

# June 25, 2013

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19. **Today in History:**

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1. [Legislation addresses issues facing female vets.](#) [Legislative Gazette](#) Military sexual trauma, which encompasses physical assault, battery, or sexual harassment occurring while a veteran is serving on active duty or training, has become a leading disorder for women veterans. The Department of Veteran Affairs acknowledges ...
2. [Warriors Discover Healing Power of Love, Intimacy.](#) [The Fatherhood Channel](#) Joshua and Missie Grantham find comfort in each other's arms after completing confiding exercise during PAIRS weekend marriage retreat sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. MOBILE, ALABAMA — They fought in Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan ...
3. [White House urges Moscow to expel Snowden to US.](#) The U.S. assumes National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden remains in Russia, and officials are working with Moscow in hopes he will be expelled and returned to America to face criminal charges, President Barack Obama's spokesman said Monday. He declared that a decision by Hong Kong not to detain Snowden has "unquestionably" hurt relations between the United States and China.
4. [Army Initiates Collaborative Effort on TBI, PTSD.](#) Over the last 12 years, many soldiers have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan with wounds, some visible and some not, a leader in Army Medicine said here June 22. "The invisible wounds -- post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury -- are just as damaging as the visible ones. They impact the families as well as the soldiers," said Brig. Gen. (Dr.) John M. Cho, deputy chief of staff for operations with Army Medical Command. An Iraq War veteran himself, Cho spoke outside the U.S. Capitol as part of National ...
5. [Iconic Civil War photograph sparks controversy.](#) A photo of a lone Confederate soldier lying dead in Devil's Den within the Slaughter Pen area at Gettysburg has become an indelible symbol of intimate combat and death — and possibly even the war itself.
6. [VFW posts looking to grow younger.](#) VFW posts nationwide are reaching out to younger veterans in an effort to shave a few years off the face of the organization.

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7. [African-American re-enactors bring Civil War history to life.](#) The Confederate troops stand at the edge of a grassy expanse, tending their cannon and scouting the Union forces moving south. The two armies, separated by about 75 yards, steady their weapons and gaze uneasily into the muggy afternoon.
8. [Calif. soldiers of 'Forgotten War' to be honored 60 years later.](#) When Naval veteran Bob Houchins of Vallejo came home from the Korean War in 1953 he got no hero's welcome. In fact no one seemed to notice he'd been gone. He wasn't the only one.
9. [VA reaches out to female vets.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Times Union:** Like facilities throughout the Veterans Health Administration, the Albany VA has focused on creating a more welcoming environment attuned to women's needs, as the number of women returning from military service grows, their average age gets younger and the system steps up to address the growing problem of sexual trauma.
10. [In Debate Over Military Sexual Assault, Men Are Overlooked Victims.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The New York Times:** Sexual assault has emerged as one of the defining issues for the military this year. Reports of assaults are up, as are questions about whether commanders have taken the problem seriously... But in a debate that has focused largely on women, this fact is often overlooked: the majority of service members who are sexually assaulted each year are men.
11. [Why the VA Is Buried in Disability Claims.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Wall Street Journal:** But the biggest issue by far is how the current system defines "disability." The average American may picture a disabled veteran as a wartime amputee, burn patient or wheelchair user. Fortunately, this isn't the case. The number of major amputations from Iraq and Afghanistan combined is less than 2,000, and the number of serious burns is around 2,500.
12. [Editorial: Action - Veterans Affairs backlog won't yield to oratory.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Fayetteville Observer:** The Department of Veterans Affairs has two goals. One is to reduce the time for processing a disability claim to 125 days. It is still nowhere near that goal. The other was unequivocally stated by Secretary Eric Shinseki: "We will end the backlog in 2015."
13. [More mental health care available for vets.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Valley Morning Star:** VA Texas Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System has hired 25 new mental health care staff members in its district that stretches from west of Laredo through Harlingen to Corpus Christi. Also, 13 more have been hired to fill existing vacancies, DVA officials said.
14. [Healing the invisible wounds of war.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Fayette Tribune:** The reality for our veterans is that, far too often, they face a host of issues when they come home — backlogs, claim delays, stigma and lack of understanding around their private struggles. Without the right care, things can start to spiral out of control — financial hardship, marital stress, feelings of hopelessness.

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15. [Vt. colleges helping vets adjust to student life.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#)  
**Boston Globe (AP):** Colleges and universities across the state are trying to ease the transition of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans becoming students with special programs and workshops tailored to their experiences.
16. [It's time for our state to give credit to its military veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#)  
**Vindicator:** Kudos to Ohio Gov. John Kasich for his executive order this month that seeks to fairly compensate the well-honed skill sets of the state's 900,000 military veterans with college and vocational-education credits.
17. [Federally funded project refurbishes cemetery at Ohio veterans home.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#)  
**The Republic:** Thousands of military veterans' headstones and cemetery plots are being refurbished in a massive cleanup effort at a cemetery in northwestern Ohio.
18. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as June 25, 2013:**
  - **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

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- **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

## 19. Today in History:

- [1788](#) – [Virginia](#) becomes the 10th state to ratify the [United States Constitution](#).
- [1876](#) – [Battle of the Little Bighorn](#) and the death of Lieutenant Colonel [George Armstrong Custer](#).
- [1906](#) – [Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania](#) millionaire [Harry Thaw](#) shoots and kills prominent architect [Stanford White](#).
- [1910](#) – The [United States Congress](#) passes the [Mann Act](#), which prohibits interstate transport of females for "immoral purposes"; the ambiguous language would be used to selectively prosecute people for years to come.
- [1913](#) – [American Civil War](#) veterans begin arriving at the [Great Reunion of 1913](#).
- [1938](#) – Dr. [Douglas Hyde](#) is inaugurated as the first [President of Ireland](#).
- [1940](#) – [World War II](#): France officially surrenders to Germany at 01:35.
- [1943](#) – [The Holocaust](#): Jews in the [Częstochowa Ghetto](#) in [Poland](#) stage an [uprising](#) against the Nazis.
- [1944](#) – [World War II](#): The [Battle of Tali-Ihantala](#), the largest battle ever fought in the [Nordic Countries](#), begins.
- 1944 – World War II: [United States Navy](#) and [Royal Navy](#) ships [bombard](#) Cherbourg to support [United States Army](#) units engaged in the [Battle of Cherbourg](#).
- 1944 – The final page of the comic [Krazy Kat](#) was published, exactly two months after its author [George Herriman](#) died.
- [1947](#) – [The Diary of a Young Girl](#) (better known as *The Diary of Anne Frank*) is published.
- [1948](#) – The [Berlin airlift](#) begins.
- [1949](#) – [Long-Haired Hare](#), starring [Bugs Bunny](#), is released in theaters.
- [1950](#) – The [Korean War](#) begins with the invasion of [South Korea](#) by [North Korea](#).
- [1960](#) – Two [cryptographers](#) working for the United States [National Security Agency](#) left for vacation to Mexico, and from there [defected to the Soviet Union](#).
- [1967](#) – Broadcasting of the first live global satellite television program: [Our World](#)
- [1975](#) – The [State of Emergency](#) is declared in [India](#).
- [1976](#) – [Missouri](#) Governor [Kit Bond](#) issues an executive order rescinding the [Extermination Order](#), formally apologizing on behalf of the state of Missouri for the suffering it had caused to the members of [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints](#).
- [1981](#) – [Microsoft](#) is restructured to become an incorporated business in its home state of [Washington](#).
- [1982](#) – [Greece](#) abolishes the [head shaving](#) of recruits in the [military](#).
- [1991](#) – [Croatia](#) and [Slovenia](#) declare their independence from [Yugoslavia](#).
- [1993](#) – [Kim Campbell](#) is chosen as leader of the [Progressive Conservative Party of Canada](#) and becomes the first female [Prime Minister of Canada](#).
- [1996](#) – The [Khobar Towers bombing](#) in [Saudi Arabia](#) kills 19 [U.S. servicemen](#).
- [1997](#) – An unmanned [Progress spacecraft](#) collides with the [Russian space station Mir](#).

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- [1998](#) – In [Clinton v. City of New York](#), the [United States Supreme Court](#) decides that the [Line Item Veto Act of 1996](#) is [unconstitutional](#).
- [2006](#) – [Gilad Shalit](#), an Israeli soldier, is kidnapped by Palestinian militants in a cross-border raid from the [Israeli territory](#).
- [2009](#) – [Domenic Johansson](#), a Indian-Swedish boy, is forcibly removed by Swedish authorities from the care of his parents, raising human rights issues surrounding the rights of parents and children in Sweden.
- [2012](#) – The final steel beam of [4 World Trade Center](#) is lifted into place in a ceremony.