

June 26, 2013

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2. New Wyoming law to recognize veterans on driver's licenses.
3. DAV's mobile service speeds up benefits.
4. Troops nearing retirement can't transfer GI Bill benefits without giving 4 more years.
5. Worth the wait.
6. VA Says Catching Up on Disability Claims.
7. Military sharpens new tools to deal with brain injuries.
8. Defining The Deep Pain PTSD Doesn't Capture.
9. Veterans' Uphill Road Back, Struggle With Suicide.
10. Study: Brains of Gulf War illness vets look different.
11. Senators Say VA Must Do More for Military Sex Assault Victims.
12. ADA: VA's MOVE Helps Block Diabetes.
13. School of Nursing and Atlanta VA Medical Center awarded \$4 million to train nurses to care for veterans.
14. Budget Boondogle For VA Clinics.
15. Future site of Fayetteville Veteran Affairs Health Care Center celebrated Monday; site to open Fall 2015.
16. Ex-VA hospital director facing corruption charges received bonuses.
17. For Veterans: Don't rely on 'some guy told me'.
18. State of Delaware launches Veterans Services Directory.
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1. [Medal of Honor recipient Petry honored with statue in hometown](#). After parachuting onto the field next to the Fort Marcy Recreation Complex on Monday morning, Sgt. First Class Leroy Petry said there's no better way to see the American flag flying in the wind than to watch one floating to earth while attached to a parachutist.
2. [New Wyoming law to recognize veterans on driver's licenses](#). Beginning Monday, The Wyoming Department of Transportation will start issuing driver's licenses and identification cards with a special designation for honorably discharged veterans.
3. [DAV's mobile service speeds up benefits](#). The Disabled American Veterans mobile service unit came to Springfield, Ohio, on Monday for the first time to assist veterans with benefits claims, and many of them came hoping to speed up the application process.
4. [Troops nearing retirement can't transfer GI Bill benefits without giving 4 more years](#). Beginning Aug. 1, all active-duty military personnel who opt to transfer their Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits to a family member will be obligated to four more years of service, including troops who are eligible for retirement.
5. [Worth the wait](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**: I was incensed by the letter "The VA Is Failing the Nation's Veterans" (June 9) by U.S. Rep. Keith Rothfus. I have only the most sincere appreciation for the Veterans Administration.
6. [VA Says Catching Up on Disability Claims](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **About.com**: Since starting its "push," the VA reports it has finished processing 97% of the benefit claims over two years old and will now focus its efforts on completing the benefit claims of veterans who have been waiting over one year for a decision.
7. [Military sharpens new tools to deal with brain injuries](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **USA Today**: A study of more than 900 veterans treated at Department of Veterans Affairs facilities in Palo Alto, Calif., from 2009 to 2011 found differences between women and men who suffered traumatic brain injury. Scientists have no explanation for the differences.
8. [Defining The Deep Pain PTSD Doesn't Capture](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **WBUR**: Jonathan Shay, a psychiatrist at the Department of Veteran's Affairs' clinic in Boston, coined the phrase moral injury in the mid-1990s. He was looking for a way to describe damage to a veteran's spirit or soul that PTSD didn't capture.

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9. [Veterans' Uphill Road Back, Struggle With Suicide](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **ABC News (AP):** The treatment was helpful but his feelings about the VA are "really mixed. My take is they are a bunch of really well-meaning people. I don't know that it's resourced for the tasks." Also huge numbers of veterans — a tiny portion of the larger population — live in small towns, far from the cities where veteran services are available.
10. [Study: Brains of Gulf War illness vets look different](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Army Times:** Brain scans of veterans with symptoms of Gulf War illness show neurological differences between those who deployed to the region in 1990 and 1991 and a control group — a finding researchers say could explain some of the condition's symptoms, such as chronic pain and extreme fatigue.
11. [Senators Say VA Must Do More for Military Sex Assault Victims](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **FedSmith.com:** With the Pentagon's startling estimate that 26,000 sexual assaults occurred last year, two key senators today urged the Department of Veterans Affairs to step up efforts to provide care and benefits for veterans who experienced sexual assault in the military.
12. [ADA: VA's MOVE Helps Block Diabetes](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **MedPage Today:** In an analysis of data from one such program in the Veterans Affairs health system, there was a significant reduction in incident diabetes over 3 years (RR 0.84, P<0.001), Sandra Jackson, MPH, of Emory University in Atlanta, reported at the American Diabetes Association meeting here.
13. [School of Nursing and Atlanta VA Medical Center awarded \\$4 million to train nurses to care for veterans](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Emory University:** Emory University's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing and the Atlanta VA Medical Center (VAMC) are teaming up to train nurses for the specialized field of veteran health care. The VA Health System is anticipating a nursing shortage because of the increasing demand for health care for aging and returning veterans and a projected wave of nurse retirements.
14. [Budget Boondogle For VA Clinics](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **TucsonCitizen.com:** [Congress] forced VA to find funds for all 15 leases to cover an entire 20-year leasing period... Because VA could not pay the entire cost (between \$1.2 and \$1.5 billion) in the first year for 15 clinics... This program, both new clinic leases and renewals for existing leases, is now in jeopardy.
15. [Future site of Fayetteville Veteran Affairs Health Care Center celebrated Monday; site to open Fall 2015](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Fayetteville Observer:** Promises of better health care for area and surrounding military veterans was celebrated at the future site of the Fayetteville Veteran Affairs Health Care Center Monday morning.

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16. [Ex-VA hospital director facing corruption charges received bonuses. Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Center for Investigative Reporting:** A former Department of Veterans Affairs hospital director indicted on 36 corruption-related charges received thousands of dollars in bonuses during the same period he is accused of taking bribes and kickbacks from contractors who received lucrative contracts with the agency.
17. [For Veterans: Don't rely on 'some guy told me'. Hyperlink to Story](#) **Herald-Times:** VA pension programs generate a lot of interest among veterans, spouses and widows, because of the income these programs can provide for the care of these individuals...It is best to call your county veterans affairs office with your questions rather than relying on the "some guy told me" source, which often proves inaccurate.
18. [State of Delaware launches Veterans Services Directory. Hyperlink to Story](#) **Cape Gazette:** Gov. Jack Markell was joined June 18 by Delaware Secretary of State Jeffrey Bullock, Rep. Earl G. Jaques Jr., D-Glasgow, and representatives from the Delaware Commission of Veteran Affairs to announce the launch of the Veterans Services Directory.
19. [Homeless population drops in Virginia. Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Washington Post:** Not long after taking office, McDonnell (R) pledged to reduce homelessness by 15 percent by 2013. It has fallen by 16 percent overall, by 17 percent for families and by 18 percent for veterans, McDonnell said. The last of those groups was a special focus for McDonnell, a veteran and whose daughter served with the Army in Iraq.
20. [New law aimed at helping veterans get jobs in trades. Hyperlink to Story](#) **Augusta Chronicle:** Starting July 1, the "Veterans Licensure Bill" will go into effect in Georgia, granting a newly created state workgroup the power to speed up the certification process for military families seeking employment in five in-demand occupations – plumber, electrician, heating and air specialist, residential lighting and utility foreman.
21. [Op-Ed: Macy's honors veterans with the 'got your back' initiative. Hyperlink to Story](#) **Digital Journal:** ...Macy's is working in partnership with a national military campaign called "Got Your Six." ...Incidentally, summer time is also when the annual The Brain at War conference is held in San Francisco... The conference and its affiliations to the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has been working tirelessly to raise public awareness about the physical and psychological injuries returning military personnel struggle with daily.

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22. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as June 26, 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
 - **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

23. Today in History:

- [1718](#) – [Tsarevich Alexei Petrovich of Russia](#), [Peter the Great's](#) son, mysteriously dies after being sentenced to death by his father for plotting against him.
- [1723](#) – After a siege and bombardment by cannon, [Baku](#) surrenders to the [Russians](#).
- [1740](#) – A combined force Spanish, free blacks and allied Indians defeat a British garrison at the [Siege of Fort Mose](#) near [St. Augustine](#) during the [War of Jenkins' Ear](#).
- [1848](#) – End of the [June Days Uprising](#) in Paris.

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- [1870](#) – The [Christian](#) holiday of [Christmas](#) is declared a [federal holiday](#) in the United States.
- [1906](#) – [1906 French Grand Prix](#), the first Grand Prix motor racing event held
- [1917](#) – The first U.S. troops arrive in France to fight alongside [Britain](#) and France against Germany in [World War I](#).
- [1918](#) – [World War I](#), [Western Front: Battle for Belleau Wood](#) – Allied Forces under [John J. Pershing](#) and [James Harbord](#) defeat Imperial German Forces under [Wilhelm, German Crown Prince](#).
- [1924](#) – American occupying forces leave the [Dominican Republic](#).
- [1927](#) – [The Cyclone](#) roller coaster opens on [Coney Island](#).
- [1934](#) – President [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) signs the [Federal Credit Union Act](#), which establishes credit unions.
- [1936](#) – Initial flight of the [Focke-Wulf Fw 61](#), the first practical helicopter.
- [1940](#) – [World War II](#): under the [Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact](#), the [Soviet Union](#) presents an [ultimatum](#) to [Romania](#) requiring it to cede [Bessarabia](#) and the northern part of [Bukovina](#).
- [1941](#) – World War II: Soviet planes [bomb Kassa, Hungary](#) (now [Košice, Slovakia](#)), giving Hungary the impetus to declare war the next day.
- [1942](#) – The first flight of the [Grumman F6F Hellcat](#).
- [1944](#) – World War II: The [Battle of Osuchy](#) in [Osuchy, Poland](#), ends with the defeat of the [Polish resistance forces](#).
- [1945](#) – The [United Nations Charter](#) is signed in San Francisco.
- [1948](#) – The Western allies begin an airlift to Berlin after the [Soviet Union](#) blockades [West Berlin](#).
- [1959](#) – The [Saint Lawrence Seaway](#) opens, opening North America's [Great Lakes](#) to ocean-going ships.
- [1960](#) – The former British Protectorate of [British Somaliland](#) gains its independence as [Somaliland](#).
- 1960 – [Madagascar](#) gains its independence from France.
- [1963](#) – U.S. President [John F. Kennedy](#) gave his "[Ich bin ein Berliner](#)" speech, underlining the support of the [United States](#) for democratic [West Germany](#) shortly after [Soviet](#)-supported [East Germany](#) erected the [Berlin Wall](#).
- [1973](#) – At [Plesetsk Cosmodrome](#) 9 people are killed in an explosion of a Cosmos 3-M rocket.
- [1974](#) – The [Universal Product Code](#) is scanned for the first time to sell a package of Wrigley's [chewing gum](#) at the Marsh Supermarket in Troy, Ohio
- [1975](#) – The [State of Emergency](#) is declared in [India](#).
- [1975](#) – Two [FBI](#) agents and a member of the [American Indian Movement](#) are killed in a shootout on the [Pine Ridge Indian Reservation](#) in [South Dakota](#); [Leonard Peltier](#) is later convicted of the murders in a controversial trial.
- [1977](#) – The [Yorkshire Ripper](#) kills 16 year old shop assistant Jayne MacDonald in [Leeds](#), changing public perception of the killer as she is the first victim who is not a [prostitute](#).
- [1991](#) – [Ten-Day War](#): the Yugoslav people's army begins the Ten-Day War in [Slovenia](#).
- [1995](#) – [Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani](#) deposes his father [Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani](#), the [Emir](#) of [Qatar](#), in a bloodless [coup](#).

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- [1996](#) – Irish Journalist [Veronica Guerin](#) is shot in her car while in traffic in the outskirts of [Dublin](#)
- [1997](#) – The [U.S. Supreme Court](#) rules that the [Communications Decency Act](#) violates the [First Amendment to the United States Constitution](#).
- [2006](#) – [Mari Alkatiri](#), the first [Prime Minister of East Timor](#), resigns after weeks of political unrest.
- [2012](#) – The [Waldo Canyon Fire](#) descends into the Mountain Shadows neighborhood in [Colorado Springs](#) burning 347 homes in a matter of hours and killing two people.