



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

*Merry Christmas to all of our Korean War Veterans and
Korean Defense Veterans and their families*



- **MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT REPORT:** Submitted by Mr. John “Sonny” Edwards – AS OF 11-27-17

NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH 72 NEW MEMBERS TYTD 499
ACTIVE MEMBERS LYTD 13,143
ACTIVE MEMBERS TYTD 12,636
DECREASE 507

DECEASED COMRADES TYTD 730 AVG/ MO 66

DEPARTMENT & CHAPTERS WITH 3 PLUS NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH
AZ-3 CA-10 FL-14 MA-5 NJ-3 NY-3 OH-3 PA-5 TX-3

CA & FL SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR RECRUITING THIS MONTH.

WISHING EACH OF YOU A HEALTHY AND MERRY CHRISTMAS. MAY WE NEVER FORGET THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.

- **LOCATIONS OF VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CENTERS:**

If you are looking for a VA Hospital or Medical Center near you, please click on to the attached site and each hospital and medical center is located under the state you line on.

<https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/allstate.asp>

- **Army Seeks Veterans Who Participated in Chemical and Biological Agent Testing:** A recent class action lawsuit victory requires the U.S. Army to provide medical care to veterans who served as volunteers during research involving chemical and biological testing between 1942 and 1975. As many as 60,000 veterans volunteered for medical research in order to contribute to the advancement of the U.S. Biological and Chemical Programs. The Army will assist veterans in obtaining medical care through military medical treatment facilities, VA facilities, and private providers as appropriate. A notification letter has been mailed to veterans who were identified as possible participants in the medical program, but the Army is actively seeking others who may have been participants. You can get additional information and eligibility requirements [here](#) or by calling 1-800-984-8523.
- **TRICARE Changes Webinar:** This month, TRICARE will hold a webinar on the upcoming changes to TRICARE, set to take effect Jan. 1, 2018. The webinar will be led by health analysts from the Defense Health Agency and is designed to help beneficiaries prepare for the upcoming changes. Topics to be covered include changes to the health plans, costs, enrollment, stateside regions and contractors, and accessing care. The webinar is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 20, from 1-2:00 p.m., EST. [Click here to register for the webinar.](#)
- **VA Launches Online Map for Wait Times:** VA recently launched a new website which gives veterans the ability to see average wait times for appointments at their VA medical facilities. The web tool has the capability to break down appointment times by a number of factors including first-time appointments, mental health, women's health and other specialty care. The new map also offers a comparison to local non-VA wait times for 30 locations across the country, using data collected by Merritt Hawkins. Moving forward, VA will be partnering with Merritt Hawkins to get more non-VA facility wait times measured for comparison purposes. The website is updated on a weekly basis. [Click here to see wait times in your area.](#)
- **Veterans Legislation Roundup:** This month the Senate passed two pieces of House legislation supported by the KWVA — [H.R. 3949](#), the **VALOR Act**, and [H.R. 1545](#), the VA Prescription Data Accountability Act 2017. H.R. 3949 amends existing law in order to simplify how non-federal apprenticeship programs based in more than one state are certified; simplify the registration process for employers; allow approval agencies to certify programs; and give veterans more opportunities to gain employment through apprenticeship programs. H.R. 1545 directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to disclose information about an individual — currently about a veteran or the dependent of a veteran — who is dispensed medication prescribed by a VA employee or by a non-VA provider authorized to prescribe such medication by VA to a state-controlled substance-monitoring program to the extent necessary to prevent misuse and diversion of prescription medicines. The KWVA applauds Reps. Khanna and Kuster for the introduction of these important bills.
- **Online Exchange Shopping Begins:** Millions of honorably discharged veterans will be permitted to shop online at all four military exchanges, but you still have to verify your eligibility with [VetVerify.org](#). On Veterans Day, eligible veterans will be able to shop online by logging on to the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Navy Exchange, Marine Corps Exchange, and Coast Guard Exchange websites at, respectively, [shopmyexchange.com](#), [mynavyexchange.com](#), [mymcx.com](#) and [shopcgx.com](#). Military exchange shopping returns more than \$300 million annually to support on-base morale, welfare and recreation programs. [Verify your eligibility.](#)
- **Online Exchange Shopping a Winner:** The military exchanges opened their online shopping doors to honorably discharged veterans over the Veterans Day weekend. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service said their online weekend sales more than doubled over the same timeframe last year. Details were not available from the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard exchange systems, but the new VFW-supported veterans benefit came out of the gate a winner. To shop online at any or all the military exchanges, you must first verify your eligibility through [VetVerify.org](#). Regarding Amazon

comparisons, here's an [article](#) written by CBS Radio's "Connecting Veterans" host Eric Dehm, a member of VFW Post 1469 in Huntington Station, N.Y. Of note is Amazon does not split its profits with military MWR programs.

- **Expansion of Commissary In-house Brands:** This week, the VFW met with senior officials from the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) at Fort Myer, Va., to discuss the expansion of two DeCA private-label brands — Freedom's Choice and HomeBase — that are intended to compete with brand name items. Freedom's Choice products provide an additional option to most common food items such as canned goods and cheese; and HomeBase products provide an additional option for non-food items such as paper plates, toilet paper and trash bags. These two brands are already in place in many DeCA facilities; however, senior officials stated that beneficiaries can expect to see an increase in selection in the coming months, at facilities both inside and outside the continental United States.
- **POW/MIA Chair Dedication:** On Wednesday, November 8, Executive Director, KWVA, Jim Fisher attended a POW/MIA chair dedication ceremony on Capitol Hill. The commemorative chair, which sits in Emancipation Hall of the United States Capitol Visitor Center, serves to honor American prisoners of war and stands as a reminder of the nearly 83,000 servicemen and women missing in action. The chair was unveiled by House Speaker Paul Ryan, who was joined by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senators Elizabeth Warren and Richard Blumenthal, and Representatives Stephen Lynch and Samuel Johnson, who spent seven years as a POW in Hanoi. [Watch the ceremony video.](#)
- **VA ON-LINE INFORMATION SITES:**
- **The digital 2017 Benefits Book is here:** https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp
- **The Benefits Assistance Service (BAS) has a BAS also has a summary of VA benefits available here:** https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/benefits_summary_materials.asp
- **Veteran Data Pocket Card: Attached and at the following link:** <https://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/pocketcards/fy2018q1.pdf>
- **VA Cemetery Factsheet on Weekend Burial:** https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/docs/factsheets/NCA_Weekend_Burial_Program.pdf
- **VA Benefits & Health Care Utilization:**

Updated 10/31/17 Number of Veterans Receiving VA Disability Compensation (as of 9/30/17):	4.55 M
Number of Veterans Rated 100% Disabled (as of 9/30/17):	609,325
Number of Veterans Receiving VA Pension (as of 9/30/17):	276,574
Number of Spouses Receiving DIC (as of 9/30/17):	394,028
Number of Total Enrollees in VA Health Care System (FY 16):	9.05M 1
Number of Total Unique Patients Treated (FY 16):	6.26M 1
Number of Veterans Compensated for PTSD (as of 9/30/17):	959,703
Number of Veterans in Receipt of IU Benefits (as of 9/30/17):	349,049
Number of VA Education Beneficiaries (FY 17):	946,829

Number of Life Insurance Policies Supervised and Administered by VA (as of 9/30/17):	6.08 M
Face Amount of Insurance Policies Supervised and Administered by VA (as of 9/30/17):	1.22 T
Number of Veterans Participating in Voc Rehab (Chapter 31) (FY 16):	137,0973
Number of Active VA Home Loan Participants (as of 9/30/17):	2.90 M
Number of Health Care Professionals Rotating Through VA (FY 16):	127,211
Number of OEF/OIF Amputees (as of 10/01/17):	1,7162

- **MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has announced identification of remains and burial updates of six American servicemen who had been missing in action from World War II and Korea. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:



-- **Army Cpl. Donald L. Baer**, 20, of Racine, Wis., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried Nov. 11 in his hometown. Baer was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, which was engaged with enemy forces in and around the city of Taejon (now Daejon), South Korea. On July 19, 1950, enemy forces initiated a large-scale attack on the city. Baer could not be accounted for after the battle and was declared missing in action as of July 20, 1950. [Read about Baer.](#)

-- **Army Sgt. 1st Class Richard G. Cushman**, 18, of Springville, Utah, whose identification was previously announced, will be buried Nov. 11 in Cypress, Calif. Cushman was assigned to Company A, 72nd Medium Tank Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division. On Dec. 5, 1950, his unit was ordered to withdraw to the village of Kunu-ri, on the western side of the Korean Peninsula, due to heavy attacks by Chinese forces. While in the village, a task force comprised of Cushman's company and an infantry platoon were ordered to destroy a roadblock and eliminate enemy troops. Cushman could not be accounted for after the battle and was declared missing in action. Later, two returning American POWs reported that Cushman had died while being held by the Chinese. The Army subsequently declared him deceased as of March 31, 1951. [Read about Cushman.](#)

-- **Army Sgt. 1st Class Harry E. Harkness** was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. In November 1950, Harkness' unit was participating in combat actions against Chinese forces in the vicinity of Unsan, North Korea. Harkness was reported missing in action as of Nov. 2, 1950, when he could not be accounted for by his unit. Interment services are pending. [Read about Harkness.](#)

-- **Army Sgt. Gerald J. Mueller**, 20, of Saint Paul, Minn., whose identification was previously announced, was buried Nov. 8 in Fort Snelling, Minn. Mueller was a member of Battery D, 82nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion (Automatic Weapons), 2nd Infantry Division. The unit, part of Support Force 21, was providing artillery fire support for South Korean forces on Feb. 11, 1951, when Chinese forces launched a massive counter-offensive, driving the support force to withdraw.

After fighting their way south through ambushes and roadblocks to Wonju, Mueller could not be accounted for and was declared missing in action as of Feb. 13, 1951. He was later reported captured and taken to Suan Bean Camp, where Chinese and North Korean forces later reported he died while in their custody. [Read about Mueller.](#)

-- **Army Sgt. Ollie E. Shepard**, missing from the Korean War, has now been accounted for. <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1376973/soldier-missing-from-the-korean-war-accounted-for-shepard-o/>

In late November, 1950, Shepard was a member of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. Approximately 2,500 U.S. and 700 South Korean soldiers assembled into the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), which was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when it was attacked by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. The American forces withdrew south with the Chinese attacks continuing. By December 6, the U.S. Army evacuated approximately 1,500 wounded service members; the remaining soldiers had been either captured, killed or missing in enemy territory. Because Shepard could not be accounted for by his unit at the end of the battle, he was reported missing in action as of Dec. 3, 1950.

Interment services are pending; more details will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services. Shepard's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing, an American Battle Monuments Commission site in Honolulu, 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.

• **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.

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

• **VA PRIORITIZES IMPROVING VETERANS' ACCESS TO PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES**

WASHINGTON — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), together with the American Bar Association, The Veterans Consortium and National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium, signed a Memorandum of Agreement aimed at improving Veterans' access to free legal services.

Veterans often face stressful legal problems — such as eviction, foreclosure, child support, or drivers' license revocations — that can affect their ability to gain or maintain employment and housing or focus on medical treatment. In VA's annual Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups survey, legal assistance repeatedly tops the list of homeless Veterans' unmet needs.

"We are encouraging VA Medical Centers and other VA facilities to engage with their local communities to establish legal clinics and Medical Legal Partnerships to address Veterans' legal needs that threaten their health and well-being," said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. "By signing this agreement, we are documenting a shared commitment to better facilitate Veterans' access to legal services."

Currently, VA hosts at least 165 free legal clinics in its VA Medical Centers, Community Based Outpatient Clinics and Vet Centers across the country by partnering with external, legal-service providers, such as local bar associations, legal-aid organizations and law school clinics.

More information on VA's coordination of legal services for Veterans at VA facilities may be found at <https://www.va.gov/OGC/LegalServices.asp>.

VA SCHEDULING NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

You can now manage your primary care and certain specialty care VA appointments online at participating VA facilities. You will need a Premium My HealtheVet Account to use online scheduling. [Read the full story](#)



<http://thehill.com/opinion/technology/361888-veterans-and-military-families-need-internet-to-connect-to-our-economy>

- **VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES NEED INTERNET TO CONNECT TO OUR ECONOMY**

In 2017, a time when the world is more connected than ever before, it's easy to assume that veterans, active service members, and their families benefit from these advances in technology. But in reality, many active military and veteran families are cut off.

Less than a week after Veterans Day this month, the Federal Communications Commission voted to restructure the [Lifeline Program](#), which provides a discount on phone service and broadband internet for qualifying low income consumers. This is a timely reminder of how many military service members and veterans utilize these government programs. According to the FCC, 12 percent of Lifeline Program beneficiaries in the United States are veterans. That's 1.3 million veterans.

In addition, many families of active duty military personnel utilize these services to stay connected. In a recent survey by Public Policy Polling, 27 percent of the veterans and active duty military personnel and families surveyed indicated that they would qualify now or have in the past qualified for the Lifeline

Program by virtue of their enrollment in various federal programs such as Social Security disability insurance, Medicaid, home heating assistance, or Head Start services for children.

As Congress and the FCC consider changes to the Lifeline Program, they must also consider new ways to ensure that veterans, active duty military personnel and their families have access to the technology they need to participate and succeed in the modern economy. A key challenge for reaching veterans in the United States is the limitation of rural broadband. According to the U.S. Census, approximately 30 percent of veterans in the United States live in rural areas. The vast distances and difficult terrain in these areas often hinder effective internet connections.

But there is another way to provide broadband to these rural communities in the form of television white spaces. While a typical Wi-Fi signal is often expensive and has limited reach, television white spaces use existing unused television channels and can cover distances over 10 miles while traversing the physical barriers that make providing reliable internet to these remote areas such a challenge. There is no shortage of resources provided by the government, nonprofit organizations, and corporations alike for veterans reentering the civilian world. But for veterans to take advantage of these resources, they need access to reliable internet.

That's why groups across the country have worked to make rural broadband a priority and encourage the FCC to approve three of these television white spaces to deliver high speed internet. With the FCC's approval, innovative technology companies and local broadband providers can provide affordable and accessible internet to rural veterans living on the wrong side of the "digital divide."

The internet can be life changing for veterans and military families. It can ensure access to the resources and discounts families need to make ends meet. It can provide remote health care services that are desperately needed but otherwise unattainable. I've even seen it enable a homeless veteran to transition into high paid coding job. We must ensure reliable broadband access for rural communities, along with the benefits it will bring to those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

Rob Coons is co-founder of [Veterans in Technology](#), a nonprofit organization that helps transitioning veterans find employment and experience in technology. He is also co-founder of [Scout Military](#), a mobile app for service members and their families in Oregon and Washington.

• **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 November 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

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

- **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
- **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
- **OLD GLORY TRAVELS AMERICA'S FREEDOM ROAD**

The American Flag, named Old Glory, was first raised in 1999 at Valley Forge in front of the National Memorial Arch honoring General George Washington and his Continental Army for their Winter Encampment of 1777-78. The ceremony launched Century Link America's world flag tour, *Old Glory Travels America's Freedom Road*.
The mission of the Old Glory Tour is to remember and commemorate important events of our history, to honor the service and sacrifice of veterans and the fallen who helped shape them; recognize and salute members of the armed forces and showcase each branch's unique service to our country; recognize the

firefighters, police and EMT's who protect our freedom domestically; inspire and educate our youth and to celebrate the freedoms and spirit of America our flag symbolizes.

Old Glory has participated in ceremonies, Presidential Inaugural parades, school visits and more throughout the U.S. from Fort McHenry to Mount Rushmore and in several countries including France, Japan, Italy, South Korea, Bosnia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan. Old Glory has flown proudly aboard U.S. Naval and U.S. Coast Guard vessels on the seven seas, as well as military aircraft worldwide.

She has flown over hallowed ground at Normandy American Cemetery and Point du Hoc; the USS Arizona and USS Utah Memorials at Pearl Harbor; Midway Atoll; Saipan and Tinian Islands, atop Mt Suribachi on Iwo Jima; Oklahoma City Memorial, at Ground Zero in NYC, Shanksville PA, and The Pentagon; honored WWII veterans at WWII Memorial in DC and Korean War veterans at Korean War Memorial and was presented at Arlington National Cemetery on the first occasion by The Army-Navy Union.

Old Glory was presented at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day 2017 by the Korean War Veterans Association of the USA. The flag had recently returned from a second visit to South Korea where she saluted the Airmen/women of the 51st Fighter Wing and the Soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division.

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• **DON'T BE A VICTIM: SCAMS TARGETING VETERANS**

Criminals are always looking for ways to scam you out of your hard-earned money and often, it's our military veterans who fall victim to these scams.

This past weekend, the nation said, "thank you" to our military veterans—the men and women who have given so much back to their country.

But not everyone is showing them the honor and respect they deserve. A new AARP survey shows veterans are frequently targeted by scam artists and victimized twice as often as the rest of the public.

"It was a little surprising to think that scammers would literally target veterans and that they will pose as veterans which makes veterans more likely to believe the scammer," said Teresa Arnold, AARP South Carolina State Director.

The survey found 16 percent of veterans had lost money to fraudsters compared to eight percent of non-veterans. Often the scams are aimed at the benefits they receive.

"For instance, there is a benefits buyout scam, so a scammer will offer an upfront payment of cash in exchange for the veteran's future disability payments. The problem is that typically buyouts are just a fraction of what they would have gotten had they just gotten their benefits," Arnold said.

Here are some of the other common scams that AARP and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service say veterans need to be on the lookout for:

- The benefits buyout offer: This scheme takes advantage of veterans in need by offering a quick upfront buyout in exchange for future disability or pension payments.
- The fake charitable giving request: Fraudulent claims about benefitting veterans or wounded service members.

- Fraudulent records offer: In this scam, veterans receive a contact claiming that for a fee, only the scammer can access your military records or government forms. But this information is available for free through local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offices.
- A VA phishing scam: A scammer claiming to work for the VA calls veterans and asks for Social Security numbers and personal financial information.
- The bogus employment scam: Scammers collect personal information or charge a fee for obtaining a job that doesn't exist.

Arnold says that one giveaway of these scams is that they are most often unsolicited.

“I think that any time somebody calls you and asks for your information of any kind, that is probably a scam. If you are calling a reputable number that is one thing, but if they are calling you, you had better watch out.”

AARP is joining forces with the U.S. Postal Service for Operation Protect Veterans—a campaign aimed at getting the word out about these type scams—so that those who served our country won't fall victim to them. [Click here](#) for more information about the project.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Fisher

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