

# March 25, 2013

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2. Fallen heroes remembered at 50th anniversary of Sky Soldiers.
3. Ambush still haunts former Iraq War POW Shoshana Johnson.
4. Key US decision on Cuba terror-designation coming.
5. After decade of war, troops still struggling to find work.
6. Maryland Senate passes veteran jobs bill.
7. The Ground Truth on Veterans' Unemployment.
8. Vt and Maine reps seek to ease vet herbicides fear.
9. Bill: Help more blind, disabled vets get to VA.
10. A slap at veterans.
11. Vets visit Capitol Hill, demand better benefits.
12. VA's Efforts to Reduce Claims Backlog.
13. Post-traumatic stress disorder in Northeast Ohio veterans, effect on families..
14. The voices of veterans ring out in Maryland's debate about assault rifles.
15. Veterans Want Legislation Giving Preference For State Jobs.
16. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 25, 2013:
17. Today in History:

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1. [Blue Angels perform last show for awhile](#). The Blue Angels may be performing their final exhibition for the foreseeable future.
2. [Fallen heroes remembered at 50th anniversary of Sky Soldiers](#). The 173rd Airborne Brigade, the first U.S. combat unit in the Vietnam War, lost 48 paratroopers during intense fighting on Nov. 8, 1965. Those soldiers and others were remembered Saturday as hundreds gathered at the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center.
3. [Ambush still haunts former Iraq War POW Shoshana Johnson](#). Although the home offers a refuge from the Iraqi battlefield that changed her life 10 years ago, ex-POW Shoshana Johnson confesses that she is still haunted by the ghosts of war
4. [Key US decision on Cuba terror-designation coming](#). A normally routine bit of Washington bureaucracy could have a big impact on U.S. relations with Cuba, either ushering in a long-stalled detente or slamming the door on rapprochement, perhaps until the scheduled end of the Castro era in 2018.
5. [After decade of war, troops still struggling to find work](#). This is what the end of a decade of war looked like in Oklahoma a few weeks ago: ex-soldiers in cheap new business suits; human resources managers with salesman smiles and stacks of glossy fliers; a former Marine speaking to a television news crew about the “tough times” and “nightmares” he has had since coming home.
6. [Maryland Senate passes veteran jobs bill](#). **Washington Examiner:** Military veterans would get academic credit for skills learned during their service under a bill passed by the Maryland state Senate on Friday.
7. [The Ground Truth on Veterans' Unemployment](#). **TIME:** The unemployment numbers are getting better for everyone. But better isn't good enough. No matter how you spin it, the truth remains that for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, the unemployment rate is unacceptable.
8. [Vt and Maine reps seek to ease vet herbicides fear](#). **The Boston Globe (AP):** Two U.S. Representatives from Vermont and Maine want the Department of Veterans' Affairs to help veterans who fear they may have been exposed to dangerous herbicides at a Canadian military base.

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9. [Bill: Help more blind, disabled vets get to VA.](#) **Army Times:** The Veterans Affairs Department should do a better job of helping blind and severely disabled veterans reach their medical appointments, say two House Democrats who have written a bill that would require VA to broaden its rules on paying for transportation for veterans.
10. [A slap at veterans.](#) **Buffalo News:** The Department of Veterans Affairs has, for mysterious reasons, canceled a six-day athletic event in Buffalo that will cost the community more than \$2 million and disappoint more than 2,500 veterans and their families, sponsors and supporters.
11. [Vets visit Capitol Hill, demand better benefits.](#) **Army Times:** Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America brought 45 of its members to Washington, D.C., for a week to press for improvements in veterans' programs, highlighted by a call for a presidential commission to make recommendations on how to reduce the backlog of veterans' disability claims.
12. [VA's Efforts to Reduce Claims Backlog.](#) **The Herald:** In a letter to Congress, AFGE focused on several critical workforce issues that are essential to the success of VBA Transformation, including an overhaul of arbitrary performance standards, an end to training shortcuts by management, and a new system for allocating resources to ROs that supports, rather than punishes low performing offices.
13. [Post-traumatic stress disorder in Northeast Ohio veterans, effect on families.](#) **Plain Dealer:** The spillover effects of a veteran's PTSD includes a variety of psychological problems impacting their wives, children and parents.
14. [The voices of veterans ring out in Maryland's debate about assault rifles.](#) **Washington Post:** Veterans streaming back from Iraq and Afghanistan have argued that freedoms they fought for overseas would be violated at home.
15. [Veterans Want Legislation Giving Preference For State Jobs.](#) **WOWT-TV (AP):** National Guardsman Jonathan Terry spent a year searching for a job after he returned to Nebraska from serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. The best he could find paid him \$10 per hour to be a bar bouncer.
16. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as March 25, 2013:**
  - **April 10, 2013.** The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, will conduct a hearing entitled "Sustaining the Sacred Trust: An Update on our National Cemeteries." 2:30 P.M.; 334 Cannon
  - **April 18, 2013.** HAC-MILCON-VA FY14 Budget Hearing. 10:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.; H-140, Capitol

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- **April 18, 2013.** SAC-MILCON-VA FY14 Budget Hearing. 2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.; 125 Dirksen

## 17. Today in History:

- [1584](#) – [Sir Walter Raleigh](#) is granted a patent to colonize [Virginia](#).
- [1634](#) – The first settlers arrive in [Maryland](#).
- [1655](#) – [Saturn](#)'s largest moon, [Titan](#), is discovered by [Christiaan Huygens](#).
- [1802](#) – The [Treaty of Amiens](#) is signed as a "Definitive Treaty of Peace" between France and the [United Kingdom](#).
- [1807](#) – The [Slave Trade Act](#) becomes law, abolishing the [slave trade](#) in the [British Empire](#).
- [1807](#) – The [Swansea and Mumbles Railway](#), then known as the Oystermouth Railway, becomes the first passenger carrying railway in the world.
- [1811](#) – [Percy Bysshe Shelley](#) is expelled from the [University of Oxford](#) for publishing the pamphlet [The Necessity of Atheism](#).
- [1821](#) – ([Julian Calendar](#)) Traditional date of the start of the [Greek War of Independence](#). The war had actually begun since [23 February](#) 1821. The date was chosen in the early years of the Greek state so that it falls on the day of the [Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#), strengthening the ties between the Greek Orthodox Church and the newly-found state.
- [1865](#) – [American Civil War](#): In [Virginia](#), [Confederate](#) forces temporarily capture [Fort Stedman](#) from the [Union](#).
- [1894](#) – [Coxey's Army](#), the first significant [American](#) protest march, departs [Massillon, Ohio](#) for [Washington D.C.](#)
- [1911](#) – In [New York City](#), the [Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire](#) kills 146 garment workers.
- [1917](#) – The [Georgian Orthodox Church](#) restores its [autocephaly](#) abolished by [Imperial Russia](#) in 1811.
- [1918](#) – The [Belarusian People's Republic](#) is established.
- [1924](#) – On the anniversary of [Greek Independence](#), [Alexandros Papanastasiou](#) proclaims the [Second Hellenic Republic](#).
- [1931](#) – The [Scottsboro Boys](#) are arrested in [Alabama](#) and charged with [rape](#).
- [1941](#) – The [Kingdom of Yugoslavia](#) joins the [Axis powers](#) with the signing of the [Tripartite Pact](#).
- [1947](#) – An [explosion in a coal mine](#) in [Centralia, Illinois](#) kills 111.
- [1948](#) – The first successful [tornado forecast](#) predicts that [a tornado will strike Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma](#).
- [1949](#) – The extensive deportation campaign known as [March deportation](#) is conducted in [Estonia](#), [Latvia](#) and [Lithuania](#) to force [collectivisation](#) by way of [terror](#). The [Soviet](#) authorities deport more than 92,000 people from the [Baltics](#) to remote areas of the [Soviet Union](#).
- [1957](#) – [United States Customs](#) seizes copies of [Allen Ginsberg](#)'s poem "[Howl](#)" on the grounds of obscenity.
- [1957](#) – The [European Economic Community](#) is established ([West Germany](#), France, [Italy](#), [Belgium](#), [Netherlands](#), [Luxembourg](#)).
- [1958](#) – [Canada](#)'s [Avro Arrow](#) makes its first flight.
- [1965](#) – [Civil rights](#) activists led by [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) successfully complete their [4-day 50-mile march](#) from [Selma](#) to the capitol in [Montgomery, Alabama](#).

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- [1969](#) – During their honeymoon, [John Lennon](#) and [Yoko Ono](#) hold their first [Bed-In for Peace](#) at the Amsterdam Hilton Hotel (until March 31).
- [1971](#) – [Bangladesh Liberation War](#): Beginning of [Operation Searchlight](#) by the [Pakistani Armed Forces](#) against [East Pakistani](#) civilians.
- [1971](#) – The [Army of the Republic of Vietnam](#) [abandon an attempt](#) to cut off the [Ho Chi Minh trail](#) in [Laos](#).
- [1975](#) – [Faisal of Saudi Arabia](#) is shot and killed by a [mentally ill](#) nephew.
- [1979](#) – The first fully functional [space shuttle](#) orbiter, [Columbia](#), is delivered to the [John F. Kennedy Space Center](#) to be prepared for its first launch.
- [1988](#) – The [Candle demonstration](#) in [Bratislava](#) is the first mass demonstration of the 1980s against the communist regime in [Czechoslovakia](#).
- [1990](#) – The [Happy Land fire](#) was an arson fire that kills 87 people trapped inside an illegal nightclub in the [New York City borough](#) of [The Bronx](#).
- [1992](#) – [Pakistan national cricket team](#) won the [1992 Cricket World Cup](#) first time in the history of cricket, [Final](#) was played at [Melbourne Cricket Ground](#) .
- [1992](#) – [Cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev](#) returns to [Earth](#) after a 10-month stay aboard the [Mir space station](#).
- [1995](#) – [WikiWikiWeb](#), the world's first wiki, and part of the [Portland Pattern Repository](#), is made public by [Ward Cunningham](#).
- [1996](#) – An [81-day-long standoff](#) between the anti-government group [Montana Freeman](#) and law enforcement near [Jordan, Montana](#), begins.
- [1996](#) – The [European Union's](#) Veterinarian Committee bans the export of [British](#) beef and its by-products as a result of mad cow disease ([Bovine spongiform encephalopathy](#)).
- [2006](#) – [Capitol Hill massacre](#): A gunman kills six people before taking his own life at a party in Seattle's [Capitol Hill](#) neighborhood.
- [2006](#) – Protesters demanding a new election in [Belarus](#), following the rigged [Belarusian presidential election, 2006](#), clash with riot police. Opposition leader [Aleksander Kozulin](#) is among several protesters arrested.