



THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Washington, D.C.
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The following monthly update for September 2017 is submitted by the Executive Director of the Korean War Veterans Association of the United States of America.

- 1. MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT REPORT:** Submitted by Mr. John “Sonny” Edwards -
NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH 33 NEW MEMBERS TYTD 382
NEW MEMBERS LAST YEAR 62 NEW MEMBERS LYTD 538

ACTIVE MEMBERS LYTD 13,249
ACTIVE MEMBERS TYTD 12,690
DECREASE 559

DECEASED COMRADES TYTD 613 AVG/ MO 68
LAST YEAR DECEASED COMRADES AVG/ MO 100 PLUS

DEPARTMENTS & CHAPTERS WITH 3 PLUS NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH
CA-5 OH-3 PA-4
ONLY 20 DEPARTMENTS & CHAPTERS RECRUITED NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH.



Flu Season is here! Veterans protect yourselves and get a NO COST flu shot!

The cold and flu season is upon us and the Department of Veterans Affairs has once again teamed up with Walgreens Pharmacies nationwide to allow all veterans who are currently enrolled in the VA healthcare system to be able walk into any of the over 8000 Walgreens nationally (and the Duane Reade pharmacies in the New York metropolitan area) to receive a vaccination **at no cost**. Vaccinations will be available through March 31, 2018.

Veterans wishing to receive the no cost vaccination simply need to present a Veterans Identification Card and a photo ID, at any participating Walgreens to receive the vaccination. The Group ID is: **VAFLU**

In addition, after the Walgreens pharmacist administers the vaccine Walgreens will transmit that information securely to VA where it becomes part of the patient’s electronic medical record.

VA is committed to keeping Veteran patients healthy, and during this flu season, vaccination is the best

way to prevent the spread of flu. No matter where you live, visit your local VA clinic or Walgreens to get a no cost flu shot.

- To find your local VA, visit va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp.
- To locate a Walgreens store near you, call 800-WALGREENs (800-925-4733), or go to com/findastore.
- To learn more about the partnership, call 1-877-771-8537 or visit <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/immunization.asp>.
- To get more information on flu and flu vaccine, visit publichealth.va.gov/flu or www.cdc.gov/flu.

2. CHANGES ARE COMING TO TRICARE. ARE YOU READY?

Changes are coming to your TRICARE benefit beginning January 1, 2018. These changes will give you more benefit choices, improving your access to care and simplifying cost shares. The best way to prepare is to [update your information in DEERS](#), [sign up](#) for TRICARE benefit updates, and visit the [TRICARE Changes](#) page.

TRICARE Is Changing. Here is what you need to know:

Region Consolidation

Currently, there are three TRICARE regions in the U.S. to include TRICARE North, South and West. The TRICARE North and South regions will combine to form TRICARE East, while TRICARE West will remain mostly unchanged. Two new contractors, Humana Military and Health Net Federal Services, will administer these regions. This change will allow better coordination between the military hospitals and clinics and the civilian health care providers in each region.

TRICARE Select

A new program, TRICARE Select will replace TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra both stateside and overseas. Stateside, TRICARE Select will be a self-managed, preferred provider network option. You will not be required to have a primary care manager (PCM) and therefore you can visit any TRICARE-authorized provider. An authorized provider is any individual, institution/organization, or supplier that is licensed by a state, accredited by national organization, or meets other standards of the medical community, and is certified to provide benefits under TRICARE. There are two types of TRICARE-authorized providers: Network and Non-Network, for services covered by TRICARE without a referral. Overseas, TRICARE Overseas Select will be a preferred provider organization-styled plan that provides access to both network and non-network TRICARE authorized providers for medically necessary. To be medically necessary means it is appropriate, reasonable, and adequate for your condition. TRICARE covered services. TRICARE Select adopts a number of improvements, including additional preventive care services previously only offered to TRICARE Prime beneficiaries.

TRICARE Prime

TRICARE Prime is a managed care program option. An assigned PCM provides most of your care. When you need specialty care, your PCM will refer you to a specialist. Active duty service members and their family members do not pay anything when referred to a network provider by their PCM. All others pay annual enrollment fees and network copayments.

Enrollment

All current TRICARE beneficiaries will be automatically enrolled into plans on January 1, 2018 as long as they are eligible. TRICARE Prime enrollees will remain in TRICARE Prime. TRICARE Standard and Extra beneficiaries will be enrolled in TRICARE Select. During 2018, you can choose to

enroll in or change coverage plans. Enrollment will move to a calendar year open enrollment period beginning in the fall of 2018, during which active enrollment will be required for coverage for the following year. The open enrollment period will begin on the Monday of the second full week in November and run through the Monday of the second full week in December of each calendar year.

Are You Ready? Take Action Now:

You can begin to prepare for the upcoming changes now by:

- Signing up for a [DS Logon](#)
- Updating your personal information [DEERS](#)

This is YOUR Benefit – Take Command! Stay informed with the latest information:

In the coming months, more information will be available www.tricare.mil/changes. To stay informed, sign up for [email alerts](#). You can also get alerts by signing up for [eCorrespondence in milConnect](#). By staying informed, you'll be ready for a smooth transition with TRICARE.

3. ANNUAL CONSENT FOR AUTOMATIC PRESCRIPTION REFILLS BEGINS SEPT. 1

Beginning Sept. 1, 2017, [Express Scripts](#) will need annual consent from patients who want to receive automatic refills of their maintenance medications enrolled in [TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery](#). This means that just before one of your prescriptions runs out of refills, Express Scripts will reach out to you to know if you would like your doctor to be contacted to renew the prescription and if you'd like to continue in the [Automatic Refill program](#). If not, Express Scripts will not refill your prescription.

“This new process gives beneficiaries more control over their medications and keeps the convenience of automatic refills,” said Amy Aldighere, Express Scripts Sr. Director – DoD Program Management. “It also makes it easier to opt out of the Auto Refill program and helps to prevent beneficiaries from receiving medications that they no longer need or shouldn't receive.”

What to Expect: When the last refill of a medication enrolled in the Automatic Refill program ships, Express Scripts will reach out to you by telephone and/or email (depending on the preference you indicated) and ask the following:

- Would you like Express Scripts to reach out to your doctor for a new prescription?
- Do you want to keep your medication enrolled in the Auto Refill program?
- **How to Respond:** Express Scripts will not re-enroll your medication unless they hear from you. You have several ways to respond:
Online at Express-Scripts.com/TRICARE
Via the automated phone call from Express Scripts
- By calling an Express Scripts Patient Care Advocate (PCA) at 1-877-363-1303

If Express Scripts does not receive your consent within 10 days of reaching out to you, they will remove your medication from the Auto Refill program. However, re-enrolling is simple. You can re-enroll your medication at any time online, or through a PCA.

For more information or if you have questions, go to the [Express Scripts website](#). You can also call Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303 to speak with a PCA

4. VA BENEFITS ARE NOT JUST FOR VETERANS.



VA benefits are not just for Veterans. Spouses, children and parents of Veterans may be eligible for various VA benefits too. Jennifer, a wife of a disabled Marine Corps Veteran, utilized VA health care and education benefits for her entire family.

“My experience, from my point of view, has been wonderful. Everybody’s been supportive and I’m grateful,” she says. “It may be a little bit of work, but it’s ultimately worth it in the end.” Not only does her husband use VA health care for help with his disabilities, Jennifer and her children have health care coverage under VA’s CHAMPVA program.

Jennifer also used the [Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program](#) to earn her master’s degree and plans to use this benefit for her children as well.

Spouses, children and parents of Veterans may also be eligible to receive benefits for:

[Disability compensation](#)

[Employment services](#)

[Home loans](#)

[Life insurance](#)

[Pension](#)

[Memorial benefits](#)

Visit [Explore.VA.gov](#) or click the button below to find out more information about all VA benefits.

5. CALL FOR ELECTIONS

The membership is hereby notified that elections will be held in the spring of 2018 for the following National Korean War Veterans Association, INC. (KWVA) positions:

The office of PRESIDENT,

The office of FIRST VICE –PRESIDENT,
The office of SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT, and
The offices of four (4) DIRECTORS.

The PRESIDENT, FIRST and SECOND VICE PRESIDENT will serve terms of 2 years: 2018 -2020.
DIRECTORS will serve 3-year terms: 2018-2021

No later than December 15, 2017, any regular members in good standing of the KWVA seeking to run for the aforementioned offices shall make their intentions known to the Chairman of the Elections Committee, L T. Whitmore, in writing, using the following format:

Requirements: Applicants must:

A. Present proof of service by submitting a separate signed Official KWVA Membership Application Form showing eligible service years and a statement releasing the application form for verification by the Elections Committee (no fee required).

B. Present a current photograph in which the applicant is the central feature and which is suitable for publication in The Graybeards.

C. Submit a letter, signed and dated, limited to approximately one (1) page, including the following:

1) Your intent to run for an office and the office sought.

2) A resume of your qualifications for this office, stating any experience that will be of benefit to the Association.

3) Your current mailing address, telephone number, email address, available, and KWVA membership number.

4) A statement that you will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and will respond to all calls for Business Without a Meeting, and that you understand that two (2) unexcused absences could be used for your removal from office.

5) A statement that your dues are current through the entire term of the office that you are seeking.

Note: *Payment of delinquent dues shall not be retroactive for the purpose of establishing eligibility to run for office with- in the Association.*

D. Send the above items by USPS Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested. P or USPS Express Mail, Return Receipt Requested to the Elections Committee Chairman, to arrive not later than 5:00PM EST 15 December 2017. Scanned documents and pictures sent be email will be deleted.

Applicants are requested to contact the Elections Committee Chairman if they have any questions.

Application packages and questions are to be addressed to:

L T. Whitmore
Election Committee Chairman
Churchland Psychiatry Associates
3300 Academy Ave.
Portsmouth, VA 23707



Dear VA Beneficiary,

We want to provide you with some important information about your VA benefit payments.

VA education, compensation, pension, and survivor's benefits are paid on a monthly basis. Normally, benefits for a particular month are paid the first business day of the following month. When the first business day of the month falls on a non-business day or a holiday, VA benefits will be paid on the last business day prior to the first of the month.

Provided below is the payment schedule for upcoming VA benefit payment disbursements:

Benefit Period	Benefit Payment Date
September 2017	September 29, 2017
October 2017	November 1, 2017
November 2017	December 1, 2017
December 2017	December 29, 2017

You can check your latest VA benefit payments online at www.eBenefits.va.gov . If you are not receiving benefit payments from VA, but know someone who is, please share this information with them. We hope you find this information useful.

Sincerely,

Veterans Benefits Administration

Veterans Benefits Administration · 810 Vermont Avenue, NW · Washington, DC 20420 · 1-800-827-1000

6. 10 OVERLOOKED VA DISABILITIES

By [David Anderson](#) on Sep 18, 2017 at 4:40 p.m.

There are many disabilities veterans and VA medical staff seem to overlook or set aside indefinitely, causing veterans to miss out on a chance to file a claim for a service-connected disability. Take a look at the Top 10 overlooked disabilities missed by veterans and VA medical staff.

1. Erectile Dysfunction — Erectile dysfunction, or ED, is the inability of a man to have an erection hard enough to have sexual intercourse. It can also be known as impotence. It is not unusual for this to happen to a man on occasion, but frequent ED can be a sign of a bigger medical problem that needs attention. ED can also lead to complications in a man's life all on its own.

2. Agoraphobia — The essential feature of Agoraphobia is anxiety about being in (or anticipating) situations from which escape might be difficult or in which help may not be available in the event of having a Panic Attack (or panic-like symptoms). Oftentimes, when in this situation, an individual may have the vague thought that something dreadful may happen. Such concerns must persist for at least six months and occur virtually every time an individual encounters the place or situation (especially those that remind a veteran of battle situations). Agoraphobic fears typically involve characteristic clusters of situations that include being outside the home alone; being in a crowd or standing in a line; being on a

bridge; and traveling in a bus, train, or automobile. More specifically, the diagnostic criteria in the DSM-5 requires that an individual experiences intense fear in response to (or when anticipating entering) at least two of the following five situations:

- Using public transportation, such as automobiles, buses, trains, ships, or planes.
- Being in open spaces, such as parking lots, marketplaces, or bridges.
- Being in enclosed spaces, such as shops, theaters, or cinemas.
- Standing in line or being in a crowd.
- Being outside of the home alone.

A person who experiences agoraphobia avoids such situations (e.g., travel is restricted; the person changes daily routines) or else they are endured with significant distress. For example, people with agoraphobia often require the presence of a companion, such as a family member, partner, or friend, to confront the situation.

3. **Keloids** — A scar that rises quite abruptly above the rest of the skin. It is irregularly shaped, usually pink to red in color, tends to enlarge progressively, and may be harder than the surrounding skin.

Keloids are a response to trauma, such as a cut to the skin. In creating a normal scar, connective tissue in the skin is repaired by the formation of collagen. Keloids arise when extra collagen forms.

4. **Sexually Transmitted Diseases** — Under revision. check with your local VAO/VSO.

5. **Pseudofolliculitis Barbae** — a common condition of the beard area occurring in men and other people with curly hair. The problem results when highly curved hairs grow back into the skin causing inflammation and a foreign body reaction. Over time, this can cause scarring which looks like hard bumps of the beard area and neck.

6. **Plantar Fasciitis** — Plantar fasciitis is the pain caused by inflammation of the insertion of the plantar fascia on the medial process of the calcaneal tuberosity. The pain may be substantial, resulting in the alteration of daily activities. Various terms have been used to describe plantar fasciitis, including jogger's heel, tennis heel, policeman's heel, and even gonorrheal heel. Although a misnomer, this condition is sometimes referred to as heel spurs by the general public.

7. **Pleurisy** — Pleurisy is inflammation of the parietal pleura that typically results in characteristic pleuritic pain and has a variety of possible causes. The term "pleurisy" is often used to refer to a symptom and a condition. It is more precise to use the term "pleurisy" for the condition and "pleuritic pain" to describe the symptom. Pleuritic pain is a key feature of pleurisy; therefore, this article reviews the physiology and classic characteristics of pleuritic pain, focusing on the presentation and diagnosis of the patient and the management of various causes of pleurisy.

Pleuritic chest pain is a common presenting symptom and has many causes, which range from life-threatening to benign, self-limited conditions.

8. **Tropical Phagedena** (Jungle Rot) — tropical phagedena, Aden ulcer, Malabar ulcer, and jungle rot (from Vietnam), as well as various native terms. It occurs on exposed parts of the body, primarily the legs, arms, and feet. Frequently on pre-existing abrasions or sores, sometimes beginning from a scratch. As a rule, only one extremity is affected and usually there is a single lesion, although it is not uncommon to find multiple ulcers on two or more body parts.

9. **Hemorrhoids** — Hemorrhoids are swollen and inflamed veins around the anus or in the lower rectum. The rectum is the last part of the large intestine leading to the anus. The anus is the opening at the end of the digestive tract where bowel contents leave the body.

10. **Sleep Terror Disorder** - Sleep terror disorder is also known as night terrors. The disturbance cannot be due to the direct physiological effects of a substance (e.g., a drug of abuse, a medication) or a general medical condition. Sleep terror is characterized by the following symptoms that a mental health professional looks for when making a diagnosis for this condition:

- Recurrent episodes of abrupt awakening from sleep, usually occurring during the first third of the major sleep episode and beginning with a panicky scream.
- Intense fear and signs of autonomic arousal, such as tachycardia, rapid breathing, and sweating, during each episode.
- Relative unresponsiveness to efforts of others to comfort the person during the episode.
- No detailed dream is recalled and there is amnesia for the episode.

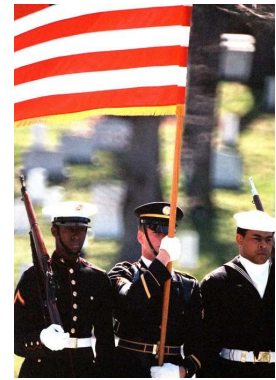
- The episodes cause clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning. [Source: veteranprograms.com May 1, 2017]

FACT SHEET

A NATIONAL MOMENT

OF SILENCE ON

VETERANS DAY



A new U.S. law creates an annual, national moment of silence on Veterans Day.

On October 7, 2016, President Obama signed the Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act, which provides for a national moment of silence, at the same time on Veterans Day each year, in honor of all Americans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The legislation previously passed both the Senate and House of Representatives unanimously.

The moment of silence is designed to bring together Americans of all religious, political, and ideological affiliations as a powerful symbol of our unity and common purpose, and provide an opportunity to reflect on veterans who have touched our lives.

The new law requires that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe a two-minute national moment of silence on Veterans Day at 3:11 p.m. Atlantic standard time, 2:11 p.m. eastern standard time, 1:11 p.m. central standard time, 12:11 p.m. mountain standard time, 11:11 a.m. Pacific standard time, 10:11 a.m. Alaska standard time, and 9:11 a.m. Hawaii- Aleutian standard time.

The moment of silence is supported by the American Legion, the National Guard Association of the United States, the Reserve Officers Association, and the Nurses Organization of Veteran's Affairs.

The legislative effort was led by the Bendetson family – Michael, Daniel, and William Bendetson, supported by their father, Dr. Peter Bendetson. In 2010, the Bendetson family experienced Israel's Day of Remembrance, when that nation pauses for two minutes in remembrance of its veterans. Moved by the experience, the Bendetsons encouraged Congress to establish a similar tradition in the United States. After six years and hundreds of contacts with Congress, the proposal has now become law.

<http://www.facebook.com/VetsDaySilence> <http://twitter.com/VetsDaySilence>

VETERANS DAY 2017 POSTER: The Veterans Day National Committee announced its selection for the 2017 National Veterans Day Poster from more than 100 submissions. The winning poster was designed by Air Force veteran Robert Dubois, a retired high school teacher in Oregon. To view or download the poster, go to the VA's [Veterans Day Poster Gallery](#).

130 STAT. 974

PUBLIC LAW 114–240—OCT. 7, 2016

Public Law 114–240
 114th Congress

An Act

Oct. 7, 2016
 [S. 1004]

To amend title 36, United States Code, to encourage the nationwide observance
 of two minutes of silence each Veterans Day.

Veterans Day
 Moment of
 Silence Act.
 36 USC 101 note.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
 the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Day Moment of Silence
 Act”.

SEC. 2. OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS DAY.

(a) **TWO MINUTES OF SILENCE.**—Chapter 1 of title 36, United
 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new
 section:

President.
 Proclamation.
 36 USC 145.

“§ 145. Veterans Day

“The President shall issue each year a proclamation calling
 on the people of the United States to observe two minutes of
 silence on Veterans Day in honor of the service and sacrifice of
 veterans throughout the history of the Nation, beginning at—

- “(1) 3:11 p.m. Atlantic standard time;
- “(2) 2:11 p.m. eastern standard time;
- “(3) 1:11 p.m. central standard time;
- “(4) 12:11 p.m. mountain standard time;
- “(5) 11:11 a.m. Pacific standard time;
- “(6) 10:11 a.m. Alaska standard time; and
- “(7) 9:11 a.m. Hawaii-Aleutian standard time.”.

PUBLIC LAW 114–240—OCT. 7, 2016

130 STAT. 975

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for chapter
 1 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
 end the following new item:

“145. Veterans Day.”.

Approved October 7, 2016.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 1004:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Vol. 161 (2015): Nov. 9, considered and passed Senate.
 Vol. 162 (2016): Sept. 27, considered and passed House.

○

7. VA UNVEILS CLAIMS SUBMISSION OPTION THAT PROMISES TO COMPLETE CLAIMS WITHIN 30 DAYS

WASHINGTON —As part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) continued efforts to improve timeliness of services for Veterans and their families, VA unveiled the Decision Ready Claims (DRC) initiative, a disability claims submission option with accredited Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) that promises to deliver faster claims decisions to Veterans and their families. "The DRC initiative is a collaborative effort between VA and VSOs to help Veterans receive faster decisions on disability claims," said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. "VA works closely with participating VSOs to make sure they are properly trained in this new process and given the tools they need to participate successfully in the program on behalf of the Veterans they serve."

Veterans who choose to submit their claim under DRC can expect to receive a decision within 30 days from the time VA receives the claim. VSOs will ensure all supporting evidence — such as medical exams, military service records, etc. — is included with the claim submission. This advance preparation by the VSOs allows claims to be assigned immediately to claims processors for a quick decision. DRC was first implemented May 1, 2017, at the St. Paul (Minn.) Regional Office, and is now available at all VA regional offices. While DRC is currently limited to claims for increased compensation (commonly known as claims for increase), and requires Veterans to work with VSOs, VA's goal is to expand the types of claims accepted under the initiative and allow Veterans other ways to submit their claim under DRC.

DRC is another key step in aggressively modernizing VA's benefits delivery to Veterans in a fully digital operating environment. With electronic claims processing as a foundation, VA's innovation will improve service to Veterans, their families, and survivors.

- 8. FY 2018 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT:** On Monday, September 18th, 2017, the Senate voted 89-8 to overwhelmingly pass their version of the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The Senate version authorizes \$700 billion in total — \$640 billion for the Pentagon's base budget, and \$60 billion to sustain ongoing operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. Included in the Senate version is a 2.1 percent pay increase for service members; \$8.5 billion to strengthen missile defense; 24 additional F-35 joint strike fighters; 10 additional Boeing F/A-18 Super Hornets; five more Navy ships; and end-strength increases of 6,000 soldiers and 1,000 Marines. In light of this, the Senate version still includes TRICARE fee increases, which the KWVA strongly opposes, and is \$83 billion above authorized budget caps for military spending. The House and Senate will meet next week to resolve any differences between their versions of the bill.

10. FREE VA CAREGIVER COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE: The Department of Veterans Affairs partnered with PsychArmor Institute to provide a free online course to break down VA's Caregiver Program. The course takes approximately 10 minutes and includes information about how VA is organized, who is eligible for the Caregiver Program, how to enroll in it, what documents are needed and where to apply. The course also offers tips and guidance on what actions to take after enrollment is complete, and what resources are available to help veterans and their caregivers. [Take the online course](#)

11. SECURITY SOCIAL SECURITY EXPEDITES DECISIONS TO THOSE WITH SERIOUS DISABILITIES -Compassionate Allowances List Grows

Nancy A. Berryhill, Acting Commissioner of Social Security, today announced three new Compassionate Allowances conditions: CACH--Vanishing White Matter Disease-Infantile and Childhood Onset Forms, Congenital Myotonic Dystrophy, and Kleeftstra Syndrome. Compassionate Allowances are a way to quickly identify serious diseases and other medical conditions that meet Social Security's standards for disability benefits. "Social Security is committed – now and in the future – to

continue to identify and fast-track diseases that are certain or near-certain to be approved for disability benefits,” said Acting Commissioner Berryhill. The Compassionate Allowances program identifies claims where the applicant’s disease or condition clearly meets Social Security’s statutory standard for disability. Many of these claims are allowed based on medical confirmation of the diagnosis alone, for example pancreatic cancer, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and acute leukemia. To date, almost 500,000 people with severe disabilities have been approved through this fast-track policy-compliant disability process, which has grown to a total of 228 conditions.

By incorporating cutting-edge technology, the agency can easily identify potential Compassionate Allowances and quickly make decisions. For other disability cases not covered by the Compassionate Allowances program, Social Security’s Health IT program brings the speed and efficiency of electronic medical records to the disability determination process. When a person applies for disability benefits, Social Security must obtain medical records in order to make an accurate determination. It may take weeks for health care organizations to provide records for the applicant's case. With electronic records transmission, Social Security is able to quickly obtain a claimant's medical information, review it, and make a determination faster than ever before.

“The Compassionate Allowances and Health IT programs are making a real difference by ensuring that Americans with disabilities quickly receive the benefits they need,” added Ms. Berryhill.

For more information about the program, including a list of all Compassionate Allowances conditions, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances.

To learn more about Social Security’s Health IT program, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/hit.

People may apply online for disability benefits by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov. To create a *my Social Security* account, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

ARMY RETIREE APPRECIATION DAYS

Attend and receive benefits information, renew acquaintances and ID Cards, get medical checkups, and receive other services. Some RADs include dinners or golf tournaments. For more information, contact the Retirement Services Officer sponsoring the RAD.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>
JB San Antonio, Fort Sam Houston, TX	Oct. 14	(210) 221-9004
Fort Wainwright, AK	Oct. 14	(502) 624-1765
Camp Humphreys, Korea	Oct. 14	(563) 445-0191
Fort Carson, CO	Oct. 14	(210) 221-9004
Rheinland-Pfalz/Ramstein, Germany	Oct. 18	(907) 353-2099
Stuttgart, Germany	Oct. 19	(315) 753-8839
Fort Riley, KS	Oct. 20	(719) 526-2840
Schinnen, Netherlands	Oct 20	0631-411-8838
Fort Bragg, NC	Oct. 20-21	07031-15-3442
BENELUX-Brussels	Oct. 21	0032-65-44-7267
Fort Polk, LA	Oct. 21	(337) 531-0402
USAG-Bavaria	Oct. 24	0964-183-8709
USAG-Ansbach	Oct. 25	0981-183-3301
USAG-Italy	Oct. 26	0444-71-7262
Fort Meade, MD	Oct. 27	(301) 677-9603
Fort Rucker, AL	Oct. 27	(334)255-9124
JB Meyer-Henderson Hall, VA	Oct. 6	(703) 696-5948
Fort Hood, TX	Oct. 27-28	(254) 287-5210
Carlisle Barracks, PA	Oct. 7	(717) 245-4501
Wiesbaden, Germany	Oct. 28	0611-705-5338
JB Ellington Field House-Houston, TX	Oct. 8	(210) 221-9004
Fort Leavenworth, KS	Oct. 28	(913) 684-2425
Fort Knox, Ky	Oct. 13	(502) 624-1765
Fort Hamilton, NY	Oct. 28	(718) 630-4552
Rock Island, IL	Oct. 14	(563) 445-0191

12. KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL OF REMEMBRANCE:

Are you aware that the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation (a non-profit Foundation chartered in the District of Columbia is seeking funding to place the names of the 36,574 fallen veterans on a Wall of Remembrance (WOR) to be added to the National Korean War Veterans Memorial in our Nation's Capital, so as to honor all who gave their all during that War? That Wall of Remembrance will finally give credence to the Memorial's theme that "Freedom is not Free." Just as Huntsville honors its veterans from every war, so will the Foundation honor our nation's veterans fallen in battle during the Korean War.

Someone once said that "our nation owes a debt to its fallen heroes that we can never fully repay, but we can honor their sacrifice" and that the Foundation seeks to do. It was just last October when the Foundation's efforts to shepherd legislation through numerous Congresses finally succeeded in having the legislation signed into law (Public Law 114-230) to build that Wall - using solely private, tax-deductible, funding. If you are interested in writing another or follow up story on particularly the Korean War Veterans to let your community know of the Foundation's efforts, please get back in touch with me.

KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

Help us commemorate those who served and sacrificed.

To make a contribution, please visit:



WWW.KOREANWARVETSMEMORIAL.ORG

The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, tax exempt foundation chartered in the District of Columbia as a 501 C3 Foundation.

- **VETERANS WHO DIED WITHOUT FAMILY LAID TO REST WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS**



SAN ANTONIO - Three military veterans were simultaneously honored and laid to rest on Wednesday morning at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. They are known as unaccompanied veterans who died with no surviving family members.

Retired Marines George Peel, Roberto Martinez and Army veteran Rick Pincus all passed away last month. They would have been buried in a pauper's grave had it not been for a local funeral home that sought to give the men a proper burial. Dozens of local volunteers attended the somber funeral to honor the men for their service. Local funeral homes picked up the costs of the services.

- **REVISIT TO KOREA PROGRAM:**

Over 350 veterans and family members returned to Korea on the ROK government subsidized program that was commenced in 1975. The big change this year was that the Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA) approved Korea Defense Veterans, and their families, going for the first time. We have been told that there are 160 allocations for Korean War Veterans and a family member to participate in 2017.

<u>Korea Revisit</u> (Seoul, DMZ, etc)	<u>Korea Pre-tour</u> (Above 38th parallel)	<u>Busan Post-tour</u> (South by bullet train, Inchon, Kunsan AFB)
21 - 27 Oct	18 - 27 Oct	27 - 31 Oct

If you would like to register, send Jamie Wiedhahn an quick Email at: jwiedhahn@miltours.com He will respond immediately with details. You can also check the KWVA Web site at: www.KWVA.org

- **HOW THE EQUIFAX BREACH PUTS YOU AT RISK:** In light of last week's disclosure by credit reporting agency Equifax, where 143 million Americans had their sensitive personal information exposed, there are rising concerns that service members, veterans and their families will be disproportionately affected. Recent analysis by the Consumer Federation of America states that as a result of multiple Permanent Change of Station moves and deployments, service members, veterans and their family members are already twice as likely to have their personal financial information stolen. This recent breach only makes matters worse. While there is no immediate means for recourse, the KWVA recommends verifying if your information was compromised by going to the [Equifax Cybersecurity Incident](#). In the event that it has, you will be given the option to enroll for free in TrustedID, which is Equifax's credit monitoring service, for a period of one year. For our active duty members, federal law provides you the right to place what is called an "Active Duty" alert on your credit report. This alert ensures that lenders must take additional steps to verify your identity prior to opening any new accounts. In order to sign up for the alert, you must register with each credit reporting agency separately — [Equifax](#), [Experian](#) and [TransUnion](#). Finally, it is worth noting that there has been a surge of scam artists posing as Equifax employees and calling people to verify their information. If you receive a call like this, do not reveal any of your information. Instead, take note of the phone number, the time, and the name of the individual and report it to the [Federal Trade Commission](#).

• **Helpful Services:** Phone Numbers and Web Sites

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VA Regional Office (Benefits)	800.827.1000	VA.gov
Office of the Secretary	202.273.4800	VA.gov
Office of the Inspector General	202.461.4702	
https://www.va.gov/oig		
Office of the National Cemetery System	202.461.6240	www.cem.va.gov
Arlington National Cemetery	703.607.8585	www.arlingtoncemetery.mil
Board of Veterans Appeals	202.565.5436	www.bva.va.gov
Central Office (Main Switchboard)	202.273.5400	
Funeral Arrangements & Eligibility	703.607.8585	www.cem.va.gov
Government Life Insurance	800.669.8477	www.insurance.va.gov
Personal Locator	202.273.4950	

Other Veteran Government Agencies

Department of Defense	703.545.6700	https://www.defense.gov
Veterans Employment & Training Office	202.693.4700	https://www.dol.gov/vets
Small Business Administration (VA)	202.205.6600	https://www.sba.gov

Congressional Committees

Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs	202.224.9126	www.veterans.senate.gov
House Committee on Veterans Affairs	202.225.3527	https://veterans.house.gov
Congressional Rural Health Care Coalition	202.225.6600	
www.ruralhealthinfo.org		

Other Veteran Related Offices and Agencies

U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims	202.418.3453	uscourts.cavc.gov
Questions on specific Cases	202.501.5970	
National Organization for Vets Advocates (Attorneys)	877.483.8238	https://vetadvocates.org
USO	888.484.3876	https://www.uso.org

POW/MIA

Department of Defense, POW/MIA Affairs	703.699.1169	http://www.dpaa.mil/
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Incarcerated Veteran

Federal Bureau of Prisons	202.307.3198	https://www.bop.gov
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PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)

VA Readjustment Counseling Service	202.273.8967	www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/317
VA PTSD Information	802.296.6300	www.ptsd.va.gov
VA PTSD Help – In Crisis – Suicide Prevention	800.273.8255	www.veteranscrisisline.net
National Center for PTSD – Behavioral Science Division	857.364.4172	
www.ptsd.va.gov/PTSD/about/divisions		

Locator and Reunion Services

Army Worldwide Locator	866.771.6357	hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/per_locator.htm
Navy Times Locator Services	901.874.3388	https://www.navytimes.com
Personnel Locator	800.333.4636	

Archives

Air Force Support Office	202.404.2264	www.afhistory.af.mil
Marine Corps Historical Office	703.432.4877	guides.grc.usmcu.edu/archives
National Archives – Military Records	866.272.6272	www.archives.gov/research/military
Naval Historical Center (Operations Archives)	202.433.3170	www.history.navy.mil
United States Army Center of Military History	866.272.6272	www.history.army.mil

Women Veterans

Women in Military Service-America Memorial Foundation	703.533.1155	www.womensmemorial.org
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US ARMY DIRECTORY

Arlington National Cemetery: (877) 907-8585
<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil>

Armed Forces Retirement Home: (800) 422-9988; <http://www.afrh.gov>

Army & Air Force Exchange Service: www.shopmyexchange.com **Army**

Echoes: <http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes>
 Editor's e-mail address: ArmyEchoes@mail.mil

Army Echoes Blog: <http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/blog>

Army Emergency Relief: (866) 878-6378; <http://www.aerhq.org>

Army Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USArmy>

Army Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/soldiersmediacenter/>

Army Homepage: <http://www.army.mil>

Army Live Blog: <http://armylive.dodlive.mil/>

Army mobile phone apps: <http://www.army.mil/mobile/>

Army Retirement Services: <http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

Army Stand To!: <http://www.army.mil/standto/>

Army Lodging Program: (877) 711-8326; <http://www.pal.army.mil>
 Reservations: <http://www.ihgarmyhotels.com>

Army Twitter: <https://twitter.com/USArmy/>

Army YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/usarmy>

Casualty Assistance Checklist for Retired Soldiers: <http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/docs/Post/CasualtyAssistanceChecklist.pdf>

Chief of Staff, Army Retired Soldier Council:
<http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/RetireeCouncil>

Combat-Related Special Compensation: (866) 281-3254 opt.4;
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/CRSC>

Commissary: <http://www.commissaries.com>

Concurrent Retired & Disability Pay: (800) 321-1080,
<http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crdp.html>

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau: (855) 411-2372
<http://www.consumerfinance.gov/>

Death — Report a Retired Soldier's Death: Call HQDA Casualty Operations Center, (800) 626-3317; from overseas, call (502) 613-3317 collect.
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reporting%20A%20Death>

DS Logon: <https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/>

Funeral Honors (Military): Army Coordinator: (502) 613-8218
<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh/>

ID Card Facilities: (800) 538-9552; Nearest facility: www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi

Legal Assistance Locator (Military): <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/content/locator.php>

Long Term Care Insurance: (800) 582-3337 <http://www.ltcfeds.com/>

MyArmyBenefits: <http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/>
 Help Desk: (888) 721-2769 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday - Friday);

Survivor Outreach Services: (855) 707-2769, <https://www.sos.army.mil/>

Reserve Component Retirements (888) 276-9472
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reserve%20Component%20Retirements>

RC Application for Retired Pay: Human Resources Command; ATTN: AHRC-PDR-RCR; 1600 Spearhead Division Ave.; Dept 482; Ft Knox, KY 40122-5402; (888) 276-9472; download the application from:
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/Default.aspx?ID=13664>

Soldiers Magazine: <http://soldiers.dodlive.mil/>

Space-Available Travel: <http://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site>

Soldier for Life on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CSASoldierForLife

Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act:
<http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/usfspa>



U. S. Army Retired Lapel Button and Badge: Type "Soldier for Life" into the search box at <https://www.shopmyexchange.com>

Veterans Service Records — Replace DD Form 214, awards:

Retired 4/1/1996 or later: Visit <http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/>, Click on "Army White Pages" at the bottom, then log in. Next click on "Click Here to Access Your Army Record."

Retired 3/31/1996 or earlier: Call Human Resources Command at (888) 276-9472 or visit <http://vetrecs.archives.gov> National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records); 1 Archive Drive. St. Louis, MO 63138-1002

DFAS (800) 321-1080 (M-F, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST) <http://www.dfas.mil/>
 myPay (888) 332-7411; <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>
 Retiree/Annuitant web page <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>

Social Security (800) 772-1213 <http://www.socialsecurity.gov>; If overseas, contact the American Embassy/consulate, or visit <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/foreign/phones.html>.

Medicare (800) 633-4227 <http://www.medicare.gov>

TRICARE <http://www.tricare.mil>

Health Beneficiary Counseling Assistance Coordinator:
<http://www.tricare.mil/bcacdcao>, or nearest military treatment facility

TRICARE North: (877) 874-2273; <http://www.hnfs.com>; CT, DC, DE, IL, IN, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, VA, WI, WV, some ZIPs in IA, MO, TN

TRICARE South: (800) 444-5445; <http://www.humana-military.com/>
 AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, OK, SC, TN (except 35 TN ZIP codes near Ft Campbell), and TX (except the extreme SW El Paso area)

TRICARE West: (877) 988-9378; <https://www.uhcmilitarywest.com/>; AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, IA (except 82 Iowa ZIP codes near Rock Island, IL) KS, MO (except the St. Louis area), MN, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OR, SD, SW TX, UT, WA, WY

TRICARE Overseas: (888) 777-8343; <http://www.tricare-overseas.com>

TRICARE for Life: (866) 773-0404; TDD (866) 773-0405
<http://tricare.mil/Plans/HealthPlans/TFL.aspx>

TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery: (877) 363-1296;
<http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery/>

TRICARE Network Pharmacy: (877) 363-1303; <http://www.express-scripts.com>

TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan: (888) 838-8737; <http://www.TRDP.org>

US Family Health Plan: <http://www.usfhp.com/>

Armed Forces Recreation Centers <http://www.armymwr.com>

Hale Koa Hotel, Hawaii: (800) 367-6027; <http://halekoa.com>

Edelweiss Resort, Bavaria: 011-49-8821-9440
<http://www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com>

Shades of Green, Florida: (888) 593-2242; (407) 824-3665
<http://www.shadesofgreen.org/reservations.htm>

Dragon Hill, Korea: 011-822-790-0016 <http://www.dragonhilllodge.com>

Veterans Affairs (VA) Information <http://www.va.gov>

Burial & Memorial Benefits: <http://www.cem.va.gov/> (877) 907-8199

Benefits and Services: (800) 827-1000 (Retired Soldiers overseas should contact the American Embassy/consulate); TDD (800) 829-4833
<http://benefits.va.gov/benefits/>

GI Bill: (888) 442-4551; <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>

Health Care Benefits: (877) 222-8387; <http://www.va.gov/health>

Insurance: SGLI/VGLI: (800) 419-1473; All other insurance: (800) 669-8477

Sister Service Publications for Retired Service Members

Air Force Afterburner: <http://www.Retirees.af.mil/afterburner/>

Coast Guard Evening Colors: <http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/retnews/>

Marine Corps Semper Fi: <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/> then click Career/Retired Marines, then Semper Fidelis Newsletter

Navy Shift Colors: <http://www.navy.mil/> then click Links/Shift Colors

- **HOW TO REPORT THE DEATH OF A RETIRED SOLDIER:** Contact the Department of the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center anytime by calling (800) 626-3317. You will be immediately referred to a local Casualty Assistance Center, who will report the death to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to stop retired pay and initiate the survivor benefits process. When reporting the death, please provide as much of the information below as you have:
 - Full name
 - Next of kin information
 - Social security number and/or service number
 - Circumstances surrounding the death
 - Retirement date • Copy of the death certificate
 - Retired rank
 - Copy of the Statement of Service (Last DD Form 214)
- **TELL AMERICA PROGRAM:** The Map Poster of the Korean War continues to be requested. The map is available to those participating in the Tell America Program. If you would like maps for your presentations, please contact:
Chairman, Alves J. Key, Jr., Tell America Program
5506 Emerald Park Blvd.
Arlington, TX 79912
817-472-7743
- **VETERANS DAY 2017:**
Director Paul Cunningham has been appointed Chair of the Veterans Day 2017 Committee. Other members include Director Whitmore and Executive Director Jim Fisher. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please inform Director Cunningham.
Our urgent interest in this planning lies in the necessity for the Korean War Veterans to prepare for Veterans Day, 2017 when we will be Host VSO.
The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and agenda items included:
 - Review of quotes from caterers for Reception. Polish food items were included in the menu and reflected in the quotes of just under **\$32,000** (this includes all taxes and usage fees). This represents the largest single expense.
 - Logistics of setting up the reception area to provide informative information regarding the PLAV, membership applications, National Service Director on Benefits available to veterans. Volunteers to “man” the tables, greeters and personnel to check the names of guests against the issued invitations. (Must meet restrictions and/or rules set by VA) Signage and its display.
 - Invitation Cards for the reception.
 - Ordering Lapel Pins for reception attendees and possibly members who will be unable to attend.
 - Reception location. Women in Military Service Memorial Building. **RENTAL FEE: \$5,000.00** (SUBJECT TO CHANGE).
 - Determination of Need for a Specific Checking Account for the 2017 Veterans Day Event with the requirement that 2 signatures be required for all checks.



- Hotels and Transportation needs for Departments. Consideration of “Specials” such as tours and monument visitations. Several area lodging sites had been visited and were discussed.
- Seating for the Ceremonies at Arlington Amphitheater and Bus information. Early arrival for PLAV is encouraged because of expected crowds. Amphitheater seating is limited and opens to the public on a “first come-first seated” basis after 8:00AM

- 2017 Retired and Annuitant Pay Dates:**

Entitlement Month	Retiree Payment Dates	Annuitant Payment Dates
September 2017	September 29, 2017	October 2, 2017
October 2017	November 1, 2017	November 1, 2017
November 2017	December 1, 2017	December 1, 2017
December 2017	December 29, 2017	January 2, 2018

- ATTENTION ALL RETIREES AND ANNUITANTS,**

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's addresses changed effective May 1, 2017. The old addresses are being discontinued and will be replaced by addresses in Indianapolis. The new addresses are:

Retired Pay:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Retired Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

Annuitant Pay:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1300



- POW/MIA REPORT:** Submitted by Mr. Rocky Harder, KWVA POW/MIA Coordinator. Monthly Teleconference, DPAA-Family Organizations/VSO/MSO

--McKeague swears in as Director of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency - September 5, 2017

<http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1299505/mckeague-swears-in-as-director-of-defense-powmia-accounting-agency>

The U.S. Department of Defense announced today the selection of Kelly McKeague to be the Director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. McKeague was sworn in this morning during a ceremony at the Pentagon. McKeague, who retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2016 at the rank of major general, served as the DPAA Deputy Director and as the Commander of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, one of

the entities merged in 2015 to form the Department's newest defense agency.

"I know the importance of the agency's mission and I look forward to working with DPAA's team of dedicated professionals," said McKeague.

Fern Sumpter Winbush, who has been serving as Acting Director, will resume her role as Principal Deputy Director for the agency, responsible for formulating policy, overseeing business development, and increasing outreach initiatives.

"My time serving as the Acting Director has been challenging and rewarding as I worked to move the agency forward in our mission of providing the fullest possible accounting of U.S. personnel missing from past conflicts to the families and the nation," said Winbush. "As an agency, we have accomplished much over the last two years, and I am confident the incoming Director will take over an agency postured for continued success."

McKeague, who served as an independent business consultant since his military retirement, says he is looking forward to this opportunity.

"I am humbled and blessed to serve on behalf of the families whose loved ones served our country," he said. "The fulfillment of this agency's solemn obligation is my honor to endeavor."

A native of Hawaii, McKeague began his military career in 1981 as a civil engineering officer, serving in a variety of assignments at base, major command and Headquarters U.S. Air Force levels. In 1995, he entered the Maryland Air National Guard and served on active duty as a civil engineer. His assignments include the Air National Guard Readiness Center, followed by legislative liaison tours at the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force and the National Guard Bureau. He also served as the Chief of Staff, National Guard Bureau and Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for National Guard Matters.

GREETINGS FROM NEW DPAA DIRECTOR

To our Family Group, Veteran Service Organization, and Military Service Organization Partners,

I am humbled and honored to have been entrusted to lead the dedicated DPAA team in dutifully and attentively serving this sacred humanitarian mission. I'm also privileged to again be able to partner with you and your organizations.

In my first message to the DPAA team, I reinforced that accountability to the families of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and are missing must guide our words and actions. To abide as such, my teammates and I must apply a personal sense of responsibility and be resolute in accomplishing our duties.

The resources and will the Department of Defense devotes to this vital mission is the result of a moral imperative that also defines us as Americans. I pledge to you to be a servant-leader of consequence and to strive to make a difference to the DPAA team, this mission, to you, and most importantly, to the families. I look forward to reconnecting with you at next Friday's POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony, or our Oct 6th update to all of you.

With gratitude for all you do,

Kelly McKeague
Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise

--**Navy Hospital Corpsman 1st Class William G. Payne**, killed during the Korean War, has now been accounted for. <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1299102/sailor-killed-during-korean-war-accounted-for-payne/>

In late November 1950, Payne was a medical specialist assigned to the 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, fighting against repeat Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) attacks in the area surrounding Yudam-ni, North Korea. Payne was killed during the fighting on Dec. 1, 1950 and was reportedly buried in a temporary cemetery at Yudam-ni. Interment services are pending; a formal notification will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services.

DPAA is appreciative to the Department of Veterans Affairs for their partnership in this mission.

Payne's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at an American Battle Monuments Commission site along with the other MIAs from the Korean War.

For more information about DPAA, visit www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa, or call 703-699-1420.

-- **Army Cpl. Clarence R. Skates**, 19, of Los Angeles, whose identification was previously announced, will be buried Sept. 15 in Riverside, Calif. Skates was assigned to Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. Positioned between the towns of Kunu-ri and Sunchon, Skates' regiment was attacked by Chinese forces and suffered many casualties. Skates was reported missing in action on Nov. 30, 1950. At the end of the war, during "Operation Big Switch," where all remaining prisoners of war were returned, the former prisoners were interviewed. One reported hearing that Skates died while marching to POW Camp 5, but he was unable to provide further information. Based on this information, Skates was declared deceased as of Feb. 5, 1954. [Read about Skates.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. James J. Leonard** was a member of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. In the early hours of July 20, 1950, Leonard's regiment arrived east of Yongdong, South Korea, and began preparing to assume the defense of the city. North Korean forces began attacking their positions on July 23 and took control of Yongdong by July 25. Leonard was reported as killed in action on July 25, 1950. Interment services are pending. [Read about Leonard.](#)

-- **Army Sgt. 1st Class Elmore B. Goodwin** was a member of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. In late November 1950, Goodwin's unit engaged in combat operations against Chinese forces in the vicinity of Anju, North Korea. Goodwin was reported missing in action on Nov. 27, 1950. When no information regarding Goodwin was reported by returning American POWs, the U.S. Army declared him deceased as of Dec. 31, 1953. Interment services are pending. [Read about Goodwin.](#)

-- **Army Cpl. William R. Sadewasser**, 24, of Wellsville, N.Y., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried Sept. 23 in Ulysses, Pa. Sadewasser served with Headquarters Battery, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Infantry Division, as part of the 31st Regimental Combat Team deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. The RCT was attacked by an overwhelming number of Chinese forces in late November 1950. Sadewasser was among the more than 1,000 members of the RCT killed or captured in enemy territory. He was reported missing as of Nov. 28, 1950. [Read about Sadewasser.](#)

-- **Army Cpl. Daniel F. Kelly**, 18, of Pittsburgh, Pa., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried Sept. 27 in Bridgeville, Pa. Kelly was assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. In late November 1950, his unit was ordered to advance as part of an offensive push to drive the North Koreans to the Yalu River, along the border of North Korea and China. They were attacked by Chinese forces and Kelly was declared missing on Nov. 26, 1950. [Read about Kelly.](#)

- **National POW/MIA Recognition Day:** The KWVA joined in ceremonies at the Pentagon today to honor our nation's former prisoners of war, and to remember nearly 83,000 other Americans who remain missing and unaccounted-for going back to World War II, as well as their families. The nation sets aside the third Friday in September to recognize and remember former POWs and our MIAs, but for nearly 700 military and civilian men and women assigned to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, every day is another opportunity to recover, identify and return a fallen American home to a loving family that still waits. [Learn more about DPAA.](#)
- **MIA Families Sought:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency is seeking families of missing American service members to attend informational update meetings and to collect DNA samples if one is not already on file. Learn more at: <http://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Family-Events/>.

SAN FRANCISCO UNVEILS MEMORIAL TO WWII 'COMFORT WOMEN'



People move in to take a closer look at the "Comfort Women" monument after it was unveiled Friday, Sept. 22, 2017, in San Francisco. The monument was dedicated to the young women victims of Japanese military sexual slavery from 1932 until the end of World War II in 1945.

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER | Associated Press | Published: September 23, 2017

SAN FRANCISCO — Now 89, former World War II "comfort woman" Yongsoo Lee clutched a microphone in one hand Friday in a park outside San Francisco's Chinatown, thrust her other clinched fist in the air, and made a vow.

Lee, abducted from her Korean homeland at 15 and forced into working in brothels servicing Japanese soldiers, was speaking at the dedication of the latest of dozens of statues put up around the world, commemorating the ordeal of thousands of women like her in territory held by the Japanese army before and during World War II.

Japan has not gone far enough in apologizing, and the statues memorializing those the Japanese army called "comfort women" for their soldiers will keep going up, Lee, her frame bent in traditional green and pink Korean robes, told the scores at Friday's unveiling ceremony.

And at the end, we will have a memorial in Tokyo. So they can say, 'I'm sorry, I'm sorry' when they pass by," said Lee, who came from South Korea for Friday's ceremony, as she has for at least four other such dedications in the United States alone.

Historians say tens of thousands of women, and perhaps hundreds of thousands, were seized in Asian territories under Japanese military control and made to work in military brothels. The issue has remained an open rift between Japan and other Asian nations. Surviving comfort-women and their supporters rejected a 2015 statement from Japan expressing "apologies and remorse," saying it did not go far enough in acknowledging what they say was the Japanese government's responsibility.

"If Japan does not like" the continued focus on comfort women, Lee told the crowd, through a translator, "Japan must apologize." On Friday, the South Korean and Japanese foreign ministers, meeting in New York, agreed to work together to resolve their countries' lingering differences over the episode, according to Japan's Kyodo news agency.

No more than a few dozen of the comfort women remain alive, said retired San Francisco Judge Lillian Sing, who was a leader in the effort by California's Korean, Chinese and Filipino communities to commission and put up the statue, in a park on the edge of San Francisco's Chinatown.

"What these grandmas did was change the way the world looked at sex -trafficking," Sing told the state and local dignitaries and others in the audience.



VA Appeals Modernization: The Road to Reform

VA's Legacy Appeals Structure

- VA's former appeal framework was set in law after World War I. The process was slow, complex, confusing, and failing Veterans
- Because the process was too complicated, contained many unnecessary steps, and was confusing for Veterans to navigate, it was very challenging for VA to explain the appeals process in simple terms
- In the former, broken appeals process, VA's appeals inventory grew approximately 10 percent annually
- For all appeals, Veterans were waiting an average of 3 years for a resolution, and Veterans who appealed to the Board of Veterans' Appeals were waiting an average of 6 years for a resolution

Appeals Reform

- In March 2016, VA sponsored an "Appeals Summit" with Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) and other stakeholders to design a new, comprehensive legal framework that is simple, timely, transparent, and fair
- The summit resulted in draft a legislative proposal outlining the new appeals system. On May 24, 2017, the House passed the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 and referred the bill to the Senate for consideration
- Once signed into law, VA will implement the new appeals system over an 18-month period
- VA aims to address the legacy inventory by leveraging additional budget and manpower resources in an effort to process all appeals within 1 year by 2023
- In an effort to streamline and improve appeals processing immediately, VA realigned its administrative appeals program under the Appeals Management Office, formerly known as the Appeals Management Center (AMC)
- The realignment created a single accountable office responsible for overseeing VA appeals. Previously, jurisdiction was split between the AMC and 56 regional offices within the Veterans Benefits Administration

Advantages of Appeal Reform

- Speeds resolution of appeals by reducing bottlenecks
- Provides claimants more options by allowing them to tailor the process to their needs and control their VA appeal experience
- Simplifies the appeal process by eliminating unnecessary and repetitive steps
- Establishes greater protection of claimants' rights by preserving the earliest possible effective date for an award of benefits regardless of the path the Veteran chooses
- Improves quality and accuracy of decisions by creating feedback mechanisms enabling VA to reduce errors and produce better decisions for Veterans

###

Annex D: News Release

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 7, 2017

VA Unveils Claims Submission Option That Promises to Complete Claims within 30 Days

WASHINGTON — Today, as part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) continued efforts to improve timeliness of services for Veterans and their families, VA unveiled the Decision Ready Claims (DRC) initiative, a disability claims submission option with accredited Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) that promises to deliver faster claims decisions to Veterans and their families.

"The DRC initiative is a collaborative effort between VA and VSOs to help Veterans receive faster decisions on disability claims," said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. "VA works closely with participating VSOs to make sure they are properly trained in this new process and given the tools they need to participate successfully in the program on behalf of the Veterans they serve."

Veterans who choose to submit their claim under DRC can expect to receive a decision within 30 days from the time VA receives the claim. VSOs will ensure all supporting evidence — such as medical exams, military service records, etc. — is included with the claim submission. This advance preparation by the VSOs allows claims to be assigned immediately to claims processors for a quick decision.

DRC was first implemented May 1, 2017, at the St. Paul (Minn.) Regional Office, and is now available at all VA regional offices. While DRC is currently limited to claims for increased compensation (commonly known as claims for increase), and requires Veterans to work with VSOs, VA's goal is to expand the types of claims accepted under the initiative and allow Veterans other ways to submit their claim under DRC.

DRC is another key step in aggressively modernizing VA's benefits delivery to Veterans in a fully digital operating environment. With electronic claims processing as a foundation, VA's innovation will improve service to Veterans, their families, and survivors.

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(as of September 2017)

Prepared by VBA's Office of Corporate Communications

**Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Update and Field Operations Summary
September 2017**

Summary: Keeping the families of our missing as well as veterans informed is a primary objective of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's (DPAA) mission. Towards that end, this Summary is intended to provide an overview of past and future efforts to account for our missing.

Items of Note:

– Mr. Kelly McKeague was selected and sworn in as the Director of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency on September 5.

– The Deputy Director, Brigadier General Mark Spindler, will be retiring at the end of September. His replacement, Rear Admiral Jon Kreitz arrived September 18 and will officially assume duties as the Deputy Director on October 3.

– The new Agency Chief of Staff, Mr. Scott Ebell, was selected and arrived September 18 as well.

– DPAA, along with the Department of Defense and other Federal agencies will begin Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 on October 1, 2017 under a continuing resolution (CR). The CR will expire on December 8, 2017. The DPAA budget request of \$131.268M has not received any Congressional marks (reductions) from authorization or appropriation committees, and have yet to address sequestration requirements which could have an impact on our budget.

*The DPAA FY18 first quarter operations were planned in consideration of the CR.

– Every year, on the third Friday in September, National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies are now held throughout the nation and at U.S. Embassies. This year's Pentagon Ceremony at the River Terrace Parade Field, honored all returned POWs and renewed our national commitment to accounting for those still missing. The event was hosted by Deputy Secretary of Defense, Patrick Shanahan. For photos of the Pentagon Ceremony, please see <https://www.flickr.com/photos/depsecdef/albums/72157688460373986>.

– DPAA also hosted a National POW/MIA Recognition Day at the National Cemetery of the Pacific, in Hawaii. BG Spindler, DPAA Deputy Director, was the host and Edward Cruickshank, Director, Office of Veterans' Services, State of Hawaii was the keynote speaker.

– On September 9, 2017, the Agency hosted a Family Member Update in Detroit, Michigan for family members of missing personnel. Of the 228 attending, 166 (72%) were first-time attendees. The below is a breakdown of the family members and their missing loved ones by conflict:

- 29 Vietnam War representing 13 missing personnel
- 108 Korean War representing 58 missing personnel
- 91 World War II representing 47 missing personnel

– DPAA held the Korean/Cold War Annual Government Briefings from August 10-11 at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View. The meeting included formal briefings to the audience, individual briefings for the families, a dinner hosted by the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs and entertainment at the Twilight Tattoo on the evening of the 9th. A total of 398 family members attended the meeting, of which 142 were first-time attendees.

- Korean War: 192 losses / 375 family members
- Cold War: 10 losses / 19 family members
- Family members by service: Army 225, Marine Corps 56, Navy 28, Air Force 89

Profiles of Unaccounted For Personnel:

Over the past year, we have been developing individual profiles that describe the individual circumstances under which these brave individuals served their country.

We invite you to browse our collection of profiles for those who served and remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, Cold War, Korean War, and World War II. Available profiles are searchable and sortable, and our list will be actively updated as new profiles are written. For more information, please visit <https://dpaa.secure.force.com/dpaaProfileHome>.

Overview: There were 126 personnel deployed in support of operations around the world in August.

Asia-Pacific Region: The Deputy Director recently completed a trip to Southeast Asia which helped set the conditions for the upcoming field activities and the September 18-21 Vietnam Technical talks.

- Operations in Last 30 Days:
 - Tarawa, (via HistoryFlight Group, DPAA partner)
 - Solomon Islands, 1x Investigation Team (IT)
 - Vietnam, 2xIT/4xRT, 2xVietnamese Recovery Teams (RT)/1x Vietnamese Underwater Recovery Team (URT)
 - Papua New Guinea, 1x Research Investigation Team (RIT)
- Upcoming Operations:
 - Vietnam, 3xIT/4xRT, 1xVietnamese Underwater Recovery Team (URT)
 - Laos, 1xIT/3xRT
 - South Korea, 1xIT/Joint Forensic Review
 - Japan, 1xIT
- Pending Disinterment Operations:
 - Punchbowl (Hawaii): 16 scheduled per month

Europe-Mediterranean Region: During the 4th Quarter, DPAA scheduled two organic field recoveries and four organic investigations in the Eur-Med Region. Partners in this region have proven to be invaluable and have positively affected operational successes for the Agency.

- Operations in Last 30 Days:
 - Austria, 1xRT (via University of New Orleans, DPAA partner)
 - Austria, 1xRT (via University of Maryland, DPAA partner)
 - Italy, 1xRT (via Archaeological & Historical Conservancy, DPAA partner)
 - Italy, 1xIT (via Coastal Research Vessel Leonardo, DPAA partner)
 - Bulgaria, 1xRT
 - Slovenia, 1xRT
 - France, 1xRT (via University of Wisconsin, DPAA partner)
 - Italy, 1xIT (via East Carolina University, DPAA partner)
 - Austria, 1xIT
 - Germany, 1xIT
- Upcoming Operations:
 - Germany, 1xIT (underwater shore based)
 - France, 2xRT (via History Flight Group, DPAA partner)
 - France, 1xIT
- U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC)
 - On September 13-14, Gen (Ret.) Foglesong traveled to Moscow to meet with both the U.S. Ambassador and Russian Side counterparts to ensure the work of the Commission continues following the loss of the JCSD detachment in Moscow. Intent of the visit was to also set conditions in preparation for the 21st USRJC Plenum currently scheduled for November 7-9 in Moscow.
 - Given the closure of the JCSD Moscow Detachment, EM is actively pursuing courses of action that will allow continuing research efforts in Russia.
- Pending Disinterment Operations
 - 12 scheduled for American Battle Monuments Commission Cemetery at Ardennes (Two on each of the following days in September: 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, and 13).

Scientific Analysis: In this, the final quarter of FY 2017, the lab staff is on track to accomplish Agency goals.

Statistics:

FY 2017 Identifications, as of August 31, 2017:

- o Total = 166 (149 identifications of unaccounted-for personnel and 17 identifications of additional remains for individuals previously accounted-for)
- o WWII = 116 (105 identifications of unaccounted-for personnel and 11 identifications of additional remains for individuals previously accounted-for)

- **STATUS OF KOREAN WAR MUSEUM:**

State Journal Register, Springfield, IL

By [Tim Landis](#)

Korean War veteran Jim McCrocklin says he isn't so much concerned about the return of his wartime footlocker and other donations to the defunct Korean National War Museum as he is about seeing the testament to the Forgotten War survive in some fashion.

The 86-year-old Springfield resident, who served as Army infantry in Korea from 1951 to 1952, said he has heard little since operators of the museum on Old Capitol Plaza locked the doors on July 29, leaving exhibits behind and apparently relocating others.

In addition to his footlocker, McCrocklin said he donated a uniform, dress shoes, socks and other items shortly before the museum opened at the Springfield location in 2009.

"Don't get me wrong," said McCrocklin. "I don't really want them back. I donated for a cause. People donated a lot of money. It's the 'Forgotten War' and forgotten guys. I really don't want to see this fall by the wayside."

Just what became of museum exhibits remains unclear, including to Korean War veterans groups. The Illinois Attorney General's Office is investigating the abrupt shutdown and what became of donations. The Korean War National Museum, based in Chicago, voluntarily dissolved effective Aug. 4, according to corporate registration records at the Illinois Secretary of State's Office, meaning the group can no longer raise money in Illinois.

A New Jersey-based charity watchdog group this week issued a nationwide "high concern" advisory on the organization after The State Journal-Register reported on more than \$586,000 in museum financial losses from 2010 to 2015.

"The concerns raised about organizational legitimacy and/or federal tax law compliance are serious both in nature and scope," said the advisory from Charity Navigator.

The museum website and Facebook page have been taken down, and repeated phone and email messages left at the Springfield and Chicago offices for the museum have not been returned since the closing.

Secretary of State spokesman Dave Druker said suspension of corporate registration requires only a notice from the company or not-for-profit.

"It's fairly standard for an organization that's going out of business," said Druker.

The Illinois Attorney General's Office also suspended the museum's not-for-profit registration after the group failed to file a 2016 financial disclosure.

According to the last disclosure filed with the state, the museum lost money all but one year from 2010 to 2015, despite reporting revenue of more than \$7 million. The museum reported spending more than \$245,000 on direct mail solicitation and professional fundraising in 2015, as well as more than \$204,000 on salaries and executive compensation

There have been no outward signs of work at the museum since the abrupt closing July 29 and Korean War veterans organizations say they have had little success in tracking the fate of exhibits that ranged from weapons to a library of Korean War history.

“It’s unfortunate,” said Carl Greenwood, president of the Illinois Korean Memorial Association. The group, which is unrelated to the museum, was instrumental in creation of the Korean War Memorial dedicated in 1996 at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield.

He questioned how little there was to show for the millions reportedly raised by the museum, by pointing out \$1.6 million was raised to build the Korean War Memorial, including \$500,000 in donated labor, design work and materials.

“It was all volunteer. Every donation went to the memorial,” said Greenwood.

The Illinois Korean Memorial Association was never involved with the museum, said Greenwood, though at one point he loaned the museum a podium for special events.

“When I heard they were going out of business, I got my podium back,” said Greenwood.

- **DISABILITY COMPENSATION DECISION READY CLAIMS**
DECISION READY CLAIM OVERVIEW

The Decision Ready Claim (DRC) initiative is a claims submission option through an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO) representative which allows VA to complete your claim within 30 days of submission. Under the DRC initiative, your accredited representative will assist you in ensuring all supporting evidence (e.g. medical exams) is included with your claim at the time of submission.

WHAT TYPES OF DISABILITY CLAIMS ARE ELIGIBLE THROUGH THE DRC INITIATIVE?

At this time, the DRC initiative can be used to submit disability compensation claims for increase. A compensation claim for increase is a claim for a disability that the Veteran is currently service connected for and is requesting an increase to the current disability evaluation due to the condition worsening.

HOW CAN I FILE MY CLAIM UNDER THE DRC INITIATIVE?

In order to file a disability compensation claim under the DRC initiative, you need to appoint an accredited VSO representative. Your accredited representative plays an essential role in determining whether DRC is right for you.

If you don’t have an accredited representative, you can appoint one online through www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/vso-search or visit your nearest VA regional benefit office for assistance. You can find the nearest location online through

<https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/division.asp?dnum=3&isFlash=0>

WHAT IS AN ACCREDITED VSO REPRESENTATIVE? An accredited VSO representative is an individual who has undergone a formal application and training process, and is recognized by VA as a qualified advocate for Veterans. Many VSOs are private non-profit groups that advocate on behalf of Veterans, Service members, dependents and survivors. Accredited representatives may also work for state or county government entities. VSOs provide their services free-of-charge, but they may request reimbursement for unusual expenses.

For More Information about the DRC initiative, call Toll-Free 1-800-827-1000.

Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA healthcare system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors’ Benefits.

KWVA PRAYER LIST

George Bruzgis - Bedridden – Possibility of losing his leg

Mrs. Virginia Edwards (Sonny's wife) – Cancer has returned. Intense Chemo Therapy

Jeff Brodeur – Son's surgery on legs

COL Bill Weber – Fitting of new prosthesis

Our Country (USA)

Our Countries Leadership

Men and Women serving in the Armed Forces

Situation in the Korean Peninsular

2017 Honor Flight Tour Schedule

Tour Date	Honor Flight Chapter	More Information
October		
10/7/2017	South Willamette Valley Honor Flight (Oregon)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/7/2017	Honor Flight Southland (California)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/7/2017	Badger Honor Flight (Wisconsin)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/7/2017	Honor Flight Huntington (West Virginia)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/9/2017	Never Forgotten Honor Flight (Wisconsin)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/10/2017	Central Valley Honor Flight (California)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/13/2017	Honor Flight Bay Area (California)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/14/2017	Greater St. Louis Honor Flight (Missouri)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/14/2017	Honor Flight Kentucky (Kentucky)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/14/2017	Franklin County Honor Flight (Missouri)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/14/2017	Lone Eagle (Various States)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/14/2017	Space Coast Honor Flight (Florida)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/14/2017	Honor Flight Savannah (Georgia)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/18/2017	Old Glory Honor Flight (Wisconsin)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/18/2017	Eastern Iowa Honor Flight (Iowa)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/21/2017	Honor Flight Columbus (Ohio)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/21/2017	Collier County Honor Flight (Florida)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/21/2017	Indy Honor Flight (Indiana)	Contact Honor Flight Hub

10/21/2017	Honor Flight of Southern Indiana (Indiana)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/23/2017	Greater Lafayette Honor Flight (Indiana)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/24/2017	Honor Flight Tri-State (Ohio)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/24/2017	Honor Flight West Central Florida (Florida)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/24/2017	Honor Flight of the Ozarks (Missouri)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/27/2017	Utah Honor Flight (Utah)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
November		
11/1/2017	Honor Flight of the Quad Cities (Illinois)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
11/4/2017	Honor Flight Dayton (Ohio)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
11/11/2017	Greater St. Louis Honor Flight (Missouri)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
11/11/2017	Lone Eagle (Various States)	Contact Honor Flight Hub



Contact Information
Honor Flight, Inc.
175 South Tuttle Road
Springfield, OH 45505
937-521-2400
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST
Serving Our Veterans

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Fisher

James R. Fisher
National Executive Director
Korean War Veterans Association, USA