



Federal Update for October 21 - 25, 2013



Statement from VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki on the Passing of Chairman Bill Young

WASHINGTON – “With the passing of Chairman Bill Young, our Nation’s Veterans, Servicemembers, their families, and our Survivors have lost a true friend and champion in the Congress.

"Throughout his decades of public service, Chairman Young was steadfast in his commitment to those who have worn the uniforms of our Nation. Many a Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve found him walking the halls of our military hospitals, embodying Abraham Lincoln’s charge, '... to care for [those] who shall have borne the battle and for [their families].'

“We, at VA, are grateful for Chairman Young’s commitment and his leadership and express deepest condolences to his family.”

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month for the military. Sometimes the hardest wounds to treat are those that you cannot see. When these wounds are left untreated or undiagnosed, they can wreak havoc on a servicemember's life and the lives of those around them. This month, Military OneSource at www.militaryonesource.mil/ (Military Community and Family Policy) is highlighting resources available to servicemembers and their families to help support healthy relationships. If you have a question and you are not sure where to go, visit your installation's family center or call the Military OneSource line at 1-800-342-9647 or read the [Warrior Care Blog](#).

VA Claim Tips Update ► Secondary Service Connection Claims

Most veterans know that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides disability benefits to vets who suffered an injury or illness directly connected to their service. They also know that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides disability benefits to vets who suffered an injury or illness directly connected to their service. However, these same veterans may not know that the VA also provides benefits for conditions caused or worsened by the initial service-connected disability. These are known as secondary service-connected impairments. Secondary service connection may be established for an illness or impairment which was caused or worsened by an existing service-connected disability. The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) says "A disability which is proximately due to, or the result of a service-connected disease or injury, shall be service-connected, and shall be considered part of the original service-connected condition."

Although the VA promises such benefits to disabled veterans, actually receiving them may not be easy. Proving that your new condition was the result of your service-connected impairment or that your existing condition was made worse by your service-connected impairment may require extensive medical evidence and visits to doctors. For example, if you injured your left knee in service, you may be entitled to service-connected benefits for the left knee. However, what if the injury to your left knee caused an alteration to your gait, forcing you to deal with the pain in your left knee by putting more weight on your right knee? If you later develop a problem in your right knee, you may be entitled to disability compensation for the right knee as secondary to the left knee. Other examples of secondary service-connected disabilities are the many conditions that result from diabetes, which the VA has presumed to be related to exposure to Agent Orange and other toxic substances. Veterans with a diabetes diagnosis due to chemical exposure may be eligible for secondary claims based on:

- Peripheral artery disease
- Ischemic heart disease
- Carotid artery disease
- Stroke

- Kidney disease
- Hypertension
- Diseases of the eye

Other examples of secondary service connection include:

- Back pain resulting from a hip condition.
- Medication for PTSD that causes erectile dysfunction.
- Tinnitus that accompanies service-connected hearing loss.
- Depression or other mental illness resulting from losses caused by service-connected injuries, such as traumatic brain injury, hearing loss and other life-changing injuries.
- Heart disease arising from service-connected hypertension.
- Heart disease resulting from certain service-connected amputations

Things to Remember When Seeking Benefits for Secondary Service Connection:

Some claims for VA disability benefits are relatively straightforward. Others, however, can be complex. There are some things to keep in mind when seeking VA disability benefits for a secondary service connection:

- Be sure you have good evidence that the new disability was the result of an accepted service-connected disability.
- It is likely that you will need an expert medical opinion about the cause and effect relationship of your service-connected disability and your new condition.
- Your primary, or first, service-connected condition must be on record.
- It is important that your medical records show diagnosis and treatment of the secondary condition.

An advocate or claims agent knowledgeable about this type of VA disability claim can help you. Numerous ones can be found on the internet, however, many of these charge fees after a free consultation. Veterans can contact the DAV Chapter, Department or National Service Officers nearest them to file a claim without paying any fees. To locate one refer to <http://www.dav.org/veterans/find-your-local-office/>. [Source:

Homeless Vets Update ► Fort Snelling Conversion Project

The Minneapolis VA Medical Center will convert five old buildings at Fort Snelling into 58 apartments for homeless Veterans and their families. Renovations work expected to begin in late 2013 or early 2014. The project represents one aspect of VA's nationwide effort to end Veteran homelessness by 2015. "Building Utilization Review and Repurposing (BURR) is a Department-wide effort to identify empty buildings and land for repurposing," explained Ralph Heussner, public affairs officer for the Minneapolis VA. "This contributes to two important VA goals: fighting Veteran homelessness and decreasing VA's inventory of vacant and underutilized buildings. VA's \$15 million Fort Snelling project covers six acres and renovation of five buildings. "A third benefit," he added, "is that it allows VA to preserve and restore some of its many historically valuable structures."

Fort Snelling is what is known as an 'unorganized territory' located near Minneapolis. It contains numerous military and other federal facilities, including historic Fort Snelling, its cemetery and the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. Fixer-Upper — Building 227 and four other VA-owned buildings at Fort Snelling, Minn., are scheduled to be transformed into apartments for homeless Veterans and their families. The renovation of five historic buildings at Fort Snelling is part of a broader effort by VA to end Veteran homelessness by 2015. In November 2011 the Department announced plans to enter into agreements to provide more than 3,000 units of permanent and transitional housing for Veterans at 25 of its medical center campuses nationwide and that more agreements are planned for an additional 1,000 units. Proposed opportunities include housing for homeless Veterans, senior Veterans, disabled Veterans, other at-risk Veteran populations and their families.

VA's \$15 million Fort Snelling project covers six acres and will include the renovation of Building 210, an old stable where cavalry officers once kept their horses and Building 211, where GIs repaired tanks during World War II. Fort Snelling was decommissioned as a military post in 1946. "The five buildings will contain multi-bedroom units," said Lisa Pape, national director of VA's Homeless

and Residential Rehab Treatment Programs. "This will likely make them attractive to Veterans with families, as well as the growing number of homeless women Veterans who have children." [Source: VA News | Tom Cramer | 26 Sep 2013 ++]

POW/MIA Update ► The Big Lie

The Department of Defense unit charged with recovering servicemembers' remains abroad has been holding phony "arrival ceremonies" for seven years, with an honor guard carrying flag-draped coffins off of a cargo plane as though they held the remains returning that day from old battlefields. The Pentagon acknowledged 9 OCT that no honored dead were in fact arriving, and that the planes used in the ceremonies often couldn't even fly, and were towed into position. The story was first reported on nbcnews.com. The ceremonies at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii are held up as a sign of the nation's commitment to its fallen warriors. They have been attended by veterans and families of MIAs, led to believe that they were witnessing the return of Americans killed in World War II, Vietnam and Korea. In a statement sent to NBC News, the Pentagon wrote:

"Part of the ceremony involves symbolically transferring the recovered remains from an aircraft to a vehicle for follow-on transportation to the lab. Many times, static aircraft are used for the ceremonies, as operational requirements dictate flight schedules and aircraft availability. This transfer symbolizes the arrival of our fallen servicemembers. It is important to note that recovered remains ceremoniously transferred from the aircraft to the [bus] have been in the lab undergoing forensic analysis to determine identity. When remains first arrive in Hawaii, JPAC cannot confirm if the remains are those of an American servicemember."

NBC writes that the ceremonies have been known among some of the military and civilian staff at the base as The Big Lie. The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, or JPAC, has come under intense scrutiny in recent months after two scathing reports were released this summer. In July, The Associated Press ran a story exposing a 2012 internal JPAC report that found the agency to be "acutely dysfunctional" with some missions that amounted to little more than paid vacations for staffers. A second investigation released weeks later by the Government Accountability Office found that Pentagon efforts to account for

fallen troops missing overseas were inefficient and in need of overhaul, according to congressional sources. In 2010, lawmakers mandated JPAC to reach an annual goal of recovering at least 200 fallen troops from overseas battlefields by 2015, but it had failed to build the capacity to do so, the GAO found. Currently the Hawaii-based command averages less than 70 individuals per year. Much of the inefficiency found by the GAO researchers comes down to a turf war between JPAC and the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, which shares some of the same responsibilities, Congressional sources said.

According to the NBC report, here's what the audience was shown: A C-17 military transport aircraft was parked, its ramp down, outside a hangar at the base. After generals and dignitaries were introduced, a military chaplain said a prayer, the audience sang "The Star-Spangled Banner," and "Taps" was played. Then an honor guard carried flag-draped transfer cases, which look like coffins, down the ramp and placed them in the back of blue buses, which were driven away. The emcee thanked the audience for "welcoming them home." The script continued, "After removal from the aircraft, the remains will be taken to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's Central Identification Laboratory. There, JPAC scientists will begin the identification process."

Citing eyewitnesses and photographs taken behind the scenes, NBC wrote that what actually happened is very different: Before 6 a.m., the honor guard assembled behind the JPAC headquarters on the base. They loaded transfer cases onto the buses and drove to the hangar. The honor guard loaded the transfer cases into the pre-positioned C-17, then rehearsed for the ceremony. They then returned to the plane, and waited. The public was allowed in for the 9 a.m. ceremony: invited politicians, media, families of the missing and veterans. Employees from JPAC were bused over to fill out the crowd. Then the show began, with tears and salutes as the remains were marched to the buses, then driven off to the lab to "begin the identification process."

Jesse Baker, an 81-year-old Air Force veteran of World War II and Korea living in Honolulu, told NBC News that he has been to more than 50 of these ceremonies. He said he's always been under the impression that the plane had just arrived carrying recovered remains. Baker tried to make sense of why the DOD would work so hard to trick him and other veterans. "That's disturbing. I don't know when they stopped being honest and switched over to this Mickey Mouse, but

whoever did it, I hope they find him a new job somewhere." [Source: Stars & Stripes article 10 Oct 2013 ++]

POW/MIA Update ► Identified 1 thru 14 Oct 2013

"Keeping the Promise", "Fulfill their Trust" and "No one left behind" are several of many mottos that refer to the efforts of the Department of Defense to recover those who became missing while serving our nation. The number of Americans who remain missing from conflicts in this century are: World War II (73,000+), Korean War (7,900+), Cold War (126), Vietnam War (1,655), 1991 Gulf War (0), and OEF/OIF (6). Over 600 Defense Department men and women -- both military and civilian -- work in organizations around the world as part of DoD's personnel recovery and personnel accounting communities. They are all dedicated to the single mission of finding and bringing our missing personnel home. For a listing of all personnel accounted for since 2007 refer to http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/accounted_for.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) web site at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call or call (703) 699-1169. The remains of the following MIA/POW's have been recovered, identified, and scheduled for burial since the publication of the last RAO Bulletin:

Vietnam

- The DPMO announced 30 SEP that the remains of two U.S. servicemen, missing from the Vietnam War, have been accounted for and will be returned to their families for burial with full military honors. U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Robert E. Pietsch, 31, of Pittsburgh, Pa., and Maj. Louis F. Guillermin, 25, of West Chester, Pa., will be buried as a group Oct. 16, in a single casket representing the two servicemen at Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C. Guillermin's individual remains will be buried Oct. 5, 2013, in Broomall, Pa. On April 30, 1968, Guillermin and Pietsch were on an armed-reconnaissance mission when their A-26A Invader aircraft crashed in Savannakhet Province, Laos. Witnesses saw an explosion on the ground and did not see any signs of survivors. Search and rescue efforts were unsuccessful, and Guillermin and Pietsch were listed as Missing in Action. In 1994, a joint U.S./Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) team, lead by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC),

surveyed the crash site in Savannakhet Province, Laos. The team recovered human remains and evidence, but was unable to fully survey the site due to the presence of dangerous unexploded ordinance. In 2006, joint U.S./LPDR teams assisted by Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel cleared the site and gathered additional human remains and evidence such as personal effects and crew-related equipment. The remains recovered were analyzed by scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory using circumstantial evidence and forensic analysis such as mtDNA comparisons. Portions of the remains were individually identified as Guillermin through an mtDNA match from a hair sample from Guillermin's medical file. The rest of the remains recovered were not individually identified, but correspond to both Pietsch and Guillermin.

Korea

- The DPMO announced 30 SEP that the remains a of U.S. servicemen, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Cpl. Harold A. Evans, 22, of Linsell, Minn., will be buried Oct. 12, in Thief River Falls, Minn. In late 1950, Evans was a member of the Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team, which was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir near Sinhung-ri, South Hamgyong Province, North Korea. After engaging in a battle with enemy forces east of the Chosin Reservoir, members of the 31st RCT, historically known as Task Force Faith, began a fighting withdrawal to a more defensible position. Following the battle, Evans was reported missing on Dec. 12, 1950. Between 1991 and 1994, North Korea gave the United States 208 boxes of human remains believed to contain the remains of 350 - 400 U.S. servicemen. North Korean documents, turned over with some of the boxes, indicated that some of the remains were recovered from the area where Evans was believed to have died in 1950, near the Chosin Reservoir. To identify Evans' remains, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, such as dental comparison, radiograph comparisons and DNA analysis. Two forms of DNA were used to identify Evans, Mitochondrial DNA, which matched his sister, and Y-STR DNA, which matched his brother. Today, more than 7,900 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using modern technology,

identification continue to be made from remains that were previously turned over by North Korean officials.

- The DPMO announced 30 SEP that the remains of an U.S. servicemen, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Cpl. Robert J. Tait, 19, of Bar Harbor, Maine, will be buried Oct. 5, in his hometown. In late 1950, Tait a member of the Headquarters Battery, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team, engaged in a battle with enemy forces east of the Chosin Reservoir, in North Korea. As the battle continued, the 31st RCT, known historically as Task Force Faith, began a fighting withdrawal to a more defensible position. Following the battle, Tait was reported missing on Dec. 6, 1950. In August 1953, returning U.S. soldiers reported that Tait had been captured on Dec. 2, 1950, and died shortly afterward due to lack of medical care and malnutrition. His remains were not among those returned by the Communist Forces during Operation Glory in 1954. Between 1991 and 1994, North Korea gave the United States 208 boxes of human remains believed to contain the remains of 350 - 400 U.S. servicemen. North Korean documents, turned over with some of the boxes, indicated that some of the remains were recovered from the area where Tait was believed to have died in 1950, near the Chosin Reservoir. Between 1990 and 2000, teams from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, (JPAC) excavated and recovered human remains near the Chosin Reservoir. Some of those remains are also associated with Tait. The remains were repatriated and taken to JPAC's laboratory in Hawaii for analysis. To identify Tait's remains, scientists from the JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, such as dental comparison, and DNA. Three forms of DNA were used to identify Tait's remains – Mitochondrial DNA, which matched his sister, Y-STR and auSTR DNA.

World War II

- The DPMO announced 11 OCT that two U.S. Marines missing in action from World War II have been accounted for and are being returned to their families for burial with full military honors. Marine Corps Capt. Henry S. White, 23, of Kansas City, Mo., and Staff Sgt. Thomas L. Meek, 19, of Lisbon,

La. On July 21, 1943, White and Meek were crewmembers aboard an SBD-4 Dauntless dive-bomber that departed Turtle Bay Airfield on Espiritu Santo Island, New Hebrides, on a night training mission and failed to return. The aircraft reportedly crashed into a coral cliff on nearby Mavea Island. A September 1947 investigation of the crash site recovered no remains. In 2012, a Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command team excavated the site and did recover remains and non-biological evidence that correlated circumstantially to White and Meek. Since no individual identification was possible, both will be buried in a single casket on Oct. 18 at Arlington National Cemetery.

- The DPMO announced 11 OCT that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, from World War II, have been identified and are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Air Force 1st Lt. Robert G. Fenstermacher, 23, of Scranton, Pa. On Dec. 26, 1944, Fenstermacher was piloting a P-47D Thunderbolt on an armed-reconnaissance mission when his aircraft crashed near Petergensfeld, Belgium. An American officer witnessed the crash and was able to recover Fenstermacher's identification tags from the burning wreckage, but no remains or aircraft wreckage were recovered at the time. In 2012, a group of local historians excavating a private yard recovered human remains and aircraft wreckage consistent with a P-47D, which were turned over to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. He is scheduled to be buried on Oct. 18 in his hometown.

[Source: http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/news/news_releases/ Sep 2013 ++]

Health Care Reform Update ► Requirement to Buy Coverage

It may seem like a clever idea to save yourself cash by not purchasing health insurance, but with Obamacare kicking in, you'll have penalties to pay, which could cost you big bucks in the long run. Not only are you playing financial Russian roulette – you could be forking out tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of dollars if you're injured in an accident or become seriously ill – you'll also have to pay a penalty to the federal government for flouting the law, costing you hundreds or thousands of dollars more. A wiser decision if you're uninsured is to start shopping on your state health exchange, which opened Tuesday — with glitches – as a key part of health care reform. It's OK if you feel at a loss about the

Affordable Care Act, which is also known as Obamacare. You're not alone. A newly released survey by the Commonwealth Fund found that only 4 in 10 adults were aware of the health exchanges and the financial subsidies available to help cover costs when you buy insurance there, and only one-third of those without insurance were aware of the new way to shop for health insurance. While you can start shopping for insurance on a state exchange now, the policies don't take effect until Jan. 1.

In the first quarter of the year, 46 million Americans didn't have health insurance, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The establishment of the state health exchanges, or insurance marketplaces, is designed to reduce the number of uninsured. Starting next year, almost everyone will need to be insured. You can purchase that insurance on your own or through the exchange, have it through your employer, or have it provided by government programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, TRICARE and veterans health insurance programs. There are also the following limited exceptions:

- You are part of a religion opposed to acceptance of benefits from a health insurance policy.
- You are an undocumented immigrant.
- You are incarcerated.
- You are a member of an Indian tribe.
- Your family income is below the threshold for filing an income tax return (\$10,000 for an individual & \$20,000 for a family in 2013).
- You have to pay more than 8% of your income for health insurance, after taking into account any employer contributions or tax credits.

What if You don't buy insurance?

If you skip the insurance, you'll pay a penalty. For 2014 the fine is \$95 for an individual or 1 percent of your income, whichever is greater, along with \$47.50 per uninsured child, maxing out at \$285 for the year. But by 2016, an individual would pay \$695 or 2.5 percent of your income. The TurboTax website has a calculator to help you determine how high a penalty you'd pay. Without insurance, you'd also face a double whammy. By 2016 you'd be forking over

almost \$700 to the federal government and having nothing to show for it, and still have to pay your own medical bills if you're injured or become ill.

What will insurance cost?

The exchanges will sell four levels of policies – platinum, gold, silver and bronze. Bronze plans will have the lowest premiums, but cover only 60 percent of costs. Platinum, on the other hand, will have the highest premiums, but cover 90 percent of costs. If you earn up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level (\$45,960 for an individual and \$94,200 for a family of four this year) you'll be eligible for a subsidy, which will come in the form of a tax credit. Subsidies are based on your family size and your earnings. The less you earn, the higher the subsidy. With the subsidies, more than half of Americans should be able to find health insurance for less than \$100 a month, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, although you might choose to pay more. There also will be caps on out-of-pocket costs. Typically, the maximum an individual will pay in co-payments and deductibles next year is \$6,350, and a family's costs will be capped at \$12,700.

What if you delay?

Because you can't be turned down for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act if you have a pre-existing condition, you might be tempted to dawdle and see if you actually get sick before purchasing insurance. But that strategy could easily backfire. You'll only be able to buy insurance on your state health exchange through 31 MAR 2014. After that, the open enrollment period will run from 15 OCT to 7 DEC each year. There are exceptions that allow you to purchase insurance on the exchange at any time of the year if you experience a life-changing event, such as moving to a new state, getting married, getting divorced, or having a baby. While you can purchase insurance outside the exchange at any time, you won't be eligible for a government subsidy, which is one of the cornerstones of health reform. Bottom line: Ponying up for health insurance now can potentially save you from astronomical costs down the road.

[Source: MoneyTalksNews | Stacy Johnson | 1 Oct 2013 ++]

TRICARE & ObamaCare Update ► Most Beneficiaries Meet Requirements

The Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as the health care law (and Obama Care), was created to expand access to affordable health care coverage, lower costs, and improve quality and care coordination for all Americans. Under the health care law, people will have health coverage that meets a minimum standard (called “minimum essential coverage”) by January 1, 2014, qualify for an exemption, or may be required to pay a fee if they have affordable options, but remain uninsured. Because of this, many TRICARE beneficiaries may be wondering how this new law will affect them and their families. Simply speaking, the Affordable Care Act will have very little impact on TRICARE beneficiaries. The biggest change they will notice may be an extra letter in their mailbox every January, and an extra box to check on their tax forms every April.

Beneficiaries who receive TRICARE benefits, whether at no cost, by electing to pay an enrollment fee, or by paying monthly premiums, have minimum essential coverage under the Affordable Care Act. This includes: TRICARE Prime, Prime Remote and Standard; TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS); TRICARE Young Adult (TYA); TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR); and the Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP). Eligibility alone for premium-based TRICARE benefit plans – TRS, TYA, TRR and CHCBP -- does not constitute minimum essential coverage. Eligible beneficiaries must purchase and be in good standing, by paying their premiums to have coverage in force, in order for these TRICARE programs to qualify as minimum essential coverage. There are two groups of TRICARE beneficiaries who do not meet the minimum essential coverage requirement: those getting care for line of duty only related conditions, and those only eligible to receive care in military hospitals or clinics.

Beginning with the 2014 tax season, and every tax year after that, the Department of Defense will send every TRICARE beneficiary the same information it sends the Internal Revenue Service. This notification will detail whether sponsors and their dependents had minimum essential coverage during the previous year. Sponsors can then use this information when they file their tax forms. Because the information sent to the IRS is generated using beneficiaries’ Social Security numbers, it’s essential for sponsors to make sure their family’s Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) information is correct and up to date. [Source: AFPS DHA article 10 Oct 2013 ++]

Following is a Summary of Veteran Related Legislation Introduced in the House and Senate Since the Last Bulletin was Published:

- **H.R.3181: Defending Veterans from Sequestration Act of 2013.** A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to clarify the treatment of administrative expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs during sequestration.
- **H.R.3225: Vet Benefit Appropriations During Shutdown.** A bill to make continuing appropriations for veterans benefits in the event of a Government shutdown.
- **H.R.3230: Pay Our Guard and Reserve Act.** A bill to make continuing appropriations during a Government shutdown to provide pay and allowances to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who perform inactive-duty training during such period.
- **H.R.3241: Pay our Guardsmen and Civilian Defense Personnel Act.** A bill to amend the Pay Our Military Act to provide for continuing appropriations for defense civilian personnel (including military technicians (dual status)) and members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces performing inactive-duty training.
- **H.R.3274: Fallen Heroes and Families Assistance Act.** A bill to amend the Pay Our Military Act to make appropriations available to continue the payment of a death gratuity and certain other death-related compensation in the event of the death of members of the Armed Forces and certain other persons who pass away during a Government shutdown.
- **H.R.3287: VSO Access to DVA Facilities.** A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide veterans service organizations with the same access to Department of Veterans Affairs facilities during the Government shutdown as such organizations had immediately prior to the shutdown, and for other purposes.

- **H.R.3289: Military Death Benefits Payment During Shutdown.** A bill to provide funds during the lapse of appropriations for the payment of military death gratuities and funeral and related transportation and housing expenses through the transfer of unobligated amounts in the Health Insurance Reform Implementation Fund.
- **S.1558: Veterans Outreach Enhancement Act of 2013.** A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program of outreach for veterans, and for other purposes.
- **S.1559: Benefits Fairness for Filipino Veterans Act of 2013.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the method of determining whether Filipino veterans are United States residents for purposes of eligibility for receipt of the full-dollar rate of compensation under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- **S.1564: Protecting Those Who Protected Us Act of 2013.** A bill making continuing appropriations for veterans benefits and services in the event of a Government shutdown. [Source: <http://www.loc.gov> & <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills> 12 Oct 2013 ++]