

July 22, 2013

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1. [Good Morning! The VA Turns 83 Today.](#) [KWTX](#) On July 21, 1930—83 years ago today--President Herbert Hoover signed an executive order establishing the Veterans Administration, now the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The Waco VA Medical Center opened less than two years later on May
2. [Cyclist travels cross country to combat 'epidemic' of veterans committing suicide.](#) [Belleville News Democrat](#) An estimated 22 veterans committed suicide each day in the United States in 2010, according to a recently released report from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. L'Italien's journey from Flagstaff, Ariz., to Massachusetts began on June 21. L ...
3. [Region vets want people to remember 'forgotten war'.](#) [nwitimes.com](#) Of the roughly 499,000 veterans living in Indiana as of September 2012, 49,960 served in the Korean War, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Veteran services offices in Lake and Porter counties did not have a breakdown of Korean ...
4. [Could Medicare Find Savings Through Generic Drugs?](#) [Pharmacy Times](#) Within the Medicare system, patients with diabetes are more likely to use brand-name drugs than similar patients in the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) system, according to the results of a retrospective cohort study appearing online June 11 ...
5. [Mood shifting, Congress may move to limit NSA spying.](#) Congress is growing increasingly wary of controversial National Security Agency domestic surveillance programs, a concern likely to erupt during legislative debate — and perhaps prod legislative action — as early as next week.
6. [Federal government struggles to unload surplus property.](#) Two years after the Obama administration relaunched an effort to get rid of surplus federal buildings, almost all of the excess property identified in Maryland remains in government hands, a review by The Baltimore Sun has found.
7. [Vets reeling from military sexual assault describe gaps in accessing VA health care.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Washington Post (AP):** More than 85,000 veterans were treated through the VA last year for injuries or illness linked to sexual abuse. The chief complaints Friday focused on a lack of access to care and a general lack of sensitivity toward their suffering, which they viewed as another betrayal by the government they had tried to serve.

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8. [Former Troops Say U.S. Veterans Agency Failing Sex-Abuse Victims](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Bloomberg News:** Medical staff at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs aren't recognizing signs of sexual abuse in former troops and haven't been properly treating victims, veterans said at a congressional hearing.
9. [DoD, VA failing to treat military sexual trauma, veterans testify](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Army Times:** The Defense and Veterans Affairs departments are failing to provide adequate mental health services to troops and veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder caused by sexual assault — a deficiency that contributes to lifelong struggles, military rape survivors told Congress on Friday.
10. [Parkland, Dallas VA get perfect scores](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Dallas Voice:** Parkland Health and Hospital System and the VA North Texas Health Care System received perfect scores on this year's Healthcare Equality Index from the Human Rights Campaign and were recognized as leaders in LGBT healthcare equality.
11. [Details of veterans' clinic emerge](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Register-Guard:** Design of the new veterans' clinic in north Eugene officially got underway this week, with a planned opening date of summer 2015, an Oregon VA official said Friday.
12. [Veterans Corner: Agent Orange menace lingers for Vietnam vets](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Tennessean:** (19 July, Barry Rice, 464k online visitors/mo; Nashville, TN)
A series of Agent Orange town hall meetings will be conducted across Tennessee to inform, to provide a platform for asking questions and an opportunity for Vietnam veterans and their families to speak with veteran service officers about initiating claims for VA benefits.
13. [The VA's backlogs epidemic](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Hill:** Overall the VA is still making progress toward ending its claims backlog, and we at Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America certainly hope that this general trend continues. However, as the VA makes one step forward in one area, it is making two steps backward in another, as the backlog of claims appeals is now growing to a staggering level.
14. 14. [Shinseki's bold backlog goal drew fire, also dollars](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **News Tribune:** In setting an ambitious goal three years ago to end the Department of Veterans Affairs' disability claims backlog in 2015, VA Secretary Eric Shinseki exposed himself to criticism, including calls to resign as the backlog rose. But that bold goal, Shinseki said, also helped VA get the funding it needed to modernize operations, including to phase out an inefficient, paper-driven claim processing system.

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15. [Women vets: 'We need to keep working together'](#). [Hyperlink to Story Beacon-News](#): They were four strong women, representing different generations and different branches of the military. Yet all four had one thing in common: pride in their service to this country. But they came to the Womens Veterans' Fair last week at Waubensee Community College in downtown Aurora because they wanted to become more visible.
16. [A Veteran's Piercing True Story Leaps from Page To Stage](#). [Hyperlink to Story NPR](#): Iraq veteran Brian Castner wrote a book about his struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder for his kids, so they could someday know what he'd been going through when he came home from war.
17. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as July 22, 2013:**
- **July 23, 2013.** The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will hold a hearing entitled, "The 90/10 Rule: Improving Educational Outcomes for our Military and Veterans." 10:30A.M., 342 Dirksen
18. **Today in History:**
- [1587 – Colony of Roanoke](#): a second group of English settlers arrives on [Roanoke Island](#) off [North Carolina](#) to re-establish the deserted colony.
 - [1686 – Albany, New York](#) is formally chartered as a municipality by Governor [Thomas Dongan](#).
 - [1796](#) – Surveyors of the [Connecticut Land Company](#) name an area in [Ohio](#) "[Cleveland](#)" after Gen. [Moses Cleaveland](#), the superintendent of the surveying party.
 - [1797 – Battle of Santa Cruz de Tenerife](#): Battle between Spanish and British naval forces during the [French Revolutionary Wars](#). During the Battle, Rear-Admiral [Nelson](#) is wounded in the arm and the arm had to be partially amputated.
 - [1805 – Napoleonic Wars: War of the Third Coalition – Battle of Cape Finisterre](#) – an inconclusive naval action is fought between a combined French and Spanish fleet under Admiral [Pierre-Charles Villeneuve](#) of Spain and a British fleet under Admiral [Robert Calder](#).
 - [1812 – Napoleonic Wars: Peninsular War – Battle of Salamanca](#) – [British](#) forces led by [Arthur Wellesley](#) (later the Duke of Wellington) defeat [French](#) troops near [Salamanca, Spain](#).
 - [1864 – American Civil War: Battle of Atlanta](#) – outside [Atlanta, Georgia](#), [Confederate](#) General [John Bell Hood](#) leads an unsuccessful attack on [Union](#) troops under General [William T. Sherman](#) on Bald Hill.
 - [1894](#) – The [first ever motor race](#) is held in [France](#) between the cities of [Paris](#) and [Rouen](#). The fastest finisher was the Comte [Jules-Albert de Dion](#), but The 'official' victory was awarded to [Albert Lemaître](#) driving his 3 hp petrol engined [Peugeot](#).
 - [1916](#) – In [San Francisco, California](#), a bomb explodes on [Market Street](#) during a [Preparedness Day](#) parade killing 10 and injuring 40.
 - [1933 – Wiley Post](#) becomes the first person to fly solo around the world traveling 15,596 miles (25,099 km) in 7 days, 18 hours and 45 minutes.

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- [1934](#) – Outside [Chicago's Biograph Theater](#), "Public Enemy No. 1" [John Dillinger](#) is mortally wounded by [FBI](#) agents.
- [1937](#) – [New Deal](#): the [United States Senate](#) votes down President [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#)'s proposal to [add more justices](#) to the [Supreme Court of the United States](#).
- [1942](#) – The [United States government](#) begins compulsory civilian [gasoline rationing](#) due to the wartime demands.
- [1942](#) – [Holocaust](#): the systematic deportation of [Jews](#) from the [Warsaw Ghetto](#) begins.
- [1943](#) – [World War II](#): [Allied](#) forces capture the [Italian](#) city of [Palermo](#).
- [1944](#) – The [Polish Committee of National Liberation](#) publishes its [manifesto](#), starting the period of [Communist rule in Poland](#)
- [1946](#) – [King David Hotel bombing](#): a Zionist underground organization, the [Irgun](#), bombs the [King David Hotel](#) in [Jerusalem](#), site of the civil administration and military headquarters for [Mandate Palestine](#), resulting in 91 deaths.
- [1951](#) – [Dezik \(Дезик\)](#) and [Tsygan \(Цыган, "Gypsy"\)](#) are the [first dogs to make a sub-orbital flight](#).
- [1962](#) – [Mariner program](#): [Mariner 1](#) spacecraft flies erratically several minutes after launch and has to be destroyed.
- [1976](#) – [Japan](#) completes its last reparation to the [Philippines](#) for war crimes committed during the imperial Japan's conquest of the country in the [Second World War](#)
- [1977](#) – [Chinese](#) leader [Deng Xiaoping](#) is restored to power.
- [1983](#) – [Martial law in Poland](#) is officially revoked.
- [1991](#) – [Jeffrey Dahmer](#) is arrested in [Milwaukee](#) after police discover human remains in his apartment.
- [1992](#) – Near [Medellín](#), [Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar](#) escapes from his luxury prison fearing extradition to the [United States](#).
- [1993](#) – [Great Flood of 1993](#): [levees](#) near [Kaskaskia, Illinois](#) rupture, forcing the entire town to evacuate by barges operated by the [Army Corps of Engineers](#).
- [1997](#) – The second [Blue Water Bridge](#) opens between [Port Huron, Michigan](#) and [Sarnia, Ontario](#).
- [2003](#) – Members of [101st Airborne](#) of the [United States](#), aided by Special Forces, attack a compound in [Iraq](#), killing [Saddam Hussein](#)'s sons [Uday](#) and [Qusay](#), along with [Mustapha Hussein](#), Qusay's 14-year old son, and a bodyguard.
- [2005](#) – [Jean Charles de Menezes](#) is killed by police as the hunt begins for the London Bombers responsible for the [7 July 2005 London bombings](#) and the [21 July 2005 London bombings](#).
- [2011](#) – [Norway](#) is the victim of [twin terror attacks](#), the first being a bomb blast which targeted government buildings in central [Oslo](#), the second being a massacre at a youth camp on the island of [Utøya](#).