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| **Editor/Publisher RAO Bulletin raoemo@sbcglobal.net**[**via**](https://support.google.com/mail/answer/1311182?hl=en)**smtp42.ymlpsvr.com** |

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**RAO’s latest Veteran Newsletter has again been posted online.  To read or download it click on** [**http://www.nhc-ul.org/04012021.html**](https://ymlpmail3.net/9af3eumewyadaewujmafawsqanaehsqbu/click.php)**to access this issue’s content.**

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The Bulletin contains Veteran news such as in the following article plus numerous others whose titles follow the below example article.  All are provided in the interest of keeping veterans up to date on their benefits and events that could impact on them. The Bulletin contains no advertising nor are there any subscription fees. If you want to continue to receive newsletters hit reply and enter ‘Keep’ in the subject line.

**RAO**

**BULLETIN**

**15 April 2021**

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**Covid-19 Funeral Cost**

**FEMA to Help Pay**

In early April, FEMA will begin providing financial assistance for funeral expenses incurred after Jan. 20, 2020 for deaths related to coronavirus (COVID-19) to help ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the pandemic. The policy was finalized today, and FEMA is now moving rapidly to implement this funeral assistance program nationwide. "At FEMA, our mission is to help people before, during and after disasters," said Acting FEMA Administrator Bob Fenton. “The COVID-19 pandemic has caused immense grief for so many people. Although we cannot change what has happened, we affirm our commitment to help with funeral and burial expenses that many families did not anticipate." To be eligible for COVID-19 funeral assistance, the policy states:

         The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after Jan. 20, 2020 for a death attributed to COVID-19.

         If multiple individuals contributed toward funeral expenses, they should apply under a single application as applicant and co-applicant. FEMA will also consider documentation from other individuals not listed as the applicant and co-applicant who may have incurred funeral expenses as part of the registration for the deceased individual.

         An applicant may apply for multiple deceased individuals.

         The COVID-19-related death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

         This assistance is limited to a maximum financial amount of $9,000 per funeral and a maximum of $35,500 per application.

         Funeral assistance is intended to assist with expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation.

     FEMA will start accepting application 12 APR.  You will be able to call the dedicated toll-free phone number 844-684-6333 to get an application completed with help from FEMA's representatives. No online applications will be accepted. Multilingual services will be available. Once an applicant has applied for COVID-19 Funeral Assistance and is provided an application number, they may provide supporting documentation to FEMA a few ways:

         Upload to their DisasterAssistance.gov account

         Fax documents

         Mail documents

In the meantime, potential applicants are encouraged to start gathering the following documentation:

         An official death certificate that attributes the death to COVID-19 and shows that the death occurred in the United States. The death certificate must indicate the death “may have been caused by” or “was likely the result of” COVID-19 or COVID-19-like symptoms. Similar phrases that indicate a high likelihood of COVID-19 are considered sufficient attribution. It is possible to change or amend a death certificate. This process starts with contacting the person who certified the death. This may be a treating doctor, a coroner or a medical examiner, and their name and address is on the death certificate. Applicants may present evidence to them to support the claim the death was attributable to COVID-19.

         Funeral expense documents (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that include the applicant’s name, the deceased individual’s name, the amount of funeral expenses and dates the funeral expenses were incurred.

         Proof of funds received from other sources specifically for use toward funeral costs.  Funeral assistance may not duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, federal/state/local/tribal/territorial government programs or agencies, or other sources.

Expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation typically include, but are not limited to:

         Transportation for up to two individuals to identify the deceased individual

         Transfer of remains

         Casket or urn

         Burial plot or cremation niche

         Marker or headstone

         Clergy or officiant services

         Arrangement of the funeral ceremony

         Use of funeral home equipment or staff

         Cremation or interment costs

         Costs associated with producing and certifying multiple death certificates

         Additional expenses mandated by any applicable local or state government laws or ordinances

     Beware of scams.  FEMA’s Funeral Assistance Program has controls in place to mitigate fraudulent activity. FEMA will not contact anyone until they have called FEMA or have applied for assistance. Do not disclose information such as the name, birth date or social security number of any deceased family member to any unsolicited telephone calls or e-mails from anyone claiming to be a federal employee or from FEMA.  For more information about this assistance, visit COVID-19 Funeral Assistance | FEMA.gov at [https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance](https://ymlpmail3.net/52a31umeqsagaewujmaiawsqaaaehsqbu/click.php).  [Source:  FEMA | March 24, 2021 ++]

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**THIS BULLETIN CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES**

**Pg                   Article                                                Subject**

**.                                                    \* DOD \*                                                   .**

04 == Afghan Withdrawal [05] ---- (Deadline Moved to 11 SEP)

05 == Transgender Troops [29] ---- (Pentagon Releases New Transgender Policies)

06 == Army Pacific Missile Plan ---- (Air Force General Says it’s Expensive, Duplicative and “Stupid.”)

08 == Korean War Veterans Memorial [04] ---- (New Remembrance Wall Name Errors Possible)

11 == Other than Honorable Discharge [17] ---- (New Review Board Offers One Last Chance at Appeal)

12 == DoD Budget 2022 [01] ---- (Biden Has Proposed $715 Billion Baseline)

14 == DoD Vaccination Program [01] ---- (38.9% of Marines Chose Not To Receive Covid Vaccines)

15 == Military Enlistment Standards [14] ---- (Surprising Conditions That Could Bar You from Service)

17 == POW/MIA [127] ---- (Search for Korean War Missing Picks Up again in the DMZ)

18 == POW/MIA Recoveries & Burials ---- (Reported 01 thru 15 APR 2021 | Six)

**.                                                 \* VA \*                                                   .**

20 == VA Lawsuit | Eric March ---- (Manchester Couple $9.47 Million in Malpractice Suit)

21 == GI Bill Comparison Tool ---- (School Selection Aide)

22 == VA Copay [17] ---- (American Recovery Plan Impact)

22 == Gold Star Spouses [02] ---- (Available VA Benefits)

23 == Geriatrics & Extended Care [03] ---- (Advance Care Planning | Making Health Care Decisions)

24 == VA Budget FY 2022 ---- (Biden Proposes $8.5 Billion Increase)

25 == VA Fraud, Waste & Abuse ---- (Reported 01 thru 15 APR 2021)

27 == VA Lung Cancer Care [03] ---- (Early Screening Saves Lives | New SBRT Treatment)

28 == VA Lawsuit | Vance Perry [01] ---- ($1,000,000 Settlement Agreed Upon)

**.                                                 \* VETS \*                                               .**

29 == Vet Charity Watch [68] ---- (Sham ‘Healing Heroes Network’ Charity)

30 == Vet Indictments ---- (Reported 01 thru 15 APR 2021)

32 == Vet Homelessness [106] ---- (Secretaries of VA, HUD Joint Statement on Ending It)

34 == Vet Fugitives ---- (01 thru 15 April 2021)

35 == Air Force Review Board ---- (New Boards Agency Website Launched)

36 == Vietnam Vets [48] ---- (Raul Perez Benavidez | 2 Tour Twice Wounded MOH MSG)

38 == WWII Vets 254 ---- (Thiele Fred Harvey | Survivor of Iwo Jima)

39 == WWII Vets 255 ---- (Philip E. Bonner Sr. | Battle of the Bulge Vet)

39 == Obit: Obit: Ray Lambert ----- (9 April 2021 | Big Red One Medic)

41 == Military Retirees & Veterans Events Schedule ---- (As of 15 APR 2021)

41 == Vet Hiring Fairs ---- (Scheduled as of 15 APR 2021)

42 == Vet Unemployment 2021 [03] ---- (MAR Down to 5.0%)

43 == Vet Employment Opportunities ---- (APR 15 Listings from Companies Looking For Vets)

43 == State Veteran’s Benefits ---- (Illinois 2021)

**.                                      \* VET LEGISLATION \*                               .**

44 == Military Retirement Pay [10] ---- (H.R.0000 | Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act)

45 == Burn Pit Toxic Exposure [83] ---- (H.R.0000 | Conceding Our Vets' Exposure Now … Act)

47 == Military Family Hunger ---- (H.R. 2339 | Basic Needs Allowance (BNA)

48 == Vet Toxic Exposure Legislation [13] ---- (S.952 | Warfighters Act)

49 == Burn Pit Toxic Exposure [84] ---- (H.R.0000/S.437 | Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act)

51 == Military Pregnancy Discharge ---- (H.R.2385 | Justice for Women Veterans Act)

**.                                             \* MILITARY\*                                          .**

52 == Navy Uniform Changes [08] ---- (Grooming/Appearance Policy Language Revisions)

53 == Court Martial ---- (Writ of Mandamus Use If Convicted)

55 == Military Divorced Spouses ---- (Benefits They Qualify For)

57 == TRICARE Autism Care [19] ---- (Program Expanding For Military Family Members)

58 == Army Goggles [01] ---- (Microsoft ‘Mixed Reality’ $21.8 Billion IVAS Contract)

59 == USS Bonhomme Richard [04] ---- (Will Be Decommissioned, Then Towed To Texas for Scrapping)

60 == Guantanamo Bay Navy Base [05] ---- (Once-Secret Prison Unit Closed)

61 == Armed Forces DNA Testing ---- (Modern Crime-Solving Methods vs. the Mystery of WWII Deaths)

64 == Servicemembers Charged ---- (01 thru 15 APR 2021)

67 == Navy Terminology, Jargon & Slang ---- (‘Sleeping Dictionary thru ‘Snival’)

68 == Guard & Reserve Leave [01] ---- (Short-Term Paid Leave Entitlement Lawsuits)

**.                                    \* MILITARY HISTORY \*                               .**

71 == U.S. Army Camel Corps ---- (Failed 1836 Modernization Attempt)

73 == Medal of Honor Awardees ---- (Robert J. Miller | Afghanistan)

75 == Cold War Espionage ---- (Israel | Jonathan Pollard)

77 == USS Johnson ---- (DD-557 Sunk at the Battle of Leyte Gulf)

78 == Military History Anniversaries ---- (16 thru 30 APR)

78 == Legends of WWII ---- (Lockered “BuD” Gahs | Fighting Germans during Operation Northwind)

79 == Every Picture Tells A Story ---- (WWI Bavarian 23 German Snipers)

80 == WWII Bomber Nose Art [73] ---- (Double Exposure)

80 == USMC Uniform [03] ---- (Evolution 1812 thru 1953)

**.                                         \* HEALTH CARE \*                                    .**

84 == Prostate Cancer [19] ---- (For Many Men Surgery Risks Outweigh Potential Benefits)

85 == Traumatic Brain Injury [79] ---- (Vets Urged To Pledge Posthumous Brain Donations)

86 == Coronavirus Vaccines [34] ---- (Army Begins Clinical Trials on SpFN)

87 == Allergy Season ---- (It’s Here: So, is it Covid, Allergies, Flu, or a Cold?)

88 == Legionnaires' Disease [01] ---- (CDC Reports About 10% Who Get Sick from It Will Die)

90 == FLU Prevention [08] ---- (Why 2021 Flu Season May Be Severe)

90 == Sleep Positions ---- (Best for Health Problems)

92 == New Developments ---- (Smart Speakers to Detect Abnormal Heart Rhythms)

93 == Mucus and Phlegm ---- (The Slime That Keeps You Healthy)

95 == Testicular Cancer [02] ---- (Men Should Be Proactive In Looking For Early Signs)

**.                                              \* FINANCES \*                                         .**

  96 == Divorce ---- (Impact on Military Pay)

  98 == SBP & Divorce [02] ---- (Impact on Former Spouse and Children)

101 == American Jobs Plan ---- (Raises Taxes on U.S. Production)

103 == Uncommon State Tax Laws ---- (Strange but True Tax Laws | HI - MD)

104 == Plumbers [01] ---- (Lies That Plumbers Tell to Drain Your Wallet)

107 == Covid-19 Funeral Cost ---- (FEMA to Help Pay)

109 == Vaccine Passports [01] ---- (Darknet Booming With Activity Related to Fake Ones)

110 == IRS Backlog ---- (Too ‘Outgunned’ To Keep Up with Current Tasking)

112 == Student Scams [06] ---- (Scammers Extort Cheating Students)

113 == State Tax Tips --- (Nebraska thru Oklahoma)

115 == Tax Burden for Mississippi Vets ---- (As of APR 2021)

**.                                   \* GENERAL INTEREST \*                               .**

119 == Notes of Interest ---- (APR 01 thru 15, 2021)

120 == Unwanted Comms ---- (Telemarketing, Mail & Email)

121 == Psychedelic Drugs ---- (Army Vet Urges California Lawmakers to Decriminalize)

123 == Jefferson Davis Chair ---- (Confederate Monument Stolen and Held for Ransom)

124 == Taiwan-China Dispute [09] ---- (U.S. Military Cites Rising Risk of Chinese Move)

126 == Taiwan-China Dispute [10] ---- (China Flanks Taiwan with Military Exercises in Air & Sea)

128 == RP~China Dispute [27] ---- (RP Renews Demands for Chinese Vessels to Leave)

129 == Panama Canal ---- (U.S. Naval Ship Transits)

130 == House Pests ---- (Cheap, Natural Ways to Rid Your Home of Them)

132 == Philippine Retirement Authority ---- (Source of Permanent Residence in PI)

133 == Philippine Retirement Authority [01] ---- (PRA Message to Members | 8 APR 2021)

134 == Map Comparisons ---- (World’s Smallest Country vs. Largest Building)

135 == News of the Weird ---- (APR 01 thru 15, 2021)

135 == Vocabulary ---- (Some Words to Enhance Yours | 210415)

137 == Have You Heard or Seen? ---- (Little Johnny 2 | Military Humor 19 | Think Toons)

**NOTE**

*1.  The page number on which an article can be found is provided to the left of each article’s title*

*2.  To read the articles open the website and slew to the page number of the article you are interested in.*

*3.  Numbers contained within brackets [ ] indicate the number of articles written on the subject.   To obtain previous articles send a request to**raoemo@sbcglobal.net**‘or’**raoemo77@gmail.com*

*4.  Recipients of the Bulletin are authorized and encouraged to forward the Bulletin are articles to other vets or veteran organizations*

**.                                      \* ATTACHMENTS \*                                      .**

Attachment – Illinois State Veteran’s Benefits

Attachment – Military History Anniversaries 16 thru 30 APR (Updated)

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Our Retiree Activities Office is operated by volunteers and its sole purpose is to assist veterans.  If you would like to continue to receive/not receive these twice monthly newsletters request enter the word **'KEEP'** or **'DELETE'** as appropriate in the subject line of this notice and **hit reply**. Upon receipt I will either shift your email addee to the Bulletin’s permanent mailing list directory or remove you from this trial mailing list. If you have another email addee at work or home and would prefer to receive Bulletin notices there or in addition to the one you received this at, just provide it.  If you have any questions contact raoemo@sbcglobal.net or raoemo77@gmail.com.

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**Click on**[**http://www.nhc-ul.org/04152021.html**](https://ymlpmail3.net/9af3eumewyadaewujmafawsqanaehsqbu/click.php)**to read the articles listed above.**

James “EMO” Tichacek, Lt. USN (Ret)

Editor/Publisher

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