

July 2, 2013

1. **DOD Helps Military Families Avoid Money Scams.**
2. **Kentucky First Lady urges veterans to use services that can prevent suicides.**
3. **Gov. Brown's Budget to Convert 84 Beds at West L.A. VA.**
4. **New Jersey's female veterans receive help from new Easter Seals initiative.**
5. **Help not getting to veterans and military members who need it.**
6. **Law cracks down on schemes that target veterans.**
7. **Hagel Notes 40th Anniversary of All-volunteer Force.**
8. **Scandia man indicted for stealing survivor benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.**
9. **Former Gray Bear Construction Company Owner Sentenced for Lying to Obtain Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Program (SDVOSB) Contracts.**
10. **States, Military Step Up Foreclosure Protections.**
11. **Vietnam veteran suffering from Agent Orange caught in VA benefits backlog.**
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15. **Veterans find peace, healing in equine therapy.**
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1. [DOD Helps Military Families Avoid Money Scams](#). While dodging financial scams seem to have become a part of life, Defense Department officials have measures to protect the military community from such circumstances, a senior Pentagon official said in a recent interview. Scamming incidents in the military parallel those in the civilian community, Barbara Thompson, director of the Defense Department's office of family
2. [Kentucky First Lady urges veterans to use services that can prevent suicides](#). [WDRB](#) Kentucky First Lady Jane Beshear is urging veterans, their families, and communities to make use of services that can help prevent suicides. A report from the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs found that around 22 U.S. veterans take their own ...
3. [Gov. Brown's Budget to Convert 84 Beds at West L.A. VA](#). [Patch.com](#) The massive backlog of California veterans' claims stuck in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs processing logjam could soon be alleviated following Governor Jerry Brown's signed 2013-14 budget. It's authorized \$3 million and 36 limited-term ...
4. [New Jersey's female veterans receive help from new Easter Seals initiative](#). [MyCentralJersey.com](#) According to the Department of Veteran Affairs, about 33,000 female veterans return to New Jersey to a typically unexpected set of struggles after serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Women represent the fastest-growing veteran population, comprising ...
5. [Help not getting to veterans and military members who need it](#). [WAVE](#) Even as the U.S. military presence overseas begins to drop, the wounds of war are becoming increasingly present back at home. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs says post-traumatic stress disorder poses a rising risk to our ...
6. [Law cracks down on schemes that target veterans](#). [Sarasota Herald-Tribune](#) The state has more than 1.5 million military veterans, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Only Texas (1.7 million) and California (1.8 million) have more. Sarasota, Manatee and Charlotte counties have a combined 90,000 military veterans.

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7. [Hagel Notes 40th Anniversary of All-volunteer Force](#). Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel today issued a message to the men and women of the Defense Department to mark the 40th anniversary of the nation's all-volunteer force. Here is the text of the secretary's message: Forty years ago today, the Department of Defense implemented one of the most ...

8. [Scandia man indicted for stealing survivor benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#). Minnesota Man Who Cashed Deceased Mother's VA Checks Faces Up to 10 Years in Prison If Convicted

9. [Former Gray Bear Construction Company Owner Sentenced for Lying to Obtain Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Program \(SDVOSB\) Contracts](#). Oregon Construction Owner Fined \$200K, Gets 5 Years Probation for Defrauding Veteran Set-Aside Contract Program

10. [States, Military Step Up Foreclosure Protections](#). [DigitalJournal.com](#)
Amid a myriad of first-time home buyer programs offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, The Federal Savings Bank has been informing its veteran clients that aggressive foreclosure protection legislation is being adopted in some states as well as ...

11. [Vietnam veteran suffering from Agent Orange caught in VA benefits backlog](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **FOXNews.com**: A Vietnam veteran has been waiting for more than two years for government benefits to help pay for treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and exposure to Agent Orange, WSMV Channel 4 reported.

12. [The VA Claims Backlog](#). [Hyperlink to Above Story](#) **National Review**: The implementation of digital technology is important going forward, but it won't do anything for the millions of veterans whose military records are old, faded pieces of paper. Newly discharged veterans may well be able to provide VA with electronic records, but the odds drop to near zero for veterans of previous eras.

13. [Military suicides: an unspoken tragedy](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Roanoke Times**: Treatment centers and psychiatric counseling and support systems are in place, however, and Jackie Garrick who heads the Pentagon's Defense Suicide Prevention Office stresses in the Times article that "our [military] people are our most valuable resource and we are very committed to taking care of them."

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14. [Group seeks to help vets with PTSD. **Hyperlink to Story Record-Eagle:**](#)
Veterans already may obtain free counseling for a wide range of issues at the Traverse City Veteran Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic... But Stalsonburg wants to provide free, professional help while they get their paperwork processed.

15. [Veterans find peace, healing in equine therapy. **Hyperlink to Story Atlanta Journal-Constitution \(The Indianapolis Star-AP\):**](#) McLaughlin, like a number of Indiana veterans with issues deriving from their military service, is working with horses and learning life skills from them. He is enrolled at "Strides to Success," a Plainfield farm accredited by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International.

16. [Mixed benefits of DOMA decision for gay couples in Florida. **Hyperlink to Story Tampa Bay Times:**](#) If a gay couple got married in, say, Massachusetts and lived there when the benefits took effect, and later moved to Florida, the Department of Veterans Affairs would still recognize the couple as married and continue dispensing the benefits... If, however, a gay couple married in Massachusetts, then applied for benefits in Florida, it's unlikely the VA would honor the marriage, experts think.

17. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as July 2, 2013:**
 - **July 9, 2013.** The House Veterans Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Health intends to hold a legislative hearing on health related bills. 10:00 A.M.; 334 Cannon

Tentative Bill List:
 - Draft Bill XXX-- "Veterans Choice-Long Term Care" Certified Adult Foster Home (Miller(FL)
 - H.R. 1612-- To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to convey a parcel of land in Tuskegee, Alabama, to Tuskegee University, and for other purposes (Rogers (AL)
 - H.R. 2065-- Safe Housing for Homeless Veterans Act (McKinley (WV)
 - H.R. 1143-- Tinnitus Research and Treatment Act of 2013 (Michaud (ME)
 - H.R. 1702-- Veterans Transportation Service Act (Barber (AZ)

 - **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

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18. Today in History:

- [1776](#) – The [Continental Congress](#) adopts a [resolution](#) severing ties with the [Kingdom of Great Britain](#) although the wording of the formal [Declaration of Independence](#) is not approved until [July 4](#).
- [1777](#) – [Vermont](#) becomes the first [American](#) territory to abolish [slavery](#).
- [1823](#) – [Bahia](#) Independence Day: the end of Portuguese rule in [Brazil](#), with the final defeat of the Portuguese crown loyalists in the province of Bahia.
- [1839](#) – Twenty miles off the coast of [Cuba](#), 53 rebelling [African slaves](#) led by [Joseph Cinqué](#) take over the slave ship [Amistad](#).
- [1853](#) – The Russian Army crossed the Pruth river into the [Danubian Principalities](#), Moldavia and Wallachia—providing the spark that set off the Crimean War.
- [1871](#) – [Victor Emmanuel II of Italy](#) enters [Rome](#) after having conquered it from the [Papal States](#).
- [1881](#) – [Charles J. Guiteau](#) shoots and fatally wounds [U.S. President James Garfield](#), who eventually dies from an infection on [September 19](#).
- [1890](#) – The [U.S. Congress](#) passes the [Sherman Anti-Trust Act](#).
- [1900](#) – The first [Zeppelin](#) flight takes place on [Lake Constance](#) near [Friedrichshafen, Germany](#).
- [1917](#) – The [East St. Louis Riots](#) end.
- [1934](#) – The [Night of the Long Knives](#) ends with the death of [Ernst Röhm](#).
- [1937](#) – [Amelia Earhart](#) and navigator [Fred Noonan](#) are last heard from over the [Pacific Ocean](#) while attempting to make the first equatorial round-the-world flight.
- [1940](#) – [Indian](#) independence leader [Subhas Chandra Bose](#) is arrested and detained in [Calcutta](#).
- [1962](#) – The first [Wal-Mart](#) store opens for business in [Rogers, Arkansas](#).
- [1964](#) – [U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson](#) signs the [Civil Rights Act of 1964](#) meant to prohibit segregation in public places.
- [1966](#) – The French military explodes a nuclear test bomb codenamed Aldébaran in [Mururoa](#), their first nuclear test in the Pacific.
- [1976](#) – Fall of the [Republic of Vietnam](#); Communist [North Vietnam](#) declares their union to form the Socialist Republic of [Vietnam](#).
- [1986](#) – [Rodrigo Rojas](#) and [Carmen Gloria Quintana](#) were burnt alive during a street demonstration against the [dictatorship](#) of General [Augusto Pinochet](#) in [Chile](#).
- [1993](#) – 37 participants in an [Alevi](#) cultural and literary festival are killed when a mob of demonstrators set fire to their hotel in [Sivas](#) during a violent protest.
- [2000](#) – [Vicente Fox Quesada](#) is elected the first [President of México](#) from an opposition party, the [Partido Acción Nacional](#), after more than 70 years of continuous rule by the [Partido Revolucionario Institucional](#).
- [2001](#) – The [AbioCor](#) self-contained artificial heart is first implanted.
- [2002](#) – [Steve Fossett](#) becomes the first person to fly solo around the world nonstop in a balloon.
- [2010](#) – The [South Kivu tank truck explosion](#) in the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) kills at least 230 people.