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1. Hagel: Change UCMJ to deny commanders ability to overturn verdicts.
2. Sedatives still used for PTSD treatment despite warnings.
3. Guests of unexpected honor.
4. Nashville Woman Admits Theft of \$360,000 In Federal Grant Funds Intended To Aid Veterans.
5. Tampa Woman Sentenced to More Than 5 Years in Prison.
6. Jamestown Nurse Arrested, Charged With Distributing Oxycodone.
7. US Departments of Labor, Veterans Affairs job fair.
8. Pentagon presses for higher fees for military health care beneficiaries, Congress resists.
9. VA to pull sponsorship of Phoenix Veterans Day Parade.
10. Take the Burden off Veterans Affairs.
11. Agencies have been 'hiding' federal properties that could be used to house services for homeless.
12. New VA 'house' becomes a home away from home.
13. College campuses seek to lure more veterans.
14. USC Aiken center aims to help veterans succeed.
15. Town meeting about care concerns at VA medical center an insult to veterans.
16. From security to staff, care at VA good.
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1. [Hagel: Change UCMJ to deny commanders ability to overturn verdicts.](#) Military commanders would no longer have the authority to overturn the verdicts of court-martial juries in major criminal cases under a proposed change to the Uniform Code of Military Justice announced Monday at the Pentagon.
2. [Sedatives still used for PTSD treatment despite warnings.](#) Department of Veterans Affairs doctors are continuing to prescribe tranquilizers such as Valium and Xanax to veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder — despite VA guidelines advising against their use for the condition.
3. [Guests of unexpected honor.](#) After Richard Leighton was diagnosed with incurable cancer, the Westbrook resident made a "bucket list" with one deeply personal wish: to see his brother's name on the nation's Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Leighton got that wish Sunday -- and so much more.
4. [Nashville Woman Admits Theft of \\$360,000 In Federal Grant Funds Intended To Aid Veterans.](#) Tennessee Woman Pleads Guilty To Using \$360K in Homeless Veteran Housing Grant for Personal Use
5. [Tampa Woman Sentenced to More Than 5 Years in Prison.](#) Misuse of Veterans Information Lands Tampa Woman in Prison for 5+ Years, Ordered to Pay \$621M in Fines and Restitution
6. [Jamestown Nurse Arrested, Charged With Distributing Oxycodone.](#) Former VA Nurse at NY Clinic Faces Prison, Fine for Forging Oxycodone Prescriptions If Convicted
7. [US Departments of Labor, Veterans Affairs job fair.](#) [Enumclaw Courier-Herald](#)
The U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will host a job fair for veterans in Tacoma, Wash., on April 12. The job fair is an opportunity for veterans to connect with hiring officials. Special emphasis exists on promoting ...
8. [Pentagon presses for higher fees for military health care beneficiaries, Congress resists.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Washington Post (AP):** The loud, insistent calls in Washington to rein in the rising costs of Social Security and Medicare ignore a major and expensive entitlement program — the military's health care system.

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9. [VA to pull sponsorship of Phoenix Veterans Day Parade.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **AZCentral.com (The Republic):** Veterans Affairs officials in Phoenix plan to withdraw support for the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade, jeopardizing the popular event's future amid controversy involving the federal agency's longtime Arizona spokeswoman.

10. [Take the Burden off Veterans Affairs.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Boston Globe:** While erasing the backlog is important, the longterm goal must be to permanently take the burden off of Veterans Affairs and place it on local health facilities and community care programs. This will not only help veterans and their families transition better to civilian life, but will reduce costs in the process.

11. [Agencies have been 'hiding' federal properties that could be used to house services for homeless.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Washington Post:** Legal advocates for the nation's homeless population are hoping that a recent federal judge's decision in a 25-year-old lawsuit against the federal government could lead to thousands more unused federal buildings being converted into shelters, health clinics and other services for the homeless.

12. [New VA 'house' becomes a home away from home.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette:** It's called MyHome, and it's the first of its kind in the national VA system. Physical and occupational therapists work with the veterans on everyday tasks they used to take for granted, including cooking, laundry, washing dishes, making the bed, getting in and out of a car, putting away groceries and taking a shower.

13. [College campuses seek to lure more veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Dallas Morning News:** The National Association for College Admission Counseling] asked representatives of many of the 315 colleges, universities and other institutions who will be coming to the Irving event to make a special effort to seek out veterans.

14. [USC Aiken center aims to help veterans succeed.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Augusta Chronicle:** The University of South Carolina Aiken celebrated the grand opening Sunday of its Veteran Student Success Center, which it believes could help it become a leading institution in the education and career placement of military veterans.

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15. [Town meeting about care concerns at VA medical center an insult to veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Clarion-Ledger:** This spotlights the problem; the administration is marching to its own drum, showing an arrogant disregard for the well-being of the veterans, and the problems of those who served and defended our country, as well as a blatant disregard of the facts. To them, the veterans are only a vocal annoyance.

16. [From security to staff, care at VA good.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Clarion-Ledger:** I would like other veterans to know what great care I receive at the VA Hospital in Jackson.

17. [Dept. of Veterans Affairs plans women's event.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **San Francisco Chronicle (AP):** The state Department of Veterans Affairs and Southwestern Illinois College are teaming up on an event for the fastest growing group of veterans: women.

18. [Vietnam veteran's wife seeks help for disabled husband.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Washington Times:** We called the 800 number several times, but they say there's no mention of retro check for the increase. An inquiry was sent on Feb. 20 2013, but still no word. His service rep. doesn't know, he says. Can you please tell us who we can contact? You helped me before, and I will never forget it.

19. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as April 9, 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
 - **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

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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

20. Today in History:

- [1585](#) – The expedition organised by Sir [Walter Raleigh](#) departs England for [Roanoke Island](#) (now in [North Carolina](#)) to establish the [Roanoke Colony](#).

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- [1609](#) – [Eighty Years' War](#): [Spain](#) and the [Dutch Republic](#) sign the [Treaty of Antwerp](#) to initiate twelve years of truce.
- [1682](#) – [Robert Cavalier de La Salle](#) discovers the mouth of the [Mississippi River](#), claims it for [France](#) and names it [Louisiana](#).
- [1782](#) – [American War of Independence](#): [Battle of the Saintes](#) begins.
- [1865](#) – [American Civil War](#): [Robert E. Lee](#) surrenders the [Army of Northern Virginia](#) (26,765 troops) to [Ulysses S. Grant](#) at [Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia](#), effectively ending the war.
- [1867](#) – [Alaska purchase](#): Passing by a single vote, the [United States Senate](#) ratifies a [treaty](#) with [Russia](#) for the purchase of [Alaska](#).
- [1909](#) – The [U.S. Congress](#) passes the [Payne-Aldrich Tariff Act](#).
- [1914](#) – [Mexican Revolution](#): One of the world's first [naval/air skirmishes](#) takes place off the coast of western [Mexico](#).
- [1916](#) – [World War I](#): The [Battle of Verdun](#) – [German](#) forces launch their third offensive of the battle.
- [1917](#) – World War I: The [Battle of Arras](#) – the battle begins with [Canadian Corps](#) executing a massive assault on [Vimy Ridge](#).
- [1918](#) – World War I: The [Battle of the Lys](#) – the [Portuguese Expeditionary Corps](#) is crushed by the [German](#) forces during what is called the [Spring Offensive](#) on the [Belgian](#) region of [Flanders](#).
- [1937](#) – The [Kamikaze](#) arrives at [Croydon Airport](#) in [London](#) – it is the first [Japanese](#)-built aircraft to fly to [Europe](#).
- [1939](#) – [Marian Anderson](#) sings at the [Lincoln Memorial](#), after being denied the right to sing at the [Daughters of the American Revolution's](#) [Constitution Hall](#).
- [1940](#) – [World War II](#): [Operation Weserübung](#) – [Germany](#) invades [Denmark](#) and [Norway](#).
- [1942](#) – World War II: The [Battle of Bataan/Bataan Death March](#) – [United States](#) forces surrender on the [Bataan Peninsula](#). The [Japanese Navy](#) launches an air raid on [Trincomalee](#) in [Ceylon](#) ([Sri Lanka](#)); [Royal Navy aircraft carrier HMS Hermes](#) and [Royal Australian Navy Destroyer HMAS Vampire](#) are sunk off the island's east coast.
- [1945](#) – World War II: The [German pocket battleship Admiral Scheer](#) is sunk.
- [1945](#) – World War II: The [Battle of Königsberg](#), in [East Prussia](#), ends.
- [1945](#) – The [United States Atomic Energy Commission](#) is formed.
- [1947](#) – The [Journey of Reconciliation](#), the first interracial [Freedom Ride](#) begins through the upper [South](#) in violation of [Jim Crow laws](#). The riders wanted enforcement of the [United States Supreme Court's](#) [1946 Irene Morgan](#) decision that banned [racial segregation](#) in interstate travel.
- [1948](#) – [Jorge Eliécer Gaitán](#)'s assassination provokes a violent riot in [Bogotá](#) (the [Bogotazo](#)), and a further ten years of violence in [Colombia](#) known as *La violencia*.
- [1948](#) – Fighters from the [Irgun](#) and [Lehi](#) [Zionist](#) paramilitary groups attacked [Deir Yassin](#) near [Jerusalem](#), [killing over 100](#).
- [1952](#) – [Hugo Ballivian](#)'s government is overthrown by the Bolivian National Revolution, starting a period of [agrarian reform](#), [universal suffrage](#) and the [nationalisation](#) of tin mines

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- [1957](#) – The [Suez Canal](#) in [Egypt](#) is cleared and opens to [shipping](#).
- [1959](#) – [Project Mercury](#): [NASA](#) announces the selection of the United States' first seven [astronauts](#), whom the news media quickly dub the "[Mercury Seven](#)".
- [1961](#) – The [Pacific Electric Railway](#) in [Los Angeles](#), once the largest electric railway in the world, ends operations.
- [1965](#) – [Astrodome](#) opens. First indoor [baseball](#) game is played.
- [1967](#) – The first [Boeing 737](#) (a 100 series) makes its maiden flight.
- [1969](#) – The "[Chicago Eight](#)" plead not guilty to federal charges of conspiracy to incite a riot at the [1968 Democratic National Convention](#) in [Chicago, Illinois](#).
- [1969](#) – The first British-built [Concorde](#) 002 makes its maiden flight from [Filton](#) to [RAF Fairford](#).
- [1975](#) – The first game of the [Philippine Basketball Association](#), the second oldest professional basketball league in the world.
- [1975](#) – 8 people in South Korea, who are involved in [People's Revolutionary Party Incident](#), are hanged.
- [1980](#) – The [Iraqi](#) regime of [Saddam Hussein](#) kills philosopher [Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr](#) and his sister [Bint al-Huda](#) after three days of [torture](#).
- [1981](#) – The [U.S. Navy](#) nuclear submarine [USS George Washington \(SSBN-598\)](#) accidentally collides with the *Nissho Maru*, a Japanese cargo ship, sinking it.
- [1989](#) – The [April 9 tragedy](#) in [Tbilisi, Georgian](#) SSR an anti-Soviet peaceful demonstration and hunger strikes, demanding restoration of Georgian independence is dispersed by the [Soviet army](#), resulting in 20 deaths and hundreds of injuries.
- [1992](#) – A [U.S. Federal Court](#) finds former [Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega](#) guilty of drug and racketeering charges. He is sentenced to 30 years in prison.
- [1992](#) – [John Major's Conservative Party](#) wins an unprecedented [fourth general election](#) victory in the [United Kingdom](#).
- [2003](#) – [2003 invasion of Iraq](#): [Baghdad](#) falls to [American](#) forces; [Saddam Hussein](#) statue topples as [Iraqis](#) turn on symbols of their former leader, pulling down the statue and tearing it to pieces.
- [2005](#) – [Wedding of Charles, Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles](#); [Charles, Prince of Wales](#) marries [Camilla Parker Bowles](#) in a civil ceremony at [Windsor's Guildhall](#).
- [2009](#) – In [Tbilisi, Georgia](#), up to 60,000 people [protest](#) against the government of [Mikheil Saakashvili](#).
- [2011](#) – [A gunman murdered five people](#), injured eleven, and committed suicide in a mall in the [Netherlands](#).