

January 18, 2014

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2. **Bill covers wide range of veterans issues, including repeal of COLA cuts for retirees.**
3. **VA bill offers chance to repeal military pension cut after passage of spending bill.**
4. **Questions and answers about the new NSA rules.**
5. **South Korea jails hundreds for refusing military stints.**
6. **Honolulu water declared safe to drink despite leak of jet fuel close to wells.**
7. **Effort leads to return of fallen Marine Peralta's rifle to U.S. soil.**
8. **VA will begin publicly announcing available Punchbowl gravesites.**
9. **Process of disinterring killer from military cemetery moving along.**
10. **Claims Backlog Update: Where the VA Stands.**
11. **Disability procedure does need fixing, but VA can't make it too cumbersome.**
12. **13 veterans among grads at Monmouth U. commencement.**
13. **Veterans Treatment Court Breaking the Cycle of Addiction & Crime.**
14. **Veterans' justice: A separate court system pops up for returning vets.**
15. **VA Says Facility Falls Short.**
16. **Help for homeless Alabama veterans: Nonprofit Family Endeavors working to get soldiers off the street.**
17. **Phoenix police learning to cope with suicidal military veterans.**
18. **Veterans' ID Makes Accessing Benefits, Services More Convenient.**
19. **VA blazes trail for mobile medical technology.**
20. **Vets get look at new VA clinic.**
21. **Veterans Administration Mobile Clinic makes early visit to Bluefield.**
22. **A 'Flex'-ible plan for local veterans: Veterans have new vehicle for VA trips to Fargo.**
23. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as January 18, 2014:**
24. **Today in History:**

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1. [Calif. Marine killed in Afghanistan is awarded Navy Cross](#). Staff Sgt. Sky R. Mote, 27, was killed Aug. 10, 2012, in a village in Helmand province when a uniformed Afghan policeman opened fire on Marines inside their tactical operations center.
2. [Bill covers wide range of veterans issues, including repeal of COLA cuts for retirees](#). Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., this week introduced a wide-ranging package of veterans legislation, covering changes to the GI Bill, survivors' benefits, advanced appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs and fertility treatments for wounded veterans.
3. [VA bill offers chance to repeal military pension cut after passage of spending bill](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Washington Post**: Congress on Thursday gave final approval to a massive spending bill that will trim pensions for younger military retirees, but lawmakers still have a chance to end the controversial provision before it takes full effect in 2015.
4. [Questions and answers about the new NSA rules](#). President Barack Obama is ordering changes to spy programs that sweep up Americans' phone records and store email and Internet data from around the world. Here are some questions and answers about the plan.
5. [South Korea jails hundreds for refusing military stints](#). The young dentist was uncuffed and led to his seat in the courtroom. A few rows back, his mother watched motionlessly, her hands gently clasped together as if in prayer.
6. [Honolulu water declared safe to drink despite leak of jet fuel close to wells](#). Federal and local officials say Honolulu's tap water is safe to drink, although test results confirmed Thursday that a 12 million-gallon Navy jet fuel tank leaked in the vicinity of five wells.
7. [Effort leads to return of fallen Marine Peralta's rifle to U.S. soil](#). William Berry, who served in the Iraq war, wrote a letter from jail that brought fallen Marine Sgt. Rafael Peralta's rifle home to be put on display at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.
8. [VA will begin publicly announcing available Punchbowl gravesites](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Honolulu Star-Advertiser**: "Secretary Shinseki's leadership has been critical in helping to resolve this situation at Punchbowl.

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9. [Process of disinterring killer from military cemetery moving along.](#) Michael Anderson's permanent headstone has been replaced with a temporary paper marker – a sign the man who killed a woman with deep Fort Wayne ties will soon be removed from hallowed ground in a Michigan national cemetery.

10. [Claims Backlog Update: Where the VA Stands.](#) [Hyperlink to Video](#) **MSNBC, Morning Joe (Video):** In this 7:33 video, IAVA's Paul Rieckhoff and MSNBC staff discuss the Backlog, former Defense Sec. Gates's appearance on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, suicide among Veterans, and how the budget impasse affects Veterans.

11. [Disability procedure does need fixing, but VA can't make it too cumbersome.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Buffalo News:** There may have been no intention to make it harder for veterans to receive disability compensation, but an Obama administration proposal to change the way veterans apply for benefits is doing just that.

12. [13 veterans among grads at Monmouth U. commencement.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Asbury Park Press:** Making the transition to college life can be difficult. But for students who also are military veterans, the transition comes with unique challenges.

13. [Veterans Treatment Court Breaking the Cycle of Addiction & Crime.](#) [Hyperlink to Video](#) **Fox News Channel, America's Newsroom (Video):** In this 2:10 video, the reporter describes how Veterans Courts and treatment programs offer an alternative to incarceration that both saves money and possibly Veterans' lives.

14. [Veterans' justice: A separate court system pops up for returning vets.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **AlJazeera America:** Courts offer leniency and treatment for veterans returning home with high PTSD and addiction rates.

15. [VA Says Facility Falls Short.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Valley News:** Six disabled veterans living at Hanover Terrace have a little more than a month to find someplace else to live after the Department of Veterans Affairs decided to void its contract with the nursing home, saying that it had fallen below the VA's standards of care.

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16. [Help for homeless Alabama veterans: Nonprofit Family Endeavors working to get soldiers off the street.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **AL.com:** The work is part of a nationwide effort by President Obama and Veterans Affairs to end veteran homelessness by 2015.
17. [Phoenix police learning to cope with suicidal military veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **KNXV-TV (Video):** According to the Veterans Administrations, 22 vets take their own lives each day in the U.S.
18. [Veterans' ID Makes Accessing Benefits, Services More Convenient.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Connecticut Patch: Malloy:** Gov. Dannel P. Malloy today joined military veterans, local business leaders and state officials to promote the Connecticut Veterans' ID program, a joint initiative between the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) that gives veterans an option to place an American flag symbol on a state-issued license or identity card to designate his or her veteran's status.
19. [VA blazes trail for mobile medical technology.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Modern Healthcare:** Launching a host of mobile medical technology pilots these days tags the VA as an early adopter among U.S. healthcare organizations.
20. [Vets get look at new VA clinic.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Mansfield News-Journal:** Veterans who toured the new \$14 million Veterans Affairs clinic Thursday night during a private reception marveled at the building's design and, in particular, the massive skylight above the spacious central waiting area.
21. [Veterans Administration Mobile Clinic makes early visit to Bluefield.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Bluefield Daily Telegraph:** Several key members of the Veterans Administration hospital in Beckley traveled to Bluefield Friday morning in the VA's new mobile clinic.
22. [A 'Flex'-ible plan for local veterans: Veterans have new vehicle for VA trips to Fargo.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The Bemidji Pioneer:** The Disabled American Veterans North Central Minnesota Chapter No. 7 received a Ford Flex from the DAV Department of Minnesota, which is being used to transport veterans from the Bemidji area to the Fargo Veterans Administration Medical Center.

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23. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as January 18, 2014:

- **January 28, 2014.** House Committee on Veterans' Affairs will hold a hearing entitled "What can the Federal Government Learn from the Private Sector's Successful Approach to Hiring Veterans?"
- **February 5, 2014.** HVAC-DAMA will hold a hearing entitled, "Beyond Transformation: Reviewing Current Status and Secondary Effects of VBA Technology."
- **February 25, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Miller, R-Fla.) will hold a hearing to receive a legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.
- **March 5, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Miller, R-Fla.) and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Sanders, I-Vt.) will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentation of Veterans of Foreign Wars.
- **March 6, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of Veterans Organizations.
- **March 26, 2014.** House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a joint hearing to receive the legislative presentations of The American Legion.

24. Today in History:

- **1778** – [James Cook](#) is the first known [European](#) to discover the [Hawaiian Islands](#), which he names the "Sandwich Islands".
- **1788** – The first elements of the [First Fleet](#) carrying 736 convicts from [England](#) to [Australia](#) arrive at [Botany Bay](#).
- **1871** – [Wilhelm I of Germany](#) is proclaimed the first [German Emperor](#) in the [Hall of Mirrors](#) of the [Palace of Versailles](#) ([France](#)) towards the end of the [Franco-Prussian War](#). The empire is known as the [Second Reich](#) to Germans.
- **1884** – [Dr. William Price](#) attempts to [cremate](#) the body of his infant son, Jesus Christ Price, setting a legal precedent for cremation in the [United Kingdom](#).
- **1886** – Modern [hockey](#) is born with the formation of The Hockey Association in [England](#).
- **1896** – An [X-ray generating machine](#) is exhibited for the first time by H.L. Smith.
- **1903** – [President Theodore Roosevelt](#) sends a radio message to [King Edward VII](#): the first transatlantic radio transmission originating in the United States
- **1911** – [Eugene B. Ely](#) lands on the deck of the [USS Pennsylvania](#) stationed in [San Francisco Bay](#), the first time an aircraft landed on a ship.
- **1913** – [First Balkan War](#): A [Greek](#) flotilla defeats the [Ottoman Navy](#) in the [Naval Battle of Lemnos](#), securing the islands of the Northern [Aegean Sea](#) for [Greece](#).
- **1915** – [Japan](#) issues the "[Twenty-One Demands](#)" to the [Republic of China](#) in a bid to increase its power in [East Asia](#).
- **1916** – A 611 [gram](#) chondrite type [meteorite](#) strikes a house near the village of Baxter in [Stone County, Missouri](#).

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- [1919](#) – [World War I](#): The [Paris Peace Conference](#) opens in [Versailles, France](#).
- 1919 – [Bentley Motors Limited](#) is founded.
- [1941](#) – [World War II](#): British troops [launch a general counter-offensive](#) against [Italian East Africa](#).
- [1943](#) – [Warsaw Ghetto Uprising](#): The first uprising of [Jews](#) in the [Warsaw Ghetto](#).
- [1944](#) – The [Metropolitan Opera House](#) in [New York City](#) hosts a [jazz](#) concert for the first time. The performers are [Louis Armstrong](#), [Benny Goodman](#), [Lionel Hampton](#), [Artie Shaw](#), [Roy Eldridge](#) and [Jack Teagarden](#).
- 1944 – [Soviet](#) forces liberate [Leningrad](#), effectively ending a three-year [Nazi](#) siege, known as the [Siege of Leningrad](#).
- [1945](#) – Liberation of the [Budapest ghetto](#) by the [Red Army](#).
- [1945](#) – Liberation of [Krakow](#), [Poland](#) by the [Red Army](#).
- [1955](#) – [Battle of Yijiangshan](#) is fought.
- [1958](#) – [Willie O'Ree](#), the first [African Canadian National Hockey League](#) player, makes his NHL debut with the [Boston Bruins](#).
- [1967](#) – [Albert DeSalvo](#), the "[Boston Strangler](#)", is convicted of numerous crimes and is sentenced to life imprisonment.
- [1974](#) – A Disengagement of Forces agreement is signed between the [Israeli](#) and [Egyptian](#) governments, ending conflict on the Egyptian front of the [Yom Kippur War](#).
- [1976](#) – [Lebanese Christian militias](#) overrun [Karantina, Beirut](#), [killing at least 1,000](#).
- [1977](#) – Scientists identify a previously unknown [bacterium](#) as the cause of the mysterious [Legionnaires' disease](#).
- 1977 – [SFR Yugoslavia](#) Prime minister, [Džemal Bijedić](#), his wife and 6 others are killed in a plane crash in [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#).
- [1978](#) – The [European Court of Human Rights](#) finds the United Kingdom government guilty of mistreating prisoners in [Northern Ireland](#), but not guilty of [torture](#).
- 1978 – The roof structure of the [Hartford Civic Center](#) collapses after a significant snowfall.
- [1981](#) – Phil Smith and Phil Mayfield parachute off a Houston skyscraper, becoming the first two people to [BASE jump](#) from objects in all four categories: buildings, antennae, spans (bridges), and earth (cliffs).
- [1983](#) – The [International Olympic Committee](#) restores [Jim Thorpe's](#) Olympic medals to his family.
- [1990](#) – [Washington, D.C.](#) [Mayor Marion Barry](#) is arrested for [drug](#) possession in an [FBI](#) sting.
- [1993](#) – [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day](#) is officially observed for the first time in all 50 states.
- [1994](#) – The [Cando event](#), a possible [bolide impact](#) in [Cando, Spain](#). Witnesses claim to have seen a fireball in the sky lasting for almost one minute.
- [1997](#) – In north west [Rwanda](#), [Hutu](#) militia members kill 3 [Spanish](#) aid workers, 3 soldiers and seriously wound one other.
- 1997 – [Boerge Ousland](#) of Norway becomes the first person to cross [Antarctica](#) alone and unaided.
- [2000](#) – The [Tagish Lake](#) meteorite impacts the [Earth](#).
- [2002](#) – [Sierra Leone Civil War](#) is declared over.

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- [2005](#) – The [Airbus A380](#), the world's largest commercial jet, is unveiled at a ceremony in [Toulouse, France](#)
- [2007](#) – The strongest storm in the United Kingdom in 17 years kills 14 people and [Germany](#) sees the worst storm since [1999](#) with 13 deaths. [Hurricane Kyrill](#) causes at least 44 deaths across 20 countries in [Western Europe](#).
- [2009](#) – [Gaza War](#): [Hamas](#) announces they will accept [Israeli Defense Forces](#)'s offer of a [ceasefire](#), ending the [assault](#).
- [2012](#) – [A series of coordinated actions](#) (including a blackout of Wikipedia) take place in protest against SOPA ([Stop Online Piracy Act](#)) and PIPA ([Protect IP Act](#)).