

Know A Vet™

A division of Friends Of The Vet Center

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Know A Vet News

April 8, 2019

VETERANS | DEPENDENTS | PHILANTHROPY | SERVICE PROVIDERS



In Upcoming Issues

FREE tickets to a San Jose Giant's baseball game for vets and families. Plus "Your Benefits Upgraded" and a FREE gift. IN THE NEXT ISSUE

A New Way To Help Vets - One at a time!

A series on **Agent Orange**, including: **GENERATIONAL Effects**; the latest "presumptive illnesses"; a widow's guide to claims after death of a loved one, and more. IF WE GET SOME HELP. **PLEASE GIVE US A FEW HOURS.**

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GOOD NEWS FOR BLUE WATER NAVY-IF VA Secretary Won't Recommend Appeal in Blue Water Navy Benefits Case

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie told senators on Tuesday that the department is not recommending an appeal to the Procopio vs. Wilkie decision, a Jan. 29 court ruling that restored benefits to veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange during their service off the coast of Vietnam.



Until Tuesday's Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing, VA officials were silent about whether they intended to contest the decision by appealing to the Supreme Court before the window for appeal closed at the end of April. Prior to the announcement, MOAA and other veteran advocacy groups wrote to President Donald Trump requesting that he tell the Department of Justice not to appeal the ruling.

[CALL TO ACTION: Ask Your Legislators to Support Blue Water Navy Veterans]

[Blue Water Navy Article](#)



Our Benefits Disappearing

This article from the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a follow up of the cry I started in the last issue about the erosion of our benefits. If you don't have time to read *The Shock Doctrine*, read this article to see how, even though the budget goes up, more of it is privatized, so we get less care at more cost, while making private companies richer.

[Budget goes up. Service goes down.](#)

Tax Breaks For Caregivers

If you haven't finished your taxes yet, here is a reminder that you may be able to take a deduction if you care for your parents.

See the article from Care.com
[Tax Breaks For Care Givers](#)



Then also look at all the help caregivers qualify for - on [our web page, Helping Yourself](#) and [check your benefits](#) because your vet may be entitled to Aid and Attendance, as well as other medical and financial services.

[You may also want to read this article from MOAA while the erosion of our benefits can still be stopped. Click here.](#)

Your TRICARE Benefits Are in the Crosshairs – Again



Run As One - April 13th

There is still time to register to run or walk or just show your support by turning out (for free), or donating.

The event helps Vets who participate, as well as three organizations who help vets and communities all year around.

Team Red, White & Blue

Team Rubicon

The Mission Continues

"If I had one thing to say to my fellow veterans, it would be this: continue to serve, even though we have taken off our uniforms." - Clay Hunt, USMC

[Run For One Information](#)



We NEED Your Help - PLEASE

All we are asking for is as little as an hour or two a month, or a simple project, with no ongoing commitment.

These are things you've done before such as
Google searches for background for our articles
Editing our newsletter - putting articles into templates
Social networking with other vets, or,
Entering people into our database.

It's stuff you know how to do. PLEASE just give us a few hours to help vets in trouble.

[How You Can Help](#)

Help For Women Vets - MAYBE

Senator Jon Tester (MT), Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, introduced S. 514, the Deborah Sampson Act. This legislation, a comprehensive measure addressing gender disparities, aims to improve and expand Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) programs and services for women veterans.

The bill would permanently authorize counseling for veterans recently separated from military service and accompanying family members in group retreat settings, including in women-exclusive settings. It would extend the number of days, from seven to 14, VA may cover the cost of care for newborns of women veterans. It would also provide adoption assistance to veterans who have infertility conditions incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

S. 514 aims to eliminate barriers to care by:

- Adding \$20 million to retrofit VA medical facilities to comply with environment of care deficiencies;
- Requiring every VA medical facility to have at least one full-time or part-time designated women's health provider on staff;
- Studying the staffing needs of Women Veteran Program Managers in addition to determining the need for a Women Veterans Ombudsman;
- Conducting mini-residency training for women's health providers;
- Requiring VA to create a training module for community providers specific to women veterans' unique medical needs;



- Providing support services for women veterans seeking legal assistance;
- Authorizing grants for organizations supporting women veterans and their families;
- Requiring VA to report on its use of various primary care models serving women veterans;
- Requiring VA to provide information on staffing levels of women's health providers including PACT team members and gynecologists;
- Requiring data collection and reporting on all VA programs serving veterans, by gender and minority status;
- Requiring VA to report on the availability of prosthetics for women veterans; and
- Centralizing all information for women veterans in one easily accessible place on VA's website.

DAV's 2018 report, *Women Veterans: The Journey Ahead* identified many of these gaps in VA programs for women and calls for comprehensive VA women's health services that appropriately recognize and honor their military service and sacrifices. This bill is also consistent with DAV Resolution No. 019, which supports enhanced medical services and benefits for women veterans.

Please contact your Senators to urge co-sponsorship and passage of S. 514. A letter has been prepared for this purpose or you may write your own to express your personal views.

[Women's Legislation](#)



Not sure where to start with VA?

Whether you're just getting out of the service or you've been a civilian for years now, the [VA Welcome Kit](#) can help guide you to the benefits and services you've earned. Step-by-step instructions on how to enroll in VA health care, apply for a disability rating, education benefits, memorials, and more.

[Download the VA Welcome Kit](#)



Call, [chat online](#), or text to 838255

Do A Vet A Favor

If our newsletters are of value to you, or more importantly, could be of value to a family member, friend, ex-military buddy, co-worker, etc., PLEASE do them the favor of getting them involved so they, or someone they know can get help with any of the 80+ issues under "[Welcome](#)", including more benefits and money!

The services we provide do NOT come from the VA and all our staff are volunteers. We rely on private donations and partnerships with community resources.

Support our work: helping those who served, return to their best life.

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