

From: dbrown80@yahoo.com,
To: rtfishin@aol.com,
Subject: Fw: AMVETS Legislative Update
Date: Sat, May 21, 2022 7:53 pm

Please update. This is from when I was on vacation. Thanks.

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

From: The Nimitz Group <justin@thenimitzgroup.com>
To: "dbrown80@yahoo.com" <dbrown80@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022, 5:54:47 PM EDT
Subject: AMVETS Legislative Update



Good afternoon AMVETS Family,

We continue to watch primary season running full swing across the Nation as voters in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Kentucky, Idaho, and Oregon cast their ballots yesterday

to pick their nominees for the 2022 midterms. High-profile races in Pennsylvania and North Carolina are taking up the bulk of the attention as swing states with the 50-50 Senate chamber in contention. Specific to veterans, Madison Cawthorn, a Republican freshman who sits on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, lost his primary bid yesterday.

Last evening, Senators Tester and Moran reached a deal on Historic Toxic Exposure Legislation to deliver comprehensive relief to all generations of toxic-exposed veterans for the first time in the Nation's history. To get this legislation past the finish line, AMVETS will host Jon Stewart and most of the largest veteran groups in our Nation at Rolling to Remember on Saturday, May 28th.

After a slew of confirmation and budget hearings, we see the House and Senate moving toward legislative mark-ups as they likely work to pass veteran-related legislation before the Memorial Day recess.

The AMVETS Team is running full speed this month as we are officially eight days away from kicking off Rolling To Remember!

See you there!

-Paul Shipley, AMVETS National Third Vice Commander

Pictured: *The Problem With* host and veteran advocate Jon Stewart on Capitol Hill [NBC News photo]

**BURN PITS KILL.
SUPPORT WAR FIGHTERS.**

Join us during Rolling to Remember for:

PACK DC FOR THE PACT ACT

SATURDAY, MAY 28th | 1:00 PM ET | RFK STADIUM LOT 8, WASHINGTON D.C.

Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2021.

VFW VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS. **WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT** **IDAV** **AMVETS** **MOAA** Military Officers Association of America

IAVA IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA **Reserve Organization of America** **VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA** **IAVA** **AMERICAN VETERANS 100**

News Driving the Week

- The top Democrat and Republican on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee [announced a deal Wednesday](#) that would help military veterans who have been exposed to toxic burn pits. An outcome AMVETS has strongly supported. **Full text of the release can be found at the bottom of our newsletter**

Sens. Jon Tester, D-Mont., and Jerry Moran, R-Kan., said the agreement on the legislative package came after a year of intense negotiations with their House counterparts, the White House and veterans' groups.

"This bipartisan legislation is the most comprehensive toxic exposure package the Senate has ever delivered to veterans in this country's history," they said in a joint statement.

- Defense Department officials on Tuesday [unveiled members of panel charged with studying suicide prevention and behavioral health programs](#) across the services, and the nine military installations they'll visit in coming months to evaluate what fixes need to be put in place.

The Suicide Prevention and Response Independent Review, mandated by Congress last year, will include experts in substance abuse, mental health services and lethal weapons safety, as well as a pair of retired military officers to provide insights into problems in the ranks.

The move comes after years of emphasis on suicide prevention and mental health assistance for servicemembers, but with little discernable impact on the overall problem.

- U-TAPO, Thailand — [The remains of an American airman who went missing in action in World War II may finally be on their way home](#), thanks to a chance discovery of records in flood-threatened archives in Thailand.

U.S. and local authorities held a solemn ceremony Wednesday at an air base in eastern Thailand to honor and repatriate remains recently recovered from a rice field in the north of the country.

Upcoming Events

Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
"Hearing to Consider Pending Legislation"
Wednesday, May 24, 3:00 PM
[Watch here](#)

House Veterans Affairs Committee
Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity
"Legislative Hearing"
Wednesday, May 18, 10:00 AM
[Watch here](#)

Rolling To Remember
Friday, May 27th - Sunday, May 29th
Washington, D.C.
[Information HERE](#)

Release text as sent from Senate Veterans Affairs Committee:

BREAKING: Tester, Moran Announce Bipartisan Agreement on Historic Toxic Exposure Legislation

Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee leaders strike deal on legislative package to deliver comprehensive relief to all generations of toxic-exposed veterans for the first time in the nation's history

(U.S. Senate) – Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Ranking Member Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) today announced a bipartisan agreement on comprehensive legislation to deliver all generations of toxic-exposed veterans their earned health care and benefits under the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the first time in the nation's history. For more than a year, Tester and Moran led negotiations

between Democrats, Republicans, House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano, Ranking Member Mike Bost, the Biden Administration and Veterans Service Organizations that resulted in today's agreement—the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022. The Senators released the following statement:

“This bipartisan legislation is the most comprehensive toxic exposure package the Senate has ever delivered to veterans in this country's history. For far too long, our nation's veterans have been living with chronic illnesses as a result of exposures during their time in uniform. Today, we're taking necessary steps to right this wrong with our proposal that'll provide veterans and their families with the health care and benefits they have earned and deserve. In addition to providing historic relief to all generations of toxic-exposed veterans, this legislation will improve claims processing to meet the immediate and future needs of every veteran it serves. Together, we will continue working until Congress delivers on its commitment to passing long-lasting solutions and comprehensive reforms for those who served our country.”

Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson deployed to Kosovo and Iraq with the Ohio National Guard. He died in 2020 from toxic exposure as a result of his military service. Among its many priorities, the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022 will:

- Expand VA health care eligibility to Post-9/11 combat veterans, which includes more than 3.5 million toxic-exposed veterans;
- Create a framework for the establishment of future presumptions of service connection related to toxic exposure;
- Add 23 burn pit and toxic exposure-related conditions to VA's list of service presumptions, including hypertension;
- Expand presumptions related to Agent Orange exposure;
 - o Includes Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Atoll as locations for Agent Orange exposure;
- Strengthen federal research on toxic exposure;
- Improve VA's resources and training for toxic-exposed veterans; and
- Set VA and veterans up for success by investing in:
 - o VA claims processing;
 - o VA's workforce; and
 - o VA health care facilities.

As leaders of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Tester and Moran have long been dedicated to identifying a path forward for unaddressed toxic exposure issues alongside Veterans Service Organizations—remaining committed to delivering comprehensive relief to all generations of toxic-exposed veterans. Once bill text has been finalized, it will be put on the floor for a vote—with Senators expressing urgency that a Senate floor vote take place as soon as possible. After Senate passage, the legislation must be passed by the House before being signed into law by the President.

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