

# May 29, 2013

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3. Air Force team makes it to the top of the world.
4. Former WWII POW returns to scene of imprisonment after 70 years.
5. A true hero: Bataan survivor Charles Prigmore.
6. Sexual assault callousness by military, interference of brass are detailed by ex-prosecutor.
7. Effort seeks to match dogs with veterans suffering from PTSD.
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1. [Searching For Veterans On Alaska's Remote Edges.](#) [WAMC](#) Daniel K. Omedelena, 71, served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam from 1968-69. A disproportionate ... As the veteran population ages, their health care needs increase, but many have not even filed claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Enlarge ...
2. [Guardsmen use skills to assist in aftermath of Oklahoma tornadoes.](#) Hundreds of Oklahoma National Guard soldiers and airmen in Oklahoma have secured buildings and rescued survivors; they have passed out supplies and patrolled neighborhoods.
3. [Air Force team makes it to the top of the world.](#) A team of U.S. airmen recently reached 29,000 feet — with their feet still on the ground.
4. [Former WWII POW returns to scene of imprisonment after 70 years.](#) Fifty-three American POWs died of starvation, sickness and injuries in the wartime Japanese labor camp at Soto Dam, now part of an idyllic valley outside the city of Sasebo where a monument marks their suffering.
5. [A true hero: Bataan survivor Charles Prigmore.](#) More than 70 years have passed since Charles Eldon Prigmore, a former master sergeant with the U.S. Army, endured the atrocities of the Bataan Death March in the early months of World War II.
6. [Sexual assault callousness by military, interference of brass are detailed by ex-prosecutor.](#) As an Army prosecutor two decades ago, Michael C. Lancer heard his commanding officer downplay one case as “just a little rape” – and later saw a general unilaterally dismiss the conviction in that case.
7. [Effort seeks to match dogs with veterans suffering from PTSD.](#) The effort is called Veterans K-9 Solutions and it is reinventing how war heroes and service dogs find new life and purpose in the Southeast.

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8. [Law schools pitch in to tackle veteran disability benefits backlog.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Washington Post (AP):** The clinic uses 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 their claims. Veterans receive disability compensation for injuries and illness incurred or aggravated during their active military service. The amount of the compensation is based on a rating assigned by the VA.
  
9. [Saving our warriors from themselves.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Los Angeles Times:** For the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, this is a grim epidemic that has eluded easy or obvious fixes. Experts say the first step toward preventing suicide is knowing who does it, how they do it and why. The military does a good job of collecting those statistics. Since 2008, the Department of Defense has issued an annual Suicide Event Report that lists in meticulous detail the number of suicides and attempted suicides and the circumstances surrounding the deaths.
  
10. [What's Going Around — Traumatic Head Injury.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Houston Community Newspapers:** For most of us, this injury occurs with bicycles and sports. It's far too common an issue for our military veterans. One out of five soldiers return from combat having suffered some type of head injury from explosive blasts. The Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Houston is leading research on long-term effects.
  
11. [Civilian Life Transition Harder For African-American Vets?](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **NPR:** Today, though, we decided to focus on African-American veterans and their efforts to get help and recognition when they come home. Joining us now is Benjamin Fleury-Steiner. He is an associate professor at the University of Delaware. He's a veteran of Desert Storm and he's the author of the book "Disposable Heroes: The Betrayal of African-American Veterans." Also with us is Army veteran - he raps now as Sergeant Leo Dunson. That is his stage name.
  
12. [Job market overlooks too many veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Miami Herald:** Veterans have technical training, discipline, a monster work ethic and a ferocious dedication to teamwork. But they are often disadvantaged in the job market... The same machine that churns out soldiers also grinds up people. There's post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, and record rates of depression and suicide, for starters.

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13. [No holidays or parades for homeless women veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Story Salon.com](#): I recently completed production of a documentary, War Zone / Comfort Zone, in which I followed the story of two women — one of them a Gold Star mother — who fight to establish Connecticut's first transitional, supportive house for women veterans.
  
14. [Veterans fair addresses needs of women vets.](#) [Hyperlink to Above Story WZZM-TV \(Video\)](#): Adams is also a member of the steering committee for the Women Veterans Resource Fair, taking place May 31. The event will connect women vets with people and resources to help tackle a myriad of concerns. There will be experts to provide assistance and information with benefits, medical and legal issues, as well as career advice and planning.
  
15. [What We're Reading Memorial Day.](#) [Hyperlink to Story Washington Wire \(Wall Street Journal Blog\)](#): Eric K. Shinseki, secretary of the Veterans Administration, told Florida State University graduates the story of how a trauma nurse in Vietnam cared enough to tell him how to prevent doctors from amputating his entire foot. "In the future, you will be defined by the deeds you perform," he said. [[http://www.va.gov/opa/speeches/2013/05\\_04\\_2013.asp](http://www.va.gov/opa/speeches/2013/05_04_2013.asp)]
  
16. [Memorial Day 2013.](#) [Tucson Citizen](#) The United States Department of Veterans Affairs has a fact-filled site with a treasure trove of historic information regarding the observance of Memorial Day. We invite you to listen to this haunting rendition of "Taps" played by the U.S. Marine Band.
  
17. [Oldest U.S. Veteran: Richard Arvine Overton Celebrates 107th Memorial Day.](#) [KpopStarz](#) Although it's extremely difficult to determine if Overton really is the oldest veteran in the country, less than half of the 22 million veterans are registered with the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, the City of Austin didn't think twice to give ...
  
18. [US Flag Code details how to display flag.](#) [Scranton Times-Tribune](#) ... national level, Decoration Day, began May 30, 1868, when the leader of the Grand Army of the Republic veterans group encouraged posts to decorate graves of people who died in the war with flowers, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

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## 19. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as May 29, 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)
- 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)

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- 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)
- 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)

## DRAFT BILLS

- 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)

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## 20. Today in History:

- [1733](#) – The right of [Canadians](#) to keep [Indian slaves](#) is upheld at [Quebec City](#).
- [1780](#) – [American Revolutionary War](#): At the [Battle of Waxhaws](#), the British continue attacking after the Continentals lay down their arms, killing 113 and critically wounding all but 53 that remained.
- [1790](#) – [Rhode Island](#) becomes the last of the original [United States'](#) [colonies](#) to ratify the [Constitution](#) and is admitted as the 13th [U.S. state](#).
- [1798](#) – [United Irishmen Rebellion](#): Between 300 and 500 [United Irishmen](#) are [massacred](#) by the British Army in [County Kildare](#), Ireland.
- [1848](#) – [Wisconsin](#) is admitted as the 30th [U.S. state](#).
- [1852](#) – [Jenny Lind](#) left New York after her wildly successful [two-year American tour](#).
- [1864](#) – [Emperor Maximilian I of Mexico](#) arrives in [Mexico](#) for the first time.
- [1868](#) – The assassination of [Michael Obrenovich III](#), Prince of [Serbia](#), in [Belgrade](#).
- [1886](#) – [Chemist John Pemberton](#) places his first [advertisement](#) for [Coca-Cola](#), the ad appearing in the [Atlanta Journal](#).
- [1900](#) – [N'Djamena](#) is founded as Fort-Lamy by the French commander [Émile Gentil](#).
- [1903](#) – In the [May coup d'état](#), [Alexander Obrenovich](#), King of Serbia, and Queen Draga, are [assassinated](#) in Belgrade by the [Black Hand](#) (*Crna Ruka*) organization.
- [1914](#) – [Ocean liner RMS Empress of Ireland](#) sinks in the [Gulf of St. Lawrence](#) with the loss of 1,024 lives.
- [1918](#) – [Armenia](#) defeats the [Ottoman Army](#) in the [Battle of Sardarapat](#).
- [1931](#) – [Michele Schirru](#), a citizen of the United States, is executed by Italian military firing squad for intent to kill Mussolini.
- [1932](#) – [World War I Veterans](#) begin to assemble in [Washington, D.C.](#), in the [Bonus Army](#) to request cash bonuses promised to them to be paid in [1945](#).
- [1939](#) – The [Albanian fascist](#) leader [Tefik Mborja](#) is appointed as member of the Italian Chamber of Fasces and Corporations.
- [1940](#) – The first flight of the [F4U Corsair](#).
- [1942](#) – [Bing Crosby](#), the [Ken Darby](#) Singers and the John Scott Trotter Orchestra record [Irving Berlin's "White Christmas"](#), the best-selling [Christmas](#) single in history.
- [1945](#) – First [combat](#) mission of the [Consolidated B-32 Dominator heavy bomber](#).
- [1948](#) – Creation of the [United Nations Peacekeeping Force](#) the [United Nations Truce Supervision Organization](#).
- [1953](#) – [Edmund Hillary](#) and [Sherpa Tenzing Norgay](#) become the first people to reach the summit of [Mount Everest](#), on Tenzing Norgay's (adopted) 39th birthday.
- [1964](#) – The [Arab League](#) meets in [East Jerusalem](#) to discuss the Palestinian question, leading to the formation of the [Palestinian Liberation Organization](#).
- [1969](#) – [General strike](#) in [Córdoba, Argentina](#), leading to the [Cordobazo](#) civil unrest.
- [1973](#) – [Tom Bradley](#) is elected the first black mayor of [Los Angeles, California](#).
- [1982](#) – [Falklands War](#): [British](#) forces defeat the [Argentines](#) at the [Battle of Goose Green](#).
- [1985](#) – [Heysel Stadium disaster](#): 39 [association football](#) fans die and hundreds are injured when a dilapidated retaining wall collapses.

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- 1985 – [Amputee Steve Fonyo](#) completes [cross-Canada marathon](#) at [Victoria, British Columbia](#), after 14 months.
- 1988 – The U.S. President [Ronald Reagan](#) begins his first visit to the [Soviet Union](#) when he arrives in [Moscow](#) for a superpower summit with the Soviet leader [Mikhail Gorbachev](#).
- 1989 – Signing of an agreement [Egypt–U.S.](#) manufacturing parts of the fighter [F-16](#) in Egypt.
- 1990 – The Russian parliament elects [Boris Yeltsin](#) president of the [Russian SFSR](#).
- 1999 – [Olusegun Obasanjo](#) takes office as [President of Nigeria](#), the first elected and civilian [head of state](#) in [Nigeria](#) after 16 years of military rule.
- 1999 – [Space Shuttle Discovery](#) completes the first docking with the [International Space Station](#).
- 2001 – [U.S. Supreme Court](#) rules that disabled golfer [Casey Martin](#) can use a cart to ride in tournaments.
- 2004 – The [World War II Memorial](#) is dedicated in Washington, D.C.