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1. [At the State of the Union, a Ranger leads the way.](#) At Tuesday's State of the Union address, President Barack Obama singled out gallery guest Corey Remsburg, an Army Ranger seriously wounded in Afghanistan during his 10th deployment there in 2009, as an example of the unbreakable American spirit.
2. [For Afghans, Obama's SOTU message on US troops was loud and clear.](#) President Barack Obama said little about the fate of the Afghanistan war in his State of the Union address, mentioning it only briefly toward the end of his speech. But for Afghans who watched the speech, broadcast by many Afghan TV stations, Obama's messages about the long-term security agreement and the departure of American troops came across loud and clear.
3. [Pentagon to review all military medals.](#) The Pentagon announced Tuesday a broad-ranging review to examine military medals, ordered by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, would likely kick off within a month or so and be complete by late 2014 or early 2015.
4. [Packed hearing explores new accommodations for religious freedom.](#) House legislators confronted Defense Department officials and chaplains in a heavily attended hearing Wednesday with the question of whether a new DOD policy to ensure religious freedom really does what it's supposed to do.
5. [Clapper says Syrian al-Qaida wants to attack US.](#) The Syrian militant group tied to al-Qaida, the al-Nusra Front, wants to attack the United States and is training a growing cadre of fighters from Europe, the Mideast and even the U.S., the top U.S. intelligence official told Congress on Wednesday.
6. [Suit to stop Navy training in Pacific cites impact on marine life.](#) An environmental group has filed suit to prevent Navy training exercises in the Pacific that it says will harm massive numbers of whales and dolphins. The Navy says the maneuvers will have little long-term effect on marine mammals.
7. [At nation's doorstep, police drones are flying.](#) Just across the border from the USA, police have begun using drones carrying video cameras to patrol residential neighborhoods and watch over parts of the city often visited by Americans.

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8. [Chaplains Get Command Support, Spurn Social Media Rumors](#). A senior Defense Department official and members of the Armed Forces Chaplains Board reported to Congress today regarding the accommodation of religious practices within the services. At a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee's military personnel subcommittee, ...
9. [DOD Seeks to Modernize Mail Delivery of Election Materials](#). A multiagency effort is underway to modernize the mail delivery system to improve delivery of election materials to military and overseas voters, the director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program said here today. Matt Boehmer testified before the Senate Rules ...
10. [Senator Asks Veterans Agency to Review How Financial Advisers Are Accredited](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The New York Times**: Senator Claire McCaskill of Missouri is asking the Department of Veteran Affairs to examine its process for accrediting thousands of financial advisers in the face of concerns over abuses of veterans' benefits.
11. [Did Obama say what vets wanted to hear?](#) [Hyperlink to Video](#) **FoxNews.com, Fox & Friends (Video)**: In this 3:40 interview Pete Hegseth reacts to President Obama's State of the Union address, focusing on a lack of progress on the Backlog.
12. [Agent Orange exposed Vietnam veterans higher skin cancer risk](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **United Press International**: Vietnam War veterans who were exposed to the herbicide Agent Orange may be at higher risk for certain types of skin cancer in old age, U.S. researchers say.
13. [Veterans advocacy program starts in California, expands in New York](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Stars and Stripes**: A popular program that helps connect Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families to local resources is expanding into California and increased portions of New York state.
14. [Senator implores U.S. Census Bureau to count veterans in 2020](#). [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Billings Gazette**: The United States has not accounted for its veterans in a nationwide census since 2000 and both Montana veterans and U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., are imploring the U.S. Census Bureau to get it done

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15. [City aims to help homeless veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **KSDK-TV:** More than 60 volunteers and city staff will fan across the city Wednesday to find homeless veterans and give them a place to live.
16. [Help Coming to Homeless Vets in St. Louis.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **KMOX-AM:** More than 60 volunteers with the U.S. Veteran's Administration and City officials will beginning the task Tuesday of locating, identifying and immediately helping veterans who are chronically homeless in St. Louis.
17. [Harbor Homes of Nashua kicks off campaign to help homeless veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **Union Leader:** Harbor Homes has now launched a new campaign, the End Homelessness Fund, to meet the challenge of ending chronic homelessness for all local people including vets.
18. [County works with Department of Veteran Affairs to get valley vets off the streets.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **KESQ-TV (Video):** "There's no reason we should have homeless veterans. That's really a shame, that's really a national tragedy. So we need to address that," Weber said.
19. [Veterans' Service Dogs To Get Free Veterinary Care.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **KPBS-TV:** Veterans with service canines can now get free pet health insurance for their dogs through a Veterans Affairs Department program. The insurance will cover virtually all medical costs for the dogs.
20. [State funded program mentors El Paso veterans.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **KFOX-TV (Video):** The Department of Veterans Affairs recently released a report that shows suicides among young veterans just getting out of the military are three times higher than active-duty soldiers.
21. [Guess who called me back? VA!](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **The News Journal:** It had been 38 days since I'd asked the Dept. of Veterans Affairs in Washington for an on-the-record official to discuss the growing backlog of disability compensation cases at Wilmington, and why VA keeps sending more their way from Baltimore and Philadelphia.
22. [Detroit's VA Medical Center Pulls Double Duty For Veterans This Winter.](#) [Hyperlink to Article](#) **WWJ-TV:** For the first time ever, The John D. Dingell VA Medical Center is serving as a warming center for veterans and their families in Metro Detroit.

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23. [Eastern Florida State College opens center for vets.](#) [Hyperlink to Article Florida Today](#): Now, Estep and other student military veterans needing assistance with benefits, mentoring, tutoring, counseling for post-traumatic stress disorder and other issues can find it at the college's new Veterans Resource Center.
24. [Tomah VA sets 'VA Goes Red' event for Feb. 7.](#) [Hyperlink to Article La Crosse Tribune](#): "We are proud to team with the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women movement to raise awareness of heart disease in women Veterans and VA staff," said Mario DeSanctis, Tomah VA Medical Center director.
25. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as January 30, 2014:**
- **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.
26. **Today in History:**
- **1806** – The original [Lower Trenton Bridge](#) (also called the Trenton Makes the World Takes Bridge), which spans the [Delaware River](#) between [Morrisville, Pennsylvania](#) and [Trenton, New Jersey](#), is opened.
 - **1826** – The [Menai Suspension Bridge](#), considered the world's first modern suspension bridge, connecting the [Isle of Anglesey](#) to the north West coast of Wales, is opened.
 - **1835** – In the first assassination attempt against a President of the United States, [Richard Lawrence](#) attempts to shoot president [Andrew Jackson](#), but fails and is subdued by a crowd, including several congressmen.
 - **1841** – A fire destroys two-thirds of [Mayagüez, Puerto Rico](#).
 - **1847** – Yerba Buena, [California](#) is renamed [San Francisco](#).

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- [1862](#) – The first American [ironclad](#) warship, the [USS Monitor](#) is launched.
- [1889](#) – [Archduke Crown Prince Rudolf of Austria](#), heir to the [Austro-Hungarian](#) crown, is found dead with his mistress [Baroness Mary Vetsera](#) in the [Mayerling](#).
- [1902](#) – The first [Anglo-Japanese Alliance](#) is signed in London.
- [1908](#) – [Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi](#) is released from prison by [Jan C. Smuts](#) after being tried and sentenced to 2 months in jail earlier in the month.
- [1911](#) – The destroyer [USS Terry](#) makes the first [airplane](#) rescue at sea saving the life of James McCurdy 10 miles from [Havana, Cuba](#).
- 1911 – The Canadian Naval Service becomes the [Royal Canadian Navy](#).
- [1913](#) – The British [House of Lords](#) rejects the [Irish Home Rule Bill](#).
- [1925](#) – The Government of [Turkey](#) throws [Patriarch Constantine VI](#) out of [Istanbul](#).
- [1933](#) – [Adolf Hitler](#) is sworn in as [Chancellor of Germany](#).
- [1942](#) – [World War II](#): [Japanese](#) forces [invade](#) the island of [Ambon](#) in the [Dutch East Indies](#).
- [1943](#) – [World War II](#): Second day of the [Battle of Rennell Island](#). The [USS Chicago](#) is sunk and a U.S. destroyer is heavily damaged by Japanese [torpedoes](#).
- [1944](#) – [World War II](#): The [Battle of Cisterna](#), part of [Operation Shingle](#), begins in central Italy.
- 1944 – [World War II](#): American troops land on [Majuro](#).
- [1945](#) – [World War II](#): The [Wilhelm Gustloff](#), overfilled with German [refugees](#), sinks in the [Baltic Sea](#) after being [torpedoed](#) by a [Soviet](#) submarine, leading to the deadliest known maritime disaster, killing approximately 9,500 people.
- 1945 – [World War II](#): [Raid at Cabanatuan](#): 126 American Rangers and Filipino resistance fighters liberate over 500 prisoners from the Cabanatuan POW camp.
- [1948](#) – Indian pacifist and leader [Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi](#), known for his non-violent freedom struggle, is assassinated by [Nathuram Godse](#), a [Hindu](#) extremist.
- [1956](#) – American civil rights leader [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)'s home is bombed in retaliation for the [Montgomery Bus Boycott](#).
- [1959](#) – [MS Hans Hedtoft](#), said to be the safest ship afloat and "unsinkable" like the [RMS Titanic](#), strikes an [iceberg](#) on her maiden voyage and sinks, killing all 95 aboard.
- [1960](#) – The [African National Party](#) is founded in [Chad](#), through the merger of traditionalist parties.
- [1964](#) – [Ranger program](#): [Ranger 6](#) is launched.
- 1964 – In a bloodless coup, General [Nguyễn Khánh](#) [overthrows](#) General [Đương Văn Minh](#)'s military junta in [South Vietnam](#).
- [1968](#) – [Vietnam War](#): [Tet Offensive](#) launch by forces of the [Viet Cong](#) and North Vietnamese Army against South Vietnam, the United States, and their allies.
- [1969](#) – [The Beatles](#)' last public performance, on the roof of [Apple Records](#) in London. The impromptu concert is broken up by the police.
- [1971](#) – [Carole King](#)'s [Tapestry](#) album is released to become the longest charting album by a female solo artist and sell 24 million copies worldwide.
- [1972](#) – [Bloody Sunday](#): [British Paratroopers](#) open fire on and kill fourteen unarmed civil rights/anti-internment marchers in [Derry, Northern Ireland](#).
- 1972 – [Pakistan](#) withdraws from the [Commonwealth of Nations](#).

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- [1975](#) – The [Monitor National Marine Sanctuary](#) is established as the first [United States National Marine Sanctuary](#).
- [1979](#) – A [Varig 707-323C](#) freighter, flown by the same commander as [Flight 820](#), disappears over the Pacific Ocean 30 minutes after taking off from Tokyo.
- [1982](#) – [Richard Skrenta](#) writes the first PC [virus](#) code, which is 400 lines long and disguised as an [Apple](#) boot program called "[Elk Cloner](#)".
- [1989](#) – The American [embassy](#) in [Kabul, Afghanistan](#) closes.
- [1994](#) – [Péter Lékó](#) becomes the youngest [chess](#) grandmaster.
- [1995](#) – Workers from the [National Institutes of Health](#) announce the success of clinical trials testing the first preventive treatment for [sickle-cell disease](#).
- [2000](#) – Off the coast of [Ivory Coast](#), [Kenya Airways Flight 431](#) crashes into the Atlantic Ocean, killing 169.