- 1. Reports: US military wants 10,000 troops or none in post-2014 Afghanistan.
- 2. Sanders: Veterans bill will get bipartisan support, despite few details on how to pay for it.
- 3. Massive VA bill would repeal military pension cut, cost \$30 billion.
- 4. Bill would extend state tuition benefits to peacetime veterans.
- 5. VA software glitch exposed veterans' personal information.
- 6. VA Security Breach.
- 7. PTSD & Vietnam.
- 8. Preventing veteran suicides.
- 9. Feds push to enroll underserved Native veterans.
- 10. Housing help for at-risk veterans in Clarksville.
- 11.V.A. Hopes To End Local Veteran Homelessness By 2015.
- 12. VA secures 374 acres of El Paso County land to build new cemetery.
- 13. Added distance won't separate UB med school, VA WNY.
- 14. VA dedicated to improving care at Dorn.
- 15. Dayton VA launching \$5M project to upgrade long-term care wing.
- 16. Working to reach all veterans in South Dakota.
- 17. Monuments in winter: The National Mall after Janus.
- 18.VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as January 22, 2014:
- 19. Today in History:

- <u>Reports: US military wants 10,000 troops or none in post-2014 Afghanistan</u>. The U.S. military has reportedly recommended that President Barack Obama maintain at least 10,000 American troops in Afghanistan to provide adequate force protection after the official end of combat operations this December — or bring essentially all U.S. troops home.
- Sanders: Veterans bill will get bipartisan support, despite few details on how to pay for it. Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., is confident that lawmakers from both parties will support the initiatives in his wide-ranging legislative package for veterans if it comes up for a chamber vote next week.
- Massive VA bill would repeal military pension cut, cost \$30 billion. <u>Hyperlink to Article</u> The Washington Post: The legislation would repeal a controversial pension cut for younger military retirees that Congress and President Obama approved in the budget deal last month, in addition to expanding certain veterans benefits, such as dental and medical care, education and caretaker stipends.
- 4. <u>Bill would extend state tuition benefits to peacetime veterans</u>. <u>Hyperlink to</u> <u>Article</u> **Montgomery Advertiser:** The Senate Veterans and Military Affairs committee Wednesday approved legislation aimed at extending state tuition benefits to those in the military who served during peacetime.
- 5. <u>VA software glitch exposed veterans' personal information</u>. <u>Hyperlink to</u> <u>Article</u> **The Washington Post:** A software glitch last week with an online Veterans Affairs benefits portal exposed private information from military veterans to virtually anyone who could log onto the system, according to VA officials.
- <u>VA Security Breach</u>. <u>Hyperlink to Video</u> Fox News Channel's Fox & Friends (Video): In this 0:58 video, the correspondent reports on a security breach of the eBenefits Web site that exposed Veterans' personal information.
- PTSD & Vietnam. Hyperlink to Video The Daily Show with Jon Stewart: In this 5:25 clip, Jason Jones reports on dishonorably discharged Vietnam veterans with PTSD who can't get treatment because they were dishonorably discharged because of PTSD.

- 8. <u>Preventing veteran suicides</u>. <u>Hyperlink to Article</u> **KJCT-TV (Video):** Post traumatic stress disorder and depression are a serious problem for returning vets, and at least one instance of a worst-case-scenario, hits very close to home here in the Grand Valley.
- Feds push to enroll underserved Native veterans. <u>Hyperlink to Article</u> Taos News: The Department of Veterans Affairs officials who traveled from Washington, D.C. last week to visit tribes across New Mexico had hoped to reach former service members like Eloisa Apachito.
- **10.** <u>Housing help for at-risk veterans in Clarksville</u>. <u>Hyperlink to Article</u> **The Tennessean:** The problem of veteran homelessness makes national headlines in the U.S., but Chris McGee thinks a step toward a possible solution should also get some notice in Clarksville.
- 11. <u>V.A. Hopes To End Local Veteran Homelessness By 2015</u>. <u>Hyperlink</u> to Article **KPTM-TV:** The VA other volunteers are conducting what's called the "Point-in-Count." One night, every January, teams will search the city to get all veterans and others that are homeless off the streets and out of the bitter cold.
- 12. <u>VA secures 374 acres of El Paso County land to build new cemetery</u>. <u>Hyperlink to Article</u> The Denver Post: The Department of Veterans Affairs on Wednesday said it acquired land, water and mineral rights in El Paso County to build a new veterans cemetery for southern Colorado.
- **13.** <u>Added distance won't separate UB med school, VA WNY</u>. <u>Hyperlink to</u> <u>Article</u> **Buffalo Business First:** Stiller also sees the big picture and how residents learning at other hospital sites will bring lots of knowledge and experience when they come to work or volunteer at the VA.
- 14. <u>VA dedicated to improving care at Dorn</u>. <u>Hyperlink to Article</u> The State: Our dedicated employees at the William Jennings Bryan Dorn Veterans Affairs Medical Center care deeply about their roles in serving the men and women who have worn the uniform of America's military. We are committed to providing high-quality, safe and effective health care to our veterans.
- 15. <u>Dayton VA launching \$5M project to upgrade long-term care wing</u>. <u>Hyperlink to Article</u> Dayton Business Journal: The Dayton VA Medical Center is moving forward with a \$5 million renovation project.

- **16.** <u>Working to reach all veterans in South Dakota</u>. <u>Hyperlink to Article</u> Rapid City Journal: The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs has kicked off one of the most aggressive outreach campaigns in the history of the Department – Operation RAV (Reaching All Veterans).
- **17.** <u>Monuments in winter: The National Mall after Janus</u>. Winter Storm Janus only delivered a few inches of powdery snow to Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, but it was enough to give a different look to many of the monuments on the National Mall.

18. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as January 22, 2014:

- January 28, 2014. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs will hold a hearing entitled "What can the Federal Government Learn from the Private Sector's Successful Approach to Hiring Veterans?"
- February 5, 2014. HVAC-DAMA will hold a hearing entitled, "Beyond Transformation: Reviewing Current Status and Secondary Effects of VBA Technology."
- February 25, 2014. House Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Miller, R-Fla.) will hold a hearing to receive a legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.
- March 5, 2014. House Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Miller, R-Fla.) and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Sanders, I-Vt.) will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentation of Veterans of Foreign Wars.
- March 6, 2014. House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of Veterans Organizations.
- March 26, 2014. House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of The American Legion.

19. Today in History:

- <u>1789</u> <u>Georgetown College</u>, the first <u>Catholic University</u> in the United States, is founded in <u>Georgetown, Maryland</u> (now a part of <u>Washington, D.C.</u>)
- <u>1849</u> <u>Elizabeth Blackwell</u> is awarded her M.D. by the <u>Geneva Medical College</u> of <u>Geneva, New York</u>, becoming the United States' first female doctor.
- <u>1855</u> The first bridge over the <u>Mississippi River</u> opens in what is now <u>Minneapolis, Minnesota</u>, a crossing made today by the <u>Hennepin Avenue Bridge</u>.
- <u>1870</u> In <u>Montana</u>, U.S. cavalrymen kill 173 <u>Native Americans</u>, mostly women and children, in the <u>Marias Massacre</u>.

- <u>1879</u> <u>Anglo-Zulu War</u>: the <u>Battle of Rorke's Drift</u> ends.
- <u>1897</u> <u>Elva Zona Heaster</u> is found dead in <u>Greenbrier County, West Virginia</u>. The resulting murder trial of her husband is perhaps the only case in United States history where the alleged <u>testimony</u> of a <u>ghost</u> helped secure a conviction.
- <u>1900</u> The <u>Battle of Spion Kop</u> between the forces of the <u>South African Republic</u> and the <u>Orange Free State</u> and <u>British</u> forces during the <u>Second Boer War</u> ends in a British defeat.
- <u>1909</u> <u>RMS *Republic*</u>, a passenger ship of the <u>White Star Line</u>, becomes the first ship to use the <u>CQD</u> distress signal after colliding with another ship, the SS *Florida*, off the Massachusetts coastline, an event that kills six people. The *Republic* sinks the next day.
- <u>1920</u> The <u>Netherlands</u> refuses to surrender ex-<u>Kaiser Wilhelm II</u> of Germany to the <u>Allies</u>.
- <u>1937</u> In <u>Moscow</u>, 17 leading <u>Communists</u> go on trial accused of participating in a plot led by <u>Leon Trotsky</u> to overthrow <u>Joseph Stalin</u>'s regime and assassinate its leaders.
- <u>1941</u> <u>Charles Lindbergh</u> testifies before the <u>U.S. Congress</u> and recommends that the United States negotiate a neutrality pact with <u>Adolf Hitler</u>.
- <u>1942</u> <u>World War II</u>: The <u>Battle of Rabaul</u> begins, the first fighting of the <u>New</u> <u>Guinea campaign</u>.
- <u>1943</u> World War II: Troops of <u>Montgomery</u>'s <u>8th Army</u> capture <u>Tripoli</u> in <u>Libya</u> from the <u>German-Italian Panzer Army</u>.
- 1943 World War II: <u>Australian</u> and American forces finally defeat the <u>Japanese</u> army in <u>Papua</u>.
- 1943 <u>Duke Ellington</u> plays at <u>Carnegie Hall</u> in <u>New York City</u> for the first time.
- 1943 World War II: The <u>Battle of Mount Austen</u>, the <u>Galloping Horse</u>, and the <u>Sea Horse</u> on <u>Guadalcanal</u> during the <u>Guadalcanal campaign</u> ends.
- <u>1945</u> World War II: <u>Karl Dönitz</u> launches <u>Operation Hannibal</u>.
- <u>1950</u> The <u>Knesset</u> passes a resolution that states <u>Jerusalem</u> is the capital of <u>Israel</u>.
- <u>1957</u> American inventor <u>Walter Frederick Morrison</u> sells the rights to his <u>flying</u> <u>disc</u> to the <u>Wham-O</u> toy company, which later renames it the "Frisbee".
- <u>1958</u> After a general uprising and rioting in the streets, <u>President Marcos Pérez</u> <u>Jiménez</u> leaves <u>Venezuela</u>.
- <u>1960</u> The <u>bathyscaphe USS Trieste</u> breaks a depth record by descending to 10,911 metres (35,797 ft) in the <u>Pacific Ocean</u>.
- <u>1961</u> The <u>Portuguese</u> luxury <u>cruise ship</u> Santa Maria is <u>hijacked</u> by opponents of the <u>Estado Novo</u> regime with the intention of waging war until dictator <u>António</u> <u>de Oliveira Salazar</u> is overthrown.
- <u>1963</u> The <u>Guinea-Bissau War of Independence</u> officially begins when <u>PAIGC</u> guerrilla fighters attack the <u>Portuguese army</u> stationed in <u>Tite</u>.
- <u>1964</u> The <u>24th Amendment</u> to the <u>United States Constitution</u>, prohibiting the use of <u>poll taxes</u> in national elections, is ratified.
- <u>1968</u> <u>North Korea</u> seizes the <u>USS Pueblo</u>, claiming the ship had violated its <u>territorial waters</u> while spying.
- <u>1973</u> <u>President Richard Nixon</u> announces that a peace accord has been reached in <u>Vietnam</u>.

- <u>1986</u> The <u>Rock and Roll Hall of Fame</u> inducts its first members: <u>Little Richard</u>, <u>Chuck Berry</u>, <u>James Brown</u>, <u>Ray Charles</u>, <u>Fats Domino</u>, the <u>Everly Brothers</u>, <u>Buddy Holly</u>, <u>Jerry Lee Lewis</u> and <u>Elvis Presley</u>.
- <u>1997</u> <u>Madeleine Albright</u> becomes the first woman to serve as <u>United States</u> <u>Secretary of State</u>.
- <u>2001</u> Five people attempt to <u>set themselves on fire</u> in <u>Beijing</u>'s <u>Tiananmen</u> <u>Square</u>, an act that many people later claim is staged by the <u>Communist Party of</u> <u>China</u> to frame <u>Falun Gong</u> and thus escalate their <u>persecution</u>.
- <u>2002</u> "American <u>Taliban</u>" <u>John Walker Lindh</u> returns to the <u>United States</u> in <u>FBI</u> custody.
- 2002 Reporter <u>Daniel Pearl</u> is <u>kidnapped</u> in <u>Karachi</u>, <u>Pakistan</u> and subsequently <u>murdered</u>.
- <u>2003</u> Final communication between Earth and <u>Pioneer 10</u>.