



Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc. ®

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VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Chairman's Remarks

February started with a trip to attend the Association of the United States Navy (AUSN) Legislative Awards ceremony. The honorees were Senator Roger Wicker of Mississippi and Congresswoman Elaine Luria of Virginia. As many members know, there has been tension between Congresswoman Luria and MVA™ since the hearings on the Blue Water bill where we were snubbed. I used this ceremony as an opportunity to bury the hatchet and I believe I was successful. We cordially discussed a possible extension of the Blue Water Navy line as well as her efforts to maintain and expand the Navy.

I was also able to meet with the Staff Directors for the Democrat and Republican caucuses of the Senate Veterans Committee. The two sides worked together (unusual up in DC) to frame a phased approach to the toxic exposure issue. Although Congressman Takano's PACT Act passed the House, no one was sure it would overcome the 60 vote threshold required in the Senate. The Tester-Moran phased approach calls for 3 phases which MVA™ supports. We are asking the Senate to include a time line for rulemaking in Phase 2. Phase 3 will encompass herbicide exposure as well as radiation and burn pits.

Two weeks later Mike Kvintus and I were back in the DC area, this time in Alexandria VA, for the mid-winter meeting of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs. Many of the Directors remembered us from the Reno presentation last August and we had a good opportunity to meet several of them socially. I discussed HR 3368 with the Guam director and Fort McClellan with the Alabama Secretary. We also had a chance to meet with folks from the Veterans Experience Office. They were interested in our input and ideas and seem to be trying hard. One of them has even signed up as an MVA™ member to learn how we help veterans. It is easy for us to criticize VA employees, and many deserve criticism, but there are also a lot of VA employees trying to do their best to help veterans and we are proud to work with them.

I ambushed, er, I mean accidentally met by happenstance, Secretary McDonough. He seemed to be a very nice man. I was impressed that he drove his personal vehicle with no security detail. The good news is that he promised to schedule a meeting with us. The bad news is that we are still waiting. So we shall see.

The day after the conference, Mike and I met with Mel Bostwick and Mike Joffe, the Washington attorneys who represent us in DC. Brian Lewis, our new Director of Litigation joined us. We completely reviewed our current litigation and discussed some possible future litigation. We owe a lot to Mel and Mike. They have been the heart and soul of our litigation efforts. If we did not have them as force multipliers, Brian, Robin Hood, and I would be hard pressed to maintain an effective litigation strategy at the present level.

This past week I had an oral argument for my law office in DC so I spent a couple of extra days with meetings on the Hill. We met with Congresswoman Luria's Legislative Director and the Congresswoman stopped by to say hi. We also had a very productive meeting with Congresswoman Marie Newman who is the sponsor of HR 5026, the Panama bill. Additionally we chatted with several other Members whom we met informally.

Although we were not allowed to testify before the joint House-Senate Veterans Affairs annual VSO hearing, we were invited to submit written testimony. Our testimony was provided in support of the March 8 hearing and can be found here

https://www.militaryveteransadvocacy.org/uploads/3/4/1/0/3410338/militaryveterans_advocacywritten_testimony.wpd_aptop.pdf. We were frank and direct in our arguments, especially as they concerned the applicability of the Pay as you Go Act (PAYGO). This Act, with its offset requirement, has been the requirement that has repeatedly stymied veterans benefits. I suspect that our testimony raised some eyebrows - but then we always do that.

Our membership is increasing although renewals are running slower than I would like. We have started removing folks without current 2022 memberships from the "Members Only" Facebook pages. Hate to do that but we have to protect the memberships. Come on folks, it's only \$25.00 per year. Robin Barr says she wants to keep busy so let's keep those renewals coming. And don't forget to buy a membership for your spouses as well. Widows, if your spouse died of a service connected illness you are eligible for a free lifetime "widow's membership."

We had a record distribution from Amazon Smile this month. Please sign up for and use this service. Remember, ½ percent of everything you spend comes to us at no cost to you. Bookmark or copy and paste the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3890520> and support us every time you shop. It costs you nothing but it really helps MVA™. Once it is set up, you have to do nothing more than to remember to sign in to Smile.Amazon.com and shop to your heart's content. We have 252 members of this program making 90 purchases per week. Just think of the amount of money we would receive from Amazon if every member and follower signed on.

Until next month, stay steady on course.

John B. Wells
CDR USN (ret)
Chairman



Military-Veterans Advocacy® Chairman John Wells received the Daughters of the American Revolution St. Tammany Chapter Veterans Award.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHIEF OF STAFF

John Wells, Brian Lewis, and I attended the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs in Alexandria, VA from February 22 thru the 26th. This conference is represented by all 50 states and US territories. There were over several hundred in attendance and we got to meet a lot of new contacts including VA employees. Some of them joined MVA™ and some also signed up for MVA™ Amazon smile.

One thing we need to keep in mind is on our sites we conduct ourselves professionally and no political post. We have VA employees and congressional staff on our sites. John and I got to meet face to face with VA Secretary Denis McDonough. The Secretary agreed to meet with us again in April. He asked us to call his secretary and set up an appointment. I can tell you that this in itself made the trip well worth it. We have been trying to get a meeting with him to no avail. John is noted for ambushing VA under Secretary's and as usual he went into stealth mode and ambushed Under Secretary Tom Murphy. Mr. Murphy has also agreed to meet with us. We continue to get MVA out in front and everyone knows us and respects us. During the week we did meet with attorney Mel Bostwick and discussed with her our upcoming court cases and ruling making.

In closing, this trip was a success, and we need to continue to reach out in all directions. Please help us get our membership up to over 2000 so we can become a VSO.

Mike Kvintus
MVA™ Chief of Staff

VA WILL PROPOSE ADDING RARE CANCERS TO THE PRESUMED SERVICE-CONNECTED LIST AS RELATED TO MILITARY ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs intends to propose adding certain rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities in relation to military environmental exposure to particulate matter.

VA determined through a focused review of scientific and medical evidence there is biologic plausibility between airborne hazards, specifically particulate matter, and carcinogenesis of the respiratory tract, and that the unique circumstances of these rare cancers warrant a presumption of service connection.

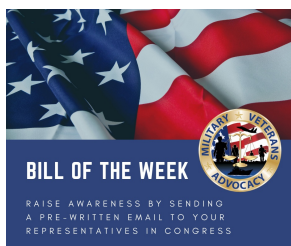
Based on these findings, VA's Secretary is proposing a rule that will add presumptive service connection for several rare respiratory cancers for certain Veterans. The cancers under consideration include:

- Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx.
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea.
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea.
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung.
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung.
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung.
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

"This is the right decision. The rarity and severity of these illnesses, and the reality that these conditions present a situation where it may not be possible to develop additional evidence prompted us to take this critical action," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "We'll continue to hold ourselves accountable to Veterans to provide more care, more benefits and more services to more Veterans than ever before."

VA intends to focus its rule on the rare respiratory cancers above in Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations and other locations. VA will invite and consider public comments as part of this process.

Once rulemaking is complete, VA will conduct outreach to impacted veterans and survivors to inform them about potential eligibility.



BILL OF THE WEEK

We are seeing an uptake in participation in the Bill of the Week which is gratifying, but we still need more support and participation. As this Congress enters its last few months of legislative days, it is imperative that we let Congress know about priorities important to veterans. We hope to start in-person visits again soon, but right now our Bill of the Week is the best way to communicate with Congress. Please support our priorities by signing on at <https://www.militaryveteransadvocacy.org/bill-of-the-week.html>

Legislation

H.R.2127 - TEAM Act (117th Congress)
Sponsor: Rep. Bost, Mike [R-IL-12] (Introduced 03/23/2021)
Has changes in:
Cosponsors (1 new, 59 total)
Cosponsor: 12/20/2021: Rep. McClain, Lisa C. [R-MI-10]

S.2280 - VETS Safe Travel Act (117th Congress)
Sponsor: Sen. Young, Todd [R-IN] (Introduced 06/24/2021)
Has changes in:
Cosponsors (1 new, 7 total)
Cosponsor: 12/17/2021: Sen. Warnock, Raphael G. [D-GA]

Ruiz's two bills that were signed into law as part of this year's NDAA are:
1. H.R. 4397, the Department of Defense (DOD) Burn Pits Health Provider Training Act, which requires DOD to implement mandatory training for all medical providers working under DOD on the potential health effects of burn pits.

2. H.R. 4400, Burn Pit Registry Expansion Act, which requires DOD and VA to expand the Burn Pits Registry to include Egypt and Syria.

As the co-founder of the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Burn Pits Caucus, Ruiz has been a consistent advocate for servicemembers exposed to toxic burn pits and their families.

Slotkin Provisions on PFAS, Supply Chains, Burn Pits, Pass in Bipartisan Defense Budget

Biden signs Defense Department's Budget into law with Congresswoman's amendments on a range of issues relevant to Michigan, including PFAS contamination, supply chain vulnerabilities, and toxic burn pit exposure. President Joe Biden signed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) into law, which will fund the Pentagon and the U.S. military for the coming year.

Susie Belanger
Director of Legislation
Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc. ®

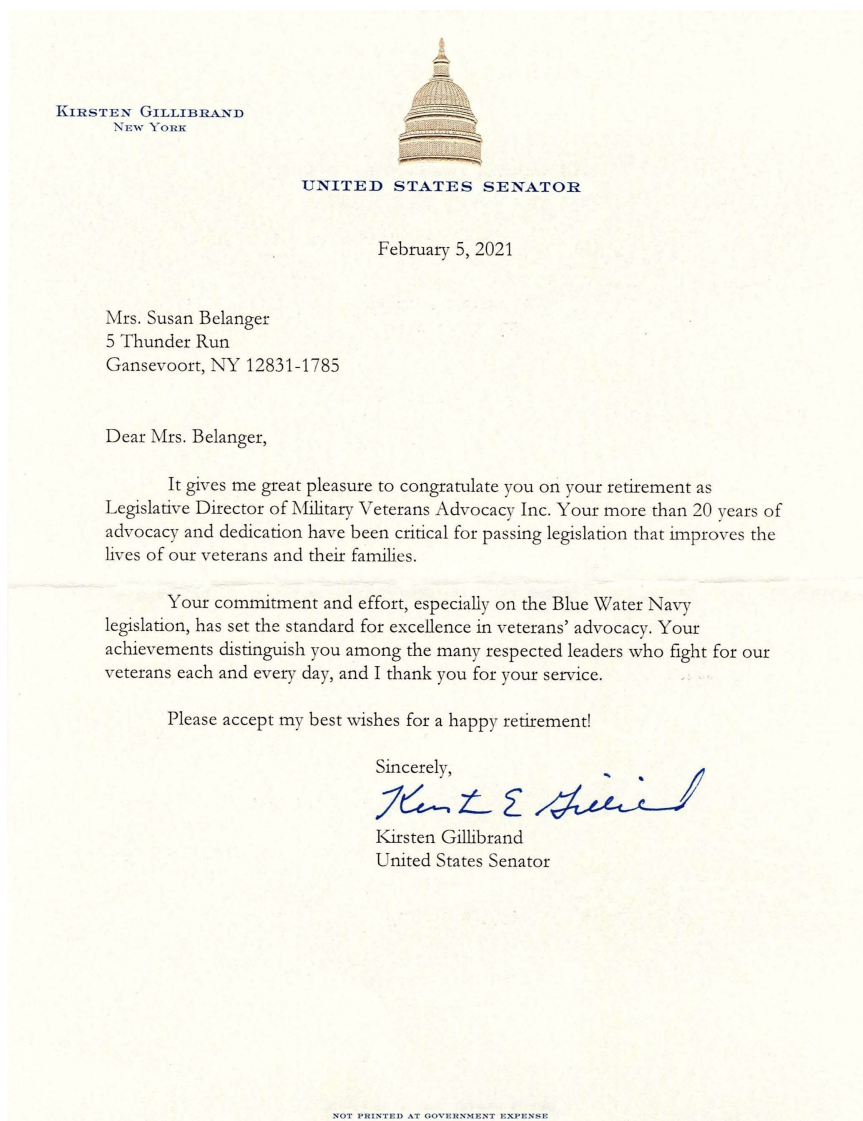
Update on Toxic Exposure Legislation

Two important bills have passed one house of Congress. HR 3967, the Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins (PACT) Act of 2021 has passed the House by a vote of 256-174. S 3541 Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act has passed the Senate unanimously. The bills are not similar. HR 3967 is the better bill in that it includes herbicide issues in Guam, Johnston Island, American Samoa, Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia and radiation to include Eniwetok and Palomares. However, S 3541 probably has the best chance of being enacted. The problem, as it always is, is the effect of the Pay As You Go Act of 2010. This law requires an offset any time new mandatory spending is added by Congress. The medical coverage of S 3541 is not considered mandatory spending. The compensation in HR 3967 is considered mandatory spending. At \$208 billion there are no offsets available to fund the bill and no waiver has been enacted. The problem is that the bill needs 60 votes to move to the floor. Without it HR 3967 will die.

Senators Tester and Moran have envisioned S 3541 as being the first step in a three-phase process to reach the same goals as the PACT bill. The idea is to cover burn pit medical costs first, then in the next two phases streamline the methodology the VA uses to add presumptive diseases and then to address compensation across the board.

So which bill do we support? All of the above. While Congress works on funding PACT, it just makes good sense for the House to pass S 3541 or its companion bill of HR 6659. It's not what anyone wants but it is better than what we are doing now. Additionally, we need to push for HR 3368 (which is partially included in PACT), HR 2269 (which is completely included in PACT), and HR 5026 (which is not included in PACT). Meanwhile we will continue to push MVA™ priorities via rule making and litigation. So for now, call your Senators and ask them to pass PACT and call your House Member and ask them to pass S 3541/HR 6659 and HR 3368, 2269 and 5026. Also let's remember our radiated

veterans by supporting HR 1585 (Eniwetok), HR 2580/S 1151 (Palomares), and HR 1355/S 454 (K2 Uzbekistan). These three bills are included in PACT. All of these bills are also covered by our Bill of the Week program. Sign on and send an email then pick up the phone and call your Member of Congress and Senators. Support all of these bills. We need them.



Tester-Moran Phased Approach to Toxic Exposure

Due to cost concerns with the PACT/COST bills, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee developed a phased approach to toxic exposure. The first idea was to quickly pass things that everyone agreed upon while they worked out the remainder of the issues. The first Phase is reelected in S 3541 and its companion bill HR 6659.

Phase 1: Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act.

S 3541 has been cosponsored by every member of the SVAC and passed the Senate by unanimous consent. This bill helps stop the bleeding by providing an expansion of health care eligibility for combat veterans who served after

September 11, 2001. Specifically, the bill:

- Expands the eligibility, from five years following discharge to ten years;
- Provides a one-year open enrollment period for any Post-9/11 combat veteran who is more than 10 years from separation;
- Establishes an outreach plan to contact veterans who did not enroll during their initial period of enhanced eligibility;
- Directs VA to incorporate a clinical screening regarding a veteran's potential exposures and symptoms commonly associated with toxic substances;
- Mandates toxic exposure-related education and training for VBA & VHA personnel at VA; and
- Strengthens federal research on toxic exposures.

Although Military-Veterans Advocacy® feels that this is only a first step, it is an important first step. We look forward to its passage and to working with you on expanding its provisions.

Phase 2. Establish a new presumptive process at VA to bolster VBA's capacity to process claims.

MVA™ notes that the VA Secretary announced on August 2, 2022 a new initiative to streamline the presumptive process. We welcome this initiative and encourage Congress to build on the VA initiative. Establishing a new, transparent process through which the VA will determine future presumptive conditions will help to restore confidence in the toxic exposure coverage process.

The VA is empowered under 38 U.S.C. § 501 to issue regulations that are not encumbered by PAYGO requirements. They have successfully issued regulations to cover portions of Korea, portions of Thailand, and the C-123 aircraft among others. Under the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, an entity such as MVA™ can request the Secretary to issue regulations. Should the Secretary decline to do so, or should the regulations be inadequate, judicial review is available. The problem is that there is no timeline for the Secretary to act on these rulemaking requests.

Currently, MVA™ has outstanding rulemaking requests on herbicide exposure in Thailand, Okinawa, and the Panama Canal Zone. Although the rulemaking requests have been approved, there is no indication that the Secretary is prepared to issue the notice of proposed regulation or for that matter, to even respond to the rulemaking request. Accordingly we have asked that the following be included in Phase II,

- Response/decision to approve/disapprove rulemaking due to requester 270 days after receipt.
- Provision for one time extension with notice to requester 180 days after original due date.
- Publication of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking 180 days from response.
- Receive comments on Proposed Rule 60 days after publication.
- Publish Final Rule 180 days after comments

Inclusion of the timeline will prevent the VA from merely ignoring rulemaking requests or delegating them to a "pending" status with no action. MVA™ strongly recommends that this timeline be made applicable to all pending rulemaking.

Phase 3 Provide long-overdue benefits to toxic exposure veterans by establishing a number of new presumptives and recognizing various populations of toxic-exposed veterans who have been ignored for far too long.

MVA™ anticipates that this phase will engender the most debate. Included will be opposition from the VA as well as a struggle to obtain offsets. Accordingly, where applicable, we have broken down this phase by existing and proposed legislation. MVA™ suggests that it might be easier to enact the separate bills currently introduced that cover toxic exposure. This would include herbicide, radiation, and burn pits. Meanwhile MVA™ will continue with rulemaking and litigation to try to enact benefits without waiting for legislation.

We must continue to push for the adaption of PACT/COST but we should not put all of our eggs in one basket. Often a flanking attack works better than a frontal assault. So we will continue to pursue all avenues to meet our goals.



Hello Shipmates (and the odd Jarhead, Puddle Pirate, and/or Ground Pounder), I have a lot of information to share with you in a, hopefully, short amount of space. This lawyer prefers not to be long-winded. However, there are a lot of developments taking place in our legal world, and you deserve to be brought up to date.

First, I would like to introduce you to my paralegal, Jacob Lewis. He enlisted in the Army Reserve while still in high school as a medical logistics specialist and served with a detachment of A Company, 801st Combat Support Hospital. Jake then went active duty in the Army and changed his MOS to cavalry scout by attending the Fort Benning School for Wayward Boys, and then served with A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) at Fort Drum, New York. He is currently in school, through the VA's Veteran Readiness and Employment program (formerly known as Voc Rehab), to become a paralegal and, eventually, a licensed attorney in the State of Minnesota. Jake takes care of a lot of my paperwork and makes sure I am where I need to be when I need to be there.

Second, MVA™ has submitted an amicus brief at the Supreme Court in *Buffington v. McDonough*. The case number at the Supreme Court is 21-972. You can find our brief on the web at <http://www.supremecourt.gov>, click the case documents tab, click on docket search, and then type in the case number. The important part of our brief for you to know is that we assert the “pro-veteran canon” is a regular canon of statutory interpretation (basically a tool that helps a court to read an ambiguous law), and the Federal Circuit must always apply it in a veterans’ case before granting the VA deference in interpreting its regulations. MVA™ heartily thanks Mel Bostwick and her team at Orrick for their exceptional service and tenacity in helping veterans fighting the VA.

Third, MVA™ submitted an amicus brief in the case of *George v. McDonough*. The case number at the Supreme Court is 21-234. You can find our brief on the web at <http://www.supremecourt.gov>, click the case documents tab, click on docket search, and then type in the case number. The important part of our brief for you to know is that we assert Veterans Service Officers are (obviously) not the equivalent of an attorney in practicing veterans’ law and that, because a VSO’s main job is to cooperate with the VA, they are not well equipped to make legal arguments. Since that is the case, when VA makes an error in the interpretation of the law, that mistake should count as clear and unmistakable error such that it gives rise to a claim to fix the error. MVA™ heartily thanks Mike Joffe and his team at Sterne Kessler for their service to veterans fighting against the VA.

Fourth, we are continuing to submit comments on several proposed rules that the VA pumped out. Most of you have seen the news articles about the proposed rules on the mental health and sleep disorders rating scales. We also will submit comment on the proposed rule eliminating and reducing copays for mental health care and medicine.

Fifth, on one of our Facebook groups, I saw someone who was or is considering using what we politely call a “VA claims consulting company.” I cannot urge you enough to not even think about doing so. These companies are not accredited by VA to assist in claim preparation. That means you will still be legally responsible for everything that happens or doesn’t happen with your claim as far as VA is concerned. Second, their fees tend to be excessive, often being somewhere around 5-6 times the amount of the increase you received in your monthly rating. An accredited attorney, by contrast, generally receives no more than 20-30 percent of the backpay due. It is also difficult to get an attorney to represent you after using one of these companies because we can’t see what damage they did to your claim. They also retain their right to payment through the state courts. I’m not sure if any court has held these contracts to be unlawful, but it will take a good lawyer to get you out of these contracts. No one has had any luck in getting the VA Office of General Counsel to go after these companies, so they are able to continue their trade unimpeded. Please consider the above when considering some of these companies to break your logjam with

the VA.

Sixth, I had the chance to go to some recent Capitol Hill visits with Commander Wells from March 7-8. We presented to three offices and had a personal meeting with Congresswoman Marie Newman (D-IL 3). Congress seems to be slowly getting the idea that the military and VA suffer from a culture of hiding the past and denying what happened. I would like to personally thank Congresswoman Newman for her willingness to confront this culture. We hope to work closely with her office in the future.

Finally, feel free to reach out to me and give me things you see and suggestions on how we can better serve you on the legal front. I am a member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Board and I am happy to hear from members and take your feedback to Board meetings. My email is

<mailto:brian.lewis@mvadvocacy.org>.

Brian Lewis, Esq.

MVA™ Director of Litigation

HVAC Subcommittee Reviews Programs for Survivors and Dependents

The following article is from FRA (Fleet Reserve Association) Newsbytes.

The House Veterans Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held an oversight hearing entitled, Honoring our Promise: Reviewing the Effectiveness of Services for Survivors and Dependents. The hearing reviewed the effectiveness of Department of Veterans Affairs services for dependents and survivors. It was noted at the hearing, that surviving family members are often unaware that the benefits they may be entitled to receive are significantly less than what veterans receive in disability compensation, resulting in unanticipated financial hardship.

The FRA is supporting the Caring for Survivors Act (S.976, H.R.3402) that seeks to increase payments to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation recipients, currently 43 percent of retired pay, to be equal with payments to surviving spouses of other Federal employees (55 percent). The rate of compensation paid to survivors of service members who die in the line of duty - or veterans who die from service-related injuries or diseases - has been minimally adjusted since its establishment in 1993. DIC payments currently lag behind other program payments by 12 percent. Members can go to FRA Action Center to weigh in on this legislation.

<https://www.fra.org/FRA/Web/Content/VotervoiceFullInfo.aspx?vvsrc=%2fcampaigns%2f83878%2frespond>

The FRA is also supporting the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act (H.R.2214, S.1669) that would authorize the retention of the full final month's retired pay by the surviving spouse (or other designated survivor) for the month in which the member was alive for at least 24 hours. Members can contact their legislators to ask their support.

<https://www.fra.org/FRA/Web/Content/VotervoiceFullInfo.aspx?vvsrc=%2fcampaigns%2f62805%2frespond>

For dependents, the FRA is supporting the CHAMPVA Children's Protection Act (H.R.1801, S.727) to extend coverage from age 23 to age 26 for dependents whose veteran parents are disabled or who have died from a service-connected disability. The FRA is also supporting the Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act (H.R.475, S.1972, respectively) that would allow young adults to stay on TRICARE health plans until age 26. To ask your legislators to support these proposals go online here

<https://www.fra.org/FRA/Web/Content/VotervoiceFullInfo.aspx?vvsrc=%2fcampaigns%2f81733%2frespond>



BLUE WATER NAVY ASSOCIATION™

We have started doing the research on Deck Logs again. We have changed the procedures on how we do them. We are focusing on doing the work for our Due paying Members. What this means is we will NOT send any Deck Logs to Non-Due Paying Members. One other change is that we have changed the way we will handle requests from an Attorney, Veterans Service Officer, or Veterans Service Organization. For the rules on how we handle requests from an Attorney, Veterans Service Officer or Veterans Service Organization, please contact Mike Yates at <mailto:mike.yates@mdavocacy.org> or Robin Barr at <mailto:robin.barr@mdavocacy.org>

We will only provide one date of a Deck Log, one day Dead Reckoning (unless the start or end position is the day before or day after), or Combat Naval Gunfire Support File (CONGA) for dues paying Members and Widows (No Dues needed). To make a Deck Log Request please go to https://www.bwnvva.org/decklog_req.html

Mike Yates
Director, Blue Water Navy™
Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc. ®



VETERANS OF PANAMA CANAL ZONE™

BIG news...The VA Secretary has granted our Rulemaking Request. We are delighted that our Chairman, Commander John Wells, has led the way so that Panama veterans will finally have a chance of being heard. Thank you, Commander Wells!! We are now waiting for the final rules to be made. The VA/DoD/Federal Pesticide Review Board and other stakeholders will convene to look over the evidence for Panama. The MVA™ will be submitting written testimony on March 9th in support of Panama and our H.R. 5026. The final Rules for Panama will appear in the Federal Register once finally written. Please see the letter here: https://www.militaryveteransadvocacy.org/uploads/3/4/1/0/3410338/mva_rulemaking_request_approved_2.17.22.pdf

House passes Congresswoman Newman's amendment on study of Panama Canal Veterans impacted by Agent Orange

As part of the Honoring our PACT Act, the House of Representatives on Thursday March 3, 2022 passed Congresswoman Marie Newman's (IL-03) amendment to require the Department of Defense (DOD) to conduct a study on veterans who served in or near the Panama Canal Zone and may have been exposed to deadly tactical herbicide, also known as Agent Purple or Agent Orange. This Amendment builds on Rep. Newman's Panama Canal Zone Veterans Act,

which would grant federal benefits to Panama Canal Zone veterans who were exposed to deadly tactical herbicide. Click here to watch Congresswoman Newman's floor speech on the amendment

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lk4rYe_PzjThqQsnkKaoB9UUzqQqDMUj/view

Long-Term Environmental Impacts of Pesticide and Herbicide Use in Panama Canal Zone...Dr. Kenneth Olson has placed the Olson/Tornoe paper in NARA under the Vietnam project and in the Dr. Kenneth Olson drawer. He is teaching at the University of Illinois using the Olson/Tornoe paper, which may be his last class after 45 years of teaching. He and the Merry Band of Retirees are instrumental in helping to get Panama heard by the public. I will forever be grateful. Our paper is running second in the number of downloads around the world of his 140+ papers he has written. This is a real honor for me personally as I continue to research with his team.

Membership...Welcome new members!!! We appreciate your support! Thank you to all who continue to support our push to get Panama recognized as a place where dioxin was used.

We are all playing our part of History in the Making! Together we are changing lives!

Your membership means everything to us as we can't do it without you!

Donna Tornoe
Director, Veterans of Panama Canal Zone™
Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc. ®

SUSIE COIN UPDATE

Susie coins are flying out to life members and Early Bird members. If you are eligible and have not received your coin by the middle of March, contact Robin Barr at <mailto:robin.barr@madvocacy.org>. Robin and our new Administrative Assistant Chandra Klein have spent a bunch of hours preparing these for mailing. A lot of lessons learned to streamline the process for next year.



Yes, it is back! The 2022 rifle raffle will be held on Armed Forces Day, May 21, 2022. This year we are raffling off a Remington 870 shotgun, a Model 1911 .45 caliber pistol, a steel target, and \$250 cash. Tickets should be available by mid-March and are only \$40.00 per ticket.

NOTE: Due to Facebook rules, you will notice that the raffle will be advertised as the "Rif-Raf." I don't make the rules folks, but they drove us crazy last year. So "Rif-Raf" is the code word for Rifle Raffle.

For further information watch our web site and Facebook pages. Please feel free to reach out to Chandra Klein at <mailto:chandra.klein@madvocacy.org> for any questions.





Our vendor ran into some supply chain issues compounded by a larger influx of orders for Mardi Gras and some orders were missed. We think we have caught up now but if you have ordered something and not received it contact Bob Johnson at <mailto:info@johnsonmarketingllc.com>. Meanwhile, check out our array of MVA™ and Section gear at <https://military-veterans-advocacy.square.site/>

If you have questions about membership, contact Robin Barr at Robin.Barr@mvadvocacy.org

Be sure to visit our online marketplace. We offer a variety of products from all of our sections and are continuing to add new products. <https://military-veterans-advocacy.square.site/>