



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

- **MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT REPORT:** Submitted by Mr. John “Sonny” Edwards -

AS OF 10-25-17

NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH 32 NEW MEMBERS TYTD 418
ACTIVE MEMBERS LYTD 13,214
ACTIVE MEMBERS TYTD 12,673
DECREASE 541

DECEASED COMRADES TYTD 644 AT THE PRESENT COUNT WE WILL HAVE
50% LESS DECREASED COMRADES THIS YEAR COMPARED TO LAST YEAR. THIS
IS GOOD NEWS. I HOPE IT CONTINUES TO HAVE OUR COMRADES IN ARMS TO
BE WITH US LONGER.

DEPARTMENT & CHAPTERS WITH 2 PLUS NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH.
CA-2 HI-2 MA-2 NC-2 TX-3 VA-5

THANKS FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR MISS VA. SHE HAS SHOWN MUCH PROGRESS
THE LAST 2 WEEKS. HOPE IT CONTINUES

Dear Miss Virginia and Sonny,

You are continually in our prayers for a 100% recovery



Your Brothers and Sisters in the Korean War Veterans Association



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS WASHINGTON

September 7, 2017

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

2017 Veterans Day Regional Site Message

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory... " Indeed , we owe tremendous gratitude to those who answered the call of duty.

Later, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed November 11, 1954, as America's first Veterans Day. He did so "in order that a grateful Nation might pay appropriate homage to the veterans of all its wars who have contributed so much to the preservation of this Nation..."

On Veterans Day, we pause to express our gratitude to those who have served our country, and to remember the sacrifices they have made - large and small, physical and emotional. These Veterans truly placed service to country over themselves. We must continue to honor them while providing Veterans with the care, benefits, and services they have earned and deserve.

VA is fortunate to have the support of so many Americans united in their desire to honor our Nation's heroes. As we come together to celebrate Veterans Day on November 11, 2017, I extend a special thanks to the Veterans Day Regional Site event organizers. Across the nation, Veterans and their families will have the opportunity to receive the heartfelt acknowledgment by local citizens for their service.

Veterans served and fought for our freedom, and America is blessed to have such courageous men and women. On behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Veterans Day National Committee, I extend my sincere gratitude to America's Veterans and their families. May God bless you and continue to bless this great country of ours.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Shulkin", is positioned above the name of the signatory.

David J. Shulkin, M.D.

BEHAVIOR OF VETERANS FOR NATIONAL ANTHEM HONORING FLAG

PLAYING OF NATIONAL ANTHEM

Veterans not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner as those uniformed members of the Armed Forces: render the salute at the first note of the anthem until the last note. See item #1 below.



RAISING, LOWER OR PASSING OF FLAG

Veterans not in uniform may render the military salute. When flag is moving past, the salute is rendered as the moment the flag passes. See item #2 below.

ITEM #1. DESIGNATION.-The composition consisting of the words and music known as the Star-Spangled Banner is the national anthem. (b) **CONDUCT DURING PLAYING.**-During a rendition of the national anthem- (1) when the flag is displayed-

(A) individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note; (B) members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform; and (C) all other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, and men not in uniform, if applicable, should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart; and (2) when the flag is not displayed, all present should face toward the music and act in the same manner they would if the flag were displayed.

Reference: 36 U.S.C. 301 - National Anthem

ITEM #2. Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag during the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

Reference: 4 U.S.C. 9 - Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag

DEDICATION CEREMONY HELD FOR NEW VA FACILITY

Thomas Bowman, deputy secretary for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, said Lake Charles' new permanent VA clinic is an example of what the department should be doing throughout the country.

"This, I think, becomes the standard as I see it," Bowman said during a dedication ceremony Friday. "I would love to see more VA facilities constructed, laid out and staffed the way this one is."

Bowman joined other VA officials, along with state and local elected leaders, for the event. The 24,000-square-foot clinic opened Aug. 28 at 3601 Gerstner Memorial Drive. Services provided include mental health, nutrition, pharmacy, dental, eye care, hearing aid services, X-ray imaging, physical therapy and prosthetics.

Bowman said the promise of a permanent clinic for Southwest Louisiana veterans was "long overdue."

"Their patience and their dedication has made this happen," he said. "I think when they come here, they're going to say, 'This is what we had hoped would have occurred earlier, but it's here now.'"

Skye McDougall, South Central VA Health Care Network director, said nearly 7,000 veterans in the Lake Charles area have enrolled with the clinic. She said the VA plans to have 10,000 veterans enrolled by this time next year to provide additional services.

McDougall said the clinic is a “truly modern facility” that “belongs to the veterans.”

“I want veterans to come back and to give us our chance,” she said.

McDougall said the clinic would not be here without the advocacy by the Veterans Action Coalition of Southern Louisiana and Jim Jackson, president of the Mayor’s Armed Forces Commission.

Jackson said the clinic is “such a great move forward” for Southwest Louisiana veterans. He said veterans are moving to Lake Charles from cities like Jennings and Beaumont, Texas.

“There was a guy who said I’m never coming to Lake Charles again, but now he’s back and he’s happy,” Jackson said.

Jackson said the clinic needs to be fully staffed to make sure veterans can be cared for quickly.

“You have more and more veterans coming in here every day,” he said. “The other day there were 35 veterans in here waiting to get their blood drawn, and there was one young lady doing it.”

Lake Charles Mayor Nic Hunter said opening the clinic honors the promise made to make sure veterans have access to local care.

“We have righted that wrong,” he said.

Hunter said his grandmother was a Navy veteran who served during World War II as a Woman Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, or WAVES. He said she “never forgot her service” even after her mental abilities deteriorated with age.

Hunter said she needed assistance as she reached her late 80s, but that driving to Lafayette or Alexandria was too difficult.

Bowman said federal resources will be focused on mental and behavioral health services for veterans. He said President Donald Trump’s administration is “fully engaged” in providing continued care for veterans.

VA Secretary David Shulkin will testify before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on Tuesday on enhancing the Choice Program, which gives eligible veterans the chance to get health care from a community provider.

During his speech, Bowman chose Harold Gournay, an Air Force veteran and former World War II prisoner of war, to serve as the clinic’s sponsor.

VA PATIENT ACCESS PROGRESS UPDATE -- RELEASE 80 – OCTOBER 26, 2017

Summary:In keeping with the commitment to improve transparency in Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) processes and in accordance with Section 206 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA), VA today released the [latest update of facility-level patient access data](#) and is highlighting notable access improvements. In this release, VA is providing two reports:

-Completed Appointments (As of September 2017)

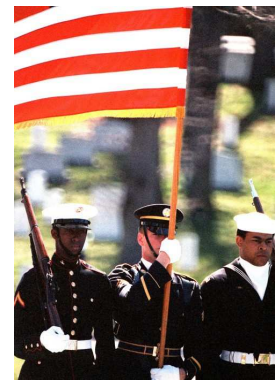
-Pending Appointments (Snapshot of data on October 15, 2017)

Notable Improvements:

1. In September 2017, VA completed more than 4.5 million appointments.
2. VA completed 96.27 percent of appointments in September 2017 within 30 days of the clinically indicated or Veteran’s preferred date; 90.32 percent within 14 days; 84.76 percent within 7 days; and 22.05 percent are actually completed on the same day.
3. From June 1, 2014 to October 15, 2017, the Electronic Wait List went from 56,271 appointments to 23,275, a 58.64 percent reduction.
4. When compared to the October 15, 2016, pending appointments data set, the October 15, 2017, pending appointment set shows VA has increased the number of overall pending appointments by 2,092,545.
5. VHA and the Choice contractors created over 3.69 million authorizations for Veterans to receive care in the private sector from September 1, 2016, through August 31, 2017 (the latest figures available). This represents a 5.94% increase in authorizations when compared to the same period in 2015/2016.

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](#).

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.”.

(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.



- **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](#)
- **Dunford Confirmed for Second Term:** The Senate confirmed Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford to a second two-year term as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The general was the Commandant of the Marine Corps when President Obama nominated him to become the new chairman in May 2015. He officially took over on Oct. 1, 2015, upon the retirement of his predecessor, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey. President Trump nominated him for a second term in May 2017. As chairman, he is the highest ranking officer in the U.S. military, and he serves as the principal military advisor to the president and his administration.

• **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.
- **House Veterans' Affairs Health Care Hearing:** On Tuesday, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health held a hearing to discuss 10 bills pending before the committee. The hearing focused on women veterans health, Veterans Health Administration data collection, organization and transparency, pharmaceuticals for service members transitioning into the Department of Veterans Affairs, billing issues, Veterans Treatment Courts and access to service dogs. The VFW submitted testimony in support of a bill to improve VA's hiring and retention authorities to ensure it is able to quickly hire high quality doctors, provide increased access to VA medical care for women veterans, expand availability of Veterans Treatment Courts to ensure justice-involved veterans are not wrongfully punished for instances related to their service-connected conditions, and several other important bills. [watch the hearing](#).

- **VA Authorization Act 2017:** The House and Senate unanimously passed the **VA Authorization Act 2017**. This bipartisan piece of legislation reauthorizes 20 programs within both the Veterans Health Administration and Veterans Benefit Administration for fiscal year 2018, such as the Homeless Women Veterans and Homeless Veterans with Children Reintegration Program; the Specially Adapted Housing Program; and authorizes VA to keep the Manilla VA Outpatient Clinic and Regional Office open for an additional year. The bill also provides technical clarification for the **Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017** regarding housing stipend calculations and the restoration of benefits for veterans who were enrolled in schools that closed abruptly. [See the full list of extensions authorized in this bill.](#)
- **National Day of Honor Recognition:** Secretary of VA Dr. David Shulkin was the keynote speaker at yesterday's inaugural commemoration of the National Day of Honor for American Veterans Disabled for Life. The commemoration took place at the American Veterans Disabled for Life memorial in Washington, D.C., exactly three years to the date of its opening. The memorial recognizes the nation's 4.2 million disabled veterans. The congressional resolution leading to the National Day of Honor was introduced by Rep. Lois Frankel (D-Fla.) and former House Committee on VA Chairman Jeff Miller (R-Fla.). The resolution was included in the Veterans Health Improvement Act of 2016, which became law last December.
- **Veterans ID Cards Update:** VA will begin issuing veteran identification cards to all honorably discharged veterans in November. The initiative is required by the Veterans Identification Card Act 2015, which ordered VA to issue a hard-copy photo ID to any honorably discharged veteran who applies. The card will be issued for free upon request, according to a [Military.com article](#), and will contain the veteran's name, photo and a non-Social Security identification number. VA will provide [additional information](#) once finalized.
- **Expect a 2 Percent COLA Increase:** Social Security and VA compensation recipients, federal and military retirees, and their survivors should expect a 2 percent cost-of-living adjustment in their January pay, according to data released by the Social Security Administration last Friday. This will be the highest COLA since 2012. Last year's was 0.3 percent, the year before was zero, and 2013-2015 averaged 1.6 percent.

• **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.
Donations made to the Foundation are justified as a tax deduction by the donor

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME (AFRH) - WITH LOCATIONS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AND GULFPORT, MISS. – IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR RESIDENCY.

WASHINGTON — The Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) - With locations in Washington, D.C. and Gulfport, Miss. – is now accepting applications for residency.

The Home, which offers affordable independent living in modern facilities, has immediate openings in Washington, D.C. and a waiting time of under 24 months in Gulfport, Miss.

AFRH is fully accredited by The Joint Commission and the Commission on Continuing Care Retirement Communities.

Veterans must be able to live independently upon admission to the AFRH. This means being able to care for personal needs, attend a dining facility for meals, and keep all medical appointments. Fees for independent living are 40 % of total current income, and do not exceed \$1,429/month.

For those accepted into independent living, we also offer higher levels of care – including assisted living, long-term care, and memory support.

85% of our residents spent a career in the military, retiring honorably in the enlisted ranks following 20 or more years of service to our nation. Military veterans from each service branch live at the Home. The largest group represented served during the Korea and Vietnam eras.

In Washington, DC, AFRH offers residents a scenic, wooded campus just minutes from downtown - home to museums, monuments, and a host of entertainment, sports and other cultural options.

Amenities include a nine-hole golf course and driving range, walking paths, stocked fishing ponds, and modern recreation facilities.

In Gulfport, Miss., AFRH offers residents a beautiful view of the Gulf of Mexico, with an outdoor swimming pool, walking path to the beach, reflecting pool, art studio and modern media room.

Many veterans choose to live at AFRH for the superior medical, dental and vision care offered, with amenities that include: private rooms with a shower, cable TV, three delicious daily meals prepared by licensed nutritionists in our modern dining facility, a wellness program and deluxe fitness center, movie theater, bowling center and hobby shops. Services include recreational activities and resident day trips, a full-service library, barber shop, 24 / 7 security, beauty salon, computer center, mailboxes, banking services, campus PX/BX and off-campus shuttle and public transportation.

Persons are eligible to become AFRH residents who:

- Served as members of the Armed Forces, at least one-half of whose service was not active commissioned service (other than as a warrant officer or limited-duty officer)

The following categories will be considered. Veterans (male or female) who are

- 60 years of age or over; and were discharged or released under honorable conditions with 20 or more years of active service, or
- Are determined to be incapable of earning a livelihood because of a service connected disability incurred in the line of duty in the Armed Forces, or
- Served in a war theater during a time of war declared by Congress or were eligible for hostile fire special pay; were released from service in the Armed Forces under honorable conditions; and are determined to be incapable of earning a livelihood because of injuries, disease or disability.

Those who served in a women's component of the Armed Forces before June 12, 1948 and are determined to be eligible for admission because of compelling personal circumstances will also be considered.

Married couples are welcome, but both must be eligible in their own right.

Veterans who have been convicted of a felony or are not free of drug, alcohol, or psychiatric problems are ineligible to become a resident.

For further information or to request an application, visit: <https://www.afrh.gov/apply> or contact the Office of Public Affairs at: admissions@afrh.gov (800) 422-9988

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 https://www.va.gov/oig	202.461.4702	
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 www.ruralhealthinfo.org	202.225.6600	

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 www.ptsd.va.gov/PTSD/about/divisions	857.364.4172	

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

<p>Arlington National Cemetery: (877) 907-8585 http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil</p> <p>Armed Forces Retirement Home: (800) 422-9988; http://www.afrh.gov</p> <p>Army & Air Force Exchange Service: www.shopmyexchange.com Army</p> <p>Echoes: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes Editor's e-mail address: ArmyEchoes@mail.mil</p> <p>Army Echoes Blog: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/blog</p> <p>Army Emergency Relief: (866) 878-6378; http://www.aerhq.org</p> <p>Army Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/USArmy</p> <p>Army Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/photos/soldiersmediacenter/</p> <p>Army Homepage: http://www.army.mil</p> <p>Army Live Blog: http://armylive.dodlive.mil/</p> <p>Army mobile phone apps: http://www.army.mil/mobile/</p> <p>Army Retirement Services: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement</p> <p>Army Stand To!: http://www.army.mil/standto/</p> <p>Army Lodging Program: (877) 711-8326; http://www.pal.army.mil Reservations: http://www.ihgarmyhotels.com</p> <p>Army Twitter: https://twitter.com/USArmy/</p> <p>Army YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/usarmy</p> <p>Casualty Assistance Checklist for Retired Soldiers: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/docs/Post/CasualtyAssistanceChecklist.pdf</p> <p>Chief of Staff, Army Retired Soldier Council: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/RetireeCouncil</p> <p>Combat-Related Special Compensation: (866) 281-3254 opt.4; https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/CRSC</p> <p>Commissary: http://www.commissaries.com</p> <p>Concurrent Retired & Disability Pay: (800) 321-1080, http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crdp.html</p> <p>Consumer Financial Protection Bureau: (855) 411-2372 http://www.consumerfinance.gov/</p> <p>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</p> <p>DS Logon: https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/</p> <p>Funeral Honors (Military): Army Coordinator: (502) 613-8218 https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh/</p> <p>ID Card Facilities: (800) 538-9552; Nearest facility: www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi</p> <p>Legal Assistance Locator (Military): http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/content/locator.php</p> <p>Long Term Care Insurance: (800) 582-3337 http://www.ltcfeds.com/</p> <p>MyArmyBenefits: http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/ Help Desk: (888) 721-2769 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday - Friday);</p> <p>Survivor Outreach Services: (855) 707-2769, https://www.sos.army.mil/</p> <p>Reserve Component Retirements (888) 276-9472 https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reserve%20Component%20Retirements</p> <p>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</p> <p>Soldiers Magazine: http://soldiers.dodlive.mil/</p> <p>Space-Available Travel: http://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site</p> <p>Soldier for Life on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CSASoldierForLife</p>	<p>Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/usfspa</p> <p> U. S. Army Retired Lapel Button and Badge: Type "Soldier for Life" into the search box at https://www.shopmyexchange.com</p> <p>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."</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Medicare (800) 633-4227 http://www.medicare.gov</p> <p>TRICARE http://www.tricare.mil</p> <p>Health Beneficiary Counseling Assistance Coordinator: http://www.tricare.mil/bcacdcao, or nearest military treatment facility</p> <p>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</p> <p>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)</p> <p>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</p> <p>TRICARE Overseas: (888) 777-8343; http://www.tricare-overseas.com</p> <p>TRICARE for Life: (866) 773-0404; TDD (866) 773-0405 http://tricare.mil/Plans/HealthPlans/TFL.aspx</p> <p>TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery: (877) 363-1296; http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery/</p> <p>TRICARE Network Pharmacy: (877) 363-1303; http://www.express-scripts.com</p> <p>TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan: (888) 838-8737; http://www.TRDP.org</p> <p>US Family Health Plan: http://www.usfhp.com/</p> <p>Armed Forces Recreation Centers http://www.armymwr.com</p> <p>Hale Koa Hotel, Hawaii: (800) 367-6027; http://halekoa.com</p> <p>Edelweiss Resort, Bavaria: 011-49-8821-9440 http://www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com</p> <p>Shades of Green, Florida: (888) 593-2242; (407) 824-3665 http://www.shadesofgreen.org/reservations.htm</p> <p>Dragon Hill, Korea: 011-822-790-0016 http://www.dragonhilllodge.com</p> <p>Veterans Affairs (VA) Information http://www.va.gov</p> <p>Burial & Memorial Benefits: http://www.cem.va.gov/ (877) 907-8199</p> <p>Benefits and Services: (800) 827-1000 (Retired Soldiers overseas should contact the American Embassy/consulate); TDD (800) 829-4833 http://benefits.va.gov/benefits/</p> <p>GI Bill: (888) 442-4551; http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/</p> <p>Health Care Benefits: (877) 222-8387; http://www.va.gov/health</p> <p>Insurance: SGLI/VGLI: (800) 419-1473; All other insurance: (800) 669-8477</p>
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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

VETS MUST APPLY ONLINE FOR NEW VA ID CARD Veterans will be able to register online for the new ID card being issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Getty Images

Honorably discharged veterans of all eras who want a new identification card from the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) will be able to apply online by registering with the VA and uploading a photo, officials said.

Officials [had previously told Military.com](#) that the process will include an online application, but offered no further details.

A [2015 law requires](#) the VA to issue a hard-copy photo ID to any honorably discharged veteran who applies. The card must contain the veteran's name, photo and a non-Social Security identification number, the law states.

To apply for the card, veterans must register with [Vets.gov](#), a process that authenticates users through the ID.me system, VA officials told Military.com on Oct. 16.

Doing so requires users to upload a copy of a valid government photo ID, such as a driver's license or passport, and provide their Social Security number, among other information.

To complete the card application process, users will then upload a recent photo to the VA site that can be printed on the ID card, according to a lawmaker who introduced the legislation requiring the IDs. The cards will be directly mailed to the veteran.

No further information was available as to when in November applications will open, the turnaround time for the IDs or a specific address on the VA website where veterans can apply.

The ID cards are meant to offer a way for veterans to prove their service without carrying a copy of their DD214, which contains sensitive personal information such as veterans' Social Security numbers. The new IDs will not, however, qualify as official government-issued identification for air travel or other uses.

"Every veteran -- past, present, and future -- will now be able to prove their military service without the added risk of identity theft," said Rep. Vern Buchanan, a Florida Republican who introduced the ID card legislation in 2015. "These ID cards will make life a little bit easier for our veterans."

The VA already offers ID cards to some veterans.

Those who receive health care from the VA or have a disability rating can get a photo ID VA health card, also known as a Veteran Health Identification Card. Military retirees also hold an ID card issued by the Defense Department.

Veterans are able to get a proof of service letter through the VA's [ebenefits](#) website. And some states will include a veteran designation on driver's licenses if requested.

The new VA ID card program begins as the military exchange system [opens online shopping](#) to honorably discharged veterans of all eras.

That benefit, which will officially launch on [Veterans Day](#), requires veterans to first be verified before they can shop. The benefit does not allow shopping at brick and mortar exchange stores or the [commissary](#) and does not include base access.

- **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

- **2017 Retired and Annuitant Pay Dates:**

Entitlement Month	Retiree Payment Dates	Annuitant Payment Dates
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

Message from Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Good morning Family Group, VSO and MSO Partners,

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency ended Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 having made 202 first-time identifications of remains of US Service members who made the ultimate sacrifice in past conflicts. Of these 202 IDs, 185 are associated with individuals newly accounted-for, while the remaining 17 represent first-time identifications of individuals previously accounted for in group burials. When a Service member is accounted for as part of a group, the family does not receive remains.

The 202 identifications are an unprecedented achievement in the accounting mission's history. Talented and dedicated subject matter experts; advanced scientific methods; vigorous and balanced operations; and expanded partnerships were factors contributing to this accomplishment. The attached table lists the identifications by conflict and source.

Best regards,
Kelly

Kelly McKeague
Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
VA: (703) 699-1101
HI: (808) 448-4500 (x-3005)

Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise

-- **Army Sgt. 1st Class Lester R. Walker**, captured during the Korean War, has now been accounted for. <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1349191/soldier> -captured-during-the-korean-war-accounted-for-walker-l/

On Sept. 3, 1950, Walker was a member of Battery B, 82nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, when he was declared missing in action in the vicinity of Changnyeong, South Korea, while attached to Task Force Haynes. Based on a lack of information concerning his status, the U.S. Army declared him deceased and his remains non-recoverable. Interment services are pending; more details will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services. DPAA is grateful to the Department of Veterans Affairs for their partnership in this mission. Walker's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at an American Battle Monuments Commission site along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

-- **Army Cpl. Donald L. Baer**, missing from the Korean War, has now been accounted for. <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1329070/soldier> -missing-from-the-korean-war-accounted-for-baer-d/

In July 1950, Baer was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations against forces of the Korea People's Army (KAP) in and around the city of Taejon (now Daejon), South Korea. On July 19, 1950, the KPA initiated a large-scale attack on the city in attempt to destroy U.S. forces. Following the battle, Quintana could not be accounted for and was declared missing in action as of July 20, 1950.

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

Baer's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at an American Battle Monuments Commission site along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

-- **Army Pfc. Willie E. Blue**, killed during the Korean War, has now been accounted for.

In August 1950, Blue was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, taking part in defending the Naktong Bulge portion of the Pusan Perimeter. He was reported missing in action as of Aug. 31, 1950, after his status could not be determined following his admittance to the 2nd Clearing Station, 2nd Medical Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division in Yong-san, South Korea. No additional records showed his disposition, nor did the 8076th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) have records on Blue. With no additional information concerning his loss, the Department of the Army declared him deceased on March 3, 1954. Interment services are pending; more details will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services. DPAA is grateful to the Department of Veterans Affairs for their partnership in this mission.

Blue's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at an American Battle Monuments Commission site along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

--**Army Maj. Stephen T. Uurtamo**, captured during the Korean War, has now been accounted for. <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1329068/soldier> -captured-during-the-

korean-war-accounted-for-uurtamo-s/

In late November 1950, Uurtamo was a member of Headquarters Battery, 82nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, which was engaged in persistent attacks with the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) near the Ch'ongch'on River in North Korea. On Nov. 30, 1950, the Division began to withdraw south along the Main Supply Route, known as "The Gauntlet." Uurtamo was declared missing in action as of Dec. 1, 1950, when he could not be accounted for by his unit. After the Korean War, several returning prisoners of war reported that Uurtamo had been captured and died at a POW Transit Camp. Interment services are pending; more details will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services.

Uurtamo's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at an American Battle Monuments Commission site along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

--**Army Pfc. Pfc. Leroy W. Bryant**, captured during the Korean War, has now been accounted for.

<http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1328206/soldier> -captured-during-korean-war-accounted-for-bryant-l/

In early February 1951, Bryant was a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, as U.S. Republic of Korea Army (ROKA) and United Nations Command (UNC) forces were deployed in defensive positions across the South Korean peninsula. On February 6, Bryant's regiment was located in the town of Yonghyon-ni, and was tasked to determine location, position and strength of enemy forces. Enemy forces attacked, forcing them to withdraw to new positions. Because Bryant could not be accounted for by his unit after the attack, he was reported missing action as of Feb. 6, 1951, near Yanghyon-ni, South Korea. Interment services are pending; more details will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services. Bryant'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. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

-- **Army Pfc. Charlie H. Hill**, 31, of Williamsburg, Ky., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried Sept. 29 in Augusta, Mich. Hill was a member of Battery D, 15th Anti-aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Self-propelled Battalion, 7th Infantry Division. In late November 1950, his unit was assembled with South Korean soldiers in the 31st Regimental Combat Team on the east side of the Chosin River, North Korea, when his unit was attacked by Chinese forces. Hill was among more than 1,000 members of the RCT killed or captured in enemy territory and was declared missing on Dec. 2, 1950. He did not appear on any POW lists and the Army declared him deceased on Dec. 31, 1953. [Read about Hill.](#)

-- **Army Sgt. Thomas E. Zimmer**, 19, of Milwaukee, Wis., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried Sept. 30 in his hometown. Zimmer was stationed with Battery A, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division, on the east side of the Chosin River, North Korea, when his unit was attacked by Chinese Forces. After heavy fighting, his unit was forced to withdraw to Hagaru-ri. Zimmer was unaccounted for after the battle and was reported missing as of Dec. 6, 1950. He did not appear on any POW lists and the Army declared him deceased on Dec. 31, 1953. [Read about Zimmer.](#)

-- **Army Pfc. Willie E. Blue** was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. In August 1950, his unit was defending the Naktong Bulge portion of the Pusan Perimeter. Blue was admitted to the 2nd Clearing Station, 2nd Medical Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division in Yong-san, South Korea. After admission, Blue could not be accounted for. When no additional records could be found showing his disposition and the 8076th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital could not provide any information, the Department of the Army declared him deceased on March 3, 1954. Interment services are pending. [Read about Blue.](#)

-- **Marine Corps Reserve Sgt. Johnson McAfee, Jr.**, was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force. In late November 1950, McAfee's unit was

fighting against Chinese forces in the vicinity of the Chosin Reservoir at the Marine outpost known as Fox Hill. McAfee was killed in the action and was buried alongside others at the base of Fox Hill prior to the evacuation of the outpost. Interment services are pending. [Read about McAfee.](#)

-- **Army Sgt. Kermit J. Lejeune**, captured during the Korean War, has now been accounted for. <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1337913/soldier> -captured-during-the-korean-war-accounted-for-lejeune-k/

In late November 1950, Lejeune was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations against the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in the vicinity of Unsan County, North Pyongan County, North Korea. Lejeune was reported missing in action on Nov. 28, 1950. Several returned American POWs reported that Lejeune had in fact been captured and died in a North Korean POW camp in February or March 1951. Interment services are pending; more details will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services. Lejeune's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at an American Battle

Monuments Commission site along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

-- **Army Sgt. Philip J. Iyotte**, 21, of White River, S.D., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried Oct. 25 in his hometown. Iyotte was a member of Company E, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, assigned under 8th Army. From Jan. 25 - Feb. 1, 1951, Iyotte's unit participated in Operation Thunderbolt, a reconnaissance mission stretching 30 miles from 8th Army's front to the south bank of the Han River. Iyotte could not be accounted for after the operation and was declared missing in action as of Feb. 9, 1951. It was later determined that he was captured by Chinese forces and moved to Camp 1 and Changsong, where he later died. [Read about Iyotte.](#)

• **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.

SOUTH KOREA’S PRESIDENT STRESSES NEED TO GROW NATIONAL DEFENSE CAPABILITIES



U.S. and South Korean Marines take part in a joint amphibious training exercise in 2015. (South Korea Ministry of National Defense)

MELBOURNE, Australia — South Korea intends to further boost its military’s command and control as well as surveillance capabilities as the country’s president reiterated his desire to see it entrusted with wartime control of its forces.

Speaking at a ceremony to commemorate the nation’s 69th Armed Forces Day on Sept. 28 at the Republic of Korea Navy’s

Second Fleet headquarters in Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi, President Moon Jae-in said that by increasing defense capabilities and reducing its reliance on the American military, South Korea would project more power in the region and better deter an attack by North Korea.

He did reiterate, however, that he aims to strengthen South Korea's ties with the U.S., noting that "we can fundamentally prevent North Korea's nuclear provocations when the expanded deterrence of the [South] Korea-U.S. alliance is effectively manifested."

South Korea's Ministry of National Defense displayed several of the country's most advanced military capabilities at the event, including the public debut of the Hyunmoo-2C ballistic missile, which has a range of almost 500 miles that enables it to potentially strike deep inside North Korea. In response to North Korea's missile test on Sept. 14, South Korea conducted a quick launch of its own, test-firing a pair of Hyunmoo-2 missiles within six minutes.

The Hyunmoo family of ballistic missiles is part of South Korea's three-pronged strategy against the North Korean missile threat: the Kill Chain preemptive strike system, the Korean Air and Missile Defense system and the Massive Punishment and Retaliation plan.

Currently, wartime operational control, or OPCON, of South Korea's military rests in the hands of U.S. Forces Korea. Moon's two predecessors pushed back the previous target dates of 2012 and 2015 to transfer control of forces, citing a need to further develop the country's own defense capabilities.

South Korea is planning significant improvements to its military's intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, or ISR, capabilities, with its recent defense budget earmarking \$10.6 billion for procurement along with research and development. It has ordered four of Northrop Grumman's RQ-4 Global Hawk unmanned aircraft, with deliveries due to start in 2018, and will launch the first of five planned military satellites in 2019 as part of a program to improve its own ISR capabilities.

Dr. Euan Graham, the director of the International Security Program at Australia's Lowy Institute, told Defense News that taking over OPCON of its forces "requires significant across the board investment in communications enablers, not just satellites or other ISR systems on South Korea's part." He added, however, that the most recent budget is a sign that the government understands that need.

Graham also said that Moon's latest remarks indicate that he seems more serious about taking over OPCON of South Korea's military than his predecessors, and he suggested that this is part of an "overdue" trend of major U.S. allies adopting a more autonomous defense posture.

MAJOR CHANGES COMING TO DOD'S TRICARE SYSTEM JAN. 1

The Defense Department published new [rules](#) that will make significant changes to the health insurance system that serves military family members and retirees on Jan. 1, altering the structure and fees of benefit plans, and, according to Defense health officials, making care more accessible.

Most significantly, new beneficiaries will have to make an affirmative decision to enroll in the TRICARE system and will only be able to do so during an annual open enrollment period. The open enrollment schedule will be the same as the one used by the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program that serves civilian DoD employees: November and December of each year.

The policy differs substantially from the one in place today, in which TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries receive health benefits automatically. With a few exceptions, family members and retirees who do not sign up during the open enrollment period will lose coverage in TRICARE's "purchased care" market for the following year. They would still be able to seek care in military-run hospitals and clinics, but only on a space-available basis.

The change was one of several Defense health reforms Congress ordered as part of the 2017 Defense authorization bill, But Vice Adm. Raquel Bono, the director of the Defense Health Agency, said the move to open enrollment made sense from DHA's perspective as well.

“We need to make sure that we have as much information as possible in order to design our provider network,” she told reporters on a conference call. “We wanted to also come as close as we could to what’s happening in the commercial sector, and we’re intent on being able to create some efficiencies in the administration of our health plans. We see this as one of the mechanisms to do that.”

But officials said the open enrollment change will not have any meaningful effect on beneficiaries for another year; 2018 will be treated as a “transition year,” and anyone who’s covered by TRICARE as of Jan. 1, 2018 will be automatically enrolled in the plan that most closely matches the one that serves them today.

[The plans are changing](#) as well, effective Jan. 1. Also at the direction of Congress, DoD is merging the existing TRICARE Standard and Extra benefits — the department’s fee-for-service options — into a single plan called TRICARE Select.

Like Standard and Extra, Select will let patients use any authorized medical provider, but cost shares are lower when beneficiaries see in-network providers. In most ways, it will operate like the plans it’s replacing, but with changes to the ways in which patients pay out-of-pocket costs.

Currently, the cost shares are based on a percentage of TRICARE’s negotiated costs with a network provider (or of that provider’s “allowable costs” if they’re out-of-network). Starting next year, patients will pay a fixed, per-visit rate for in-network providers that varies according to the type of medical care they’re receiving.

For example, under Standard and Extra, a family member of an active-duty service member is responsible for 15 percent of the bill for an outpatient visit from an in-network doctor and 20 percent for an out-of-network doctor. The new Standard plan would charge a flat \$27 fee for an in-network provider. The fees for TRICARE-covered retirees are higher: the same visit would cost \$35.

“We thought this was something that would be a little more predictable and a little more patient-friendly, and we also thought it was an easier construct for our providers to use,” Bono said. “What we tried to do was take an average, so it should be close to what people are currently paying.”

Another change: The rules set a new requirement that TRICARE Select’s provider network cover enough geographic territory to provide services to at least 85 percent of its beneficiaries, up from just over 60 percent under the existing Standard and Extra plans.

The fee structure for TRICARE’s Prime plan, the managed care option that primarily serves areas with large concentrations of military members, remains largely unchanged, but the rule makes several changes that officials said were designed to improve access to care.

For instance, if TRICARE’s contractors don’t offer an appointment with a managed care provider within a timeframe that meets DoD’s access standards, the patient will be allowed to see an out-of-network provider without paying additional fees. The department says it will also waive some of its previous requirements that patients get referrals or pre-authorizations before patients visit specialty care providers or urgent care clinics, and treatments for obesity are specifically called out in the rule as covered care.

None of the changes are applicable to currently-serving military members, whose medical care remains a government obligation for as long as they continue to serve on active duty, but the fees for family members whose sponsors join the military after 2018 will be different from those that are currently serving, depending on which TRICARE plan they enroll in.

The changes to TRICARE's health plans were only a few of the tweaks Congress made to the military health system as part of the 2017 Defense bill.

The rules DoD published on Friday nominally implement some of them, but Bono said the department will have to undertake more careful study before the other changes take effect.

Among those changes, Congress ordered DoD to treat expenses for telehealth in the same way it covers in-person visits, adjust the staffing in its military treatment facilities so that the health specialists the military employs more closely matches the medical expertise the military is likely to need in wartime environments, and to start creating "high-performance" treatment networks in pockets of the country that are underserved by DoD's system by partnering with the Department of Veterans Affairs and private-sector hospital networks.

"The rule gives us an opportunity to implement some of these things, but it's going to be an iterative process," Bono said. "We will be looking specifically at where it makes the most sense to partner with the civilian health care systems that are in the particular areas where we have our beneficiaries. It's part of our network development and it's an opportunity to build partnerships. We'll be evaluating it, and this is one of the things that the open enrollment requirement is going to help us with in terms of understanding where those opportunities might exist."

THE U.S. ARMY'S NEW MISSION: CRUSH NORTH KOREA IN A WAR



US Army war-planners and weapons developers have been intensifying efforts to fast-track networking technologies designed to potentially counter or destroy a North Korean ground invasion – by better enabling soldiers to operate underground in tunnel complexes and in dense urban environments.

While Army innovators and entities such as the service's Rapid Equipping Force consistently look to address fast-emerging threat scenarios, the prospect of major ground war on the Korean peninsula has, quite naturally, taken on increased urgency in recent months, service weapons developers told Scout Warrior.

"We have been looking at Korean peninsula ops," Col. John Lanier Ward, REF Director, told Scout Warrior in an interview.

As might be expected, this threat scenario has a particular impact upon Army units such as the REF – who exist to identify pressing soldier combat needs, quickly create requirements and work closely with industry and Army program developers to identify quick-turn, often interim technologies able to have an immediate impact.

Preparing for tunnel and urban combat against North Korea is, without question, not something to be seen as entirely new or recent. However, while specifics of military options for North Korea are naturally not being discussed by Pentagon war planners, many observers, analysts and experts are talking about various

threat contingencies, combat scenarios and military strike possibilities.

"We really focus on the soldier on the ground. Any soldier can come to our website and say 'I have a problem that I do not have a material solution to,'" Ward said.

There are clearly many facets, nuances and contingencies when it comes to the possibility of land war on the Korean peninsula, not the least of which are regularly echoed concerns that North Korean conventional missiles and artillery would pose a substantial threat to populated areas south of the DMZ. Any kind of ground incursion, with or without the anticipated barrage of conventional missiles, would bring similar threats.

Furthermore, mechanized ground conflict would unquestionably call upon a wide range of necessary tactics – large armored vehicle formations, long-range precision-guided weaponry, combined arms maneuver and air-ground coordination, among other things.

Given this, a point not lost on Army planners and threat assessment professionals is that any assault, defense, weapons system employment or platform utilization would – particularly in today’s technological environment – rely upon necessary networking systems, communication devices and other means of synchronizing force movements and activities. In a networked modern weapons environment, command and control takes on even greater tactical relevance, Ward said, making connectivity in line-of-sight challenged areas a particularly pressing concern.

“As an Army we are becoming mission command and communications based. How do you get weapons systems and coms that can operate underground?” Ward asked.

Of course Army officials did not specifically mention any particular war plans for North Korea, but weapons developers do say there is a fast-increasing need to engineer, harness and deliver communications technologies particularly suited to a modern threat environment.

Fighting land war underground or in compact urban environment is by no means specific to North Korea, however Army officials say that the terrain, geographical layout and urban area on the Korean peninsula would clearly require ground combat forces to pursue extensive underground and urban war missions.

Citing historic instances of underground tunnel warfare such as operations in the Korean War, Vietnam and even Iwo Jima in World War II, Ward referenced Army Chief of Staff Mark Milley’s special teams designed to look toward future threats with a specific mind to the likelihood of an increased need for the Army to operate underground and in condensed urban environments.

Interestingly, Army’s REF received a request from the 2nd Infantry Division in 2012 for an equipment set to conduct operations in tunnel complexes in Korea. The U.S. Army Asymmetric Warfare Group partnered with REF to assemble and assess government-developed subterranean systems and commercial off-the-shelf technologies, Army officials explained.

The Army’s Rapid Equipping Force is testing a wave relay radio technology that enables soldiers to connect with one another while fighting underground, service officials said.

When in a subterranean environment, line-of-sight radio connectivity and other forms of networking are often compromised. To address the issue, the Army is evaluating a small terrestrial-based ad hoc radio that uses frequency modulation, Rapid Equipping Force developers explained.

Subterranean operations include an inability to communicate via analog or digital communications, conduct unmanned reconnaissance and persistent surveillance, see without ambient light, maintain situational awareness of friendly forces, and see through obscurants, said service officials.

- **KWVA PRAYER LIST**

George Bruzgis -
FRED RAGUSA’S WIFE -
Virginia Edwards (Sonny’s wife) –
Jeff Brodeur – Son’s surgery on legs
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
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

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National Executive Director
Korean War Veterans Association, USA