



Another day, another failed attempt to resolve the impending debt ceiling issue.

The clock is running out, and neither President Biden nor Speaker McCarthy shows any signs of giving in. There are 10 days left before the U.S. could potentially default on its loans and send the economy into a tailspin. (Let's hope that doesn't happen.)

In other news, the VA has warned that the massive number of disability claims filed due to the PACT Act could result in the processing backlog doubling over the next year. This could also lead to worker burnout in the department and impact the efficiency and accuracy of claims processors.

There are two major hearings this week regarding the VA's information technology (IT) contracts and COVID-19 supplemental funding's impact on veteran care. The third hearing on the Fiscal 2024 budget allocations has been postponed, but we will continue to keep our eyes open for updates.

Despite the drama, DC is gearing up for Memorial Day. As a reminder, our Rolling to Remember event will take place this weekend. This will be the nation's largest political demonstration of the year and the world's largest one-day motorcycle event. Click the link below for more information; we hope to see you there.

Regardless, we encourage everyone to remember those we have lost. We will continue to advocate on their behalf. Hoping you have a safe and meaningful weekend.

With high regard,

-Paul Shipley, AMVETS National Third Vice Commander

Rolling to Remember 2023



News Driving the Week

President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy have once again [failed to reach a deal](#) on the debt ceiling. Leadership has only 10 days to come to an agreement before a possible default that could have significant implications for the U.S. economy. President Biden continues to push Republican-rejected taxes, while Speaker McCarthy spearheads spending cuts in the federal budget that Biden and the Democrats have labeled "extreme." A default would [impact the daily lives](#) of key populations in the U.S., including veterans, seniors, and government employees.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has issued a warning: the [backlog to process claims could double](#) over the next year. VA Undersecretary for Benefits Joshua Jacobs cites the PACT Act for the surge in disability claims, predicting that the pileup could reach "potentially up to 400,000." Even though the VA is processing claims faster than expected, the department is also concerned about workforce burnout among its employees.

Memorial Day is approaching, and the VA has [added 300,000 new names](#) to its online registry of deceased veterans and service members interred at national cemeteries across the country. The Veterans Legacy Memorial can be accessed [here](#). The site allows family members and friends of deceased veterans to honor their memory through online stories and tributes. It also lets people learn about individuals who served in the military even when they cannot physically visit their final resting sites.

Last week, it was reported that nearly two dozen homeless veterans in New York were displaced to accommodate the influx of migrants. After causing chaos and political uproar, [this story has been proven false](#).

RAND released a study on Tuesday showing no evidence that American veterans harbor [more extreme beliefs](#) than the rest of the American public. In a survey of 1,000 U.S. veterans, researchers found "support for political violence and belief in the Great Replacement are roughly on par with the rest of the country." Some Republicans are jumping on these results to argue for the end of Pentagon funding to fight military extremism in active duty ranks.

On Tuesday, veterans came together in New Jersey to celebrate the [80th anniversary of the Battleship New Jersey](#). Veterans, officers, and other members of the military community spoke to honor the Navy ship that served during World War II, the Vietnam War, and the Korean War among other conflicts.

This Week's Events

AMVETS Rolling to Remember

May 26th to May 28th

[More information HERE](#)

House Veterans Affairs Committee

VA Information Technology Contracting: Challenges in Consolidation of Competition and Conflict of Interest

May 24th @ 8am

[More information HERE](#)

COVID-19 Supplemental Funding: Did It Protect and Improve Veteran Care?

May 23rd @ 10am

[Watch recording HERE](#)

House Appropriations Committee
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Fiscal Year 2024 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies and
Legislative Branch Bills and Interim Suballocation of Budget Allocations
POSTPONED

[More information HERE](#)



Starting July 16th, 988 will be a universal entry point so that no matter where you live in the U.S., you can easily access 24/7 emotional support.

In the meantime, please continue to share 1-800-273-TALK (8255) to be connected with a trained, caring counselor.

We're here for you.

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