

May 31, 2013

1. Attorney urges Congress to end sleep apnea claims 'abuse'.
2. Shinseki on stopping homelessness: 'The climb will get steeper'.
3. Donovan: Numbers for homeless vets not improving fast enough.
4. HUD and the Department of Veterans Affairs boost number of rent subsidy vouchers for veterans.
5. Sequestration Hits Program to House Homeless Vets.
6. For Ailing Vets In Rural Areas, Telemedicine Can Be The Cure.
7. Military veterans in remote Alaska communities get some federal attention.
8. Many veterans awaiting benefits.
9. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as May 31, 2013:
10. Today in History:

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1. [Attorney urges Congress to end sleep apnea claims 'abuse'](#). VA compensation for sleep apnea now exceeds \$1.2 billion annually under the most conservative of calculations. Michael T. Webster, a former naval aviator and family law attorney in Shalimar, Fla., calls this boom a scam and an offense to veterans who suffer from “real disabilities.”
2. [Shinseki on stopping homelessness: 'The climb will get steeper'](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Army Times:** Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki warned Wednesday that tackling the problem of homelessness among veterans, like so many other problems vets face, is likely to get more difficult before it is solved.
3. [Donovan: Numbers for homeless vets not improving fast enough](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Washington Post:** Despite a continued decline in the numbers of homeless veterans and new funding to house those still on the streets, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan said Wednesday the numbers are not yet decreasing fast enough to meet the Obama administration’s goal of eliminating the problem by the end of 2015.
4. [HUD and the Department of Veterans Affairs boost number of rent subsidy vouchers for veterans](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **The Oregonian:** Two federal agencies have allocated 135 more vouchers to this region to subsidize rent for homeless military veterans or veterans at risk of homelessness, the Department of Veterans Affairs said Wednesday.
5. [Sequestration Hits Program to House Homeless Vets](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Military.com:** Communities that have helped veterans get off the streets and into housing are dropping a critical assistance program because of sequester cuts, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development said Wednesday.
6. [For Ailing Vets In Rural Areas, Telemedicine Can Be The Cure](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **NPR (Audio):** Howard Lincoln of White Mountain, Alaska, doesn't always hear it when people knock on his door. He's 82 and he still has a little shrapnel in his jaw from a mortar shell that nearly killed him in the Korean War 60 years ago.
7. [Military veterans in remote Alaska communities get some federal attention](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Anchorage Daily News:** NPR reporter Quil Lawrence joined U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs officials on a recent trip into Arctic Alaska on a mission to find military veterans who never signed up for VA benefits -- or who didn't know they were due benefits.

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8. [Many veterans awaiting benefits](#). [Hyperlink to Story](#) **Columbus Dispatch:** More than 19,000 veterans in Ohio have waited at least two years for benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and frustrated members of Congress are calling for action.

9. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as May 31, 2013:

- **June 4, 2013.** HVAC Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations will hold a hearing entitled, "How Secure is Veterans Private Information?" 2:00 P.M.; 334 Cannon
- **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)

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- 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)
- 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)

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- 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)

10. Today in History:

- [1775](#) – [American Revolution](#): The [Mecklenburg Resolutions](#) are allegedly adopted in the [Province of North Carolina](#).
- [1795](#) – [French Revolution](#): the [Revolutionary Tribunal](#) is suppressed.
- [1805](#) – French and Spanish forces begin the [assault](#) against British forces occupying [Diamond Rock](#)
- [1854](#) – The [civil death](#) procedure is abolished in France.
- [1859](#) – The clock tower at the [Houses of Parliament](#), which houses [Big Ben](#), starts keeping time.
- [1862](#) – [American Civil War Peninsula Campaign](#): [Battle of Seven Pines](#) or (Battle of Fair Oaks) – Confederate forces under [Joseph E. Johnston](#) & [G. W. Smith](#) engage Union forces under [George B. McClellan](#) outside Richmond, Virginia.
- [1864](#) – [American Civil War Overland Campaign](#): [Battle of Cold Harbor](#) – The [Army of Northern Virginia](#) under [Robert E. Lee](#) engages the [Army of the Potomac](#) under [Ulysses S. Grant](#) and [George G. Meade](#).
- [1866](#) – In the [Fenian Invasion of Canada](#), John O'Neill leads 850 [Fenian](#) raiders across the [Niagara River](#) at [Buffalo, New York/Fort Erie, Ontario](#), as part of an effort to free [Ireland](#) from the [United Kingdom](#). [Canadian militia](#) and [British](#) regulars repulse the invaders in over the next three days, at a cost of 9 dead and 38 wounded to the [Fenian](#)'s 19 dead and about 17 wounded.
- [1879](#) – [Gilmores Garden](#) in [New York City](#) is renamed [Madison Square Garden](#) by [William Henry Vanderbilt](#) and is opened to the public at 26th Street and [Madison Avenue](#).
- [1884](#) – The arrival at [Plymouth](#) of [Tawhiao](#), King of [Maoris](#), to claim protection of [Queen Victoria](#)
- [1889](#) – [Johnstown Flood](#): Over 2,200 people die after a dam break sends a 60-foot (18-meter) wall of water over the town of [Johnstown, Pennsylvania](#).
- [1902](#) – [Second Boer War](#): The [Treaty of Vereeniging](#) ends the war and ensures [British](#) control of [South Africa](#).
- [1909](#) – The [National Negro Committee](#), forerunner to the [NAACP](#), convenes for the first time.
- [1911](#) – The hull of the ocean liner [RMS Titanic](#) is launched.
- 1911 – The [President of Mexico Porfirio Díaz](#) flees the country during the [Mexican Revolution](#).
- [1916](#) – [World War I](#): [Battle of Jutland](#) – The [British Grand Fleet](#) under the command of [Sir John Jellicoe](#) and [Sir David Beatty](#) engage the [Kaiserliche Marine](#) under the command of [Reinhard Scheer](#) and [Franz von Hipper](#) in the largest naval battle of the war, which proves indecisive.

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- [1921](#) – [Tulsa Race Riot](#): [civil unrest](#) in [Tulsa, Oklahoma](#), [United States](#). The official death toll is 39, but recent investigations suggest the actual toll may be much higher.
- [1927](#) – The last [Ford Model T](#) rolls off the [assembly line](#) after a production run of 15,007,003 vehicles.
- [1929](#) – The first talking cartoon of [Mickey Mouse](#), "[The Karnival Kid](#)", is released.
- [1935](#) – A 7.7 [Mw earthquake](#) destroys [Quetta](#) in modern-day [Pakistan](#): 40,000 dead.
- [1941](#) – A [Luftwaffe](#) air raid in [Dublin, Ireland](#), claims 38 lives.
- 1941 – [Anglo-Iraqi War](#): The [United Kingdom](#) completes the re-occupation of [Iraq](#) and returns ['Abd al-Ilah](#) to power as regent for [Faisal II](#).
- [1942](#) – [World War II](#): [Imperial Japanese Navy midget submarines](#) begin a series of [attacks on Sydney, Australia](#).
- [1961](#) – The [Union of South Africa](#) becomes the [Republic of South Africa](#).
- 1962 – [Adolf Eichmann](#) is hanged in [Israel](#).
- [1970](#) – The [Ancash earthquake](#) causes a [landslide](#) that buries the town of [Yungay, Peru](#); more than 47,000 people are killed.
- [1971](#) – In accordance with the [Uniform Monday Holiday Act](#) passed by the [U.S. Congress](#) in [1968](#), observation of [Memorial Day](#) occurs on the last Monday in [May](#) for the first time, rather than on the traditional [Memorial Day](#) of [May 30](#).
- [1973](#) – The [United States Senate](#) votes to cut off funding for the bombing of [Khmer Rouge](#) targets within [Cambodia](#), hastening the end of the [Cambodian Civil War](#).
- [1977](#) – The [Trans-Alaska Pipeline System](#) completed.
- [1981](#) – The [burning of Jaffna library](#) in [Sri Lanka](#). It is one of the violent examples of ethnic biblioclasm of the twentieth century.
- [1985](#) – [1985 United States-Canadian tornado outbreak](#): Forty-one tornadoes hit [Ohio](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [New York](#), and [Ontario](#), leaving 76 dead.
- [1989](#) – A group of six members of the guerrilla group [Revolutionary Movement Tupac Amaru](#) (MRTA) of Peru, shot dead eight [transsexuals](#), in the city of [Tarapoto](#)
- [2005](#) – [Vanity Fair](#) reveals that [Mark Felt](#) was [Deep Throat](#)
- [2010](#) – In international waters, armed [Shayetet 13](#) commandos, intending to force the flotilla to anchor at the [Ashdod](#) port, [boarded](#) ships trying to break the [ongoing blockade](#) of the [Gaza Strip](#), resulting in 9 civilian deaths.