

February 12, 2014

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2. On Hollande visit, Obama speaks out on Iran, Syria struggles .
3. Email documents admiral's efforts to purge Osama bin Laden photos.
4. Drone use highlights questions for journalists.
5. Veterans of an earlier Afghan War: 'You have a brotherhood'.
6. VA cemetery division scored highest rating ever in customer-satisfaction survey.
7. Veterans Pensions Bill Advances Into Political War Zone.
8. Tester urges VA to expand Missoula outpatient clinic sooner.
9. Marco Rubio and Jeff Miller Tackle Veterans Affairs Reform.
10. Unanimous approval in U.S. House for in-state tuition for vets.
11. Tactical Veteran: More states offering in-state tuition to veterans.
12. Florida bill could lower veterans' tuition.
13. VA's Hickey challenges industry to hire more vets.
14. VA Wants to Buy Data Storage the Way It Buys Electricity.
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16. Pentagon Aims To Boost EHR Interoperability With VA.
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18. Veterans Demand Access to Marijuana But Our Government is Standing in the Way.
19. VA task force will host meeting in Hot Springs.
20. Orlando VA Hospital Won't Finish On Time.
21. Orlando ranks among most-delayed VA projects in U.S..
22. Local cadets pitch in to clean up new facility for female veterans.
23. Homeless Veterans An Issue In Connecticut.
24. Supportive Services program to help veterans with housing.
25. As D.C. Struggles To House Homeless, Veterans Program Is Bright Spot.
26. Governor Corbett Encourages Pennsylvanians to Take Part in National Salute to Veteran Patients.
27. W.Va. Senate bill would pave the way for a new veteran's facility in Raleigh County.

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28. Therapy Dog Brightens Veterans' Day at the Louis A Johnson VA Medical Center.

29. As Navy helicopter went down, survivor took stock.

30. Report: Shipyard workers warned about flaws before tall ship Bounty sank.

31. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as February 12, 2014:

32. Today in History:

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1. [House votes to repeal cuts to military retirement pay](#). The House voted Tuesday to repeal cuts to military retirement pay that were scheduled to go into effect next year.
2. [On Hollande visit, Obama speaks out on Iran, Syria struggles](#). President Barack Obama weighed into two international struggles Tuesday, vowing to come down like "a ton of bricks" on firms that violate sanctions against Iran and acknowledging that Syrian peace talks are far from reaching their goal.
3. [Email documents admiral's efforts to purge Osama bin Laden photos](#). An email obtained under a freedom of information request shows that Adm. William McRaven ordered any photographs of Osama bin Laden's corpse destroyed or turned over to the CIA.
4. [Drone use highlights questions for journalists](#). As police responded to a deadly car crash, they noticed an increasingly familiar sight: a remote-controlled aircraft, equipped with a video camera, hovering over the wreckage.
5. [Veterans of an earlier Afghan War: 'You have a brotherhood'](#). In the 1980s, Washington and Moscow were on opposite sides of the Afghan conflict. But today, as the United States is ending its own decade-long intervention in Afghanistan, veterans of the Soviet-Afghan war see what unites them and American servicemembers.
6. [VA cemetery division scored highest rating ever in customer-satisfaction survey](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Washington Post**: Here's some good news for a department experiencing its share of troubles lately. The Department of Veterans Affairs' National Cemetery Administration (NCA) scored the highest rating ever in a prominent customer-satisfaction survey.
7. [Veterans Pensions Bill Advances Into Political War Zone](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **National Journal**: Caving to overwhelming pressure from veterans' lobbying, the Senate took steps Monday toward unwinding a controversial cut in veterans pensions that has made lawmakers from both political parties vulnerable to attacks.
8. [Tester urges VA to expand Missoula outpatient clinic sooner](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Missoulian**: U.S. Sen. Jon Tester is urging the Department of Veterans Affairs to expand its Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Missoula sooner rather than later, saying the center is vital to the medical care of regional veterans.

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9. [Marco Rubio and Jeff Miller Tackle Veterans Affairs Reform](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Sunshine State News:** Two Florida Republicans teamed up on Tuesday to launch an effort to reform the federal Veterans Affairs Department.
10. [Unanimous approval in U.S. House for in-state tuition for vets](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Army Times:** A bill that would force schools to ease such residency rules for vets — or lose GI Bill eligibility entirely — passed the House Feb. 3 without a single dissenting vote, 390-0.
11. [Tactical Veteran: More states offering in-state tuition to veterans](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Army Times:** Many states are offering nonresident veterans in-state tuition for public colleges, although we still have a long way to go to get them all onboard.
12. [Florida bill could lower veterans' tuition](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Independent Florida Alligator:** Student veterans in Gainesville are reacting to two new pieces of legislation that could affect their tuition.
13. [VA's Hickey challenges industry to hire more vets](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Washington Technology:** Allison Hickey, the Veterans Affairs undersecretary for benefits, threw down the gauntlet last night, challenging the government contracting industry to hire more veterans.
14. [VA Wants to Buy Data Storage the Way It Buys Electricity](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **NextGov:** The Veterans Affairs Department launched a potential procurement yesterday to acquire storage systems for its five data centers on a metered basis, the same way households and businesses buy electricity.
15. [Veterans Affairs disability claims backlog hovers around 400K](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Washington Times:** The Veterans Benefits Administration announced that 1,000 new backlogged cases — those that have been pending for more than four months — have been added to its list.
16. [Pentagon Aims To Boost EHR Interoperability With VA](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **iHealthBeat:** Last month, the Department of Defense issued a draft request for proposals that would help the agency meet requirements for electronic health record interoperability under the Healthcare Management Systems Modernization project.

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17. [Kaiser, VHA form partnership.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Government Health IT:** Kaiser Permanente and the Veterans Health Administration have partnered to research and share best practices.
18. [Veterans Demand Access to Marijuana But Our Government is Standing in the Way.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **PolicyMic:** You might have heard about a study that found a correlation between the use of medical marijuana and lowered suicide rates. While the findings need more analysis, this is only one of several studies conducted in recent years that points out the growing need for medical marijuana by a specific population: Vets.
19. [VA task force will host meeting in Hot Springs.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Rapid City Journal:** A task force of the National American Legion will be back in Hot Springs, a scant two years after gathering information for a report in 2012.
20. [Orlando VA Hospital Won't Finish On Time.](#) Health News Florida Officials with the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs and the building ... In other hospital news, Belle Glade's Lakeside Medical Center is blaming its ...
21. [Orlando ranks among most-delayed VA projects in U.S.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Orlando Business Journal:** So the Orlando VA Medical Center is wicked over-budget and delayed: But how does that compare to other VA projects nationwide?
22. [Local cadets pitch in to clean up new facility for female veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Milford Beacon:** By the end of this month, a handful of homeless female veterans and their children will have the opportunity to get back on their feet with transitional housing near downtown Milford.
23. [Homeless Veterans An Issue In Connecticut.](#) [Hyperlink to Video](#) **WTIC-TV (Video):** Veterans' homelessness has been in the spotlight lately. In Malloy's "State of the State" speech he explained that Connecticut has roughly 500 homeless veterans.
24. [Supportive Services program to help veterans with housing.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Daily Telegram:** The Community Action Agency in Jackson, Lenawee and Hillsdale counties and Housing Help of Lenawee will work to help homeless or near-homeless veterans and families secure housing and services.

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25. [As D.C. Struggles To House Homeless, Veterans Program Is Bright Spot.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **WAMU-FM (Audio)**: There are 58,000 homeless veterans in the U.S., but over the last year a local-national collaboration has been successful in placing 50 of D.C.'s hardest to reach and most vulnerable veterans in their own homes.

26. [Governor Corbett Encourages Pennsylvanians to Take Part in National Salute to Veteran Patients.](#) NorthcentralPa.com ... to participate in National Salute to Veteran Patients Week at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers across Pennsylvania. "Those who.

27. [W.Va. Senate bill would pave the way for a new veteran's facility in Raleigh County.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Republic (AP)**: The West Virginia Senate Military Committee has endorsed a bill to allow construction of a 120-bed veterans nursing Home in Raleigh County.

28. [Therapy Dog Brightens Veterans' Day at the Louis A Johnson VA Medical Center.](#) [Hyperlink to Video](#) **WBOY-TV (Video)**: A few times every month Sharon Spevock brings her dog, Pebbles, to the Louis A Johnson VA Medical Center to lift the spirits of all the veterans.

29. [As Navy helicopter went down, survivor took stock.](#) It took just seconds from the time the crew noticed a problem to the moment the helicopter hit the water. Too quick to figure out what was wrong. Too quick to try to minimize the impact as the chopper smacked into the ocean and quickly submerged.

30. [Report: Shipyard workers warned about flaws before tall ship Bounty sank.](#) Crew members of the ill-fated Bounty tall ship used inadequate caulking and opted not to replace rotted sections of the wooden hull, despite concerns expressed by Maine shipyard workers just weeks before the famous vessel sank, according to a federal report released Monday.

31. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as February 12, 2014:**
 - **February 20, 2014.** HVAC Health will be holding a field hearing in Camarillo, California.
 - **February 25, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a hearing to receive a legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.
 - **February 26, 2014.** HVAC, Subcommittee on Health will conduct an oversight hearing entitled, "VA Accountability: Assessing Actions Taken in Response to Subcommittee Oversight."

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- **February 27, 2014.** Hearing of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs (HVAC EO) entitled, “VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program: Further Performance and Workload Management Improvements Needed.”
- **March 5, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee 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: BVA, JWV, MOPH, AMVETS, TREA, MOAA, VVA, NGUAS and NASDVA.
- **March 12, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of Veterans Organizations: PVA, IAVA, GSW, WWP, FRA, AFSA, NCAO, AXPOW.
- **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.

32. Today in History:

- [1733](#) – Englishman [James Oglethorpe](#) founds [Georgia](#), the 13th colony of the [Thirteen Colonies](#), and its first city at [Savannah](#) (known as [Georgia Day](#)).
- [1817](#) – An [Argentine/Chilean](#) patriotic army, after [crossing the Andes](#), defeats Spanish troops on the [Battle of Chacabuco](#).
- [1825](#) – The [Creek](#) cede the last of their lands in Georgia to the United States government by the [Treaty of Indian Springs](#), and migrate west.
- [1832](#) – [Ecuador](#) annexes the [Galápagos Islands](#).
- [1851](#) – [Edward Hargraves](#) announces that he has found [gold](#) in [Bathurst, New South Wales](#), Australia, starting the [Australian gold rushes](#).
- [1855](#) – [Michigan State University](#) is established.
- [1894](#) – [Anarchist Émile Henry](#) hurls a bomb into the Cafe Terminus in Paris, France, killing one and wounding 20.
- [1909](#) – The [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People](#) (NAACP) is founded.
- 1909 – New Zealand's worst maritime disaster of the 20th century happens when the [SS Penguin](#), an inter-island [ferry](#), sinks and explodes at the entrance to [Wellington Harbour](#).
- [1914](#) – In [Washington, D.C.](#), the first stone of the [Lincoln Memorial](#) is put into place.
- [1934](#) – The [Austrian Civil War](#) begins.
- [1935](#) – [USS Macon](#), one of the two largest [helium](#)-filled [airships](#) ever created, crashes into the Pacific Ocean off the coast of [California](#) and sinks.
- [1946](#) – [World War II: Operation Deadlight](#) ends after scuttling 121 of 154 captured [U-boats](#).

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- 1946 – [African American United States Army](#) veteran [Isaac Woodard](#) is severely beaten by a [South Carolina](#) police officer to the point where he loses his vision in both eyes. The incident later galvanizes the [Civil Rights Movement](#) and partially inspires [Orson Welles'](#) film *[Touch of Evil](#)*.
- [1947](#) – A [meteor](#) creates an [impact crater](#) in [Sikhote-Alin](#), in the [Soviet Union](#).
- 1947 – [Christian Dior](#) unveils a "[New Look](#)", helping Paris regain its position as the capital of the fashion world.
- [1961](#) – Soviet Union launches [Venera 1](#) towards [Venus](#).
- [1963](#) – Construction begins on the [Gateway Arch](#) in [St. Louis](#).
- [1968](#) – [Phong Nhi and Phong Nhát massacre](#).
- [1974](#) – [Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn](#), winner of the [Nobel Prize in Literature](#) in [1970](#), is exiled from the Soviet Union.
- [1990](#) – [Carmen Lawrence](#) becomes the first female Premier in Australian history when she becomes [Premier of Western Australia](#).
- [1992](#) – The current [Constitution of Mongolia](#) comes into effect.
- [1994](#) – Four men break into the [National Gallery of Norway](#) and steal [Edvard Munch](#)'s iconic painting *[The Scream](#)*.
- [1999](#) – United States President [Bill Clinton](#) is acquitted by the [United States Senate](#) in his [impeachment](#) trial.
- [2001](#) – [NEAR Shoemaker](#) spacecraft touches down in the "[saddle](#)" region of [433 Eros](#), becoming the first spacecraft to land on an [asteroid](#).
- [2002](#) – The [trial of Slobodan Milošević](#), the former President of the [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia](#), begins at the [United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia](#) in [The Hague](#), Netherlands. He dies four years later before its conclusion.
- [2009](#) – [Colgan Air Flight 3407](#) crashes into a house in [Clarence Center, New York](#) while on approach to [Buffalo Niagara International Airport](#), killing all on board and one on the ground.