



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
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LEGISLATIVE CHAIR 2022-2023
January Promo



I hope everyone had a fabulous Holiday Season and

Happy New Year to Everyone !! Let's make 2023 a great one!

Thank you for all the Reports on getting your votes out in November. It is important that you check to see if your Legislators have changed. You can do this by going to www.VFW.org and go to Legislative priorities at the bottom of the page then by clicking on the right "find your legislators". Even though our opportunity to vote has passed it is always good to keep in touch and let your legislators know you are there watching their actions and encourage them to support Veteran's legislation.

Our new congress has 97 veterans representing 36 states. This is an increase of 5 over the last congress and the most single increase since 1960, and the most members with military experience since 2015. Let them know your value their service.

January 11 the Pentagon formally dropped the COVID 19 vaccine mandate. However, 8,400 troops were forced out of service for refusing the vaccination. Those who refused were given a "honorable or general discharge under honorable conditions. The veteran can petition the military service agent to request a change in the characterization of their discharge in their personal records, but it does not say what corrections are possible.

Thank you everyone that sends in reports that you are sharing the "action Corps" weekly with your auxiliary and those that respond to "action alerts". The VFW

championed PACT Act added more than 20 presumptive conditions for the burn pits. Agent Orange, and other toxins, extending the VA benefits and compensation to more toxic-exposed veterans and their surviving families more than ever before.

VFW Urges President to Take Lead on Eliminating Offsets: VFW National Commander Tim Borland sent a letter to President Biden urgently asking him to make the repeal of concurrent receipt laws a legislative policy priority in the White House's fiscal year 2024 defense budget request. "Erroneously justified by Congress to prevent "double-dipping," this policy is nothing more than a way to save money on the backs of veterans," wrote Borland. "No veteran should question the value of their service to our country due to an unethical budget gimmick." Offsetting, which forces veterans to forfeit all or part of one benefit to pay for another, is a widely employed practice under concurrent receipt laws. Aside from the 2020 repeal of the "Widow's Tax," no substantive concurrent receipt reforms have occurred since 2004. [Read the letter.](#)

VFW & Entrusted Firms Assist with Camp Lejeune Lawsuit: The onslaught of predatory law firms targeting Camp Lejeune veterans is overwhelming. If you have met with a VFW Accredited Service Officer and determined joining the Camp Lejeune lawsuit is right for you, work with an entrusted law firm that has a long history of serving veterans and has your best interests at heart. Visit vfw.org/CampLejeuneHelp for more information.



PACT Act Information for Survivors: With the passage of VFW-supported Honoring Our PACT Act, VA has made information available for survivors regarding Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits. If you are the survivor of a service member or veteran who died from a service-connected condition linked to burn pit exposure, contact a [VFW Service Officer](#) today to discuss your VA claim. [Read more.](#)

VFW National Home for Children: The National Home was founded in 1925 as a place where the families left behind by war could remain together. Today's families face different challenges, and the National Home has evolved over decades to meet those needs. The community is open to the families of active duty military personnel, veterans, and relatives of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members. Families may consist of one or both parents with one or more children. [Learn more.](#)

MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced three burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

-- **Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Carl D. Nesbitt, 23**, of Lima, Ohio, was assigned to the 569th Bombardment Squadron, 390th Bombardment Group, 13th Bombardment Wing, 3rd Air Division, 8th Air Force. On May 29, 1944, the B-17G Flying Fortress bomber Nesbitt was piloting was shot down by enemy fighters northeast of Leipzig, Germany. His body was not recovered and there was no evidence of him surviving or being a prisoner of war. A finding of death was issued a year after the crash. Nesbitt will be buried in Annville, Pennsylvania, on May 15, 2023. [Read about Nesbitt.](#)

-- **Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Melvin B. Meyer, 25**, of Pattonville, Missouri, was assigned to the 569th Bombardment Squadron, 390th Bombardment Group, 13th Bombardment Wing, 3rd Air Division, 8th Air Force. On May 29, 1944, the B-17G Flying Fortress bomber on which Meyer was serving as bombardier was shot down by enemy fighters northeast of Leipzig, Germany. His body was not recovered and there was no evidence of him surviving or being a prisoner of war. A finding of death was issued a year after the crash. Myer will be buried in St. Louis, Missouri, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Meyer.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Mark P. Wilson, 20**, of Elizabethton, Tennessee, was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 112th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division. On Nov. 8, 1944, his unit was tasked with holding the town of Kommerscheidt, Germany, in the Hürtgen Forest, when he was reported missing in action. Wilson was never reported as a prisoner of war and no remains were recovered. He was declared killed in action following the war. Wilson will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Wilson.](#)

