

VFW SERVICE OFFICER NOTES FOR THE TEN-HUT February 2018

NEW NEWS!!!!

Veterans Can Now Schedule Appointments Online

New Online Appointment Scheduling Service Integrated with My HealtheVet

Veterans at more than 100 VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) across the country are now able to request or schedule certain types of appointments online through My HealtheVet.

What does this mean for you?

If you have VA health care benefits, you can schedule or request some of your VA health appointments online if:

- You have one of these two types of free VA accounts: [My HealtheVet Premium Account](#) or [DS Logon Premium Account](#)
- You are scheduling your appointment with a VA medical facility that accepts online scheduling. [Check to see if your VA Medical Center offers online scheduling](#) .

What types of appointments can I schedule online?

- You can schedule a **primary care** appointment at a participating VA facility where you have had a primary care appointment in the **last two years**.
- You may also be able to schedule specialty appointments, such as **outpatient mental health, optometry, and audiology**, at participating facilities.

[Login to Schedule a Health Appointment Online](#)

What if my facility or appointment type is not supported?

If your facility does not currently participate in online scheduling, please know that we are working to expand access to additional medical centers. We are also working to add additional appointment types. If you need to make an appointment immediately, you can still call the VA health facility where you want to receive care. [Find your VA health facility's phone number](#).

Communications to our New Senator

With the resignation of Senator Al Franken, our new Senator to the US Congress is Senator Tina Smith. As of this writing, she does not have an electronic means of contacting her office. Her contact information can be found on:

https://www.senate.gov/senators/115thCongress/Smith_Tina.htm. Your inputs/comments can be

sent via “snail Mail” to the following address: Senator Tina Smith, 309 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. Phone: 202.224.5641.

Attention Military Retirees!

I have happened to notice there is a significant number of military retirees that are members of Post 1287. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) has changed their mailing addresses. In case if you haven't done so already update your contact information.

Issues Regarding Military Retired Pay

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Retired Pay
8899 E. 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200

Issues for Survivor Benefits Plan (SBP)

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
8899 E. 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46249-1300

Again, Military Retirees!

Reminder, if you want to have your pension exempt from Federal Withholding, you will need to file a new W-4 and send to DFAS after January 1 and No Later Than early February. Download the W-4 from www.irs.gov and complete and fax to: 800.469.6559. The only advantage to withholding is your monthly retirement checks will be greater, however at the end of the year you will have a reduced refund or have to pay in a larger amount. Essentially all you're doing is not allowing the Federal Government to use your money interest free.

Attention all Cold War Veterans!

Support HR 1419! This is a bill that is currently in committee in the US House of Representatives. The intention of this bill is to recognize those whom performed military service during the Cold War. Visit <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1419>.

Do You Intend to Pursue a Postsecondary Education?

If so, you might want to check out the Veterans Upward Bound Program. This program is sponsored and managed by the US Department of Education. Here are some details and a website you can find additional details.

Program Description

Veterans Upward Bound is designed to motivate and assist veterans in the development of academic and other requisite skills necessary for acceptance and success in a program of postsecondary education. The program provides assessment and enhancement of basic skills through counseling, mentoring, tutoring and academic instruction in the core subject areas. The primary goal of the program is to increase the rate at which participants enroll in and complete postsecondary education programs. Visit: <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/triovub/index.html>

Attention Female Veterans!

I'm pleased to share the following recent Messages from the Center for Women Veterans (CWV) to keep you in the loop about what we're working on or find interesting. If there's a topic you'd like to learn more about in this forum, drop me a line at 00W@va.gov. You can access all Messages from the Center on the [CWV Messages webpage](#).

Thank you for your service and support,

Kayla M. Williams

Director, Center for Women Veterans

Chairwoman and New Members Appointed to VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the appointment of a new chairwoman and four new members to the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, an expert panel that advises the VA Secretary on issues and programs of importance to women Veterans, their families and caregivers. For information about VA's benefits and services for women Veterans, visit www.va.gov/womenvet or contact the Women Veterans Call Center at [855-829-6636](tel:855-829-6636). The call center is available to address concerns of women Veterans, their families and caregivers from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. (EST), and Saturday, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. (EST).

Interesting!

The [Veterans Curation Program \(VCP\)](#) is a five-month program that provides employment, vocational training, and technology skills to veterans seeking to improve their access to the mainstream job market.

The VCP was created to process at-risk archaeological collections belonging to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Many of these collections require rehabilitation in order to meet federal standards, and the VCP employs veterans as laboratory technicians to perform this work. This includes cleaning, re-housing, photographing, and cataloging, providing veterans a valuable bridging experience from active duty into the public sector.

The VCP is managed by [New South Associates \(NSA\)](#), a women-owned small business (WOSB) Georgia corporation.

128k Signatures for a Petition Sponsored by the VFW – We Need YOU!

We need to support this VFW, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and the Paralyzed Veterans of America initiative.

The “Caring for our Veterans Act of 2017” bill is headed to the full Senate and House for passage. This bill will provide a living stipend to the caregivers of disabled military veterans. Caregivers would receive a stipend to alleviate the financial burden of being a full-time caregiver. Furthermore this would allow disabled veterans to remain in their homes rather than going to an institutionalized health care facility.

At the present time, this law applies only to veterans injured after September 11, 2001. This bill will allow caregiver benefits to veterans severely injured during and prior to the Vietnam War. Following a two-year period, the program would expand to include veterans of all eras.