

June 14, 2013

1. Guidelines for displaying the United States flag.
2. Flag Day marks retirement for old, worn-out U.S. flags.
3. Lawmaker: Terrorists change tactics after leaks.
4. Homeless veterans receive free vehicles.
5. Veteran Medical Benefits: Clear Out Backlogs.
6. VA says it has reached 'tipping point' in backlog struggle.
7. VA at 'tipping point' of breaking claims backlog.
8. VA Reaches 'Tipping Point' in Processing Backlogged Disability Claims.
9. Official addresses long waits on veteran health claims during Manchester visit.
10. VA Secretary Shinseki promotes e-claims system.
11. VA Secretary Shinseki visiting NH.
12. Veterans waiting for benefits in Manchester assured things will change.
13. Senate bill seeks to reduce VA backlog, shift away from paper-based claims.
14. Sen. urges benefits equality, legal aid for vets.
15. VA hires more than 1,600 mental health professionals to meet goal, expands access to care and outreach effort.
16. Birmingham VA Medical Center hires 43 new mental health workers.
17. VA supplements mental health staffing.
18. Orlando VA gets new mental health workers.
19. DoD, VA have spent \$1B trying to build joint health records system.
20. Oregon House OKs in-state tuition for new veterans.
21. Minn. Veterans Affairs agency launches retooled website, one-stop shop for needs of veterans.
22. Bills to lower vets' tuition face opposition from schools.
23. Three blind brothers learn to cook, cut wood, surf web at VA in Birmingham.
24. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as June 14, 2013:
25. Today in History:

June 14, 2013

1. [Guidelines for displaying the United States flag.](#) [The Daily Jeffersonian](#) The United States Department of Veterans Affairs offers the following guidelines for displaying the American flag, based on the Federal Flag Code. Traditional guidelines call for displaying the flag in public only from sunrise to sunset. However, the ...
2. [Flag Day marks retirement for old, worn-out U.S. flags.](#) The annual commemoration recognizes June 14, 1777, as the day that the red, white and blue — in its early adaptation — was officially recognized as the flag for the budding country.
3. [Lawmaker: Terrorists change tactics after leaks.](#) The chairman of the House Intelligence Committee said Thursday that terrorists are already changing their behavior after leaks about classified U.S. surveillance programs, but he offered no details.
4. [Homeless veterans receive free vehicles.](#) Thanks to a nationwide program that places refurbished cars in the hands of homeless veterans, Jennifer and Leon Cooper will be hauling their three kids to band practice — or wherever — in a beige 2007 Toyota Sienna.
5. [Veteran Medical Benefits: Clear Out Backlogs.](#) [The Ledger](#) Last week, the U.S. House approved legislation that includes more funding to help ease the backlogs, through such means as 94 additional claims processors and an ongoing transition to electronic records. The measure — a \$73.6 billion spending bill for ...
6. [VA says it has reached 'tipping point' in backlog struggle.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Washington Post:** The Department of Veterans Affairs has reached a “tipping point” in its struggle to get a grip on the massive backlog of disability claims plaguing veterans, a senior department official told a Senate committee Wednesday.
7. [VA at 'tipping point' of breaking claims backlog.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Army Times:** A top Veterans Affairs Department official reported Wednesday that VA may have broken the back of its claims backlog, the most vexing problem facing the department in the Post-9/11 era.

June 14, 2013

8. [VA Reaches 'Tipping Point' in Processing Backlogged Disability Claims.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **NextGov:** The Veterans Affairs Department has reached the "tipping point" in clearing up its massive backlog of disability claims, a top VA official told a hearing of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on Wednesday.
9. [Official addresses long waits on veteran health claims during Manchester visit.](#) [Nashua Telegraph](#) The head of the federal Department of Veterans Affairs, Secretary Eric Shinseki, talks to reporters Wednesday, June 12, 2013 in Manchester, N.H. after visiting the regional VA office where the electronic Veterans Benefits Management System is being used.
10. [VA Secretary Shinseki promotes e-claims system.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Boston.com (AP):** The head of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs says converting to a paperless claims system will markedly decrease the backlog of benefits applications that take several years to process in some states.
11. [VA Secretary Shinseki visiting NH.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **New England Cable News (AP):** The head of the federal Department of Veterans Affairs is visiting New Hampshire to discuss the department's new electronic claims processing system.
12. [Veterans waiting for benefits in Manchester assured things will change.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Union Leader:** The day is coming when injured veterans won't have to wait longer than 125 days to find out whether they will receive veteran disability benefits, the Secretary for Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki told reporters Wednesday.
13. [Senate bill seeks to reduce VA backlog, shift away from paper-based claims.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Washington Times:** A bipartisan pair of senators filed a bill on Wednesday that aims to reduce the backlog of claims for veterans' disability benefits by pointing applicants to filing methods with the quickest turnaround.
14. [Sen. urges benefits equality, legal aid for vets.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Boston.com (AP):** U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen urged members of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs Wednesday to pass bills that would bring benefits equality to same-sex military couples and would enhance law school programs that provide free legal services to veterans.

June 14, 2013

15. [VA hires more than 1,600 mental health professionals to meet goal, expands access to care and outreach effort.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Lake County News:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it has met the goal to hire 1,600 new mental health professionals outlined in President Obama's Aug. 31, 2012, Executive Order to Improve Access to Mental Health Services for Veterans, Service Members, and Military Families.

16. [Birmingham VA Medical Center hires 43 new mental health workers.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **AL.com:** The VA Medical Center here has hired 43 new mental health professionals, part of a national goal to hire 1,600 as outlined in a 2012 executive order from President Obama...Veteran's Affairs had hired 1,607 mental health providers as of May 31.

17. [VA supplements mental health staffing.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review:** The VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System has filled 30 new positions and 14 existing ones under a White House order to improve mental health programs, officials said Wednesday.

18. [Orlando VA gets new mental health workers.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Central Florida News 13:** The Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Orlando is getting 35 new mental health workers as part of the Obama Administration's goal of expanding mental health access for veterans

19. [DoD, VA have spent \\$1B trying to build joint health records system.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Federal Times:** The Defense and Veterans Affairs departments appear to be abandoning plans to build a joint system to seamlessly share electronic health records when military service members become veterans.

20. [Oregon House OKs in-state tuition for new veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Statesman Journal:** Veterans would get in-state tuition, if they enroll in state universities or community colleges this fall or later, under a bill headed for Gov. John Kitzhaber.

21. [Minn. Veterans Affairs agency launches retooled website, one-stop shop for needs of veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Star Tribune:** The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a newly redesigned website aimed at giving the state's veterans improved access to job opportunities, information about healthcare options and benefits, and other services.

June 14, 2013

22. [Bills to lower vets' tuition face opposition from schools.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Army Times:** Bipartisan legislation that would force public colleges and universities to charge only in-state tuition rates to troops and veterans — if they want to keep receiving GI Bill payments — is facing strong opposition from schools that could see revenues drop under the proposal.

23. [Three blind brothers learn to cook, cut wood, surf web at VA in Birmingham.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **AL.com:** Daniel, Derrick and Darrell Bidgood - three blind brothers -- are going home today to Charlotte, N.C., more confident than ever about living with their with their increasingly impaired eyesight.

24. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as June 14, 2013:

- **June 18, 2013.** Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs will hold a hearing on the post-decision process for appealed Veterans. 2:30 P.M.; 334 Cannon
- **June 20, 2013.** HVAC Economic Opportunity Subcommittee will hold a hearing to discuss the value of education for Veterans at public, private, and for-profit colleges and universities. 10:00 A.M.; 334 Cannon
- **June 26, 2013.** HVAC Economic Opportunity Subcommittee will hold a legislative hearing on the following bills. Time: TBD

The tentative bill list is as follows:

- HR 331 – School Consortium Bill, to permit the centralized reporting of Veteran enrollment by certain groups, districts, and consortiums of educational institutions.
- HR 1357 – VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, to improve the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program by providing assistance under such program for certain training programs that are considered less than fulltime.
- HR 1796 –Troop Talent Act, ensure that the education and training provided members of the Armed Forces and Veterans better assists members and Veterans in obtaining civilian certifications and licenses, and for other purposes.
- HR 2210 – Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship Improvements Act of 2013, amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the eligibility of children of certain deceased Veterans to educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

June 14, 2013

- Education bill on 'irrevocable decision'.
 - Draft "Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration Act of 2009," this is a reprise of a Buyer Bill from 2009 that would split off from VBA a new "Economic Opportunity Administration."
- **June 27, 2013.** HVAC will hold a hearing to discuss VA's capital investment options to provide Veterans with care. 10:00 A.M.; 334 Cannon

25. Today in History:

- [1648](#) – Margaret Jones is hanged in [Boston](#) for [witchcraft](#) in the first such execution for the [Massachusetts](#) colony.
- [1667](#) – The [Raid on the Medway](#) by the [Dutch](#) fleet in the [Second Anglo-Dutch War](#) ends. It had lasted for five days and resulted in the worst ever defeat of the [Royal Navy](#).
- [1775](#) – [American Revolutionary War](#): the [Continental Army](#) is established by the [Continental Congress](#), marking the birth of the [United States Army](#).
- [1777](#) – The [Stars and Stripes](#) is adopted by Congress as the Flag of the United States.
- [1789](#) – [Mutiny on the Bounty](#): [HMS Bounty](#) mutiny survivors including Captain [William Bligh](#) and 18 others reach [Timor](#) after a nearly 7,400 km (4,600 mi) journey in an open boat.
- 1789 – [Whiskey](#) distilled from [maize](#) is first produced by American clergyman the Rev [Elijah Craig](#). It is named [Bourbon](#) because Rev Craig lived in [Bourbon County, Kentucky](#).
- [1800](#) – The French Army of [First Consul Napoleon Bonaparte](#) defeats the Austrians at the [Battle of Marengo](#) in Northern Italy and re-conquers Italy.
- [1807](#) – Emperor [Napoleon's](#) French [Grande Armée](#) defeats the [Russian Army](#) at the [Battle of Friedland](#) in Poland (modern Russian [Kaliningrad Oblast](#)) ending the [War of the Fourth Coalition](#).
- [1821](#) – [Badi VII](#), king of [Sennar](#), surrenders his throne and realm to [Isma'il Pasha](#), general of the [Ottoman Empire](#), ending the existence of that Sudanese kingdom.
- [1830](#) – Beginning of the [French colonization of Algeria](#): 34,000 French soldiers begin their [invasion of Algiers](#), landing 27 kilometers west at [Sidi Fredj](#).
- [1839](#) – [Henley Royal Regatta](#): the village of [Henley-on-Thames](#), on the [River Thames](#) in [Oxfordshire](#), stages its first [regatta](#).
- [1846](#) – [Bear Flag Revolt](#) begins – [Anglo](#) settlers in [Sonoma, California](#), start a rebellion against Mexico and proclaim the [California Republic](#).
- [1863](#) – [American Civil War](#): [Second Battle of Winchester](#) – a [Union](#) garrison is defeated by the [Army of Northern Virginia](#) in the [Shenandoah Valley](#) town of [Winchester, Virginia](#).
- [1863](#) – Second Assault on the Confederate works at the [Siege of Port Hudson](#) during the American Civil War.
- [1900](#) – Hawaii becomes a [United States territory](#).
- 1900 – The [Reichstag](#) approves a second law that allows the expansion of the German navy.
- [1907](#) – Norway gives women the [right to vote](#).
- [1926](#) – [Brazil](#) leaves the [League of Nations](#)

June 14, 2013

- [1937](#) – [Pennsylvania](#) becomes the first (and only) state of the United States to celebrate [Flag Day](#) officially as a [state holiday](#).
- 1937 – U.S. House of Representatives passes the [Marihuana Tax Act](#).
- [1940](#) – [World War II](#): Paris falls under German occupation, and Allied forces retreat.
- 1940 – The [Soviet Union presents an ultimatum to Lithuania](#) resulting in Lithuanian loss of independence.
- 1940 – A group of 728 Polish political prisoners from [Tarnów](#) become the first residents of the [Auschwitz concentration camp](#).
- [1941](#) – [June deportation](#): the first major wave of Soviet mass deportations and murder of [Estonians](#), [Latvians](#) and [Lithuanians](#), begins.
- [1944](#) – World War II: After several failed attempts, the British Army abandons [Operation Perch](#), its plan to capture the [German](#)-occupied town of [Caen](#).
- [1945](#) – World War II: Filipino troops of the 15th, 66th and 121st Infantry Regiment, Philippine Commonwealth Army, USAFIP-NL liberate the captured in [Ilocos Sur](#) and start the [Battle of Bessang Pass](#) in Northern Luzon.
- [1947](#) – [Roswell UFO incident](#): a supposed UFO crash lands in [Roswell, New Mexico](#).
- [1949](#) – Albert II, a [rhesus monkey](#), rides a [V2 rocket](#) to an altitude of 134 km (83 mi), thereby becoming the first [monkey in space](#).
- [1951](#) – [UNIVAC I](#) is dedicated by the [U.S. Census Bureau](#).
- [1952](#) – The [keel](#) is laid for the nuclear submarine [USS Nautilus](#).
- [1954](#) – U.S. President [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#) signs a bill into law that places the words "under God" into the United States [Pledge of Allegiance](#).
- [1959](#) – [Disneyland Monorail System](#), the first daily operating monorail system in the [Western Hemisphere](#), opens to the public in [Anaheim, California](#).
- [1959](#) – A group of Dominican exiles depart from [Cuba](#) and land in the [Dominican Republic](#) with the intent of overthrowing the totalitarian government of [Rafael Trujillo](#). All but four are killed or executed.
- [1965](#) – [Nguyen Cao Ky](#) becomes Prime Minister of [South Vietnam](#) at the head of a military junta; General [Nguyen Van Thieu](#) becomes the figurehead chief of state.
- [1966](#) – The [Vatican](#) announces the abolition of the [Index Librorum Prohibitorum](#) ("index of prohibited books"), which was originally instituted in [1557](#).
- [1967](#) – [Mariner program](#): [Mariner 5](#) is launched towards [Venus](#).
- [1967](#) – The [People's Republic of China](#) tests its first [hydrogen bomb](#).
- [1982](#) – The [Falklands War](#) ends: [Argentine](#) forces in the capital [Stanley](#) [conditionally surrender](#) to British forces.
- [1985](#) – [TWA Flight 847](#) is hijacked by [Hezbollah](#) shortly after take-off from [Athens](#), Greece.
- [1994](#) – The [1994 Stanley Cup riot](#) occurs after the New York Rangers win the [Stanley Cup](#) from Vancouver, causing an estimated CA\$1.1 million, leading to 200 arrests and injuries. One person is left with permanent [brain damage](#).
- [2002](#) – [Near-Earth asteroid 2002 MN](#) misses the [Earth](#) by 75,000 miles (121,000 km), about one-third of the distance between the Earth and the [Moon](#).