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# POST NEWSLETTER August 2024

## MEETINGS IN AUGUST

### POST

August 20, 6 pm
Installation of Officers

### COUNTY

No meeting

### WOMEN VETERANS

No meeting

### SAL

August 13, 6:30 pm

### AUXILIARY

August 13, 7 pm

### HOME ASSOCIATION

August 19, 7:30 pm

## GOLD STAR RIDERS

August 6, 7 pm

### VVA

August 21, 1 pm

## IMPORTANT MILITARY DATES IN AUGUST

| | |
|---|---|
| COAST GUARD B-DAY | Aug 4, 1790 |
| PURPLE HEART DAY | Aug 7, 1782 |
| AGENT ORANGE AWARENESS DAY | Aug 10, 1988 |
| V-J DAY | Aug 14, 1945 |
| NAVAJO CODE TALKERS DAY | Aug 14, 1982 |
| MARINE CORPS RESERVE B-DAY | Aug 29,1916 |

**I get emails periodically from various military websites showcasing new articles coming out. I saw this one and because of the subject I thought it would be of interest to some of the veterans out there.**

## World War I Memorial wall, 'A Soldier's Journey,' will soon arrive in Washington

*Photo shows a portion of the wall, and the sculptor standing in front of it.*

A massive bronze relief sculpture that will serve as the National World War I Memorial is on its way to the U.S. this week. The memorial features 38 larger-than-life figures, each of which tell part of the story of an American soldier leaving for war and, later, returning. To correctly capture facial expressions of horror, determination, and experience on the bronze figures, the artist behind the wall used modern combat veterans as models.

The 58-foot-long, 10-foot-tall sculpture will sit in Pershing Park in Washington D.C., a public square named for the general who led U.S. forces in Europe during 'the Great War,' covering a full side of the park. American sculptor Sabin Howard spent almost ten years creating the memorial. Across its length, sculpted figures stand, fight, fall, kneel, crawl, climb, and gaze out in bronze, each highlighting an experience of the war.

The official dedication will be held in September 2024.

***above excerpts reprinted from an article ion the TASK & PURPOSE website, and was written by JOSHUA SKOVLUND POSTED ON JUL 9, 2024 4:11 PM EDT*** It's an interesting website if anyone wants to check it out: https://taskandpurpose.com/

# *INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS*

August 20, 2024
Dinner at 6 pm,
Installation of Officers at 7 pm

If you are planning to attend, please let adjutant Tom Stachura know so he can plan for how many will be attending the dinner

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY
# to the U.S. COAST GUARD
# August 4, 1790
# 234 years

## Why Alexander Hamilton Started the Coast Guard

On August 4th, the U.S. Coast Guard community celebrates the 234th birthday of the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard's official history began on 4 August 1790 when the first Congress authorized the construction of ten vessels to enforce federal tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. Known variously through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as the Revenue Marine and the Revenue Cutter Service, the Coast Guard expanded in size and responsibilities as the nation grew.

The service received its present name in 1915 under an act of Congress that merged the Revenue Cutter Service with the Life-Saving Service, thereby providing the nation with a single maritime service dedicated to saving life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws. The Coast Guard began to maintain the country's aids to maritime navigation, including operating the nation's lighthouses, when President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the transfer of the Lighthouse Service to the Coast Guard in 1939.

In 1946 Congress permanently transferred the Commerce Department's Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation to the Coast Guard, thereby placing merchant marine licensing and merchant vessel safety under their purview.
The Coast Guard adopted its trademark racing stripe design in 1967, as a result of the recommendation made to President John F. Kennedy in the spring of 1963 by the industrial design firm of Raymond Loewy/William Snaith, Inc.
The Coast Guard is one of the oldest organizations of the federal government and until Congress established the Navy Department in 1798 they served as the nation's only armed force afloat. The Coast Guard protected the nation throughout their long history and served proudly in every one of the nation's conflicts. Our national defense responsibilities remain one of our most important functions even today.

Since 2003 the Coast Guard has operated as part of the Department of Homeland Security, serving as the nation's front-line agency for enforcing the nation's laws at sea, protecting the marine environment and the nation's vast coastline and ports, and saving life. In times of war, or at the direction of the President, the Coast Guard serves under the Navy Department.

***Above reprinted in full from an article on the website MILITARY.com, published November 1, 2011***

**A few armed vessels, judiciously stationed at the entrances of our ports, might at a small expense be made useful sentinels of the laws.**
**Alexander Hamilton, Federalist Paper #12 (November 27, 1787)**

# August 7, 1782
# PURPLE HEART DAY

then

now

Aug. 7 is Purple Heart Day. On that day in 1782, George Washington established the Badge for Military Merit – forerunner of the Purple Heart. The award we know today was created in 1932, the bicentennial of Washington's birth.

George Washington established the creation of a Badge of Military Merit because he was "ever desirous to cherish virtuous ambition in his soldiers. . ." The General Orders explained that "whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings over the left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth, or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding."1
Only three individuals are known to have received the Badge of Military Merit during the American Revolution. On May 3, 1783, Sergeant William Brown of the 5th Connecticut Regiment of the Connecticut Line, and Sergeant Elijah Churchill of the 2nd Continental Light Dragoons were awarded the Badge of Military Merit.2 A month later, on June 10, 1783, Sergeant Daniel Bissell of the 2nd Connecticut Regiment of the Connecticut Line was also awarded a Badge of Military Merit.3

Notes:
1. George Washington, "7 August 1782, General Orders." The Writings of George Washington, ed. John C. Fitzpatrick (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office).
2. George Washington, "27 April 1783, General Orders." The Writings of George Washington, ed. John C. Fitzpatrick (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office).
3. George Washington, "8 June 1783, General Orders." The Writings of George Washington, ed. John C. Fitzpatrick (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office).

***above reprinted from the website 'GEORGE WASHINGTON*MOUNT VERNON***

***FYI-***"-It's estimated that roughly 1.8 million Purple Hearts have been awarded, but records are far from complete due to fires and other mishaps – there is no single comprehensive record. Even inclusion in the Hall is based on information received from recipients or their loved ones.
John F. Kennedy is the only U.S. president to earn a Purple Heart, while serving in the Navy during World War II. (uso.org)

***above info reprinted from THE AMERICAN LEGION website***

## August 10, 1988
## AGENT ORANGE AWARENESS DAY

Agent Orange Day is August 10th. It marks the day thought to be the day Agent Orange was first used in 1961, when the U.S. began aerial spraying of toxic herbicides over Vietnam. In 1988, Agent Orange Awareness Day began as a way to reach Vietnam veterans who many have been exposed to Agent Orange.

I don't think any explanation is needed as to the effects of Agent Orange on our servicemen and servicewomen who were exposed.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter authorized the first Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) study of Agent Orange, to evaluate the effects of the chemical compound on the pilots who sprayed it. The Agent Orange Act was established in 1991. This allows the VA to declare a range of diseases as probable effects of Agent Orange exposure, enabling veterans to pursue services in relation to those diseases.

On August 10, 2020, VVMF held its first-ever Agent Orange awareness event. “Bring Light” illuminated the entire Vietnam Veterans Memorial site with orange candlelight — from The Wall itself to The Three Servicemen statue, the flagpole, the Vietnam Women’s Memorial statue and the In Memory plaque.

## AGENT ORANGE--IN MEMORY PROGRAM

Since the Vietnam War ended, thousands of Vietnam veterans have died each year due to Agent Orange exposure, PTSD/suicide, cancer and other causes related to their service. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund’s (VVMF) In Memory program honors those who returned home from Vietnam and later died.
There is a plaque on the grounds of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial site in Washington, D.C. that honors these veterans was dedicated in 2004 and reads: In Memory of the men and women who served in the Vietnam War and later died as a result of their service. We honor and remember their sacrifice.
In Memory was created in 1993 by the group – Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. VVMF began managing the program and hosting the ceremony in 1999. More than 5,000 veterans have been added to the In Memory Honor Roll since the program began.

**above information reprinted from the website VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND**

**The VA still doesn't have a full accounting of how many veterans are suffering from the effects of Agent Orange, decades later....**

# V-J DAY
# August 14, 1945

On August 14, 1945, it was announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally to the Allies, effectively ending World War II. Since then, both August 14 and August 15 have been known as “Victory Over Japan Day,” or simply “V-J Day.” The term has also been used for September 2, 1945, when Japan’s formal surrender took place aboard the U.S.S. Missouri, anchored in Tokyo Bay. Coming several months after the surrender of Nazi Germany, Japan’s capitulation in the Pacific brought six years of hostilities to a final and highly anticipated close.

*Did you know? Rhode Island is the only state with a holiday dedicated to V-J Day (its official name is Victory Day); it is celebrated on the second Monday in August. V-J Day parades are held in several other locations across the United States, including Seymour, Indiana; Moosup, Connecticut; and Arma, Kansas.*

The U.S. made an effort to stay out of WWII raging in Europe. Until December 7, 1941. This act by Japan's ruling government led to an immediate U.S. declaration of war the following day. Japan’s ally Germany, led by Adolf Hitler, then declared war on the United States, turning the war raging in Europe into a truly global conflict. By 1945, in an attempt to break Japanese resistance before a land invasion became necessary, the Allies were consistently bombarding Japan from air and sea, dropping some 100,000 tons of explosives on more than 60 Japanese cities and towns between March and July 1945 alone.

The Potsdam Declaration, issued by Allied leaders on July 26, 1945, called on Japan to surrender; if it did, it was promised a peaceful government according to “the freely expressed will of the Japanese people.” If it did not, it would face “prompt and utter destruction.” The embattled Japanese government in Tokyo refused to surrender. As a result of their refusal to surrender, on August 6 the American B-29 plane Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, killing more than 70,000 people and destroying a 5-square-mile expanse of the city. Three days later, the United States dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki, killing another 40,000.

The following day, the Japanese government issued a statement accepting the terms of the Potsdam Declaration.

In Washington on August 14, President Harry S. Truman announced news of Japan’s surrender in a press conference at the White House: “This is the day we have been waiting for since Pearl Harbor....".

***Above article reprinted from the website HISTORY.COM, written by the HISTORY.COM editors, on October 14, 2009, updated July 18, 2023***

**A HORRIFYING NUMBER**--According to the Pacific War Online Encyclopedia the total U.S. combat casualties in the war against Japan were 111,606 dead or missing and another 253,142 wounded.

# NAVAJO CODE TALKERS DAY
# August 14, 1982

Yes, this is listed as a military recognition day and their contribution to WWII shouldn't be under-valued.

***As Marine Major Howard Connor stated "Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima."***

In WWI, the U.S. Military used the Choctaw Indian language as a military code. During WWII when the military was trying to devise an unbreakable code, they revisited the idea of using the Choctaw language however there were concerns that due to it's previous use in WWI, it would be easily broken.

In 1942, Philip Johnston was reading a newspaper article about an armored division in Louisiana that was attempting to come up with another code using Native American languages. Johnston knew the perfect Native American language to utilize in a new, unbreakable code.

As a child, Johnston spent most of his childhood on a Navajo reservation while his parents served there as missionaries. He grew up learning the Navajo language and customs. Johnston became so fluent in the Navajo language that he was asked at age 9 to serve as an interpreter for a Navajo delegation sent to Washington, D.C., to lobby for Indian rights.

In spite of concerns about the security of a code based on a Native American language, the U.S. Marine Corps decided to give Johnston's idea a try. They approved a pilot project with 30 Navajos and allowed Johnston to enlist and participate in the program.

The Navajo language seemed to be the perfect option as a code because it is not written and very few people who aren't of Navajo origin can speak it.However, the Marine Corps took the code to the next level and made it virtually unbreakable by further encoding the language with word substitution.

A skeptical lieutenant decided to test their skills and the code before trusting them to deliver actual combat messages. The Code Talkers successfully translated, transmitted and re-translated a test message in two and a half minutes. Without using the Navajo code, it could take hours for a soldier to complete the same task. . During the invasion of Iwo Jima, six Navajo Code Talkers were operating continuously. They sent more than 800 messages. All of the messages were transmitted without error.

The hard work of the Navajo Code Talkers was not recognized until after the declassification of the operation in 1968.

President Ronald Reagan gave the Code Talkers a Certificate of Recognition and declared August 14 "Navajo Code Talkers Day" in 1982. In 2000, President Bill Clinton signed a law which awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the original 29 Code Talkers. President George W. Bush presented the medals to the four surviving Code Talkers at a ceremony held in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington in July 2001.

***Above information reprinted from an article on the website CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, published November 6, 2008, by Intelligence and Operations***

# MARINE CORPS RESERVE BIRTHDAY

**August 29, 1916**
108 years

As U.S. involvement in World War I loomed in 1916, it was decided that the formal creation of an operational Reserve Force was required. On August 29 of that year, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Naval Appropriations Act of 1916, which established the Marine Corps Reserve. The organization would grow rapidly from 35 Marines on April 1, 1916, to a peak of 6,467 (including 300 women) by the time Germany surrendered in November 1918.

During World War I, Reserve Marines fought on sea and on land, including major battles such as Belleau Wood, Soissons, St. Mihiel, and Meusse-Argonne. Reserve Marines also flew with the British Northern Bombing Group, targeting enemy transportation networks. U.S. Marine Lt. Gen. Karl S. Day, a junior officer at the time, spoke highly of the new force: "Nobody gave a damn and few, if any, knew who were regulars, temporaries, duration reserves, what have you."

By 1922, the entire Marine Reserve had been demobilized to inactive status, with less than 600 Marines in the Reserve Force. Nevertheless, Commandant of the Marine Corps Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune determined that a healthy Reserve Component was a strategic necessity, as he declared that "it is absolutely necessary that there be in the Marine Corps prior to the emergency an adequate and well trained Reserve."

On February 28, 1925, Congress passed an Act that superseded the Act of 1916 for the creation of 18 battalions in the Marine Corps Reserve. The Reserve's ranks grew once again, to over 10,000 Marines by 1930, despite the fact that Reserves received no drill pay outside of annual two-week "Summer Camp" training and had to purchase many of their own uniform items.

In 1938, the Naval Reserve Act of 1938 established the Organized Marine Corps Reserve, forerunner of today's Select Marine Corps Reserve, and a Volunteer Marine Corps Reserve, forerunner of today's Inactive Ready Reserve. It also ensured that Reserve Marines would be adequately compensated for their service and that would receive realistic training. The improved training was an important factor in the success of the Marine Corps in World War II.

The Marine Corps Reserve has been a vital and integral part of the Armed Forces since 1938, have served in every conflict/war since that time. They were mobilized after 9/11 and served for over 10 years continuously. Every Reserve unit, at the battalion and squadron level, has been activated at least once.

***Article reprinted from the website MILITARY.COM, published August 28, 2018***

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 3**---There will be a Hunter Safety Course being held at the Post, at 0800. Go to the Pa. Game and Wildlife Commission website, this link will take you there: https://www.register-ed.com/programs/25/page:2

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August 7--Veterans Breakfast Club
0830 at Seven Oaks Country Club
132 Lisbon Rd, Beaver, 15009
RSVP by calling 412-623-9029 or emailing betty@veteransbreakfastclub.org.
Please make sure to RSVP for events at least two days in advance.
$15 if you are going to eat, free if you aren't

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THE HOME ASSOCIATION IS HAVING A PICNIC. TO BE HELD AT THE BADEN LIONS CLUB, ON AUGUST 17th, FROM NOON UNTIL???

MEMBERS ONLY, NO GUESTS
MUST BE 21 OR OVER
PRESENTYOURBARCARD
FOR ADMITTANCE

***The canteen** will be closed on the day of the picnic*

# REMEMBER, THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN SERVICE OFFICER HOURS

**New Service Officer Information**

**Effective June 21, 2024, we will no longer have scheduled hours at the post.**

**If you need to meet with a Service Officer, we will schedule an appointment that works for you (days, afternoons, and evenings)**

Your Service Officers are:
Larry Mcgown and Randy Gleason

You can contact Larry at 724-630-3318 or by email: lmcgownpost641so@gmail.com

You can contact Randy at 724-987-0497 or by email: gleason241@comcast.net

## LEGACY GOLDSTAR RIDERS

**No events in the month of August**

# BE THE ONE

**TO ASK VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING**
**TO LISTEN WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK**
**TO REACH OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING**

***Go to: https://www.legion.org/betheone to find out more about BE THE ONE***

As Legionnaires, our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow veterans. The American Legion National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18 during Spring Meetings in May 2019. The resolution called for "Buddy Checks" to be conducted Legion-wide during the weeks of The American Legion's birthday, March 15, and Veterans Day. The success of the "Buddy Check" program has exceeded expectations and proved to be a valuable year-round method to provide assistance and resources for veterans in need. Results helped confirm that The American Legion is in an ideal position to fill the critical gap between separation from military service and resources or treatment from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans today face the existential crisis of finding new purpose after transition, and coping with post traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury and other social, economic, mental or physical stressors. This critical time in a veteran's life is when they are most vulnerable to suicide or other self-harm and The American Legion seeks to be a partner with the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to preserve and protect the lives of our veterans. Suicide awareness and prevention is the most consequential responsibility of our generation of Legionnaires, and the "Buddy Check" is just one of the many ways we hope to address the crisis.

***all of the above information is direct from The American Legion website***

# POW/MIA NEWS

Defense Dept POW/MIA Accounting Agency
As of July 31, 2024

World War II 72,052
Korean War 7,466
Vietnam War 1,575
Cold War 126
Gulf War 5
Libya 1

from the website "Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

## POW/MIA SERVICEMEMBERS THAT WERE RECENTLY ACCOUNTED FOR

In July 2024, missing in action that were identified included 26 WWII soldiers, 1 soldier from Vietnam, and 6 Korean war missing.

Sgt. David S. Price
U.S.A.F.

if you are searching for someone who is/was MIA, check this website:
https://www.dpaa.mil/

## Airman Accounted from Vietnam War ...David S. Price, Sgt

**The remains** of an Air Force sergeant who died defending a top-secret radar site on a mountaintop in Laos during the Vietnam War have been identified and located, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced this week.

**Sgt. David S. Price**, 26, of Centralia, Washington, who died in 1968, was stationed at Lima Site 85 -- a highly covert tactical air navigation radar site on the remote, nearly 6,000-foot high mountain peak known as Phou Pha Thi in Houaphan Province, Laos, the agency said in a news release. He and 18 other men were there working on a top-secret Air Force and CIA mission code-named "Project Heavy Green," according to the Department of Defense, which provided support with a TSQ-81 radar nicknamed COMMANDO CLUB for U.S. bombing runs in North Vietnam.

**But the site** eventually was seen as a valued target by the North Vietnamese Army and from March 10-11, 1968, the site was bombarded by artillery and commandos and was seized from the small team of radar technicians. While eight of the men were rescued, 11 of them, including Price, died. A passage from the CIA-published "Studies in Intelligence" quarterly journal detailed that, in the days that followed, bombing runs were ordered on the site to cover up the covert operation, further complicating the retrieval of any American remains.

**"By midday,** hopes of recovering the missing Americans were discarded and attention turned to destroying the radar to prevent it from falling into the hands of the North Vietnamese, along with the documentation and operational information that was left in the COMMANDO CLUB operations building," the journal detailed. "Between the 12th and 18th, 95 sorties were directed to destroy the radar; and on the 19th, two A-I Sandys leveled every building on the ridge. This aerial barrage had the collateral effect of probably obliterating the remains of any Americans who were left on the mountain."

**Due to the** secrecy behind the operation, many of the family members were left in the dark about the airmen's whereabouts. A news clipping from March 1970 referenced the shock and surprise of Price's mother after she read about the attack in the national press two years after his death. She had been informed by the Pentagon only that her son was declared dead after he had gone missing in an unnamed Southeast Asian country.

**Decades later,** in 1994, the then-Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command tried to search for remains but was unsuccessful. A successful finding of remains at the site happened in 2003, leading to further investigation.

**In 2023,** the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency "discovered unexploded ordnance, incident-related materials, possible material evidence, and possible osseous [or bone] remains from the research site," the agency said in a press release.

His funeral will take place in his hometown of Centralia, Washington, on Aug. 30, according to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

**Today**, Price is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii, and on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.," the release stated. "A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for."

**Eight** of the 11 men Price died alongside still remain unaccounted for, according to the agency's records.

***above article reprinted in full from Military.com | By Thomas Novelly***
***Published July 25, 2024 at 5:35pm ET***

# AUXILIARY HAPPENINGS

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY Juniors

The American Legion Auxiliary Juniors is taking the "NexTrex Recycling Challenge". We will be collecting plastic to get a bench to be placed outside for our Veterans.

Soft plastic such as grocery bags, bread bags, bubble wrap, dry cleaning bags, newspaper bags, ice bags, plastic shipping envelopes, ziplock bags (please rinse first) cereal bags, water/pop case plastic, salt bags, produce bags, shipping cartons wrap and more. No plastic bottles or containers.

You can drop off in the kitchen at the American Legion Post 641.

Thank you in advance.

Your donations are appreciated.

Add a subtitle

The Auxiliary is collecting school supplies for the Ambridge School District so if you are able, please donate--there is a collection bin in the canteen, and remember....every little bit helps.

$1 each-a GREAT deal

## WEENIE WEDNESDAY

Once a month...
this month it will be on August 21st, beginning at 11 am, until sold out

## WEEKLY BOOK DETAILS

$5 PER ENTRY

1 ENTRY PER WEEK

BOOK PULLED SUNDAY @ 7pm

GOOD LUCK!!

## THURSDAY EVENINGS 7 PM

A MOMENT OF SILENCE WILL BE OBSERVED BEFORE BINGO FOR OUR DEPARTED SERVICEMEN AND SERVICEWOMEN AND THOSE NON-MILITARY WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR NATION

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

Baden American Legion
Post 641
Baseball Team

Our kids played their hearts out this season, went to Regionals as the Number 2 seed (Blackhawk was the Number 1 seed) and lost a heartbreaker to Blackhawk with a score of 6-5.
THEY PLAYED A TREMENDOUS SEASON AND WE WANT TO GIVE THEM A HUGE SHOUT-OUT FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENT!

*WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!!!*

# VA NEWS FOR JULY 2024

## VA OFFERS DISASTER RELIEF RESOURCES FOR VA DEPTS

**July 3, 2024**
VA Dept Management Center

If you are experiencing financial hardship and are unable to repay your VA debt because of a natural disaster, relief options are available.

**Temporary suspensions**

For suspension of benefit debt, Veterans and beneficiaries can contact the VA Debt Management Center via Ask VA at https://ask.va.gov (select Veterans Affairs-Debt as the category) or call 800-827-0648.

For suspension of medical care and pharmacy copayment debt, Veterans and beneficiaries can contact the Health Resource Center by calling 866-400-1238.

**Other debt relief options**

To learn more about other debt relief options such as waivers and repayment plans, Veterans can visit the Manage VA Debt web page at https://va.gov/manage-va-debt.

For more information on debt relief options for VA Benefit debt, Veterans and beneficiaries can contact the VA Debt Management Center via Ask VA at https://ask.va.gov (select Veterans Affairs-Debt as the category) or call 800-827-0648.

For more information on debt relief options for medical care and pharmacy copayment debt, Veterans and beneficiaries can contact the Health Resource Center by calling 866-400-1238.

To learn more about disaster assistance resources for Veterans, visit the Disaster Assistance website

## VA extends presumptions of service connection for three new cancer types

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 14, 2024

WASHINGTON — Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is including three new cancer types in the list of presumed service-connected disabilities due to military environmental exposure under the PACT Act. This announcement marks the continued commitment under the Biden-Harris administration's Unity Agenda and the Biden Cancer Moonshot to support the nation's Veterans.

Through a sub-regulatory policy letter published to the Federal Register, the following three cancer types have been included in the list of presumptive diseases:

**Male breast cancer.**
**Urethral cancer.**
**Cancer of the paraurethral glands.**

This policy establishes presumptions of service connection for eligible Gulf War and post-9/11 Veterans who deployed to Afghanistan, Somalia, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, and the entire Southwest Asia theater of operations, which includes Iraq. Presumptive service connection means VA automatically assumes service connection for the disease and provides benefits to eligible Veterans who have submitted claims with evidence of a diagnosis.

Any Veteran who currently has or previously had one of the listed cancers at any time during military service or after separation may be entitled to disability compensation benefits dated back to Aug. 10, 2022, the date the PACT Act was signed into law. VA will review all claims from impacted Veterans and survivors who previously filed and were denied for these three conditions on or after Aug. 10, 2022, to determine if benefits can now be granted. Veterans enrolled in VA health care can obtain cancer screening and treatment at VA, which recently announced expansion of cancer care services closer to where Veterans are.

AMERICAN LEGION
BE THE ONE

Find out about this program by going to the legion website https://www.legion.org/betheone/about

**Add a subtitlMore than 50,000 women veterans enrolled in VA health care over past year, the largest enrollment year ever for women veterans...**

On Women Veterans Recognition Day, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that more than 53,000 women veterans enrolled in VA health care between May 2023 and May 2024, marking a 20% increase over the previous year and the largest enrollment year for women veterans on record.

Health care enrollment of women veterans increased across all 50 states, with the greatest number of enrollments in: Texas (6,507), Florida (4,666), California (4,318), Virginia (3,806), Georgia (2,937) and North Carolina (2,776). Women veterans are currently VA's fastest growing patient population. This historic enrollment of women veterans into VA health care and benefits is driven in large part by the PACT Act, which President Biden signed into law in August 2022, empowering VA to deliver record health care and benefits to millions of veterans exposed to toxins while serving in the military.

Over the past two years, VA has dramatically expanded health care services dedicated to women veterans. This includes expanded breast cancer screenings and mammograms for veterans with potential toxic exposures, increased access to reproductive health services, and expanded maternity care coordination for veterans from pregnancy through 12 months post-partum. All of this work contributes to VA's equity action plan and broader efforts to ensure that every veteran gets the care and benefits they deserve.

VA is also delivering disability compensation benefits to an all-time record number of women veterans, with 717,141 women veterans receiving disability compensation benefits today. Over the past five years, an additional 197,667 women veterans have begun receiving benefits, representing a 28% increase. More than 89% of women veterans who have applied have received disability benefits from VA for at least one condition, on average receiving $27,109 in earned disability compensation benefits per year.

VA's dedicated Women Veterans Call Center is here to support women veterans in navigating all the services they may need, including health care and benefits. Call or text 855-VA-WOMEN (855-829-6636) or use the online chat feature. For more information specifically on how the PACT Act is helping veterans and their survivors and to apply for care or benefits today, visit VA.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MYVA411 (800-698-2411).

***above directly reprinted from the American Legion website, written on June 13, 2024***

# Famous women veterans of WWII

So, as it states on the American Legion website, "a veteran is a veteran" and there should be no distinction between the sexes. And I agree. However, I also know that most veterans (and active duty military) can easily name famous male veterans from various wars and conflicts. How many female veterans who made huge contributions to WWII can you name? Here's one.

Navy Ensign Jane Kendeigh on Iwo Jima, surrounded by U.S. Marines.

## Ensign Jane Kendeigh, U.S.N.

On March 6, 1945, at just 22 years old, Ensign Jane Kendeigh – a Navy nurse – landed on Iwo Jima and made history. She was the first U.S. Navy flight nurse to fly an evacuation mission to an active battlefield, and the first to land on a Pacific battlefield.

As a flight nurse, Kendeigh was trained as a nurse and trained in crash procedures, survival, and how to adjust treatments on patients in high altitude.

Kendeigh and her fellow flight nurses would go on to evacuate approximately 2,393 Marines and sailors from Iwo Jima, attending to their patients in the process of transporting them to forward operating hospitals.

Of the 1,176,048 military patients evacuated on these dangerous flights throughout the war, only 46 died en route.

***above from at article written on the website USO, dated Mar 29, 2021***

***Veterans Crisis Line***
***988, Select 1***
***Hours:* 24/7**

# MAJOR RICHARD STAR ACT

**PLEASE READ!!**

Currently, some 50,000 military retirees with combat-related injuries qualify for retirement pay for their service from the Department of Defense, and for compensation for service connected disabilities from VA. However, those forced to medically retire under Chapter 61 and those with a 40% or lower VA disability rating will have their military retirement pay reduced by the amount of VA disability compensation received. Retirement benefits and disability compensation are two separate benefits, provided for two separate reasons, and should never be conflated. The American Legion stands with disabled veterans and urges Congress to lift this denial of retirement benefits. The Major Richard Star Act would repeal this draconian offset for those veterans who are medically retired due to injuries sustained in combat allowing them to receive both their retirement pay and their disability compensation.

- ☐ Servicemembers who retire after 20 or more years with at least a 50% disability receive both DOD retirement pay and VA disability compensation. Servicemembers who retire after 20 or more years with less than 50% disability, as well as Service members medically retired under Chapter 61 have their military retirement reduced.

- ☐ Despite bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, the Major Richard Star Act was not brought to a vote in the 117th Congress.

The Major Richard Star Act aims to rectify this by allowing combat-injured veterans to receive both their earned retirement pay and disability compensation without offset.
Your action in advancing this crucial legislation is essential and greatly appreciated.

Follow the below link:
**https://www.votervoice.net/Ameri.../Campaigns/116903/Respond**
**Send a message to your legislator/representative and tell them how important it is to support our veterans.**

***WHO WAS MAJOR RICHARD STAR?***

**Major Richard Star deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kuwait with the U.S. Army Reserves. When he contracted stage 4 lung cancer as a result of burn pits and other damaging environmental conditions overseas, his wife Tonya quit her job to care for him full time.**
**Then Star encountered an unexpected financial surprise, when he learned that — because he hadn't reached 20 years in the military — his disability pay from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) would be deducted out of his retirement pay from the Department of Defense.**
**Star pushed Congress to enact legislation that would remedy this little-known provision, meeting with lawmakers even as he approached the end of his life. He died in February.**

## It's the Olympics--here are the military members who are competing

Since it's the year of the summer Olympics (as we all know), I thought it would be worthwhile to talk about military members competing in this year's competition.
As a veteran of the U.S.A.F., it (sort of) pains me to say they are all ARMY! But since it's the Olympics, I'm going to say---**GO ARMY!!!**
A total of ten service members will compete on behalf of the United States at this year's Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris — and they are all members of the U.S. Army.
Seven active-duty soldiers will head to the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics later this month as part of Team USA, according to a defense official. Three athletes will also compete in the Paralympic Games later in August.
The following U.S. Army athletes will compete in this year's Olympic Games:

Staff Sgt. Rachel Tozier (Army Marksmanship Unit) – Shooting: Olympic Trap

Staff Sgt. Will Hinton (Army Marksmanship Unit) – Shooting: Olympic Trap

Sgt. Sagen Maddalena (Army Marksmanship Unit) – Shooting: 50m Smallbore event; and 10m Air Rifle event

Sgt. Ivan Roe (Army Marksmanship Unit) – Shooting: 50m Smallbore event; and 10m Air Rifle event

Capt. Samantha K. Sullivan (U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program) – Women's Rugby Team

Staff Sgt. Leonard E. Korir (U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program) – Track and Field: Marathon

Spc. Kamal Bey (U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program) – Greco-Roman Wrestling (77 kg)

Master Sgt. Dennis Bowsher (U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program) – Modern Pentathlon Coach

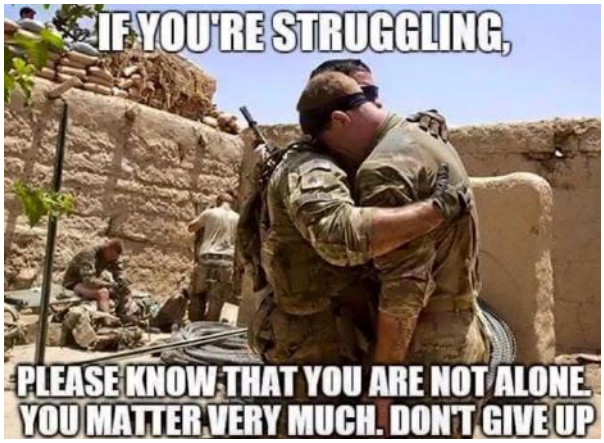
Sgt. 1st class Spenser Mango (U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program) – Wrestling Coach

The following athletes will compete in the Paralympic Games:
Sgt. 1st class John Wayne Joss III (U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program) – Shooting: R6 50m Rifle Prone SH1

Staff Sgt. Kevin Nguyen (U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program) – Shooting: R6 50m Rifle Prone SH1

Sgt. 1st class Elizabeth Marks (U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program) – Paralympic Swimming

## BUDDY CHECK BUDDY CHECK BUDDY CHECK




# IN MEMORIAM

no reported deaths for this month

"My final salute
I render today
I'm still a soldier
I'm just on my way"

final verse from the poem "I'm Still A Soldier" by Timothy Emmons

# VETERAN AFFAIRS CONTACT INFORMATION

**VA health benefits hotline**
877-222-8387
Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET

**My HealtheVet help desk**
877-327-0022
Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET

***MyVA411 main information line***
800-698-2411
Hours: 24/7

***Veterans Crisis Line***
***988, Select 1***
***Hours:*** 24/7

**VA benefits hotline**
800-827-1000
Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET

**Special issue hotline (Blue Water Navy Act, Gulf War, Agent Orange, and other information)**
800-749-8387
Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET

## *EMAIL AND WEBSITES*

**www.badenpost641.org District 26 FB https://www.facebook.com/PALegionDistrict26**
**Women Vets of Beaver County https://www.facebook.com/SisterhoodVets**
**Email:** legionbaden@comcast.net
**AMERICAN LEGION website: mylegion.org**
**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FB PAGE https://www.facebook.com/Baden641auxiliary**

VETERAN
APPRECIATION
ARE YOU A VETERAN OR HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER WHO SERVED?
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• COMMUNITY RESOURCES
• KIDS ACTIVITIES
• BEVERAGES AND SNACKS
• LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
• GIVEAWAYS
• VA ENROLLMENT
• HYGIENE ITEMS AND MORE!
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