

April 1, 2013

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2. Thresher submarine tragedy to be recalled 50 years later.
3. Forgotten Navy airship crash remembered 80 years later.
4. Vietnam War troops receive official warm welcome home.
5. World War II planes are star of living history exhibit.
6. Yankees visit, play game at US Military Academy.
7. Newsroom.
8. **OPINION: Virginia War Memorial: Run to remember our veterans.**
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1. [Female soldiers breaking new ground in combat roles in the Army and Fort Bragg](#). The question of whether women can serve in Army roles previously restricted to men is being answered on Fort Bragg, where the male-only world of artillery has opened to female soldiers.
2. [Thresher submarine tragedy to be recalled 50 years later](#). Fifty years have passed since the attack submarine USS Thresher sank in the Atlantic with a crew of 129, but the organizer of this year's historic memorial service says lessons continue to be learned from the tragedy.
3. [Forgotten Navy airship crash remembered 80 years later](#). A major airship disaster will be remembered this week in New Jersey. And it's not the one you're probably thinking of.
4. [Vietnam War troops receive official warm welcome home](#). On Friday, Vietnam veteran Pat Mitchell, who remembers being spit upon in 1967 when he returned from the war, was among roughly 200 other Vietnam veterans who were welcomed home officially with a ceremony at Fort Sill.
5. [World War II planes are star of living history exhibit](#). On Friday, WWII bomber pilot Bill Brolier was a passenger in a B-24 that flew in the "Wings of Freedom Tour," which aims to show the WWII-vintage planes in more than 100 cities around the United States.
6. [Yankees visit, play game at US Military Academy](#). On Saturday, the New York Yankees played an exhibition game with Army cadets at the U.S. military Academy in West Point, N.Y.
7. [Newsroom](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **CNN (Video)**: In this 3:53 minute, Brooke Baldwin highlights the story of a Veteran living with PTSD and wounds from war.
8. [OPINION: Virginia War Memorial: Run to remember our veterans](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Baltimore Sun (Richmond Times-Dispatch)**: This event will feature veteran's service organizations, as well as federal and state agencies, local and private groups offering career opportunities, legal advice, medical screening and other free or discounted resources and services for all military veterans and their family members. The Veterans Administration and the Department of Motor Vehicles will have mobile customer service centers on site.
9. [Veterans to have easier access to federal benefits](#). [UpNorthLive.com](#) A consolidation between the Grand Traverse County Department of Veterans Affairs and it's Benzie County counterpart will make it easier for veterans and their families to get access to Federal benefits from the government.

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10. [Law Schools Step In to Help War Veterans.](#) **Wall Street Journal:** This fall Stanford Law School, New York University School of Law and Columbia Law School are maxing out their contributions to a government matching plan known as the Yellow Ribbon program that provides qualifying veterans with additional money to supplement the benefits offered under the GI Bill.

11. [Underreported and misunderstood, Legionnaires' cases across U.S. soar.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review:** Reported cases of Legionnaires' disease in the United States have jumped more than 260 percent since 2000, but the true number could make annual cases of the disease more common than brain cancer, leukemia or HIV, a Tribune-Review investigation has found.

12. [Recognizing veterans' training.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Argus Observer:** Often, if veterans choose to pursue an education, especially in a field from which they already received military training, they still have to take redundant courses, relearning skills they were already taught in the military, because their military education or training is not recognized by civilian schools. But Treasure Valley Community

13. [Vietnam veterans honored in solemn ceremony.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Dayton Daily News:** The solemn tribute was included in a ceremony Saturday to honor the sacrifice made by veterans in that war, a ceremony many who took part in the war said was long overdue. Dozens of veterans gathered with their families and other community members for the state's first Vietnam Veterans Day.

14. [Vietnam veterans honored at first Welcome Home ceremony.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Concord Monitor:** This year marks the first official celebration of Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, which the state Legislature designated as March 30 last year. More than 1,000 people gathered at the hangar to hear messages from Maj. Gen. William Reddell III, adjutant general of the New Hampshire National Guard, Gov. Maggie Hassan, the state's congressional delegation and fellow Vietnam veterans.

15. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as April 1, 2013:**
 - **(TBD).** The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs will hold a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2014 budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs. 10:00 A.M.; 418 Russell

 - **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

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- **April 10, 2013.** The House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity is expected to hold a legislative hearing on Educational Benefits and other purposes. 10:00 A.M.; 334 Cannon

The list of bills is as follows:

- *H.R. 357* GI Tuition and Fairness Act (Rep. Jeff Miller (FL))
 - *H.R. 844* VetSuccess Enhancement Act (Rep. Mark Takano (CA))
 - *H.R. 631* Servicemembers' Choice in transition Act of 2013 (Rep. Bill Flores (TX))
 - *H.R. 562* VRAP Extension Act of 2013 (Rep. Jeff Miller (FL))
 - *H.R. 1305* Eligibility under the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program
 - *H.R. 1316* Responsibilities of the Directors and Assistant Directors of Veterans Employment and Training
 - *H.R. 1402* Five-year extension of Paralympics program authorities (grant and stipend)
 - Five-year extension of certain work-study authorities (expected to be introduced shortly)
 - Draft bill entitled Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013 (expected to be introduced shortly)
- **April 11, 2013.** HVAC FY14 Budget Hearing. 10:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.; 334 Cannon House Office Building
 - **April 16, 2013 (T).** The House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs is expected to hold a legislative hearing on Disability Benefits and other purposes.

The tentative bill list is as follows:

- *H.R. 569* Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2013 (Rep. Jon Runyan (NJ))
 - *H.R. 570* American Heroes COLA Act (Rep. Jon Runyan (NJ))
 - *H.R. 602* Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act (Rep. Jeff Miller (FL))
 - *H.R. 671* Ruth Moore Act of 2013 (Rep. Chellie Pingree (ME))
 - *H.R. 679* Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act (Rep. Tim Walz (MN))
 - *H.R. 733* Access to Veterans benefits Improvement Act (Rep. Jon Runyan (NJ))
 - *H.R. 894* Improve Supervision of Fiduciaries of Veterans (Rep. Bill Johnson (OH))
 - *H.R. 1405* Inclusion of an appeals form in any notice of decision issued for the denial of a benefit claim
- **April 18, 2013.** HAC-MILCON-VA FY14 Budget Hearing. 10:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.; H-140, Capitol
 - **April 18, 2013.** SAC-MILCON-VA FY14 Budget Hearing. 2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.; 125 Dirksen

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16. Today in History:

- [1789](#) – In [New York City](#), the [United States House of Representatives](#) holds its first quorum and elects [Frederick Muhlenberg](#) of [Pennsylvania](#) as its first [House Speaker](#).
- [1826](#) – [Samuel Morey](#) patents the [internal combustion engine](#).
- [1833](#) – The [Convention of 1833](#), a political gathering of settlers in [Mexican Texas](#) to help draft a series of petitions to the Mexican government, begins in [San Felipe de Austin](#)
- [1865](#) – [American Civil War: Battle of Five Forks](#) –
- [1867](#) – [Singapore](#) becomes a [British crown colony](#).
- [1891](#) – The [Wrigley Company](#) is founded in [Chicago, Illinois](#).
- [1893](#) – The rank of [Chief Petty Officer](#) in the [United States Navy](#) is established.
- [1908](#) – The [Territorial Force](#) (renamed [Territorial Army](#) in 1920) is formed as a volunteer reserve component of the [British Army](#).
- [1918](#) – The [Royal Air Force](#) is created by the merger of the [Royal Flying Corps](#) and the [Royal Naval Air Service](#).
- [1922](#) – Six Irish Catholic civilians [are shot and beaten-to-death](#) by a gang of policemen in [Belfast, Northern Ireland](#).
- [1924](#) – [Adolf Hitler](#) is sentenced to five years in [jail](#) for his participation in the "[Beer Hall Putsch](#)". However, he spends only nine months in jail, during which he writes [Mein Kampf](#).
- 1924 – The [Royal Canadian Air Force](#) is formed.
- [1933](#) – The recently elected [Nazis](#) under [Julius Streicher](#) organize a one-day boycott of all [Jewish](#)-owned businesses in [Germany](#), ushering in a series of [anti-Semitic](#) acts.
- [1937](#) – [Aden](#) becomes a [British crown colony](#). [Bombing](#) of [Jaén, Spain](#) by Nazi forces.
- [1939](#) – [Generalísimo Francisco Franco](#) of the [Spanish State](#) announces the end of the [Spanish Civil War](#), when the last of the [Republican](#) forces surrender.
- [1941](#) – The [Blockade Runner Badge](#) for the [German](#) navy is instituted.
- 1941 – A [military coup](#) in [Iraq](#) overthrows the regime of ['Abd al-Ilah](#) and installs [Rashid Ali](#) as [Prime Minister](#).
- [1944](#) – Navigation errors lead to an accidental [American](#) bombing of the [Swiss](#) city of [Schaffhausen](#).
- [1945](#) – [World War II: Operation Iceberg](#) – [United States](#) troops land on [Okinawa](#) in the last campaign of the war.
- [1946](#) – [Aleutian Island earthquake](#): A 7.8 magnitude [earthquake](#) near the [Aleutian Islands](#) creates a [tsunami](#) that strikes the [Hawaiian Islands](#) killing 159, mostly in [Hilo](#).
- [1948](#) – [Cold War: Berlin Airlift](#) – [Military forces](#), under direction of the [Russian-controlled government](#) in [East Germany](#), set-up a land blockade of [West Berlin](#).
- [1949](#) – [Chinese Civil War](#): The [Communist Party of China](#) holds unsuccessful peace talks with the [Kuomintang](#) in [Beijing](#), after three years of fighting.
- [1949](#) – The [Canadian government](#) repeals [Japanese Canadian internment](#) after seven years.
- 1949 – The 26 counties of the [Irish Free State](#) become the [Republic of Ireland](#).
- [1954](#) – [President Dwight D. Eisenhower](#) authorizes the creation of the [United States Air Force Academy](#) in [Colorado](#).
- [1955](#) – The [EOKA](#) rebellion against The British Empire begins in [Cyprus](#), with the goal of obtaining the desired unification ("enosis") with Greece.

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- [1960](#) – The [TIROS-1](#) satellite transmits the [first television picture from space](#).
- [1967](#) – The [United States Department of Transportation](#) begins operation.
- [1969](#) – The [Hawker Siddeley Harrier](#) enters service with the [Royal Air Force](#).
- [1970](#) – President [Richard Nixon](#) signs the [Public Health Cigarette Smoking Act](#) into law, requiring the [Surgeon General's](#) warnings on tobacco products and banning [cigarette](#) advertisements on [television](#) and [radio](#) in the [United States](#), starting on January 1, 1971.
- [1971](#) – [Bangladesh Liberation War](#): The [Pakistan Army massacred](#) over 1,000 people in [Keraniganj Upazila, Bangladesh](#).
- [1976](#) – [Apple Inc.](#) is formed by [Steve Jobs](#), [Steve Wozniak](#), and [Ronald Wayne](#)
- [1976](#) – [Conrail](#) takes over operations from six bankrupt railroads in the [Northeastern U.S.](#).
- [1979](#) – [Iran](#) becomes an [Islamic Republic by a 99% vote](#), officially overthrowing the [Shah](#).
- [1989](#) – [Margaret Thatcher's](#) new [local government](#) tax, the [Community Charge](#) (commonly known as the "poll tax"), is introduced in [Scotland](#).
- [1992](#) – Start of the [Bosnian war](#).
- [2001](#) – An [EP-3E United States Navy surveillance aircraft collides](#) with a [Chinese People's Liberation Army Shenyang J-8 fighter jet](#). The [Navy](#) crew makes an emergency landing in [Hainan, People's Republic of China](#) and is detained.
- [2001](#) – Former [President](#) of [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Slobodan Milošević](#) surrenders to police [special forces](#), to be tried on [war crimes](#) charges.
- [2001](#) – [Same-sex marriage](#) becomes legal in the [Netherlands](#), the [first](#) country to allow it.
- [2006](#) – The [Serious Organised Crime Agency](#), dubbed the "British FBI", is created in the [United Kingdom](#).
- [2011](#) – After protests against the [burning of the Quran](#) turn violent, a mob attacks a [United Nations](#) compound in [Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan](#), resulting in the deaths of thirteen people, including eight foreign workers.