



Good afternoon, everyone.

The U.S. has a new Speaker of the House after weeks of uncertainty and political chaos. Speaker Mike Johnson from Louisiana claimed the gavel with the unanimous backing of his party in the chamber, becoming the nation's 56th Member of Congress to hold the position.

Speaker Johnson, while having only served six years in the House of Representatives so far, seems ready to get to work. His top priority is passing major funding bills and avoiding a government shutdown by the November 17 deadline. We continue to hope for collaboration and success in this endeavor; we are keeping our ears to the ground regardless.

Many of the postponed House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) hearings have been rescheduled for the next few weeks. The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC) remains engaged in holding its scheduled hearings. More information on both Committees and their events can be found below.

Other news items this week include updates on the upcoming GOP presidential debate, the ongoing blockade of military promotions in the Senate, and the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Additionally, we encourage you to remember the lives lost in Maine over the past week, as well as those who continue to be impacted by other violence across the world.

As temperatures drop across the country, we hope you are staying safe and warm wherever you are. Have a great week.

With high regard,

-Sandy Vorhies, AMVETS National Third Vice Commander





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Justin Brown, head of our legislative team in Washington, DC, met the new Speaker of the House over the weekend. Justin reports that Speaker Mike Johnson and his wife Kelly were incredibly approachable and "very kind."



Former Vice President Mike Pence [withdrew from the GOP presidential nomination race](#) over the weekend. Next week's debate will air on Wednesday night, and Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said he believes the competition will narrow more "when we get to the debate stage in Miami." At this point, Christie and three other Republican candidates have officially qualified to participate.

New Speaker of the House Mike Johnson has stated that his "first priority" is [avoiding a government shutdown](#) in mid-November. House members must agree to top-line numbers for appropriations bills, which has historically proved challenging. Johnson said he would prefer to avoid pursuing a stopgap measure, but if needed, another continuing resolution would likely extend until January 15.

HillVets is hosting its Ten-Year Anniversary Celebration this Thursday. This invite-only event will feature surprise guests from Congress and the military-connected community at a popular venue in Washington, DC. To donate to HillVets and help it achieve another successful ten years, click [here](#).

For nine months, Sen. Tommy Tuberville has [held up military promotions](#) due to a DoD policy that reimburses travel costs for military members seeking reproductive care outside their home states.

A proposal is being presented in the Senate to change the chamber's rules to allow a vote on many of the nominations en masse. Sen. Tuberville has attacked the White House and the majority in the Senate over this move, claiming "they would rather burn down the Senate than negotiate."

We encourage all of you to keep those impacted by the [tragic shootings in Maine](#) in your thoughts this week. The gunman killed 18 people and injured 13 others with legally purchased firearms. Pundits covering the events are pointing to his history of mental health issues and his status as an Army Reservist. They are also discussing the [coincidental timing of a Senate vote](#) on an amendment limiting gun background checks for veterans that has been attached to the bill funding the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This year marks the [50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War](#). On Saturday, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati honored all Vietnam veterans in a special ceremony, presenting those at the Veteran's Garden in Gate of Heaven Cemetery with an honorary pin for their service during this conflict. A veteran present at the event said, "They weren't treated properly when they came home, and every opportunity we can to thank a Vietnam veteran, I think, is just a great day."

Yesterday, [China hosted and honored two American veterans](#) of World War II for their service in aiding the country against Japan. The two men, Mel McMullen and Harry Moyer, are among the few surviving members of a U.S. military command popularly known as the Flying Tigers. Chinese Vice President Han Zheng met with them and told them that he hoped the spirit of the Flying Tigers could be translated into cooperative efforts between the U.S. and China in the future.

According to new research from the Government Accountability Office (GAO), National Guard and Reserve service members are [less likely to get their veterans' disability claims approved](#) than their active-duty counterparts. Analysts cite incomplete military records and inadequate oversight of the members' injuries as causes for the disparity. Tens of thousands of veterans are likely impacted by these findings despite playing many active-duty roles and other essential functions across the country.





# This Week's Events

November  
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## Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Hearing

"Foundation of Care: Examining Research at the Department of  
Veterans Affairs"

## House Veterans Affairs Committee

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Hearing

"Trust in Transparency: Holding VA Accountable and Protecting  
Whistleblowers"

November  
2

November  
**2**

## House Veterans Affairs Committee

Economic Opportunity Hearing

On Pending Legislation

Tomorrow's SVAC hearing will take place at 3:30pm and can be viewed [here](#).

Thursday's first HVAC hearing will take place at 10am and can be viewed [here](#).

Thursday's second HVAC hearing will take place at 2pm and can be viewed [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.**

The Nimitz Group

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