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1. [Obama says don't take American troops for granted.](#) President Barack Obama said Monday that Americans must honor the sacrifices of their fighting men and women, particularly at a time when the U.S. combat role in Iraq has ended and the country's involvement in Afghanistan is winding down.
2. [Americans gather to honor fallen servicemembers.](#) Americans gathered at cemeteries, memorials and monuments nationwide to honor fallen military service members on Memorial Day, at a time when combat in Afghanistan approaches 12 years and the ranks of World War II veterans dwindle.
3. [Memorial Day: From the Civil War to Iraq.](#) [The Epoch Times](#) As Briskin notes, and as the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (USVA) tells it, the origins of the holiday have been somewhat contentious, with many regions claiming to be the birthplace of the holiday. The first large-scale celebration, however, is ...
4. [Patriotic duty.](#) [Grand Junction Sentinel](#) Bob Mohan, 90, is a World War II veteran. He moved two months ago into the residence of Jolena Lowe of Delta, who offers him a medical foster home through a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
5. [Obama Urges Remembrance in Memorial Day Remarks.](#) After laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery today, President Barack Obama paid tribute to American patriots from throughout the nation's history in remarks at the cemetery's Memorial Amphitheater. The president urged Americans to remember the sacrifices not only of those who pledged and even lost their lives to ensure the nation's
6. [The VA's generational problem.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Boston Globe:** VA head Eric Shinseki is caught overseeing a long-term modernization program in a short-term media cycle.

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7. [Hiring veterans: They're mature, up to speed, and ready to hit the ground running.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Richmond Times-Dispatch:** The Virginia Values Veterans program focuses on companies that want to boost workforce productivity to improve their business's performance. The V3 program's certification process is designed to help employers — particularly the numerous companies with fewer than 1,000 workers — who want to hire and retain veterans but are having difficulty doing so.

8. [Doing More for U.S. Veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The New York Times (Bloomberg View):** Conditions for veterans are similarly mixed. The Veterans Affairs budget has more than doubled in less than a decade... Still, joblessness and homelessness are higher for veterans than the national average, and many face lengthy bureaucratic nightmares to get their military disability benefits.

9. [This holiday, remember surviving veterans, too: Column.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **USA Today:** Then there are those veterans who have been waiting for more than a year for the Department of Veterans Affairs to process their disability claims. The delays are especially long in major metropolitan areas where the total number of claims awaiting adjudication is estimated between 600,000 and 900,000.

10. [Life outside the military: Event aims to help female veterans readjust, access resources.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **MLive.com:** To assist those women locally, several West Michigan organizations are teaming up to provide the fair to provide veterans information, counseling and assistance while offering a chance to forge friendships and a sense of community.

11. [Veteran coping with PTSD: 'I feel blessed'.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Argus Leader:** He skipped from job to job, blew through three marriages and feels estranged from three of his four children. Downhearted and depressed, he had lost hope... But nine months ago, he found a lifeline. Three months of intense cognitive processing therapy have brought him a measure of peace, helping him cope with experiences that can haunt soldiers who served in Vietnam decades ago or in Iraq or Afghanistan a year ago.

12. [Call to action: Vets deserve our help.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Cincinnati Enquirer:** We must work to replace the cohesion found in great military organizations with community outreach and concern. As we battle isolation with our veterans, there are concrete steps we can take to raise awareness and promote self-care.

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13. [Mass. Town Cancels Parade, Citing Aging Veterans](#). [Hyperlink to Story ABC News \(AP\)](#): The city of Beverly called off its parade this year because so few veterans would be able to march. The parade has been a fixture in the town since the Civil War.

14. [VA job fair buoys veterans](#). [Hyperlink to Story Lancaster Online](#): The job fair was the fourth annual for the Coatesville VA, which co-hosted the event with Pennsylvania Career Link and aimed to hook up 300-plus veterans with 45 possible employers... And on Memorial Day, when Americans honor those in the military who have given the ultimate sacrifice for their country, leaders of VAs and other veterans agencies say much can be done to help the current men and women with military and combat experience.

15. [Vets disability benefits: Law schools help fight backlog](#). The one clinic is using law students and a faculty member to tackle complex cases on a pro bono basis in which veterans can have difficulty providing the evidence they need to substantiate VA claims.

16. [Commander's goal to improve service for veterans](#). Baltimore Sun - As she rose through various VFW offices and attended VFW events, she was ... While the number of female VFW members is growing, women ...

17. [Memorial Day 2013: VFW Hosts Annual Parade Through West View](#). Patch.com Hundreds of spectators turned out Monday for the annual West View VFW, Post 2574 Memorial Day parade. The parade stepped off at 10 a.m. at the intersection ...

18. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as May 28, 2013:**
 - **June 5, 2013.** The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs will hold a legislative hearing on VA's benefit programs and other purposes. 10:00 A.M.; Russell 418

The tentative bill list is as follows:

- S. 6 Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act of 2013 (Reid)
- S. 200 A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the interment in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration of individuals who served in combat support of the Armed forces in the Kingdom of Laos between February 28, 1961, and May 15, 1975, and for other purposes (Murkowski)
- S.257 GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act of 2013 (Boozman)
- S.262 Veterans Education Equity Act of 2013 (Durbin)
- S. 294 Ruth Moore Act of 2013 (Tester)

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- S. 373 Charlie Morgan Military Spouses Equal Treatment Act of 2013 (Shaheen)
- S. 430 Veterans Small Business Opportunity and Protection Act of 2013 (Heller)
- S. 492 A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require States to recognize the Military experience of Veterans when issuing licenses and credentials to Veterans, and for other purposes (Burr)
- S. 495 Careers for Veterans Act of 2013 (Burr)
- S. 514 A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide additional Educational Assistance under Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to Veterans pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, math, or an area that leads to employment in a high-demand occupation, and for other purposes (Brown)
- S. 515 A bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to extend the Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program to cover recipients of Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry scholarship, and for other purposes. (Brown)
- S 572 Veterans Second Amendment Act (Burr)
- S. 629 Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act of 2013 (Pryor)
- S. 674 Accountability for Veterans Act of 2013 (Heller)
- S. 690 Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2013 (Schatz)
- S. 695 Veterans Paralympic Act of 2013--A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the Authorization of appropriations for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay a monthly assistance allowance to Disabled Veterans training or competing for the Paralympic Team and the authorization of appropriations for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide assistance to United States Paralympics, Inc., and for other purposes (Boozman)
- S. 705 A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to ensure Memorials commemorating the service of the United States Armed Forces may contain religious symbols, and for other purposes (Burr)
- S. 735 Survivor Benefits Improvement Act of 2013 (Sanders)
- S. 748 Veterans Pension Protection Act (Wyden)
- S. 778 A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue cards to Veterans that identify them as Veterans, and for other purposes. (Burr)
- S. 819 Veterans Mental Health Treatment First Act of 2013 (Burr)
- S. 863 Veterans Back to School Act of 2013 (Blumenthal)
- S. 868 Filipino Veterans Promise Act (Heller)
- S. 889 Servicemembers' Choice in Transition Act of 2013 (Boozman)
- S. 893 Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2013 (Sanders)

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- S. 894 A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend expiring authority for work-study allowances for individuals who are pursuing programs of rehabilitation, education, or training under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to expand such authority to certain outreach services provided through congressional offices, and for other purposes. (Sanders)
- S. 922 Veterans Outreach Act of 2013 (Sanders)
- S. 927 Veterans Equipped for success During Transition Act of 2013 (Sanders)
- S. 928 Claims Processing Improvement Act of 2013 (Sanders)

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- S. XXX Franchise Education for Veterans for Veterans Act of 2013 (Moran)
- S. XXX A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to treat certain misfiled documents as motions for reconsideration of decisions by the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and for other purposes. (Blumenthal)
- S. XXX Putting Veterans Funding First Act of 2013 (Begich)
- S. XXX Giving Rise to Emerging Environmental Technologies for Vets Act of 2013 (Sanders)
- S. XXX Quicker Veterans Benefits Delivery Act (Franken)
- S. XXX A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require courses of education provided by public institutions of higher education that are approved for purposes of the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program and Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to charge Veterans tuition and fees at the in-State tuition rate, and for other purposes.
- S. XXX A bill to provide in-state tuition to transitioning Veterans (Sanders)

19. Today in History:

- [1588](#) – The [Spanish Armada](#), with 130 ships and 30,000 men, sets sail from [Lisbon](#) heading for the [English Channel](#). (It will take until May 30 for all ships to leave port).
- [1644](#) – [Bolton Massacre](#) by [Royalist](#) troops under the command of the [Earl of Derby](#).
- [1754](#) – [French and Indian War](#): in the first engagement of the war, [Virginia militia](#) under 22-year-old [Lieutenant Colonel George Washington](#) defeat a [French](#) reconnaissance party in the [Battle of Jumonville Glen](#) in what is now [Fayette County](#) in southwestern [Pennsylvania](#).
- [1830](#) – President [Andrew Jackson](#) signs the [Indian Removal Act](#) which relocates [Native Americans](#).
- [1892](#) – In [San Francisco, California](#), [John Muir](#) organizes the [Sierra Club](#).
- [1905](#) – [Russo-Japanese War](#): The [Battle of Tsushima](#) ends with the destruction of the [Russian Baltic Fleet](#) by [Admiral Togo Heihachiro](#) and the [Imperial Japanese Navy](#).

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- [1926](#) – [28th May 1926 coup d'état: Ditadura Nacional](#) is established in [Portugal](#) to suppress the unrest of the [First Republic](#).
- [1932](#) – In the [Netherlands](#), construction of the [Afsluitdijk](#) is completed and the [Zuiderzee](#) bay is [converted](#) to the freshwater [IJsselmeer](#).
- [1934](#) – Near [Callander, Ontario](#), the [Dionne quintuplets](#) are born to Oliva and Elzire Dionne; they will be the first [quintuplets](#) to survive [infancy](#).
- [1937](#) – The [Golden Gate Bridge](#) in [San Francisco, California](#), is officially opened by [President Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) in [Washington, D.C.](#), who pushes a button signaling the start of vehicle traffic over the span.
- [1937](#) – [Volkswagen](#) (VW), German automobile manufacturer was founded
- [1940](#) – [World War II: Belgium](#) surrenders to [Germany](#) to end the [Battle of Belgium](#).
- [1940](#) – World War II: [Norwegian](#), [French](#), [Polish](#) and [British](#) forces [recapture Narvik](#) in Norway. This is the first allied infantry victory of the War.
- [1942](#) – World War II: in retaliation for the [assassination](#) of [Reinhard Heydrich, Nazis](#) in [Czechoslovakia](#) kill over 1,800 people.
- [1951](#) – British radio comedy programme [The Goon Show](#) was broadcast on BBC for the first time.
- [1952](#) – The women of [Greece](#) are given [the right to vote](#).
- [1958](#) – [Cuban Revolution: Fidel Castro's 26 July movement](#), heavily reinforced by Frank Pais Militia, overwhelm an army post in El Uvero.
- [1961](#) – [Peter Benenson's](#) article *The Forgotten Prisoners* is published in several internationally read [newspapers](#). This will later be thought of as the founding of the [human rights](#) organization [Amnesty International](#).
- [1964](#) – The [Palestine Liberation Organization](#) is formed.
- [1974](#) – [Northern Ireland's](#) power-sharing [Sunningdale Agreement](#) collapses following a [general strike](#) by [loyalists](#).
- [1975](#) – Fifteen [West African](#) countries sign the [Treaty of Lagos](#), creating the [Economic Community of West African States](#).
- [1979](#) – [Constantine Karamanlis](#) signs the full treaty of the accession of [Greece](#) with the [European Economic Community](#).
- [1982](#) – [Falklands War: British](#) forces defeat the [Argentines](#) at the [Battle of Goose Green](#).
- [1987](#) – 19-year-old [West German](#) pilot [Mathias Rust](#) evades [Soviet Union](#) air defenses and lands a private plane in the [Red Square](#) in [Moscow](#). He is immediately detained and will not be released until August 3, 1988.
- [1991](#) – The capital city of [Addis Ababa](#), falls to the [Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front](#), ending both the [Derg](#) regime in [Ethiopia](#) and the [Ethiopian Civil War](#).
- [1995](#) – The [Russian](#) town of [Neftegorsk](#) is hit by a 7.6 magnitude [earthquake](#) that kills at least 2,000 people, half of the total population.
- [1996](#) – U.S. President [Bill Clinton's](#) former business partners in the [Whitewater land deal](#), [James McDougal](#) and [Susan McDougal](#), and the [Governor of Arkansas Jim Guy Tucker](#), are convicted of fraud.
- [1998](#) – [Nuclear testing: Pakistan](#) responds to a series of nuclear tests by [India](#) with five of its own codenamed [Chagai-I](#), prompting the [United States](#), [Japan](#), and other nations to impose [economic sanctions](#). Pakistan celebrates [Youm-e-Takbir](#) annually.

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- [1999](#) – In [Milan, Italy](#), after 22 years of restoration work, [Leonardo da Vinci's](#) masterpiece [The Last Supper](#) is put back on display.
- [2002](#) – [NATO](#) declares [Russia](#) a limited partner in the Western alliance.
- 2002 – The [Mars Odyssey](#) finds signs of large ice deposits on the planet [Mars](#).
- [2003](#) – [Peter Hollingworth](#) becomes the first [Governor-General of Australia](#) to resign his office as a result of criticism of his conduct.
- [2004](#) – The [Iraqi Governing Council](#) chooses [Ayad Allawi](#), a longtime anti-[Saddam Hussein](#) exile, as prime minister of [Iraq's](#) interim government.
- [2008](#) – The first meeting of the Constituent Assembly of [Nepal](#) formally declares Nepal a republic, ending the 240-year reign of the [Shah dynasty](#).
- [2012](#) – The discovery of [Flame](#), a complex [malware](#) program targeting computers in [Middle Eastern](#) countries, is announced.