Thank you that we live in a free country, where the choice can be made to fight for this freedom. Thank you for every single person who has dedicated their own lives to protecting this nation and people, as well as the people of other nations. Help them evacuate people with safety and be a source of hope to those feeling trapped and afraid. We thank them for their sacrifice – a sacrifice that you are so familiar with.

one or has a loved one in the military, and so many are fearful for their loved ones being deployed at this moment. Cover each one with a blanket of peace, knowing that you guide each of us to your ultimate victory. Comfort every veteran, family member, friend, and loved one who feels fearful or uneasy right now.

*No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me," declares the Lord. ([Isaiah 54:17](#))*

AMEN

Nearly every person knows some-

## Hails and Farewells



Jeffrey Moritz

### Jeff Moritz

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of VEAP's own Jeff Moritz, in August from COVID.

As a valued member of this Salvation Army's veterans Steering Committee, Jeff worked with VEAP since the beginning of the program, Jeff provided direction, time, talent and treasures to the Veterans Expo each year, and was a faithful and dependable member of the group of dedicated individuals who have made VEAP "go" for more than 11 years. Above all else, Jeff believed in giving back.

As a construction team leader, the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of the Coachella Valley, and President/Founder of The Desert Com-

munities Fuller Center for Housing, Jeff was responsible for the construction of more than 35 affordable houses. Jeff was a proud veteran US Army NCO, who served during the Viet Nam conflict and, through his 30 year dedication to Rotary International, was instrumental in the creation of the USO facility at Palm Springs International Airport.

Jeff moved from the valley in 2019 to be with his immediate family.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth. Leave a memory at: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/livingston-nj/jeffrey-moritz-10309154>

### Marilyn Paige

We are deeply saddened to report that long time First Marine Chapter Honorary member Marilyn Paige passed away on July 15. Marilyn Paige was the widow of Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Mitchell Paige, a Founder of the Chapter.

A memorial service was held for Marilyn at the Southwest Church in Indian Wells, CA. on July 28.

Upon Colonel Paige's passing Marilyn continued in his stead, participating in all Desert Cities Chapter activities and sup-

porting the Marine Corps JROTC program at Desert Hot Springs High School, the Marine Corps League and the Marine Corps Devil Pups program.

Marilyn, carried on Colonel Paige's strong support of the Marine Corps School of Infantry as a frequent Guest of Honor at class graduations and presenter of the Mitchell Paige award to the outstanding graduate.

She was honored and will be missed.



Willa Marilyn Paige



Cpl. Hunter Lopez, USMC

### Cpl. Hunter Lopez, USMC

The Riverside Sheriff's Association released a statement on behalf of Cpl. Hunter Lopez's(22) parents, Riverside Deputy Sheriff Alicia Lopez and Riverside Sheriff's Captain Herman Lopez, the outlet reported the statement said, "We are heartbroken to hear this sad news about Hunter, who chose to follow a life of service, selflessness, courage and sacrifice, like his parents. Hunter was a

Riverside Sheriff's Explorer Scout with the Palm Desert Station from September 2014 to August 2017,"

The RSA said Lopez was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines "who answered the call to serve, defend and protect our nation."

Corporal Lopez proudly served as a representative of the Coachella Valley.





# UPCOMING EVENTS



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

**6 -** Labor Day

**7 -** Monthly meeting of chapter 78 of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). 5PM. IDK Buffet. 82485 Indio Blvd, Indio. First meeting back after summer break. Contact Ron Heath at [frtman91@icloud.com](mailto:frtman91@icloud.com) or Chapter Adjutant at [Ajutantdavchapter78@gmail.com](mailto:Ajutantdavchapter78@gmail.com)

**7 -** VFW Post 3699 and its Auxiliary monthly meeting and pot luck dinner. Pot luck from 5:30 to 6:30PM and meeting at 6:30PM. American Legion Post 739 Hall, 44-200 Sungold Street, Indio. Contact Mike Pierson at [piersoninvestigation-service@gmail.com](mailto:piersoninvestigation-service@gmail.com)

**8 -** VA Loma Linda Veterans Community Outreach Team (VCOT) Meeting. 2PM to 3:30PM. Loma Linda VA Ambulatory Care Center. Michelle Martinez at [michelle.martinez9@va.gov](mailto:michelle.martinez9@va.gov) or 909-787-4601.

**9 -** Veterans Awareness Sub Committee/San Bernardino. 3PM to 5PM. Normally the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month. Contact Jonathan Buffong at [jona-than.buffong@dbh.sbcounty.gov](mailto:jona-than.buffong@dbh.sbcounty.gov) or Minette O'Bryan at [mobryan@dbh.sbcounty.gov](mailto:mobryan@dbh.sbcounty.gov) Teleconference open to all veterans.

**10 to 12 -** Aluminum Sand Casting Workshops. 9AM to 5PM each day. Scholarships available. Open to Veterans and family members (ages 16+). Yucca Valley Materials Lab. Details? Go to [info@mil-tree.org](mailto:info@mil-tree.org)

**11 -** Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance ... fly your flag proudly

**14 -** California Recall Election. Be sure and vote!

**16 -** Veterans Expo Services Meeting via Zoom. 9AM. Open to all. Contact Anita Worthen at [abird82@aol.com](mailto:abird82@aol.com) to learn more.

**16 -** 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division monthly meeting. Classic Club. Palm Desert. North of I-10 off Varner Road (call 760-601-3600 for directions). 11:30AM. Lunch meeting (cost). Contact Gunny Puentes at [puentesrc@gmail.com](mailto:puentesrc@gmail.com) for more information.

**17 -** Riverside County Veterans Advisory Committee (VAC) Legislative Breakfast. 8AM. Norm's Restaurant, 3889 Tyler Street, Riverside. Guest Speaker: Congressman Mark Takano, Chairman House Veterans Affairs Committee. Questions? Contact Artie Allen (Vice Chairman of VAC) at 301-364-8040 or [artie.allen3@yahoo.com](mailto:artie.allen3@yahoo.com) See attached flyer.

**17 -** Special POW/MIA event at Palm Springs Air Museum. 5PM. Open to all but contact Dr Thompson to make a reservation. Contact Doctor Dave Thompson at [dr.dave.psam@gmail.com](mailto:dr.dave.psam@gmail.com) See details in this issue of ReadBack (also in July/August issue).

**18 -** POW/MIA Recognition Day.

**18 -** U.S. Air Force Established (1947)

**18 -** Veterans Resource Fair. Patriotic Hall. 5885 Luckie Ave, 29 Palms, CA. 10AM to 2PM. Help with all your veteran's needs. Call 760-367-7562, Ext: 1025 to learn more.

**21 -** Inland Empire Women Veterans Collaborative (IEWVC). 9AM to 11AM. IEWomenvets@gmail.com or 951-734-6300.

**25 -** Input for the October ReadBack due.

**27 -** Gold Star Mothers Day

**29 -** VFW Day ... VFW established in 1899

**29 -** 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Mental Health Summit. 10AM. VA Loma Linda. Virtual format. Contact Veronica Fry at 909-825-7084 Ext:7780 or [veronica.fry@va.gov](mailto:veronica.fry@va.gov) or Raymond Espinoza at 909-825-7084 Ext:7780 to learn more. See attached flyer.



**3 -** October VEAP ReadBack due out

**5 -** Monthly meeting of Chapter 78 of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). 5PM. IDK Buffet (check to be sure). 82485 Indio Blvd, Indio. [Adjutantdavchapter78@gmail.com](mailto:Adjutantdavchapter78@gmail.com)

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**7 -** Palm Springs Chapter of the Air Force Association (AFA) monthly meeting at the Palm Springs Air Museum. 8:30AM to 10AM. All veterans welcome. Bill Bramer at [wbramer@aol.com](mailto:wbramer@aol.com)

**7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> -** Vietnam Moving Wall coming to Corona.

**11 -** Columbus Day observed

**13 -** U.S. Navy established (1775)

**13 -** Veterans Standdown. Perris Hill Park, 1135 E. Highland Avenue, San Bernardino. 8:30AM to 3:30PM. Homeless Resource event.

**21 -** Veterans Expo Services Meeting via Zoom. 9AM. Open to all. Contact Anita Worthen at [abird82@aol.com](mailto:abird82@aol.com) to get connected or to learn more.

**21 -** 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division Monthly Meeting. Classic Club. Palm Desert. North of the I-10 off Varner Road (call 760-601-3600 for directions). 11:30AM. Lunch meeting (cost). Contact Gunny Puentes at [puentesrc@gmail.com](mailto:puentesrc@gmail.com) for more details.

**25 -** Input for the November VEAP ReadBack due.

**27 -** Navy Day



**2 -** Election Day. Get out and vote. Fly your flag.

**2 -** Monthly meeting of Chapter 78 of the (DAV). 5PM. IDK Buffet 82485 Indio Blvd, Indio. [Adjutantdav78@gmail.com](mailto:Adjutantdav78@gmail.com)

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**4 -** Palm Springs Air Force Association (AFA) monthly meeting at Palm Springs Air Museum. 8:30 to 10AM. All veterans welcome. Bill Bramer at [wbramer@aol.com](mailto:wbramer@aol.com)

**6 -** Turn your clocks back tonight ... Daylight Savings

**10 -** U.S. Marine Corps established (1775)

**11 -** Veterans Day.

**11 -** Veterans Day Parade City of Beaumont (see flyer)

**11 -** 33<sup>rd</sup> Veterans Day Ceremony at the General Patton Memorial Museum. 9:30AM to 4:30PM. 62510 Chiriaco Road, Chiriaco Summit. Just off the I-10 freeway. See attached flyer. [www.generalpattonmuseum.com](http://www.generalpattonmuseum.com) or call 760-507-

**18 -** Veterans Services Meeting via zoom. 9AM. Open to all. Contact Anita Worthen at [abird82@aol.com](mailto:abird82@aol.com) to get connected or to learn more.

**18 -** 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division Monthly Meeting. Classic Club. Palm Desert. North of the I-10 off Varner Road (call 760-601-3600 for directions). 11:30AM. Lunch meeting (cost). Contact Gunny Puentes at [puentesrc@gmail.com](mailto:puentesrc@gmail.com)

**19 -** Save the date..Riverside County Veterans Committee (VAC) Legislative Breakfast

**24 -** Input for the December VEAP ReadBack due.

**25 -** Thanksgiving

# JOIN OUR TEAM



**CURRENTLY  
RECRUITING**

**VETERANS  
SERVICES  
REPRESENTATIVE**

**APPLY AT  
[WWW.GOVERNMENTJOBS.COM/CAREERS/RIVERSIDE](http://WWW.GOVERNMENTJOBS.COM/CAREERS/RIVERSIDE)**



# VETERANS **RIDE** **FREE**

***FREE** healthcare appointment transportation for veterans\**

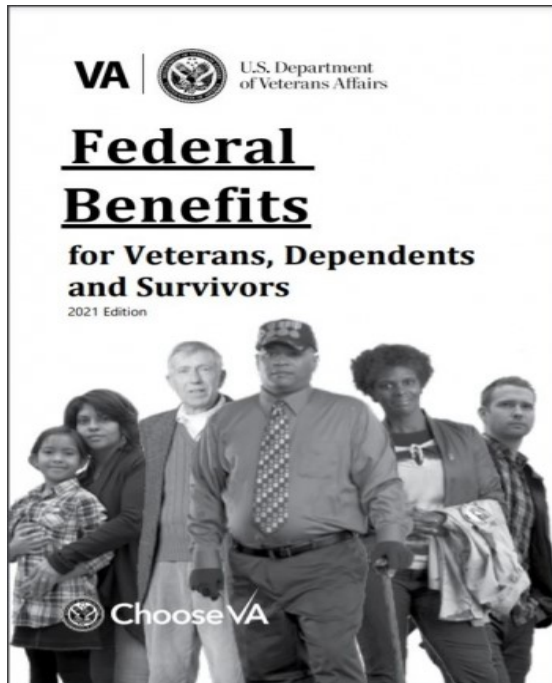
**(877) 932-4100**

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- VSO's • SUN DIAL

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





CLICK HERE OR VISIT  
[WWW.VA.GOV/GETSTARTED](http://WWW.VA.GOV/GETSTARTED)

VA's [www.va.gov/getstarted](http://www.va.gov/getstarted) landing page makes it easier for Veterans and family members to access VA benefits and services information.


The website provides two newly updated booklets on information about VA benefits and services, as well as how to apply for them.

The first booklet is the *2021 Federal Benefits Handbook for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors*. The handbook contains a comprehensive listing of VA benefits and services with direct links to contact benefits and services representatives. In fact, an index located on the inside cover lists both phone numbers and websites for easy reference.


Importantly, the handbook provides a legal overview on eligibility requirements to include the definition of a Veteran. Additionally, VA serves many generations of Veterans. There are specific qualification guidelines for distinct periods of service to clarify eligibility during both peacetime and wartime environments.


The handbook aligns with benefits information and services for VA's three administrations: Veterans Health Administration; Veterans Benefits Administration; and Veterans Cemetery Administration. Also, a section of the handbook discusses non-healthcare services, such as [homelessness](#), survivor assistance, women and minority Veterans, and many other programs.


The handbook is a one-stop resource for Veterans, family members and survivors. Limited printed copies may be available at medical centers or VBA regional offices. The website allows Veterans to access VA benefits and services information.



# Probation Corrections Officer CAREER FAIR

**September 8th, 2021**  
**11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

**Held Virtually On**  
**Adobe Connect**



**Minimum Qualifications for PCO I:**

**Education:** Completion of, or the ability to complete within six months of application date, 60 semester or 90 quarter units of college coursework from an accredited college or university or an associate's degree from an accredited college or university.


**Experience:** None required.

**OPTION II**


**Education:** Completion of, or the ability to complete within six months of the application date, 12 semester or 16 quarter units of college coursework from an accredited college or university.

**INCLUDING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- 1) Two years of Active Duty in the Armed Forces, National Guard, or Reserves with an Honorable Discharge. You must attach a copy of your Member-4 Form DD-214 or equivalent, indicating dates of service, to your application.
- 2) Currently be serving in the military with at least two years of Active Duty.

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION,  
AND TO APPLY,  
SCAN THIS  
CODE.**

**APPLICANTS, PLEASE REGISTER  
USING **TIMETAP** LINK**

**virtualjobfair.timetap.com**





# LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

*A Project of the Riverside County  
Veterans Advisory Committee and  
Riverside County Veterans' Services*

★ GUEST SPEAKER ★  
**CONGRESSMAN MARK TAKANO,**  
**U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2021**

**8:00 AM**

**NORM'S RESTAURANT**

3889 TYLER STREET, RIVERSIDE, CA 92503

• NO HOST •

VETERANS, VETERANS' DEPENDENTS, AND THE PUBLIC ARE  
INVITED TO ATTEND OUR LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST SERIES TO  
MEET YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHER COMMUNITY  
LEADERS OVER A CUP OF COFFEE AND BREAKFAST.





**VETERANS  
RESOURCE FAIR**

**PATRIOTIC HALL**  
5885 LUCKIE AVE 29 PALMS, CA

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 18, 2021**  
**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**No registration or appointments required**  
**REPRESENTATIVES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST WITH**  
VA CLAIMS - COUNTY VETERAN ID CARDS -  
VA HEALTH CARE - VET CENTER ON-SITE

**NOTE: BRING A COPY OF YOUR DD214**  
**\*\*\*VA MEDICAL CARD AND/OR PICTURE ID MAY BE REQUIRED\*\*\***

 **SAN BERNARDINO  
COUNTY**  
Veterans Affairs

  **Vet  
Center**  
VA HEALTH CARE | Defining  
EXCELLENCE  
in the 21st Century

For More Information Call 760 367 7562 ext 1025

Made with PosterMyWall.com



# 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT SEPTEMBER 29, 2021 - 10AM



**REGISTER NOW AT EVENTBRITE**

Follow the link below or use the QR code to register for this FREE event:

[https://mhs2021\\_vall.eventbrite.com](https://mhs2021_vall.eventbrite.com)



## THEN AND NOW: 75 YEARS OF SERVING ALL WHO SERVED

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Sean Gilboy, PhD., United States Army**  
Iraqi War Veteran, Bronze Star Medal  
Brigade Psychologist for the 4th BCT, 25th ID, Airborne  
Staff Psychologist at the Victorville Outpatient Clinic  
Director, Team Leader at the High Desert Vet Center



**VETERAN/FAMILY PANEL**

**LIVE EXPERT SEMINARS**

### VIRTUAL FORMAT

MAIN SUMMIT



LIVE EXPERT SEMINARS



**PARTICIPATE BY COMPUTER OR SMART PHONE**

### FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Veronica Fry (909) 825-7084 Ext. 7780 [Veronica.Fry@va.gov](mailto:Veronica.Fry@va.gov)

Raymond Espinoza (909) 825-7084 Ext. 4251 [Raymond.Espinoza@va.gov](mailto:Raymond.Espinoza@va.gov)

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



**SAVE**  
*the*  
**DATE**

**THE WALL THAT HEALS  
IS COMING TO CORONA!**

OCT

7-10

2021





**BEAUMONT PRESENTS**



# **VETERANS DAY**

*parade & ceremony*



**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11**



**PARADE - 10:00 A.M.**

Begins at Beaumont Avenue & 12th Street and ends at the Beaumont Civic Center.

**CEREMONY - 11:00 A.M.**

Beaumont Civic Center, 550 E. 6th Street

**ADDITIONAL EVENT DETAILS - [BEAUMONTCA.GOV](http://BEAUMONTCA.GOV)**

# GENERAL PATTON MEMORIAL MUSEUM 33<sup>RD</sup> VETERANS DAY CEREMONY Thursday November 11, 2021

From 9:30 to 4:30

Soft Unveiling of the  
Barker Foundation Library



Honoring 2021 Founder's Award  
Recipient  
Jessie McKeever

Featured  
Speaker  
Former Sheriff  
Stan Sniff  
in the USO  
Theater room.

Beginning at 11:00 am



Plaque being presented By  
Sons Of the Golden West



Honoring 2021 Patton Award  
First Responder  
Recipients



Visit our General Patton Memorial Museum tank yard and gift shop.

Share a historic adventure with your family and friends!

The General Patton Memorial Museum is located 30 miles East of Indio on Interstate 10. Exit 173.  
62510 Chiriaco Rd, Chiriaco Summit, CA 92201

This year's Veterans Day celebration will be scaled down for safety  
purposes. Masks will be required and entry will be limited.

We hope you understand that we value your safety.

God Bless America and God Bless our Veterans.





## Expected Services

- Primary Care
- Women's Health Care
- Mental Health
- Group Care
- Audiology
- Pharmacy
- Full Service Laboratory
- Referrals for Specialty Care

### PALM DESERT VA CLINIC

72700 Dinah Shore Dr.  
Palm Desert, CA 92211  
[www.lomalinda.va.gov](http://www.lomalinda.va.gov)  
760-341-5570



## THE NEW PALM DESERT VA CLINIC

Coming February 2022

YOUR SAME GREAT VA  
HEALTHCARE, MOVING TO A  
NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART  
FACILITY.



THE STGI WAITING ROOM  
FILLED WITH COMFORTABLE  
SEATING, CONVERSATIONAL  
AREAS, AND TV FOR  
VIEWING. THIS SPACE IS  
MEANT TO FEEL JUST LIKE  
HOME.

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



A PREMIUM ON SITE  
TELEHEALTH SUITE HELPS  
OPEN UP ACCESS TO  
SPECIALTIES RIGHT FROM  
YOUR HOME CLINIC.





## ***Days of Military Commemoration***

- Feb. 3, 2021 – Four Chaplains Day** – A day to remember the four U.S. Army chaplains who made the ultimate sacrifice when the USAT Dorchester sank during World War II.
- Feb. 19, 2021** – Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- March 3, 2021** – Navy Reserve Birthday
- March 13, 2021 K-9 Veterans Day** – The date is the official birthday of the United States K9 Corps and a day to honor their service.
- March 25, 2021 Medal of Honor Day** – A holiday to honor the heroism and sacrifice of Medal of Honor recipients for the United States.
- March 29, 2021 – Vietnam Veterans Day** – A national holiday to recognize and honor Veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam War.
- April 5, 2021 – Gold Star Spouses Day** – A day dedicated to those whose spouses gave their lives while serving in the U.S. military or as a result of service-connected injuries or illness.
- April 14, 2021** – Air Force Reserve Birthday
- April 23, 2021** – Army Reserve Birthday
- May 1, 2021** – Silver Star Banner Day – Per Congressional resolution, it is an “Official Day to honor wounded, ill, and injured Veterans”.
- May 7, 2021** – Military Spouse Appreciation Day – This date recognizes the service and sacrifices of military spouses.
- May 13, 2021** – Children of Fallen Patriots Day – A day to honor the children left behind by the brave men and women who gave their lives while defending our freedom.
- May 15, 2021** – Armed Forces Day Observed on the third Saturday every May, this is a day dedicated to paying tribute to men and women currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- May 31, 2021** – Memorial Day A solemn occasion to honor the men and women who died while serving in the military.
- June 6, 2021** – Anniversary of the World War II – Allied invasion in Normandy, France, now known as D-Day.
- June 14, 2021** – Flag Day – A day to celebrate the adoption of the U.S. flag.
- June 14, 2021** – Army Birthday
- June 23, 2019** – Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
- June 27, 2021** – National PTSD Awareness Day – A day to bring awareness about issues related to PTSD.
- July 4, 2021** – Independence Day
- July 27, 2021** – Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
- Aug. 4, 2021** – Coast Guard Birthday
- Aug. 7, 2021** – Purple Heart Day – A time for Americans to pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice.
- Aug. 29, 2021** – Marine Forces Reserve Birthday
- Sept. 11, 2021** – Patriot Day – An annual observance to remember and honor those who were injured or killed during the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.
- Sept. 18, 2021** – Air Force Birthday
- Sept. 26, 2021** – Gold Star Mother’s and Family’s Day – A day to honor the families of fallen Servicemembers.
- Oct. 13, 2021** – Navy Birthday
- Oct. 26, 2021** – National Day of the Deployed
- Nov. 10, 2021** – Marine Corps Birthday
- Nov. 11, 2021 – Veterans Day** – This is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice treaty, which ended World War I and is also a day to thank military Veterans for their service.
- Dec. 7, 2021** – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day – The anniversary of the day Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, signaling the United States’ entrance into World War II.
- Dec. 13, 2021** – National Guard Birthday
- Dec. 18, 2021** – National Wreaths Across America Day

## Help Sources for Afghanistan Veterans

### Resources available right now

**Veterans Crisis Line** - If you are having thoughts of suicide, call [1-800-273-8255](tel:1-800-273-8255), then PRESS 1 or visit <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

For emergency mental health care, you can also go directly to [your local VA medical center](#) 24/7 regardless of your discharge status or enrollment in other VA health care.

**Vet Centers** - Discuss how you feel with other Veterans in these community-based counseling centers. **70% of Vet Center staff are Veterans.** Call [1-877-927-8387](tel:1-877-927-8387) or find one [near you](#).

**VA Mental Health Services Guide** - This guide will help you sign up and access mental health services.

**MakeTheConnection.net** - information, resources, and Veteran to Veteran videos for challenging life events and experiences with mental health issues.

**RallyPoint** - Talk to other Veterans online. Discuss: [What are your feelings as the Taliban reclaim Afghanistan after 20 years of US involvement?](#)

**Download VA's self-help apps** - Tools to help deal with common reactions like, stress, sadness, and anxiety. You can also track your symptoms over time.

**Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)** - [Request a Peer Mentor](#)

**VA Women Veterans Call Center** - Call or text [1-855-829-6636](tel:1-855-829-6636) (M-F 8AM - 10PM & SAT 8AM - 6:30PM ET)

**VA Caregiver Support Line** - Call [1-855-260-3274](tel:1-855-260-3274) (M-F 8AM - 10PM & SAT 8AM - 5PM ET)

**Together We Served** - [Find your battle buddies](#) through unit pages

**George W. Bush Institute** - Need help or want to talk? [Check In](#) or call: [1-630-522-4904](tel:1-630-522-4904) or email: [checkin@veteranwellnessalliance.org](mailto:checkin@veteranwellnessalliance.org)

**Elizabeth Dole Foundation Hidden Heroes** - [Join the Community](#)

**American Red Cross Military Veteran Caregiver Network** - [Peer Support and Mentoring](#)

**Team Red, White & Blue** - Hundreds of events weekly. [Find a chapter](#) in your area.

**Student Veterans of America** - Find a [campus chapter](#) to connect with.

**Team Rubicon** - Find a [local support](#) squad.

