

From: dbrown80@yahoo.com,
To: rfishin@aol.com,
Subject: Fw: AMVETS Legislative Update
Date: Fri, Jun 24, 2022 6:25 am

Please update. Thank you.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: The Nimitz Group <justin@thenimitzgroup.com>
To: "dbrown80@yahoo.com" <dbrown80@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022, 2:56:00 PM EDT
Subject: AMVETS Legislative Update



Good afternoon AMVETS Family,

Today is the first day of summer, and weather forecasters expect lots of sunshine, heat, and droughts. So stay cool. Gas prices continue to dominate the politics as President

Biden considers sending gas rebate cards to help fight the starting prices at the pump.

Despite record gas prices, AAA predicts record road trips for July 4th. Hearings concerning January 6th also continue to march forward.

On the veteran front, I was sickened to hear the news that a VA employee in Georgia attacked an elderly veteran. Simply unacceptable.

The Senate this past week passed their version of the PACT Act, which will go back to the house for consideration and a vote. AMVETS will continue to press for passage of the bill. I have included President Biden's statement on the bill below, whereby he "urges the House to swiftly pass this bill." Please call your Congressional representative and urge them to do the same.

Congress will soon be in recess so my next update will be on July 12th.

Stay vigilant, friends!

-Paul Shipley, AMVETS National Third Vice Commander



BRIEFING ROOM

Statement by President Joe Biden on Bipartisan Senate Passage of the PACT Act

JUNE 16, 2022 • STATEMENTS AND RELEASES

As part of the Unity Agenda that I laid out in my State of the Union address, I called on Congress to make sure that veterans and their families and caregivers impacted by toxic exposures finally get the benefits and comprehensive health care they earned and deserve. Today, the United States Senate answered that call by overwhelmingly passing the bipartisan Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022—the largest single bill in American history to address our service members' exposure to burn pits and other toxic substances.

This bill will provide expanded access to health care and disability benefits for veterans harmed by certain toxic exposures, whether in the jungles of Vietnam or the mountains of Afghanistan. It will also let the Department of Veterans Affairs move more quickly and comprehensively in the future to determine if illnesses are related to military service, and it will offer critical support to survivors who were harmed by exposures, including from water contamination at Camp LeJeune. Importantly, the bill includes the tools and resources to ensure that the VA can effectively implement it.

Above all, this legislation makes good on our sacred obligation to care for veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. I want to thank Chair Tester and Ranking Member Moran for their remarkable work to pass the PACT Act, and I urge the House to swiftly pass this bill so I can sign it into law right away.

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An undated photograph, left, shows Army veteran Alexander Druke of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. A photo taken April 6, 2022, right, shows Marine veteran Andy Tai Huynh. (Lois "Bunny" Druke/Diane Williams via AP, Jeronimo Nisa/The Decatur Daily via AP)

News Driving the Week

- Veterans Affairs officials will [delay deployment of their new electronic medical records system](#) to additional sites until 2023 to ensure "adequate reliability," officials confirmed to Military Times.

The move comes after repeated concerns from Congress about ongoing problems with implementation of VA's Oracle Cerner Millennium software platform, the same records system being installed by the Department of Defense at its medical sites. Lawmakers were informed of the delay Friday night.

- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has [released a video that appears to show an employee violently attacking a 73-year-old veteran](#) at an Atlanta clinic.

The employee, Lawrence F. Gaillard Jr., was later arrested on a charge of assault in the April 28 attack on Phillip Webb, who was visiting the Fort McPherson VA Clinic. After Webb was beaten, he was hospitalized for three days with a brain bleed, Channel 2 Action News reported.

- As many as [one in five veterans living in America today could see new health care coverage and disability benefits under the toxic exposure legislation advanced by the Senate Thursday](#), but some veterans will see help sooner than others.

The package — which was advanced by the Senate in a bipartisan 84-14 vote and heads now to the House for final congressional approval — would cost almost \$280 billion over the next decade and radically transform how the Department of Veterans Affairs analyzes and compensates victims of military chemical and radiation exposure incidents.

- Russian state television showed video Friday of [two U.S. military veterans who went missing last week while fighting in Ukraine](#), confirming that the men were taken captive

and raising fears about their fate.

Alex Drueke and Andy Huynh, both from Alabama, were believed to be the first Americans captured by Russian forces since the war began on Feb. 24.

- [Marine veteran Akshay Nanavati wants veterans, both those who faced combat or simply the rigors of military life, to reframe their relationship to fear.](#)

Despite the many challenges each veteran might face first in the military service and later in adjusting to a new post-military life, the specter of fear shouldn't slow them down, least of all make them a victim, he says.

That's in part why Nanavati, an Iraq War veteran, dragged sleds across frozen landscapes, ran ultramarathons, climbed mountains in the Himalayas and researched his way through answers to combat his own post-traumatic stress disorder diagnosis.

Upcoming Events

House Veterans Affairs Committee

Subcommittee on Health
June 22 @ 10:00 a.m.
Legislative Hearing
[Watch it HERE](#)

House Appropriations Committee

FY 2023 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
Appropriations Bills
June 23 @ 10:00 a.m.
[Watch it HERE](#)

Senate Veterans Affairs Committee

No Upcoming Hearings Currently Scheduled

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