

# June 16, 2013

1. **Top VA official: New Syracuse spinal cord center will help repay 'debt of honor' owed to vets.**
2. **A New Step In Solving The Mystery Of Gulf War Illness.**
3. **Veterans' Biggest Benefits Are Things the VA Can't Provide.**
4. **New compliant reporting system for schools on the way.**
5. **Real solutions for veterans' claims system.**
6. **Sen. Jay Rockefeller/Healing the wounds of war.**
7. **Veterans Affairs federal secretary meets with vets in Syracuse.**
8. **Advocates say VA gutting Gulf War Illness panel.**
9. **New technology would improve VA care.**
10. **Syracuse VA Medical Center opening new \$90M wing.**
11. **New vets home plan doesn't need special legislative session.**
12. **Golf program offered to disabled vets.**
13. **Disabled Vets Will Soon Participate in Unique Rehabilitation Program.**
14. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as June 15, 2013:**
15. **Today in History:**

# June 16, 2013

1. [Top VA official: New Syracuse spinal cord center will help repay 'debt of honor' owed to vets.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Post-Standard:** Eric K. Shinseki, the nation's secretary of Veterans Affairs, said the new spinal cord injury center at the Syracuse VA Medical Center will help continue to repay what he called the nation's "debt of honor" to its veterans.
2. [A New Step In Solving The Mystery Of Gulf War Illness.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Forbes:** Researchers at Georgetown designed a study to test how the brains of sick veterans responded to exercise. The initial results are promising to veterans, many of whom have complained for years that [VA] doctors attribute their disease to war-related stress or a psychological disorder.
3. [Veterans' Biggest Benefits Are Things the VA Can't Provide.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **PolicyMic:** After the passage of the new Chapter 33 Post 9/11 G.I. Bill, [Veteran Matthew] Litsey decided to use the enticing benefits that he and many of his fellow Marines had been waiting for. On May 10, 2009 at the age of 22, Litsey began his journey as a college freshman at Western Kentucky University.
4. [New compliant reporting system for schools on the way.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Army Times:** The federal government is testing, and plans to soon implement, a broad new complaint reporting system designed to root out the "bad apples" among education institutions that serve troops and veterans, a Defense Department official told Congress. Frederick Vollrath, assistant secretary of defense for readiness and force management, said the automated system, scheduled to start Sept. 1, will coordinate information and efforts across the Defense, Veterans Affairs, Education and Justice departments.
5. [Real solutions for veterans' claims system.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Hill:** From the prospective of a Vietnam veteran who receives compensation and medical care through the Department of Veterans Affairs, calling for a change in the agency's leadership is wrongheaded and would do no good in resolving the claims backlog.
6. [Sen. Jay Rockefeller/Healing the wounds of war.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette:** Imagine you're the mom of three young boys with special needs. You are deeply proud of your husband, a combat veteran who served five tours of duty and earned two combat action badges. But you and your family struggle every single day with the invisible wounds of war.

# June 16, 2013

7. [Veterans Affairs federal secretary meets with vets in Syracuse.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Your News Now:** The federal secretary of Veterans Affairs says there has been progress, but more needs to be done to connect unemployed veterans and employers.
8. [Advocates say VA gutting Gulf War Illness panel.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **USA Today:** Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki has altered the charter of an independent board to research Gulf War Illness, cut its budget and limited the board's independence, according to a directive Shinseki signed last month.
9. [New technology would improve VA care.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has named the elimination of hospital-acquired infections one of their "Top Ten Winnable Battles."
10. [Syracuse VA Medical Center opening new \\$90M wing.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Wall Street Journal (AP):** Officials at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Syracuse are set to unveil the facility's new \$90 million addition.
11. [New vets home plan doesn't need special legislative session.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Rapid City Journal:** Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced on Wednesday that there will be more delays in the construction of the new State Veterans Home in Hot Springs. But he also announced that negotiations with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will extend a \$23.6 million federal grant so the project can proceed when other issues are settled.
12. [Golf program offered to disabled vets.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **WIVB-TV (Video):** A new program will help local veterans with disabilities hit the fairway.
13. [Disabled Vets Will Soon Participate in Unique Rehabilitation Program.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **WKBW-TV (Video):** Disabled military veterans will soon participate in a unique rehabilitation program thanks to a new partnership.
14. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as June 15, 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 19, 2013.** HVAC Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations will hold a legislative Hearing on H.R. 1490 'Veterans' Privacy Act;' H.R. 1792, 'Infectious Disease Reporting Act;' and H.R. 1804, 'Foreign Travel Accountability Act'. 1:30 P.M.; Cannon

# June 16, 2013

- **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.
  - 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
  - **July 10, 2013.** The House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs will hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Armed Services entitled, “DOD and VA Collaboration to assist Service Members Returning to Civilian Life.” 10:00 A.M.; 2118 Rayburn

## 15. Today in History:

- [1648](#) – [Margaret Jones](#) is hanged in [Boston](#) for [witchcraft](#) in the first such execution for the [Massachusetts Bay Colony](#).
- [1667](#) – The first human [blood transfusion](#) is administered by Dr. [Jean-Baptiste Denys](#).

# June 16, 2013

- [1752](#) – [Benjamin Franklin](#) proves that [lightning](#) is [electricity](#) (traditional date, the exact date is unknown).
- [1775](#) – [American Revolutionary War](#): [George Washington](#) is appointed commander-in-chief of the [Continental Army](#).
- [1776](#) – Delaware Separation Day – [Delaware](#) votes to suspend government under the [British Crown](#) and separate officially from [Pennsylvania](#).
- [1785](#) – [Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier](#), co-pilot of the first-ever manned flight (1783), and his companion, [Pierre Romain](#), become the first-ever [casualties](#) of an air crash when their [hot air balloon](#) explodes during their attempt to cross the [English Channel](#).
- [1804](#) – [New Hampshire](#) approves the [Twelfth Amendment to the United States Constitution](#), ratifying the document.
- [1836](#) – [Arkansas](#) is admitted as the 25th [U.S. state](#).
- [1844](#) – [Charles Goodyear](#) receives a [patent](#) for [vulcanization](#), a process to strengthen [rubber](#).
- [1846](#) – The [Oregon Treaty](#) establishes the [49th parallel](#) as the border between the [United States](#) and [Canada](#), from the [Rocky Mountains](#) to the [Strait of Juan de Fuca](#).
- [1859](#) – [Pig War](#): Ambiguity in the Oregon Treaty leads to the "Northwestern Boundary Dispute" between [United States](#) and [British/Canadian](#) settlers.
- [1864](#) – [American Civil War](#): The [Second Battle of Petersburg](#) begins.
- [1864](#) – [Arlington National Cemetery](#) is established when 200 acres (0.81 km<sup>2</sup>) around Arlington Mansion (formerly owned by Confederate General [Robert E. Lee](#)) are officially set aside as a military [cemetery](#) by [U.S. Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton](#).
- [1877](#) – [Henry Ossian Flipper](#) becomes the first [African American](#) cadet to graduate from the [United States Military Academy](#).
- [1878](#) – [Eadweard Muybridge](#) takes [a series of photographs](#) to prove that all four feet of a horse leave the ground when it runs; the study becomes the basis of [motion pictures](#).
- [1888](#) – Crown Prince [Wilhelm](#) becomes Kaiser Wilhelm II; he will be the last Emperor of the [German Empire](#).
- [1896](#) – The [deadliest tsunami](#) in [Japan](#)'s history kills more than 22,000 people.
- [1913](#) – The [Battle of Bud Bagsak](#) in the [Philippines](#) ends.
- [1916](#) – U.S. President [Woodrow Wilson](#) signs a bill incorporating the [Boy Scouts of America](#), making them the only American youth organization with a federal charter.
- [1919](#) – [John Alcock](#) and [Arthur Brown](#) complete the first nonstop [transatlantic flight](#) when they reach [Clifden](#), [County Galway](#), [Ireland](#).
- [1920](#) – A new border treaty between [Germany](#) and [Denmark](#) gives northern [Schleswig](#) to Denmark.
- [1934](#) – The U.S. [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#) is founded.
- [1940](#) – [World War II](#): [Operation Ariel](#) begins – [Allied](#) troops start to evacuate [France](#), following [Germany](#)'s takeover of [Paris](#) and most of the nation.
- [1944](#) – World War II: [Battle of Saipan](#): The [United States](#) invade Japanese-occupied [Saipan](#).
- [1978](#) – [King Hussein](#) of [Jordan](#) marries American Lisa Halaby, who takes the name [Queen Noor](#).

## June 16, 2013

- [1985](#) – [Rembrandt](#)'s painting [Danaë](#) is attacked by a man (later judged insane) who throws [sulfuric acid](#) on the canvas and cuts it twice with a knife.
- [1991](#) – In the Philippines, [Mount Pinatubo](#) erupts in the second largest volcanic eruption of the 20th Century. In the end, over 800 people die.
- [1992](#) – The [United States Supreme Court](#) rules in [United States v. Álvarez-Machain](#) that it is permissible for the United States to forcibly extradite suspects in foreign countries and bring them to the USA for trial, without approval from those other countries.
- [1994](#) – [Israel](#) and [Vatican City](#) establish full [diplomatic relations](#).
- [1996](#) – The [Provisional Irish Republican Army](#) explodes [a large bomb](#) in the middle of [Manchester](#), [England](#), [United Kingdom](#).
- [2012](#) – [Nik Wallenda](#) becomes the first person to successfully [tightrope walk](#) over [Niagara Falls](#).