RAO BULLETIN 01FEB 2021 (Veteran News)

Inbox



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| **James Tichacek <raoemo77@gmail.com>** |

 | 5:18 AM (12 hours ago) |  | https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gifhttps://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif |
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**RAO’s latest Veteran Newsletter has been posted online.  To read it click on** [**http://www.nhc-ul.org/02012021.html**](http://www.nhc-ul.org/02012021.html)**or**[**http://www.veteransresources.org**](http://www.veteransresources.org/)**to access it. The Bulletin contains Veteran news such as in the following article plus numerous others whose titles follow the below sample article.  All are provided in the interest of keeping veterans up to date on their benefits and events that could impact on them. If you want to continue to receive newsletters hit reply and enter ‘Keep’ in the subject line. There are no subscription fees or advertising associated with it.**

**RAO**

**BULLETIN**

**1 February 2021**

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**VA Debt**

**Update 12:  Biden Asks VA to Continue Collection Pause**

President Joe Biden announced 22 JAN that he was asking the Department of Veterans Affairs once again to delay collecting debts from veterans. According to the White House, an economic relief executive order signed Friday "will help approximately 2 million veterans maintain their financial footing by asking the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to consider pausing federal collections on overpayments and debts." According to the announcement, the executive order will also:

         Ask states to expand and extend federal nutrition assistance programs (food stamps).

         Ask the Treasury Department to improve the delivery of relief payments.

         Prevent Americans from losing their unemployment benefits if they turn down a job that has unsafe working conditions that may expose them to COVID-19.

     The text of the order, signed Friday afternoon, was less specific. "All executive departments and agencies (agencies) shall promptly identify actions they can take within existing authorities to address the current economic crisis resulting from the pandemic," it read. "Agencies should specifically consider actions that facilitate better use of data and other means to improve access to, reduce unnecessary barriers to, and improve coordination among programs funded in whole or in part by the Federal Government."

     But Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH) confirmed in a statement 22 JAN that the debt collection delay had been extended. "Far too often veterans face unexpected debt collection from the VA, some due to overpayments that were through no fault of their own," he said. "However, this Executive Order will provide the relief so many need and ensure that our veterans can focus on their physical and financial health during these trying times." While executive orders do not carry the weight of law, they often do result in substantial changes in the way that government agencies in the executive branch conduct business. It was not immediately clear when or if affected agencies would begin honoring the president's request. There was no indication on exactly what debts the VA would be requested to suspend or how long the suspension would last.

     Late last year, the VA announced that it would begin collecting medical copayments owed by veterans for treatment during the previous nine months. The VA had suspended all debt collection since April 2020 in response to an executive order from President Donald Trump. On 29 JAN Acting VA Secretary Tran in a VA press release said VA looking for immediate ways to help over 2 million Veterans maintain their financial footing by exploring options to ease the burden of federal collections on compensation and pension overpayments, and medical and education-related debts. Also that VA will extend the existing moratorium on evictions and foreclosures until March 31, 2021. VA borrowers experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 can review VA guidance for borrowers or call 877-827-3702 for additional information.  [Source:  Military.com & VA News Release| Jim Abshe | January 22 & 29, 2021 ++]

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**THIS BULLETIN CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES**

**Pg                   Article                                                Subject**

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04 == SECDEF [23] ---- (Lloyd Austin Confirmed As New Defense Secretary in Historic Vote)

05 == UCMJ [07] ---- (Jurisdiction over Retired Servicemembers)

07 == Vet Toxic Exposure | Karshi-Khanabad [05] ---- (DoD Directed to Study the Environmental Exposures at K2)

09 == Commissary Savings ---- (How Much You’re Saving in Military Grocery Stores)

11 == Transgender Troops [28] ---- (Biden Reverses Trump Ban on Transgender People In Military)

13 == POW/MIA Recoveries & Burials ---- (Reported 16 thru 31 JAN 2021 | Two)

**.                                                 \* VA \*                                                   .**

14 == VA COVID-19 Care [04] ---- (Vet Caregivers Now Eligible for the Vaccine through VA)

15 == VA COVID-19 Care [05] ---- (Vet Income Level Impact on Obtaining Vaccine Shot)

17 == VA COVID-19 Cases [11] ---- (Patient Deaths Reach 8,000+)

18 == VA Secretary [94] ---- (Dat P. Tran Appointed New Acting Secretary)

19 == VA Secretary [95] ---- (Denis R. McDonough Nomination Hearing)

21 == Fisher House Expansion [24] ---- (Oklahoma Selected to Receive its First)

22 == Glaucoma [06] ---- (The Leading Cause of Blindness for Veterans over 60)

23 == VA Debt [12] ---- (Biden Asks VA to Continue Collection Pause)

24 == VA Fraud, Waste & Abuse ---- (Reported 16 thru 31 JAN 2021)

**.                                                 \* VETS \*                                               .**

27 == U.S. Capitol Riot ---- (Air Force Retiree Alleged Intent to Take Hostages Arrested)

29 == U.S. Capitol Riot [01] ---- (Reserve Participant Identified/Arrested)

30 == Congressional Vets ---- (117th Congress by the Numbers)

31 == USMC Oldest Vet ---- (Sgt. Dorothy (Schmidt) Cole Passes at Age 107)

32 == Vet Lawsuits | Nicholas Giovannelli ---- (Retailers Exploitation of His Afghan Photos for Profit)

34 == Vet Fraud & Abuse ---- (Reported 16 thru 31 JAN 2021)

36 == WWII Vets [246] ---- Norman Fellman | Berga an der Elster Camp POW

37 == Korean War Vets ---- (Jim Valentine | Part of the ‘Chosin Few’ who Escaped)

39 == Afghan Vets 16 ---- (Matthew T. Abbate)

40 == Military Retirees & Veterans Events Schedule ---- (As of 31 JAN 2021)

40 == Vet Hiring Fairs ---- (Scheduled as of 31 JAN 2021)

41 == State Veteran Benefits ---- (Wisconsin 2021)

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

42 == TRICARE Coverage [09] ---- (H.R.0000 | Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act of 2021)

**.                                             \* MILITARY\*                                          .**

43 == USSF [25] ---- (Alabama’s Redstone Arsenal Chosen for Command Headquarters)

44 == USSF [26] ---- (New Rank Names for Guardians Announced)

45 == Navy LCS Program [07] ---- (Ship Deliveries Halted Until Transmission Flaw Corrected)

46 == USAF Academy [01] ---- (Cheating Scandal During COVID Lockdown Ensnares 249 Cadets)

47 == USAF Grooming Standards [01] ---- (Women’s Hair)

48 == Army Grooming & Dress [03] ---- (New Female Hairstyle Policy +)

50 == Military Sniper Rifle ---- (MRAD Mk22 for the Army, Marines and SOCOM)

51 == Army Housing [02] ---- ($1.1B to Be Invested in Improving Housing at 6 Bases)

52 == Navy Terminology, Jargon & Slang ---- (‘Royal Marine’ thru ‘Scope Dope’)

53 == Military Wives ---- (Things You Should Never Say To a Pregnant One)

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

54 == WWII Civil Defense ---- (Emergency / Invasion Planning)

55 == Civil War Capitol Repeat ---- (National Guard Sleeping in the Rotunda)

57 == Desert Storm 30 [02] ---- (First and Last Rules)

60 == WWII Calais Hoax ---- (The Elaborate Ruse Behind D-Day)

62 == WWII War Bonds ---- (85 Million Americans Purchased $185.7 Billion Dollars)

64 == Hitler’s Bunker ---- (What His Last Days Refuge Contained)

66 == Military History Anniversaries ---- (01 thru 14 FEB)

67 == Beirut Bombing ---- (Iran $50 Million Settlement Payments Start)

68 == Every Picture Tells A Story ---- (Troops of the Eight-Nation Alliance)

68 == WWII Bomber Nose Art [68] ---- (Ain’t Miss Behavin’)

69 == Medal of Honor Awardees ---- (Eli Whiteley | WWII)

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

71 == TRICARE Low Back Pain Coverage ---- (New | Physical Therapy)

72 == Tricare/CHAMPUS Fraud [23] ---- (Fraudster Receives 18 yr Sentence & $350M Fine)

73 == Migraines [03] ---- (Top Treatments)

76 == Arterial Fibrillation [01] ---- (What it is and How to Deal With It)

79 == Unhealthy Food ---- (Food That Is Not Good For You)

81 == Breathing ---- (Exercises to Make You Feel Calmer or Reduce Stress)

84 == Covid-19 Vulnerability [11] ---- (Diseases That Are Common in Seniors Who Get COVID-19)

**.                                              \* FINANCES \*                                         .**

85 == IRS 2020 Filing Season [02] ---- (Start Date Delayed)

86 == IRS Economic Impact Payment ---- (Debit Cards)

87 == Property Tax [03] ---- (How Much Your State Relied On It in 2018)

88 == Return Policies [01] ---- (Three Retailers Telling Customers to Keep Some)

89 == Postal Rates [05] ---- (Increases Effective January 24, 2021)

90 == MOAA Education Assistance ---- (Application for the 2021-2022 School Year Is Now Open)

91 == Social Security Changes [01] ---- (Biden’s Reform Plan)

92 == Netflix Scam [01] ---- (Don't Get Tricked by this Phony Free Offer)

93 == COVID-19 Vaccine Scams ---- (BBB Sees New Reports

94 == COVID-19 Vaccine Scams [01] ---- (Posting About Your Vaccine? Do It Safely)

95 == Tax Burden for Maryland Retired Vets ---- (As of JAN 2021)

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

  99 == Notes of Interest ---- (January 16 thru 31, 2021)

100 == Map Comparisons ---- (World Population Density vs. Size)

100 == U.S. Russia START Treaty ---- (Documents Exchanged to Extend Nuclear Pact)

101 == STEP ---- (RP Vets and U.S. Citizens Encouraged to Enroll)

101 == China RP Relations ---- (Subic Bay Clark Air Base Railway Link)

103 == Wisconsin Badger Statue ---- (Navy Wants it Loan back After 30 Years)

104 == Sugar ---- (Nine Peculiar Uses)

106 == Cargo Socks ---- (Great Gift Idea But Don’t Be Pranked)

107 == Coffee ---- (Good for Much More Than a Morning Caffeine Jolt)

108== Vocabulary ---- (Some Words to Enhance Yours)

109== News of the Weird ---- (Jan 16 thru 31, 2021)

110 == Have You Heard or Seen? ---- (Military Humor 15 | Navy Life [1] |Latest Satirical Cartoons)

**.                                      \* ATTACHMENTS \*                                      .**

Attachment – Wisconsin Veteran Benefits

Attachment – Military History Anniversaries 01 thru 14 FEB (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/02012021.html**](http://www.nhc-ul.org/02012021.html)**or**[**http://www.veteransresources.org**](http://www.veteransresources.org/)**to read the articles in the above list.**

James “EMO” Tichacek, Lt. USN (Ret)

Editor/Publisher

[Tel: 1-858-842-1111]