Evelyn Lundberg Stratton retired from the Ohio Supreme Court at the end of 2012 so as to pursue more fully criminal justice reforms with a particular emphasis on veterans who become involved with the justice system. She established the Veterans in the Courts Initiative in 2009. Video http://bit.ly/1glCXZ0

Total Number of Direct Professional Readers: 1,729

Fast Links: Featured Stories, Funding Opportunities, VA/DOD, Ohio, Veterans Courts, PTS/TBI/MST, Suicide, General News, Events, Jobs & Training, Veterans-In-Justice, LinkedIn, Legal Assistance, Resources, Join Newsletter/Disclaimer, Contact, Newsletter Achieve

FEATURED STORIES

New: The Service Member to Civilian National Summit (S2C), April 16-17, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL. http://bit.ly/1AMxrFF

Join top researchers, national advocates, veterans and families to shape the future of transitional support for all veterans.

The Service Member to Civilian National Summit (S2C) on April 16-17 will bring together service members, veterans, their families, and community stakeholders to meet with advocates, researchers, clinicians, educators and policy-makers from around the nation to better understand and explore ways that all stakeholders can improve the transition from military to civilian life.

CNN Recognizes Mental Illness Warriors: Fighting for those who need it the most http://cnn.it/1EkEs6Z

1. Actress and singer Demi Lovato stepped into the mental health advocacy role in 2014 by openly discussing her struggles with bipolar disorder.

2. Ohioan Fred Frese, Associate professor of psychiatry at Northeast Ohio Medical University and a clinical assistant professor at Case Western Reserve University. He also has served for 12 years on the board of directors of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the largest nonprofit advocacy group for the mentally ill.

3. Ted Stanley, a billionaire businessman and philanthropist, gave the largest donation in psychiatric research history in 2014. The $650 million donation to the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard is aimed at enhancing scientific research on psychiatric disorders with the hopes of leading to a breakthrough in new treatments.

4. Sarah Spitz. President of Emory’s chapter of Active Minds, a nonprofit group that links students across the nation and inspires them to speak up about mental health issues.

5. Ohioan Michael Woody, President of CIT International, Promoting the adoption of Crisis Intervention Team Programs throughout the world by law enforcement agencies, mental health providers and advocacy groups and to provide training to accomplish this through
yearly conferences and outreach.

6. **Mia St. John**, world-champion boxer former Playboy model became an activist for people living with mental illness.

7. **Leon Evans** helped develop what is called the Restoration Center, an integrated mental health service center that opened in 2003. When San Antonio police pick up a mentally ill person, their first stop now is the Restoration Center. Instead of being dumped off at a crowded jail, the mentally ill get proper care at the facility. As a result, an estimated 25,000 people a year are diverted to the center: people who used to go to jail, the emergency rooms or straight back out on the streets, says Evans. The center saved the city an estimated $15 million in 2014. In addition, the homeless population was down 70% and the county jail system has 600 empty beds.

8. Best-selling author **Pete Earley** has become a one-man watchdog of the mental health community and the politics surrounding efforts to reform the nation's mental health system. The former Washington Post journalist gets scoops about the latest reform efforts long before mainstream journalists. His book, "Crazy: A Father's Search Through America's Mental Health Madness," is considered the bible among mothers and fathers trying to raise a child with severe mental illness. A 2007 Pulitzer Prize finalist, "Crazy" details Earley's efforts to get care for his son and America's criminalization of the mentally ill.

9. Virginia State Sen. **Creigh Deeds** survived being stabbed multiple times by his 24-year-old son in November 2013. His son, Gus, suffered from bipolar disorder and had been turned away by a mental health center because a psychiatric bed could not be found. NAMI honored Deeds with the Richard T. Greer Advocacy Award for his efforts to reform Virginia's mental health laws.

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### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES


CONCORD, N.H. - A $10,000 veterans grant was announced for New Hampshire's higher education institutions. The New Hampshire Legislative Commission on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) partnered with LTC Partners for the grant.

**Funding Availability Under VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program** [http://1.usa.gov/1EnfpNQ](http://1.usa.gov/1EnfpNQ)

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is announcing the availability of funds for assistance under the Per Diem Only (PDO) component of VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program. This Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is for those current "Transition in Place" (TIP) grantees who seek to renew their 2012 TIP PDO grants. This NOFA contains information concerning the program, application process, and amount of funding available.

**SAMHSA**

**Up to $21.2 Million for Drug-Free Communities Support Program**

The goals of this program are to establish and strengthen collaboration among communities and public and private nonprofit agencies, and reduce substance use among youth and adults.

**Up to $6.2 Million for Cooperative Agreement for Networking, Certifying, and Training Suicide Prevention Hotlines and Disaster Distress Helpline**

The goals of this program are to manage, enhance, and strengthen the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and to support the National Disaster Distress Helpline.

**SAMHSA Is Accepting Applications for the Performance Partnership Pilot**

States, tribes, and municipalities can apply to become a Performance Partnership Pilot until March 4, 2015. These pilot communities will test innovative, cost-effective, and outcome-focused strategies for improving results for disconnected youth.
Cooperative Agreement for Networking, Certifying, and Training Suicide Prevention Hotlines and Disaster Distress Helpline

Application Due Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2015
Anticipated Award Amount: $6,211,000

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2015 for a Cooperative Agreement for Networking, Certifying, and Training Suicide Prevention Hotlines and a National Disaster Distress Helpline (DDH).

VA/DOD

Bob McDonald: On the road: moving toward a VA we can all be proud of (Video)

Sec. Bob McDonald recently spoke at the Student Veterans of America (SVA) National Conference in San Antonio, Texas. While asking student Vets to join the ranks of VA and help create an organization of which everyone can be proud, McDonald laid out his three strategies for moving VA forward – restoring trust, improving service, and setting the course for long-term excellence and reform.

Phoenix VA employee alleges suicides mishandled at hospital http://bit.ly/1wrh7aE

PHOENIX - A Phoenix VA hospital employee risks it all to speak out to ABC15. He alleges veteran suicides are mishandled at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center. This comes months after the VA scandal broke and whistleblowers came forward, alleging a secret list of patient wait times and widespread mismanagement at the Phoenix VA.

VA whistleblower says vets with addiction problems slipping through the cracks http://bit.ly/1wrhiD1

PHOENIX - A new Phoenix VA Hospital whistleblower says veterans are in danger when they need help the most. Brandon Coleman, an addiction therapist at the VA hospital and a U.S. Marine Corps vet, said veterans are continuing to fall through the system's cracks. On Monday, he spoke with ABC15 about how he strongly believes the VA is mishandling suicides. He's also worried about vets walking out of the emergency room when they're drunk or high on drugs. Coleman is concerned those vets may hurt themselves or somebody else.

Some VA whistleblowers get relief from retaliation http://wapo.st/1Jgar6f

Bit by bit, examples of the disreputable treatment of Department of Veterans Affairs whistleblowers continue to drop. The Office of Special Counsel (OSC), the independent agency that protects whistleblowers, says it has secured “over 25 corrective actions for whistleblowers who have disclosed wrongdoing at the VA” since April.

But that’s just a fraction of the workers who have been the target of retaliatory action from managers after the staffers exposed problems. The OSC has about 120 pending reprisal cases involving health and safety disclosures by VA whistleblowers.

“VA whistleblower retaliation complaints related to health and safety disclosures peaked in the summer of 2014, but they still are at historically high levels,” Special Counsel Carolyn Lerner said in an interview. “The number of corrective actions that OSC has obtained for VA whistleblowers also is at record highs.”

The Defense Health Services Systems Program Executive Office (DHSS PEO) invites you to view the attached January 2015 eXpresso newsletter!

The DHSS PEO develops and maintains products and initiatives for the Military Health System in three major areas: clinical support, medical logistics and health care resources. The information technology systems are deployed worldwide, from data centers in military treatment facilities, to the front lines of military and humanitarian operations.

Minneapolis VA-Based Tele-ICU Expands http://1.usa.gov/1GxpTPk
A Tele-Intensive Care Unit (Tele-ICU) based at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center is expanding to smaller VA facilities throughout the Midwest thanks to a unique collaboration with the Hines VA in Chicago.

Buffalo, NY Federal rules constrain VA from joining Medical Campus http://bit.ly/1EnkeH0
But that doesn't mean there's nothing happening at the site. For 2015, projects in Buffalo will include $347,000 in renovations for the women's primary care clinic; $150,000 to renovate labs; and $354,000 to prepare the site for a mobile cardiac catheterization unit; as well as $1.8 million for upgrades to emergency generators at the Batavia site.

They follow projects in 2014 that added robotic surgery and cochlear implants to the menu of services at the Buffalo site.

All capital projects over a certain dollar amount must be appropriated through the congressional budgeting process, which means anything Stiller wants to do here has to be submitted to the federal government, where all projects compete with the construction hopes and dreams of his counterparts across the country.

"When we're talking the physical plant, we have to optimize it with laser-specific smaller-dollar projects that improve care," he said.

VAOIG Reports
- Review of Community Based Outpatient Clinics and Other Outpatient Clinics of Tomah VA Medical Center, Tomah, Wisconsin
- Review of Community Based Outpatient Clinics and Other Outpatient Clinics of St. Cloud VA Health Care System, St. Cloud, Minnesota
- Review of Community Based Outpatient Clinics and Other Outpatient Clinics of VA Illiana Health Care System, Danville, Illinois
- Combined Assessment Program Review of the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System, Biloxi, Mississippi
- Combined Assessment Program Review of the Hampton VA Medical Center, Hampton, Virginia

Senator Baldwin Responds to Tomah VA Investigation http://bit.ly/1yHKJq8
Wisconsin Democratic Senator Tammy Baldwin said Tuesday that she was alerted to allegations of over-medicating patients and a hostile work environment at the Tomah Veterans Affairs Medical Center in the spring of 2014. Senator Baldwin said she received an inquiry about the issues at the VA Center last spring. She said she immediately reached out to the facility and brought the issue up to The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Inspector General of the VA.
"What was outrageous and very, very frustrating for all of us is that the Inspector General had been actually looking at this issue since I think it was 2011, based on some complaints that had come up long before my time as a U.S. senator," Senator Baldwin said. But Baldwin said the Tomah VA, the Veterans Affairs Administration and the Inspector General's office in her early contact with them, never said the report existed.

A new Institute of Medicine report that found veterans were exposed to Agent Orange while flying in C-123 aircraft after the Vietnam War came three years after another federal agency reached a similar conclusion.

But despite a pronouncement in January 2012 by the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry that these crews' levels of exposure to dioxin were 182 times higher than acceptable amounts, representing a 200-fold risk for cancer, the Veterans Affairs Department refused to acknowledge any link between the veterans' current illnesses and a history of serving on that aircraft.

VA Town Hall Meetings & Other VA Events

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Asheville VAMC hosted mental health resource fair for Veterans. [http://1.usa.gov/1wrql8n](http://1.usa.gov/1wrql8n)
ASHEVILLE, N.C. – With the growing number of Veterans who receive care from VA for mental health related issues, the Asheville VA, Veterans Mental Health Advocacy Council, and community partners held a mental health resource fair, Jan. 15, to ensure Veterans are aware of available services to support their recovery from mental illness.

Winston-Salem VA employees served North Carolina Veterans at claims clinic [http://1.usa.gov/1EkOpRR](http://1.usa.gov/1EkOpRR)
This free weekend claims clinic was the second of its kind, and was fully staffed by employees of the Winston-Salem Veterans regional benefits office.

More than 120 VA employees and volunteers (including dozens of claims processors) soon followed, each firing up her computer, ready for what would be a busy day. In fact, Winston-Salem Director Cheryl Rawls opened the doors 45 minutes early to accommodate the early arrivals.

Over the course of 11 hours, VA employees personally assisted 525 Veterans and their families; awarded retroactive payments totaling more than $500,000; and assisted seven homeless Veterans.
VA Issues Statement on Denver VA Replacement Medical Center [http://1.usa.gov/1wrfyd0](http://1.usa.gov/1wrfyd0)

. . . Today, we are announcing that VA has requested that the Corps complete a detailed examination of the VA major construction program to improve management processes, structures, and controls in project oversight and delivery.

The Department is also convening an Administrative Investigation Board to review all aspects of the Denver project to determine the facts that led to the current situation and gather evidence of any misconduct or mismanagement that contributed to this unacceptable outcome.

Effective immediately, the Department’s Construction and Facility Management organization will report to the Deputy Secretary through the Office of Management.

VA Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson was onsite at the Denver replacement project today and will continue regular visits to the site. VA senior leadership is actively engaged on the project, and the facility construction continues to progress. We are continuing to work with our partners to ensure timely completion of the project for the Veterans of the Colorado area.


CANANDAIGUA — And the Oscar goes to ... The folks at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center hope that line is followed by “Crisis Hotline: Veterans Press 1.” The documentary on the Veterans Crisis Line at the Canandaigua VA was nominated for an Academy Award Thursday by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. It is one of five nominees in the Best Documentary, Short Subject category.

OHIO

Five graduate from Veterans Court in Mansfield [http://ohne.ws/1yKHcr2](http://ohne.ws/1yKHcr2)

Brown was one of five men who graduated Wednesday from Veterans Court in a ceremony at FOP Lodge 32. Mansfield Municipal Judge Jerry Ault started Veterans Court in 2009. It was the first of its kind in Ohio. In January 2010, Veterans Court expanded to include Municipal Judge Frank Ardis Jr.


SPECIALIZED DOCKETS CERTIFICATION LIST An updated list of certified specialized dockets has been posted to our web page. This list will be updated after each new commission date votes on final certification. View the [Specialized Docket Certification Status Sheet](http://bit.ly/OBI2iV).

Dayton VA patient guest of Obamas at State of the Union [http://bit.ly/1AMqaWg](http://bit.ly/1AMqaWg)

President Barack Obama thanking the commander-in-chief for a hospital visit. The president decided to show , Gibson never thought his letter would lead to him to a balcony seat Tuesday with the nation’s first lady, Michelle Obama, as the president delivered the State of the Union address. “I never expected all this to happen,” said Gibson, 28, a Dayton VA Medical Center patient who lived at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base until moving to Marysville before Christmas.

**NEW ODVS: Heroes Tribute Hunt, Saturday, March 21, 2015, Walhonding, Ohio**
The Heroes Tribute Hunt, which will take place on Sat., Mar. 21 in Walhonding, Ohio, will provide opportunity for disabled veterans and family to participate in several free outdoor activities, including modified clay pigeon shooting. Register now (registration will close January 30th).

Wright-Patterson AFB to get 'monster' $30 million computer http://bit.ly/1yINuaS
An Ohio air force base is getting a “monster” $30 million supercomputer to meet a growing demand among scientists and researchers for high-speed computing power. The SGI Ice X supercomputer is expected to be one of the 10 fastest in the world once the Air Force Research Laboratory installs it at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton.

Jeff Graham, director of the lab’s Department of Defense Supercomputing Resource Center, tells the Dayton Daily News for a story Wednesday (http://bit.ly/1woEBNK ) that each second the computer can calculate 5.6 petaflops, or a numeral followed by 15 zeros. Virginia Ross, a research laboratory computer engineer, says the computer, due for arrival in April, will be fully online this summer.

Wright-Patterson loses out on 350 jobs from new support center http://bit.ly/1wpM5ju
The center will consolidate base support operations scattered around the service to San Antonio to save money and improve efficiency, Air Force officials said.

Leaders meet to protect Wright-Patt, military jobs in Ohio http://bit.ly/1EkhUDd
Members of Congress and military leaders met Friday in Columbus to look for ways to protect Ohio’s military assets from taking hits in a possible upcoming base realignment and closure process. U.S. Rep. Mike Turner, R-Centerville, said the meeting is a chance to get first-hand information from military commanders “what they see as the challenges and threats to their facilities and also the opportunities so that we can work cooperatively.”

Turner, Steve Stivers, R-Columbus, Bill Johnson, R-Marietta, and Marcy Kaptur, D-Toledo, met behind closed doors on Ohio State University’s campus Friday with Col. John M. Devillier, who is commander of the 88th Air Base Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio National Guard Interim Adjutant General Mark Bartman and others.
After the last round of base realignment and closures (BRAC) in 2005, Wright-Patterson gained 1,200 jobs with the relocation of the 711th Human Performance Wing and the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is the largest single site employer in Ohio with more than 27,000 military and civilian employees.

VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS

Silver Star Recipient First To Complete NC’s Veterans Treatment Court http://bit.ly/1yKlQJo
President Bush recognized Tommy Rieman at the State of the Union Address in 2007. . . . Under different circumstances, Tommy Rieman could have been charged with a DUI when he got drunk and drove into a tree. But because he's a veteran he was enrolled in the state's first Veterans Treatment Court, a program designed to give support rather than punishment.

The Veterans Treatment Court model is now up and running in North Carolina. Harnett County opened the first one. It's designed for military veterans who are accused of non-violent crimes. Drug and alcohol counseling, housing assistance, one-on-one mentoring, and other forms of support are also available for veterans accepted into the program. Tommy Rieman was the first to complete Veterans Treatment Court in the state. Rieman is a Silver Star recipient. His image is on a toy action figure, his picture on the cover of an XBOX 360 military game. But after his time at war, and troubles at home, he tried to end his life by getting drunk and driving into a tree. Tommy's story is not unique.

California: Chief judge’s veterans court credited with saving man’s life
http://bit.ly/1wpLm1
PONTIAC >> Two military veterans became the first-ever graduates from Oakland County Chief Circuit Judge Nanci Grant’s veterans court on Wednesday, and at least one of those men credits the program with saving his life. Specialist Patino and Sgt. Willis (Grant asked that their first names and hometowns not be used) were released from probation Wednesday during a celebratory court hearing. “Not very many people understand how (veterans) hurt inside,” Willis said.

. . . Patino, who served in Iraq and Afghanistan before being honorably discharged in 2004, credited the program with saving his life. “I can’t begin to explain how grateful I am for veterans court,” he said. “Abusing alcohol, I just turn into a whole other person. This program is amazing. I wouldn’t be here without this program. I was close to ending it.”

California: San Joaquin County Opening Court for Veterans
http://bit.ly/1EkkIAu
“This is San Joaquin County’s first ever veteran’s treatment court. It is a hybrid court of the mental health court, DUI court, and homeless court,” Virginia Wimmer, Deputy Director Veterans Services of San Joaquin County told FOX40 Friday. San Joaquin County Veterans Services and other area leaders have been pushing for a special kind of trial for veterans for the past five years.

California: Second group of veterans to graduate from SLO County treatment court
http://bit.ly/1Ekl7Tx
The San Luis Obispo County Veterans Treatment Court will see its second round of graduates — including its first female veteran — Monday in San Luis Obispo Superior Court.

Georgia: State’s Chief Justice Promotes Cobb County Veterans Court
http://bit.ly/1yKJQwZ
Chief Justice Hugh Thompson of the Supreme Court of Georgia paid a recent visit to the new veterans court in Cobb County and later endorsed the program, according to a statement released Friday by Cobb County Commission Chairman Tim Lee. “Veterans courts are relatively new to Georgia and Cobb County is one of the first,” Thompson said, according to Lee's statement. "I am proud of Judge Reuben Green for leading this effort. I look forward to ... lending my support." Thompson also spoke supportively of Green's plans for the veterans court in last year's state of the judiciary address to the Georgia General Assembly. Green, a former Marine, started the Cobb County Veterans Accountability and Treatment Court six months ago. Thompson visited Jan. 9.

Kansas High Court touts innovations
http://bit.ly/1yKL5fC
Nuss said the judiciary is considering how to increase the number of specialty or "problem-solving" courts. Noting that repeated criminal convictions "result in a frustrating cycle that expends considerable judicial and correctional resources," Nuss said new standards are being
established to better serve increasing users of specialty courts.

Nuss cited several goals for the coming year, among them the support of Johnson County in the creation of veterans courts and the reduction of abusive litigation.

The veterans courts, which Nuss called attention to in light of his past service in the U.S. Marine Corps and his son's military service in Iraq and Afghanistan, will be meant to work like the state's drug courts in cooperation with the Veterans Administration to solve, rather than simply punish, a veteran's criminal history, particularly on drug habits.


1. A veterans treatment court is established in each judicial district to provide court services to veterans and to integrate court sanctions and incentives with substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, and transitional services for veterans, in a judicially supervised court setting.

2. The veterans treatment court shall incorporate all of the following essential characteristics into its operations and proceedings:


Utah’s new veterans’ court organized like military unit [http://bit.ly/1L4cC0E](http://bit.ly/1L4cC0E)

The judge is the commanding officer. The court workers are the company staff. The mentors are the fireteam leaders. And the defendants? They’re the troops. That’s the organization of the new veterans’ court in 3rd District Court in Salt Lake City. Judge Royal Hansen spelled out the military-style structure Thursday to the first squad of defendants to be admitted.


HARRISBURG >> Pennsylvania now has more than 100 so called “problem-solving” courts across the Commonwealth — and counting. The courts are in many respects modeled on the efforts in the Chester County courts to deal intensively with quaffed defendants in a system that places treatment for drug, alcohol, and mental health concerns alongside court supervision. During the first few days of January, Cambria and Northampton counties each launched a Mental Health Court and Erie County began a Veterans Court, according to a press release from the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC).


A veterans’ court has been set up in Watertown. Gilbertson wants to see more of those in the state.


CANYON COUNTY — Sandra Holmes had already been to prison once, where she spent seven-and-a-half years missing her daughter’s childhood. So when she faced the specter of incarceration again after a 2013 robbery conviction — having just welcomed another child into the world — she was desperate for an alternative.

She found one. Instead of a prison sentence, Holmes was assigned to Canyon County’s mental health court. Along with other similar programs — drug court, veterans court and misdemeanor DUI court — these problem-solving courts are designed to help people turn their lives around without placing them behind bars, all under the careful supervision of a

Judge Ellen Brostrom, who presides over the court each Wednesday, told WUWM radio ([http://bit.ly/15u1N7d](http://bit.ly/15u1N7d)) that some veterans have suffered physically and mentally as a result of their service. They deserve a second chance, she said. “Being a vet is tough, whether you serve in combat or not, it’s a very difficult burden to take on,” Brostrom said. “And we owe them a way to get themselves back to wholeness, especially when the brokenness they’re experiencing is a result of having served in the military, for which we are all indebted.”

The idea for the court came from Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm, a former Army lieutenant. He said 50 people have completed the program in its first two years, of the 60 who have gone through it. Most of the treatment ordered by the court is paid by the veterans’ benefits. “This is really a last chance for many of them,” Chisholm said. “If they don’t succeed, the consequence is gonna be prison.”

Wisconsin Veteran mentor says program is beneficial for all involved [http://bit.ly/1utH0XC](http://bit.ly/1utH0XC)

“A good mentor is someone who brings a vast amount of experience serving in the military. A good coach. Someone who can influence someone to stay sober and commit to this program,” Nelson said. “I think you have to be level-headed and utilize common sense.” Honesty and trust-worthiness also are essential traits, he said. “In society, people tend to candy-coat. Just tell the person the unvarnished truth.” If the veteran suffers a setback, “you pick the person up and dust them off,” Nelson added.

England: Dan Jarvis MP: Homeless Veterans appeal: We have a chance to help veterans like ‘Frank’, a true British hero. [http://ind.pn/1utGzfV](http://ind.pn/1utGzfV)

The military court martial system is configured to understand the impact service can have on some veterans, but the civilian justice system is not. That’s why I put forward Labour proposals a year ago calling for the Government to consult on how to improve rehabilitation services for veterans who find themselves in the courts.

The initial reaction from ministers was positive. An official cross-party review was launched and I agreed to serve as a formal adviser. But it lost all momentum when the chair, Rory Stewart, was replaced by Stephen Phillips, who began juggling the review with his highly paid work as a barrister.

There are some useful recommendations in the report, such as formally recording how many veterans end up in prison. But it fails to address how some veterans can be prevented from falling into a life of crime – a glaring omission. And the Veterans Treatment Courts model, hugely successful in the US, was dismissed.

**PTS/TBI/MST**

*Research:* Wounds of war that never heal (WP) [http://wapo.st/1yIM8wE](http://wapo.st/1yIM8wE)

Scientists have discovered what a traumatic brain injury, or TBI, suffered by a quarter-million combat veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan looks like, and it’s unlike anything they’ve
seen before: a honeycomb pattern of broken connections, primarily in the frontal lobes, our emotional control center and the seat of our personality.

Research: TBI News & Information - Brailine.org

- What Male Athletes Can Learn from Women About Concussions
- Thomas Jones on Concussions: It's Scary to Think About What Causes Me to Forget
- New Content: Cranectomy: Life on Hold
- Blast Force: The Invisible War on the Brain
- Barry Sanders: NFL is doing a great job with concussion awareness

Brainlinemilitary.org: Helping Veterans with TBI and Combat Stress "Become People Again" (Video) http://bit.ly/1abvcVp

Traumatic — and joyful — experiences change who we are. Helping service members and veterans with TBI and combat stress should not be about "fixing" them and helping them return to their "old" selves, rather to help them move past the experiences and incorporate them into who they are.

When a loved one has #PTSD, the entire family can feel the effects. VA resources can help. http://t.co/oMcsNjNwKo

PTSD: National Center for PTSD: Family and Friends: This section provides information about the effects of trauma on families, children, relationships, and communities.

NPR: Military Policy Impedes Research On Traumatic Brain Injuries (26 DEC 2014) http://n.pr/1EnkRQB

The U.S. military set up a bank to collect brain tissue samples to better understand battlefield brain injury. But a law that prevents tissue donations from U.S. troops has severely hampered efforts.


BAKERSFIELD, Calif. - Betty Mendez facilitates these therapeutic drum circles for the Centre for Neuro Skills every Tuesday and Thursday night. She says any activity that crosses the midline of the body, like the act of drumming, helps the two hemispheres in the brain to start communicating again. According to her, everyone in her group has shown signs of improvement since they started a year and a half ago.

Inflammation is a major treatable cause of neurological problems after traumatic brain injury http://bit.ly/1ynuYnM

A new paper by researchers at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UM SOM) argues that there is a widespread misunderstanding about the true nature of traumatic brain injury and how it causes chronic degenerative problems.

In a perspective article* published in the latest issue of Neurotherapeutics, the two authors - Alan Faden, MD, a neurologist and professor of anesthesiology, and David Loane, PhD, an assistant professor of anesthesiology, propose that chronic brain damage and neuropsychiatric problems after trauma are to a large degree caused by long-term inflammation in the brain. In their view, this inflammation is a key culprit behind the myriad symptoms that have been linked with traumatic brain injury and mild traumatic brain injury, including brain atrophy, depression and cognitive decline.

Research: Mindfulness-Based Approaches to Traumatic Brain Injuries
According to Joanne Azulay, PhD, a neuropsychologist at JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute, a professor of neuroscience at Seton Hall University, and an assistant professor of rehabilitation at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey, individuals with TBI not only experience emotional lability, but "can go from zero to 10 in anxiety and depression." They often are hypersensitive to sound, light, and even touch, becoming "thin skinned across their senses so that everything can be an irritation and seem overwhelming," she explains. They may begin to avoid any kind of event that creates overstimulation, for example driving at night. Their challenge is not only to adjust to the physical symptoms of TBI, she explains, but also to the physical experience that is new to them and to a new way of thinking and experiencing the world. "Meditation is a good match because it's about changing nothing and is rather about accepting."

**Research: NIH: Brain recalls old memories via new pathways**

People with anxiety disorders, such as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), often experience prolonged and exaggerated fearfulness. Now, an animal study suggests that this might involve disruption of a gradual shifting of brain circuitry for retrieving fear memories. Researchers funded by the National Institutes of Health have discovered in rats that an old fear memory is recalled by a separate brain pathway from the one originally used to recall it when it was fresh.

**Research: JAMA Neurology: Inflammation and Neuroprotection in Traumatic Brain Injury**

Conclusions and Relevance  The mechanisms that drive TBI lesion development as well as those that promote repair are exceedingly complex and often superimposed. Because pathogenic mechanisms can diversify over time or even differ based on the injury type, it is important that neuroprotective therapeutics be developed and administered with these variables in mind.

Due to its complexity, TBI has proven particularly challenging to treat; however, a number of promising therapeutic approaches are now under pre-clinical development, and recent clinical trials have even yielded a few successes. Given the worldwide impact of TBI on the human population, it is imperative that research remains active in this area and that we continue to develop therapeutics to improve outcome in afflicted patients.

**Research: JRSM Open: Raised intracranial pressure following abdominal closure in a polytrauma patient**  
http://bit.ly/1EkVeCQ

With the advent of major trauma networks in the UK, major trauma centres will frequently encounter severe polytrauma cases. It is well known that pressure compartments in the body are interdependent, and we re-iterate the importance of considering that interplay in polytrauma patients here. As described, Scalea’s group have found some success in performing decompressive laparotomies to treat refractory intracranial hypertension. However, the decision to undertake DL must be weighed against the possible risk of infection, enterocutaneous fistulae and abdominal wall hernia in an already compromised cohort.  

4 Routine IAP measurements may assist clinicians in observing trends between IAP & ICP and assessing the potential benefit of DL. This is a potentially exciting and novel treatment for refractory intracranial hypertension which may be increasingly considered as an option in the UK. However, it is of paramount importance to continue to consider simple measures of reducing body compartment pressures (and thereby ICP), such as loosening tightly fitted C-spine collars, cautious administration of intravenous fluids and mindful use of positive pressure ventilation.

This case clearly illustrates the complex interplay between body compartments in critical care
patients in the context of trauma. In this case, although the patient’s head injury was severe and his potential for neurological recovery was poor, delayed closure of the laparotomy incision may have been beneficial.

What male athletes can learn from women about concussions (WP)  
http://wapo.st/1AMjk2W

The sports media has a fascination with concussions. Not only is there a huge volume of stories about the issue, but there’s also an urgency to the tone of the reporting. The heightened coverage has served to increase awareness of the concussion problem and encourage public debate about sport, health and safety.

But what’s often missing from the media’s discussion of the topic is a recognition that the concussion problem is not merely a health issue; it’s also a social issue. We’re generally less inclined to look at how concerns about head injuries influence our understanding of ourselves and the identities of others.

Ideas about gender even influence how we define the scope of the concussion problem. There are important gender differences, for example, in how often athletes report head injuries, with women tending to report at significantly higher rates than men. Some analysts have pointed to how men could be more likely to “play through” a concussion to live up to masculine ideals of toughness. These same stereotypes might also lead coaches and trainers to be more attuned to the head injuries of female athletes.

2 former wrestlers sue WWE over concussions  
http://cbsn.ws/1wpMg5M

PHILADELPHIA - Two former professional wrestlers accuse the WWE of "selling violence" while ignoring concussions that they say left them with serious brain injuries. The men, including one who performed under the name Skull Von Krush, have filed a potential class-action lawsuit in federal court in Philadelphia that echoes thousands of suits pending against the NFL. The NFL litigation, pending in the same courthouse, could yield a $1 billion settlement if a judge approves the proposed deal. The WWE plaintiffs are 50-year-old Vito LoGrasso of Coatesville and 22-year-old Evan Singleton of Lancaster.

Texas Editorial: Clear obstacles for women vets seeking care  
http://bit.ly/1EkxChD

There is a conundrum in how the Department of Veterans Affairs has been dealing with the very real problem of post-traumatic stress disorder as the aftermath of sexual assault on women in the military. It has to do with the paper trail. With military sexual assault victims, there might not be one.

Army Refuses Vet Benefits To Rape Victim  
http://bit.ly/1EkAxai

While stationed in Ft. Campbell, Ky. as an automated logistical specialist, she was raped by a superior. Not only did she find no justice in the Army – she was arrested herself. Rubbing salt in her wound, to this day she cannot get treatment from the Dept. of Veterans Affairs. The reason? It denies she ever served in the Army. Her records, it seems, have disappeared.

WE 2

SUICIDE

Senate panel backs bill to lower suicide rate among veterans  
http://bit.ly/1EkPDMS

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee unanimously approved a bill named for Clay Hunt, a 26-year-old veteran who killed himself in 2011. The bill is aimed at reducing a suicide epidemic that claims the lives of 22 military veterans every day.

Supporters of the legislation – among them Republican Sens. Jerry Moran of Kansas and Roy Blunt of Missouri – say extra funds aren’t necessary to consolidate and improve the [Department of Veterans Affairs’ suicide prevention](http://bit.ly/1Ekzebs) programs. They expect the bill to get another shot at final passage in the Senate in the coming days. This time, they say, it will pass easily. Blunt says it shouldn’t be hard for VA to shift resources around and find the necessary savings within its existing budget to pay for the bill.

“Twenty-two million over five years means $4.4 million over every year,” Blunt said Wednesday in a press call with Missouri reporters. “The department has a lot of money. They proved last year that they were not spending that money wisely.”


℠2015 - According the DOD’s Suicide Event Report, the suicide rate among active duty personnel for 2013 has declined since 2012 while the rate among reserve components has increased slightly during the same time frame.


A new study confirms recent veterans coming home from war are at higher risk for committing suicide than ever before. A detailed study will be published next month in the [Annals of Epidemiology](http://bit.ly/1GxDeHB). The study tracks the posts-service suicide risk of recent wartime veterans. It states the suicide risk is highest during a vet’s first three years out of the military. Chris Wolf, Director of the Western Nebraska Community College Military and Veterans Affairs Office says this is often the time when veterans return to school.

- **Suicide Risk and Risk of Death Among Recent** [http://1.usa.gov/1wreEwV](http://1.usa.gov/1wreEwV)
  - Good infographics and text version of data
- **Health Study for a New Generation of U.S. Veterans** [http://1.usa.gov/1wreQwm](http://1.usa.gov/1wreQwm)
  - **PTSD**: 13.5% of OEF/OIF deployed and non-deployed Veterans screened positive for PTSD
  - **Sinusitis, asthma, and bronchitis**: 29% of OEF/OIF Veterans were more likely to report having sinusitis
  - **Infertility**: 15.8% of women and 13.8% of men reported that they had experienced infertility- See more at: [http://www.publichealth.va.gov/epidemiology/studies/new-generation/index.asp#sthash.XGyvZnBg.dpuf](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/epidemiology/studies/new-generation/index.asp#sthash.XGyvZnBg.dpuf)


Camaraderie and courage were highlighted by two Medal of Honor recipients during a talk on Camp Lejeune on Tuesday. More than 1,200 Marines filled the base theater aboard the installation to hear retired Marine Col. Harvey “Barney” Barnum and retired Army Maj. Drew Dix deliver their message during “Warrior Talks.”

USA Today: VA responsible for vet’s suicide, mother says [http://usat.ly/1EtkT9N](http://usat.ly/1EtkT9N)

Since that dark day in January 2013, Janine Lutz has done everything to help veterans with PTSD, including creating a foundation in her son’s name for combat veterans, organizing motorcycle rides to raise PTSD awareness and funding law enforcement programs for first-responders who deal with veterans. But her son’s death continues to gnaw at her. Why, she wondered, did VA give him more drugs?

"The drugs they are pushing on all veterans, not just my son, is not helping. I think we know that these drugs are killing them," Janine Lutz said.
USA Today: War-years military suicide rate higher than believed [http://usat.ly/1utHs8v](http://usat.ly/1utHs8v)
Rates of suicide in the military were slightly worse during the war years than what the Pentagon previously reported, according to new calculations released by Defense Department officials Friday. The new arithmetic shows that from 2006 forward — during the fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan — the true suicide rate across the U.S. military was actually several tenths of a percent to 1% or more higher than what was being reported.

ASIST: A Helping Hand [http://1.usa.gov/1wpMlir](http://1.usa.gov/1wpMlir)
Twenty-eight Sailors aboard the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) completed a two-day Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) workshop hosted by the command religious ministries department (CRMD), Jan. 13.

The U.S. military is faced with a ticking time bomb – the growing number of veterans and soldiers dying by their own hand, American Legion officials say. Retired Army Lt. Col Dale Barnett, the leading candidate to become Legion national commander, discussed the issue Saturday during a visit to the state Legion convention in Albany where nearly 1,000 people were gathered. Barnett, a West Point graduate and Desert Shield veteran from Georgia, called on Congress to provide more funding to train health care professionals and provide programs for people dealing with this crisis issue.

California University of Pennsylvania veterans are deploying a creative approach to draw attention to a report that concluded 22 former soldiers have been committing suicide each day in the United States. At exactly 11:22 a.m. each weekday through Feb. 20, members of the Cal U. Veterans Club and its Army ROTC will meet in the heart of the campus to perform 22 pushups together to bring awareness to the suicide problem. “Every time someone does a pushup, it’s a reminder of someone who won’t be here tomorrow,” said Maj. Joe Masserini of Venetia, an assistant Cal U. professor of military science. “It’s just a good public reminder of what’s going on nationwide,” Masserini said Thursday.

In launching the “STOP22” campaign on January 22, 2015, K9s For Warriors wants every American to know we have a veteran suicide epidemic and that there are solutions. How we are asking for help? Awareness. K9s For Warriors is asking you to share our message of #K9sSTOP22. We want you to get creative and share this message in a Facebook post, a Tweet, or an Instagram post using the number 22. You can share your photos on K9s For Warriors website www.STOP22.org and help us bring awareness to this epidemic. For more information about the STOP22 Campaign, call 904-686-1956, email Todd Galley at toddgalley@k9sforwarriors.org, or visit www.STOP22.org.


**Research**
- Race/Ethnicity, Sexual Orientation, and Suicide Risk among Youth

**News**
- When teens talk of suicide: What you need to know
- MINNESOTA: The middle aged, especially men, are at a growing risk of suicide
- AUSTRALIA & THE UNITED KINGDOM: Portraying suicide: Research on UK arts coverage and shifts in stage and screen practice in Australia

**Funding**
GENERAL NEWS

- TRICARE Patients Must Attest to Health Care Coverage
- Webinar to Highlight the Operation Live Well Initiative
- DoD Tightens Focus on Health and Nutrition
- Parents of special-needs kids turn to each other for support
- Laboratory Airmen ensure healthy force

Deployment Health News

**Mobile apps help vets cope with stress, mental health issues**
Federal Times, 19 January 2015
"Mobile apps are opening up new ways for physicians to deliver health care services, including mental health and post-traumatic stress disorder. The National Center for Telehealth and Technology is at the forefront of efforts to develop innovative technology to help military service members, veterans and their families cope with psychological health and traumatic brain injury issues. The center, known as T2, also delivers tested solutions — many of them mobile apps — to help improve the lives of patients wherever they are located."

**Routine Military Medical Visits Can Include Behavioral Health Checkup**
DCoE Blog, 16 January 2015
"When Frances stepped on the scale at her primary care visit, she had gained more than 10 pounds. She was under a lot of stress, she told the physician assistant. The response was immediate: A new member of the primary care team could help Frances with a plan for coping with stress. Minutes later, she was sitting down with internal behavioral health consultant Erica Jarrett. Six months later, not only was Frances less stressed, but she’d also lost the extra weight. Frances (not her real name) is benefiting from the Military Health System’s decision to integrate an internal behavioral health consultant (IBHC) — either a psychologist or a licensed clinical social worker — into the primary care team. For the military, the goal is healthier, fitter service members."

**Detailed study confirms high suicide rate among recent veterans**
LA Times, 15 January 2015
"Recent veterans have committed suicide at a much higher rate than people who never served in the military, according to a new analysis that provides the most thorough accounting so far of the problem. The rate was slightly higher among veterans who never deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq, suggesting that the causes extend beyond the trauma of war."

**Mental health providers support Sailors involved in Air Asia Flight QZ8501 search efforts**
DVIDS, 16 January 2015
"In the wake of the AirAsia Flight QZ 8501 search efforts from Dec. 28, 2014 – Jan. 15, 2015, mental health professionals specializing in post-traumatic symptoms related to disasters or traumatic events arrived on board the USS Sampson (DDG 102) to support Sailors’ mental and emotional health. Special Psychiatric Rapid Intervention Teams (SPRINT), are Navy Medicine’s primary response resource in providing rapid support.
following operational mishaps and critical events involving loss of lives."

**UCLA Study Makes PTSD Breakthrough**
Canyon News, 15 January 2015
"UCLA scientists have discovered specific genes that are linked to a predisposition to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The study was published in the February 2015 edition of the Journal of Affective Disorders, and is significant because it answers the question of why some people suffer from PTSD and others do not."

**Why It Should Always Be the Season for Exercise**
Huffington Post Blog, 13 January 2015
"We all know that exercise is good for us. And this past holiday season, the market was awash with activity monitors like the FitBit and Nike Fuel Band to help you reach your fitness goals from the neck down. But what about from the neck up? Although it may come as no surprise that exercise is good for your brain, we still do not have the metrics to guide optimal exercise for mental health. Today, the most common explanations for how exercise boosts mental health are that when we exercise we release endorphins that make us feel good and that exercise increases blood flow to our brains."

**Connecticut Professor Researches Better Treatments for Vets with PTSD**
PR Web, 14 January 2015
"Dr. Kristi Salters-Pedneault is the co-investigator in a large scale study that seeks to test the efficacy of RESET, an experimental acceptance-based therapy for PTSD. ‘I’m not a veteran, I’ve never served our country. But it feels good to have a set of skills that I know I can use to support veterans,’ she said. As a professor of psychology at Eastern Connecticut State University, she researches more effective treatments for veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Preliminary results indicate that RESET is highly effective in comparison with established cognitive behavioral methods."

**After PTSD, More Trauma**
"Going in for therapy at a Veterans Affairs hospital is a lot like arriving at a large airport in a foreign country. You pass through a maze of confusing signage. Your documents are scrutinized. There are long lines you must stand in and a series of bureaucratic rituals that must be endured before anything resembling a human encounter occurs. In April 2013, after doing a series of intake interviews and sitting on a waiting list for three months, I had my first human encounter with my assigned therapist at the big V.A. hospital in San Diego. Little did I know that the delay in treatment would be less agonizing than the treatment itself."

**Military suicide rate declining**
The Town Talk, 19 January 2015
The suicide rate among active-duty U.S. military personnel dropped in 2013 to roughly the same rate as the civilian population adjusted for similar demographics, according to a new Pentagon report. The 2013 Defense Department Suicide Event Report shows the suicide rate for troops on active duty in 2013 was 18.7 per 100,000 population, down from the 2012 rate of 22.7 per 100,000. The rates for the individual services per 100,000 according to the report, were 23 for the Army, 23.1 for the Marine Corps, 14.4 for the Air Force and 13.4 for the Navy. The rate for civilians of the same age and socio-economic status as those who serve in the military is 18.8 per 100,000, according to Army and National Institutes of Mental Health calculations."

For more deployment health-related information, click here to go to the DoD Deployment Health Clinical Center’s PDHealth.mil website.
Army’s Dynamic Programs Prepare Soldiers for Healthy Lives http://1.usa.gov/1EkRzFg

“Soldiers serve for their whole lives in some capacity, even after they leave the Army. If they’re not healthy, their ability to successfully serve in their communities declines,” said Lt. Col. Paula Smith, Health Director, Soldier for Life. “That’s why what the Army is doing now in terms of health and wellness is so exciting—it impacts Soldiers throughout the entire Soldier Lifecycle,” she added.

Veterans Resources
• Legion Supports Recommendations of Independent Review on Moncton Shooting
• VA Issues Statement on Denver VA Replacement Medical Center

VA VAntage Point
• VA dietitian asks “Did you make weight loss a New Year’s resolution?”
• Free tax return preparation for Veterans, military members and their families

NEW 2015 NCHV Annual Conference, May 27-29, 2015 in Washington, D.C. http://on.fb.me/1EkQJs2

As we begin the final year of the Five-Year Plan to End Homelessness, it's time to mark your calendars for what promises to be one of the most anticipated NCHV Annual Conferences in our organization's history! Help us mark 25 years of NCHV with special events and tributes throughout the conference.

This three-day training event will feature sessions covering a wide range of topics to support your community's efforts to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. You'll hear the latest updates and be able to give feedback to leaders from our partners at VA, DOL, HUD, and more.

Mark your calendar for May 27-29, 2015 at the Grand Hyatt Washington! Registration will open with more details soon, stay tuned to the NCHV Annual Conference page on our website for the latest updates

NIH Director's Blog: Funding Science http://1.usa.gov/1EkNssD

Several papers in the past few weeks have commented on the dismal state of funding for U.S. biomedical research1,2,3,4 After a doubling of the NIH budget between 1998 and 2003, NIH appropriations have stalled with little growth over the past decade. Indeed, corrected for inflation, NIMH has “undoubled” with a budget that is on par with 1999.

As a result, less than one in five grants can be funded and many promising projects cannot be supported. As Alberts et al5 recently noted there is both a sense of hyper-competitiveness and despair in the academic community, with many young scientists deciding that a career in science is no longer practical, at least not in this country.

SAMHSA
• SAMHSA Is Accepting Applications for the Performance Partnership Pilot
States, tribes, and municipalities can apply to become a Performance Partnership Pilot until March 4, 2015. These pilot communities will test innovative, cost-effective, and outcome-focused strategies for improving results for disconnected youth.
• Upcoming Events and more http://bit.ly/1L4g6A9

NM State Veterans' Home In Line For Millions In Federal Funds For Expansion
New Mexico’s Democratic members of Congress announced Thursday that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has approved—conditionally—nearly 16-million dollars for the New Mexico State Veterans' Home in Truth or Consequences to build a new 59 bed facility.

Among other improvements, the project includes new Alzheimer’s beds and a new rehabilitation section for inpatient and outpatient services. A news release says the facility needs to meet certain conditions to receive the funds. The State Veterans' Home—the only nursing facility in the state dedicated specifically to serving veterans and their families—has planned the construction of the new facility since 2008, and the project is estimated to cost 30 million dollars. It has already secured 12-and-a-half million dollars in state match funding and plans to request additional funding during the current state legislative session.

Martinsburg VAMC Offer MOVE! For Women

Women Veterans are the fastest growing segment of the Veteran population, and the Martinsburg VA Medical Center is taking measures to tailor its programs to benefit their unique health care needs. Taking its cue from the successful MOVE! program, the medical center now offers this healthy lifestyle resource specifically for women Veterans. This is MOVE! for Women.

MOVE! is a national weight management program designed by the VA National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (NCP), a part of the Office of Patient Care Services, to help Veterans lose weight, keep it off, and improve their health. Time is spent in the classroom learning about nutrition and setting health goals as well as in the gym to promote an active and informed healthy lifestyle.

Soldiers and Families Push Back against Army Drawdown at Town Halls

Governors and community leaders nationwide have been lining up to voice their opposition to the Army’s planned drawdown due to budget cuts. On Tuesday night, Maj. Gen. Gary Volesky, the commander of the 101st Airborne Division, who is leading the fight against Ebola in Liberia, phoned in to an Army "listening session" before overflow crowds at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Volesky urged speakers to "leave nothing in your rucksacks" in defending the base, the Leaf-Chronicle of Clarksville, Tennessee, reported.

VA: CHERP Research Links Equity to Quality

A study by CHERP investigators and colleagues found that improved performance for white, black and Hispanic adults hospitalized for acute myocardial infarction, pneumonia and heart failure was accompanied by increased racial and ethnic equity in performance rates both within and among U.S. hospitals between 2005 – 2010. Their article, Quality and equity of care in U.S. hospitals was published in the December 11, 2014 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

NJ Legislature Waives Fees for Death Certificates of Veterans

Under a law signed on Jan. 6, 2015, by Acting Governor Kim Guadagno, death certificate fees for Veterans have been waived. Under the revised law, authorized family members, legal representatives, executors or administrators of the Veterans estate can obtain a certified copy of the veteran’s death certificate at no charge.

Obama to Request Research Funding for Treatments Tailored to Patients’ DNA (NYT)

WASHINGTON — President Obama will seek hundreds of millions of dollars for a new
initiative to develop medical treatments tailored to genetic and other characteristics of individual patients, administration officials say. The proposal, mentioned briefly in his State of the Union address, will be described in greater detail in his budget in the coming weeks. The effort is likely to receive support from members of both parties, lawmakers said.

Wings on Wheels - Vacations for Veterans with Special Needs
http://www.wingsonwheels.co.uk/

Editor's Note: This UK-based company is looking to network with groups and other travel companies in the U.S. and Canada to arrange small group travel vacations for veterans and others with special needs and the less mobile. When I Skyped with them, they were in the process of arranging travel for a group of over 100 people, most of whom were in wheelchairs. For more information please send an email to Jean@wingsonwheels.co.uk

At Wings On Wheels, we develop & run small escorted group holidays worldwide for people with special needs and the less mobile, their careers, friends and relatives. We also arrange tailor made holidays for individuals, families and groups both in the UK and abroad to your specific requirements and budgets.

ID.me Partners with Project Sanctuary to Help Military Families Reconnect
http://bit.ly/1EkTklJ

MCLEAN, Va.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Digital identity network ID.me announced a new partnership today with Project Sanctuary, a national nonprofit, to support the healing and recovery of military and veteran families. With this partnership, Project Sanctuary will be able to leverage ID.me's digital identification technology to allow secure identity verification of their military, veteran and family member applicants.

Project Sanctuary's retreats bring military families together in an outdoor therapeutic environment so they can reconnect and heal. Many of the families attending Project Sanctuary retreats are dealing with PTS (post-traumatic stress), possible divorce and ongoing turmoil due to their visible or invisible wounds. The retreats – and two-year follow-up program – heal families, strengthen marriages, and reduce suicide.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, WEBINARS & OTHER EVENTS
Please send us notices about events in your area.

EVENTS FOR PROVIDERS

Santa Clara Valley Brain Injury Conference, Santa Clara, California, Feb 5-7, 2015
http://bit.ly/1pOOEhg

The 4th Santa Clara Valley Brain Injury Conference: Building on the Legacy of Coma to Community, will be held February 5-7, 2015 at the Marriott Santa Clara, 2700 Mission Boulevard, Santa Clara, CA 95054.

This conference is the updated continuation of the Coma to Community Conference hosted by Santa Clara Valley Medical Center from 1977 through 1995. We anticipate an audience of 500 rehabilitation professionals representing a variety of disciplines as well as individuals with brain injury, family members, and caregivers. Our previous conferences were endorsed by the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine and the Brain Injury Association of America, and the International Brain Injury Association.
The main conference includes two days of multi-disciplinary state of the art educational sessions focusing on issues related to acquired brain injury treatment and research in both a military and civilian population. The 2015 conference will feature multiple half-day pre-conference workshops as an optional add-on. The 2015 main conference will focus on:

- Medical Complexity and Acute and Chronic Treatment (successful strategies and new approaches)
- Innovative Interventions and Assistive Devices (new technology, stem cells and others)
- Living After Brain Injury (socialization, relationships, advocacy and caregiving)
- Special Populations (military and veteran issues, cultural competence, dual diagnosis, pediatrics, and aging)


Franklin County Family and Children First Council in Partnership with Franklin County Juvenile Court Presents: Bruce D. Perry, M.D., Ph.D., Internationally Recognized Authority on Brain Development and Children in Crisis, Please join us for an exciting opportunity to learn:

- HOW COMPLEX TRAUMA IS ASSOCIATED WITH DELINQUENCY & VIOLENCE
- HOW TRAUMA INFORMED POLICIES & PRACTICES PROMOTE POSITIVE OUTCOMES & MAXIMIZE RESOURCES

DATE: Tuesday, February 10th TIME: 1:00 to 4:30pm
LOCATION: Xenos, 1390 Community Park Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43229


PR Newswire, January 7, 2015 “The international mental health community will gather at the Hyatt Regency in San Francisco February 18-20, 2015, marking the first time the International Together Against Stigma Conference will be held in the United States since its inception in 2001. It is hosted collaboratively by The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), the World Psychiatric Association (WPA), The California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association. The conference will serve as a platform for those working to advance mental health in the U.S. and around the globe to tackle challenges, share promising practices and spotlight innovation to promote mental health, prevent mental illness, and improve mental health care.”

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Mark your calendar for May 27-29, 2015 at the Grand Hyatt Washington! Registration will
open with more details soon, stay tuned to the NCHV Annual Conference page on our website for the latest updates

Thompson Conference Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Conference participants will hear from leading clinicians and researchers in the field of mental health and family services to military personnel and veterans. Sessions will focus on clinical skill building with an emphasis on "best practices" and evidence-based treatment techniques in social work. Topics will cover core clinical issues relevant to working with this population. Click here for more information.

Learn more: Download conference preliminary information (PDF)
Submit a proposal: Download abstract submission form (Word) for skill-building presentation or poster presentation. Deadline coming soon: February 1, 2015!

EVENTS FOR PROVIDERS, VETERANS & FAMILIES

Los Angeles City Attorney Valor Citation Clinic, 06 FEB 2015 http://bit.ly/1AR2e6B
The LA City Attorney Office, in collaboration with Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles, is holding a VALOR Citation Clinic at Patriotic Hall on February 6 from 11 AM to 2 PM.

The VALOR Citation Clinic is an alternative sentencing program for veterans with qualifying tickets. It dismisses one qualifying citation in exchange for completion of 4 hours of "community service." There is no limit to the number of citations that may be dismissed. Please see the attached VALOR Citation Clinic Eligibility flyer for detailed information, including a list of qualifying offenses.

This is the LA City Attorney Office’s first VALOR Citation Clinic at Patriotic Hall. Please spread the word and help us make this a successful event, so that future clinics may be held at this central location.

Thank you!

Nicole M. Perez, MSW, JD
Attorney at Law
Veterans Justice Center Coordinator
LEGAL AID FOUNDATION OF LOS ANGELES
7000 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90003

We have a couple of events coming up in the first quarter of 2015 that may be of interest. The first will take place on Saturday, February 7 at 11:30AM at Historic Fort Steuben. We (AMVETS Post 275) and several other area veterans groups are having a planning meeting for our Vietnam Veterans Day program. The second will be our Vietnam Veterans Day 2015 program that is being planned for Saturday, March 28, 2015 at a venue to be determined in Steubenville.

PGA TOUR: 2015 Northern Trust Open Military Appreciation - February 18-22, 2015,
Please pass this information along to any other Bases or Military organizations who may be interested. Veterans are welcome to participate. To register for a complimentary ticket and receive a voucher, please visit https://birdiesforthebrave.sheerid.com/NorthernTrust2015/

**Veterans' Appreciation Event**

**Date:** Tuesday, February 17, 2015

**Complimentary Military Tickets - General Admission to the Northern Trust Open**

**Date:** Wednesday, February 18 – Sunday, February 22, 2015

**Birdies for the Brave® Patriots’ Outpost**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 19, 2015 – Sunday, February 22, 2015

**Active Duty Military Caddie Program: Caddie for a PGA TOUR player for one hole!**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 18, 2015

**Military Pin Flag Attendants**

**DATE:** Saturday, February 21 and Sunday, February 22, 2015

**Military Tee Announcers**

**DATE:** Saturday, February 21, 2015

**Military Appreciation Ceremony**

**DATE:** Saturday, February 21, 2015

Thank you very much for your consideration. If you would like to volunteer for any of the above-outlined military appreciation initiatives, please contact me at kristileefowlks@pgatourhq.com

Jose Arevalo  
Volunteer at SFV Veterans Employment Committee  
Mission Hills Neighborhood Council - Outreach Member  
Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/MissionHillsNeighborhoodCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/MissionHillsNeighborhoodCouncil)  
Twitter [https://twitter.com/MissionHillsNC](https://twitter.com/MissionHillsNC)  
Twitter [https://twitter.com/jlapolo](https://twitter.com/jlapolo)

**State Bar of Georgia fundraiser to benefit Augusta Warrior Project, 28 Feb 2015**

The Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia has announced the Augusta Warrior Project will receive the proceeds from its Signature Fundraiser event this year in Atlanta. “The mission of the AWP includes advocacy for our military veterans and connecting them to Veterans Administration-related benefits, which we have identified as one of the goals of our military support program for this year,” said Sharri Edenfield, president of the State Bar’s Young Lawyers Division. “We look forward to another successful Signature Fundraiser event to help provide the group with the resources it needs to assist our veterans.”

**NEW ODVS: Heroes Tribute Hunt, Saturday, March 21, 2015, Walhonding, Ohio**

[http://1.usa.gov/1EkSiX0](http://1.usa.gov/1EkSiX0)

The Heroes Tribute Hunt, which will take place on Sat., Mar. 21 in Walhonding, Ohio, will provide opportunity for disabled veterans and family to participate in several free outdoor activities, including modified clay pigeon shooting. Register now (registration will close January 30th).

**New: The Service Member to Civilian National Summit (S2C), April 16-17, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL. [http://bit.ly/1AMxRFF](http://bit.ly/1AMxRFF)**

Join top researchers, national advocates, veterans and families to shape the future of transitional support for all veterans.

The Service Member to Civilian National Summit (S2C) on April 16-17 will bring together service members, veterans, their families, and community stakeholders to meet with advocates, researchers, clinicians, educators and policy-makers from around the nation to better understand and explore ways that all stakeholders can improve the transition from
Stand Up for Heroes, Bob Woodruff Foundation, 10 NOV 2015, NYC
Stand Up for Heroes, presented by the Bob Woodruff Foundation & the New York Comedy Festival, will return to the Theater at Madison Square Garden, Nov. 10, 2015. Sponsorship opportunities are available now. Contact Jasmin Guerra for more information.

Veterans Job Listing Sources, Job Fairs & Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Date/Status</th>
<th>Location/Scope</th>
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<td>VetsJobs.org</td>
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<td>Nationwide</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.jsjstaffing.com">www.jsjstaffing.com</a></td>
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"Veterans in Justice" -- LinkedIn Professional Group (VIJ)

Please join us on LinkedIn for networking and discussions on the issues regarding veterans in the criminal justice system. This group's mission is to connect professionals and advocates who work with and for justice-involved veterans and to share ideas and practices for assisting those veterans -- from the conditions that lead to justice involvement, through initial police contact, arrest, criminal case processing, conviction, sentencing, incarceration, and release. Subgroups include Veterans Treatment Courts, Mental Health, Female Veterans, and Peer & Mentoring. Access our group at http://linkd.in/1947vfS  Facebook: www.facebook.com/veteransinjustice

Join The National Discussion - 1,135 Professionals in VIJ

Active Topics:
- DA: Police officers justified in killing mentally ill Army veteran
- Could A Trump Care for Veterans?
- Military Reform Aims To Slash Pay For New Troops
- Ron Kind says investigation underway into Tomah VA allegations
• Phoenix VA Handling of Suicides, Intoxicated Vets and Vet records
• The "I know a guy from Poughkeepsie" argument: Are we really changing anything?
• Public Advocate Letitia James pushes for "veterans treatment court" in Manhattan
• More . . .

LINKEDIN GROUPS

Military and Veteran Benefit Forum
Veteran Mentor Network  http://linkd.in/1fOlqO7 28,933 members
Institute for Veteran Cultural Studies  http://linkd.in/1cz3qq1
NAMI  http://linkd.in/1cz3Gg7
BI-IFEA (Brain injury-Ideas for Education & Advocacy)  http://linkd.in/1cz4e5V
Military-Civilian: Hot Jobs and Careers for Veterans and Their Families  http://linkd.in/1c59DkM
VETERANS IN JUSTICE GROUP  http://linkd.in/12APdMS

Four subgroups created:
• Veterans Treatment Courts  http://linkd.in/145DdHc
• Mental Health  http://linkd.in/120FCJj
• Female Veterans  http://linkd.in/145CTbn
• Peer Support & Mentoring  http://linkd.in/145D32G

Cuyahoga County Ohio Veterans and Supporters (Bryan A. McGown "Gunny")  http://linkd.in/Zwxw1f
Veteran Employment Representatives  http://linkd.in/ZwxUcc
Midwest Military Outreach, Inc.  http://linkd.in/1eiMTkJ
Military Veteran Job Fairs & Hiring Conferences  http://linkd.in/Zxx4jS
Wounded Warrior Resources  http://linkd.in/17TMNh7
The Value of a Veteran  http://linkd.in/1svD7h4
MILITARY MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS POST DEPLOYMENT FOR PROVIDERS, COMBAT VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES  http://linkd.in/1fkQLA8

(Please email us other groups that you find and think would be informative and useful for our audience)

MILITARY VETERANS PRO BONO LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Editor's Note:  We are going to try to list all of the pro bono military veterans legal assistance and law clinic resources in the U.S. by state, and as appropriate for veterans of other nations.  We will need your help.  Please email info on resources that our not on our list to cruzzen@gmail.com.  Thank you!

MILITARY & VETERANS PRO BONO LEGAL ASSISTANCE

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**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- [Resource Guide on Military and Veteran DOMESTIC VIOLENCE for Program Staff](#)
- [ExploreVA.gov](#)
- [California Statewide Collaborative for our Military and Families](#)
- [Trauma-Informed Care for Women Veterans Experiencing Homelessness: A Guide for Service Providers (DOL)](#)
- [VA PTSD Consultation Program (Search) and](http://1.usa.gov/1vQNW3B)
- [National Center for PTSD Website Map](#)
- [VA Health Services Research & Development Upcoming Cyberseminars — Catalog](#)
- [List of Ohio Specialized Docket Courts](http://1.usa.gov/1FgdpG3)
- [The VA's Pilots Database](http://1.usa.gov/1ouB2BN)
- [An Electronic Index to Traumatic Stress Literature](#)
- [The Veterans Choice Program](#)
- [NIMH Twitter Chats Listing](#)
- [VA Caregiver Support Home](#)
- [Resources for MST](#)
- [Operation Legal Help Ohio](#)
- [Department of Veterans Affairs](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov)
- [Department of Defense (DoD) Safe Helpline](http://www.safehelpline.org)
- [Make the Connection: Connecting veterans with information, resources and solutions to issues affecting their health, well-being and everyday lives.](http://www.maketheconnection.org)
- [After Deployment: Wellness Resources for the Military Community](http://www.afterdeployment.org)
- [U.S. Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response](http://www.sapr.mil)
- [Advocating for men and women affected by Military Sexual Trauma. Information and resources for: potential clients (active duty and veterans); friends and family members; the media; advocates; health care providers (civilian and military); academics (students and professors); and potential donor.](http://www.vetwow.com)
- [Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center Medical Providers Information Website](#)
- [My HealtheVet is VA’s online personal health record](#)
- [VA Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs](#)
- [Center for BrainHealth at The University of Texas at Dallas](#)
- [Anxiety - JAMA Psychiatry Collection](#)
- [SAMHSA's Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach](#)
- [SAMHSA Releases New Strategic Plan](#)
- [Serious Mental Illness: A New Block Grant Priority](#)
- [Projections of National Expenditures for Treatment of Mental and Substance Use Disorders, 2010-2020](#)
- [Addressing the Specific Behavioral Health Needs of Men](#)
- [Talking With Children: Tips for Caregivers, Parents, and Teachers During Infectious Disease Outbreaks](#)
- [Coping with Stress During Infectious Disease Outbreaks](#)
- [CEMM Virtual Library/TBI: Interactive Brain](#)
- [Substance Use and Mental Health Estimates from the 2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health-Overview of Findings](#)
- [Milhealth's Research](http://bit.ly/1ouB2BN)
- [Veterans Coalition of North Central Texas](http://www.vcnct.org/)
- [Life-Changing Mobile Apps for People with Brain Injury (brainline.org)](http://bit.ly/1mnn5pk)
- [Defense & Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVVIC): Understanding TBI](http://bit.ly/1mnpMXY)
- [DoD Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program](http://1.usa.gov/1mnn2D)
- [VA's Women Veterans Call Center (WVCC)](http://1.usa.gov/1mrnpoz)
- [ARMY Suicide prevention resources](http://bit.ly/1ldVWKp)
- [The Veterans Defense Project](http://www.veteransdefenseproject.org/)
- [CEMM Virtual Medical Library (USAFA)](http://www.cemmlibrary.org/)

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• SAMHSA New Spanish Language Mental Health Resources
• SAMHSA Suicide Prevention Resources
• SAMHSA's Preventing Suicide: Everyone Plays a Role Webcast
• National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention
• National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
• Connecting Justice Communities (probono.net) http://www.connectingjusticecommunities.com/
• Justice For Vets http://www.justiceforvets.org/
• Center for Brain Health - Strategic Memory Advanced Reasoning Training (SMART) http://bit.ly/1ricLWH
• SAMHSA Programs for Military Families http://1.usa.gov/1iJ9T7k
• Military Mental Health Resources: Depression, TBI & PTSD http://bit.ly/1nLU5kO
• Traumatic Brain Injury News (paper.l) http://bit.ly/1NiKuW
• VA: What are Peer Support Groups? http://1.usa.gov/1nJySAI
• New Spanish-Language Mental Health Resources "Tool Kit" http://1.usa.gov/1qhtOYF
• mentalhealth.gov in Spanish http://1.usa.gov/1quu6P3 http://1.usa.gov/1quu6P3
• International Hyperbaric Medical Association http://bit.ly/1hcFT1
• ARMY OneSource http://www.aosresourcecenter.com/
• SAMHSA Publication: Helping Clinicians Address Suicidal Behavior Get the Quick Guide for Clinicians
• SAMHSA Publication: Helping Administrators Implement Suicide Prevention Get the Quick Guide for Administrators
• http://www.militaryconnection.com/ CAREERS FOR MILITARY VETERANS, VETERAN SCHOOLS,
• NEW GI BILL RESOURCES AND MILITARY LOANS
• SAMHSA Publication: TIP 57: Trauma-Informed Care in Behavioral Health Services http://1.usa.gov/QKQ8Kx
• SAMHSA Talking Points for Faith-Based Communities http://1.usa.gov/1imVuV3
• SAMHSA Everyone Can Play a Role in the Conversation about Mental Health - Faith-Based Organizations Fact Sheet
• U.S. Disability Statistics on the NIMH Website http://1.usa.gov/1gqPxm
• SAMHSA's Mental Health & Substance Abuse Data Archive http://bit.ly/OcAPbT
• California Brain Injury Attorney News http://bit.ly/1INAJ8M
• VA Strategic Plan Now available Online http://1.usa.gov/1cy2M9i
• mTBI Pocket Guide http://bit.ly/1eRzvRF
• The National Center for Telehealth & Technology http://www.t2.health.mil/
• ABA Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel http://bit.ly/1etiug6
• A Structured Evidence Review to Identify Treatment Needs of Justice-Involved Veterans and Associated Psychological Interventions http://bit.ly/1c3HH5l
• SilencedNoMore https://www.silencednomoresoldierscourage.com/
• Pennsylvania Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence http://bit.ly/1jYVRj
• Defense And Veterans brain injury Center http://bit.ly/1bVoZec
• THE U.S. SERVICEMEMBER’S GUIDE TO ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND AID http://bit.ly/1bVo39q
• Disaster, Disease and Distress: Resources to Promote Psychological Health and Resilience in Military and Civilian Communities.
• WAR- Sebastian Junger
• What It Is Like to Go to War by Marlantes, Karl 1st (first) Edition Hardcover(2011)
• Veterans and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (New York Times) http://nyti.ms/14kWDn1
• 365 Days, Broken Bodies, Shattered Minds: A Medical Odyssey from Vietnam to Afghanistan, Wounded: Vietnam to Iraq, by Dr. Ronald J. Glasser, M.D. http://www.ronaldjglasser.com/
• List of Brain Injury Programs and Services http://bit.ly/17w778S
• NIC: Buffalo Veteran's Court and Veterans Mentor Handbook http://1.usa.gov/1lbDRS
• Ohio Specialized Docket Certification Submission Guidelines http://1.usa.gov/13gaCgg

For daily news updates, please subscribe to our two Internet newspapers: Traumatic Brain Injury News Daily and Veterans Courts News Daily

TO JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER

To join our newsletter, please contact Editor Pete Miller at cruzzen@gmail.com

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EDITORS/CONTACT
Pete Miller, cruzzen@gmail.com, @OH CircuitRider
Ohio Attorney General’s Task Force on Criminal Justice & Mental Illness
Ohio Veterans Treatment Courts
Editor/Publisher - Veterans Treatment Court News Daily
Editor/Publisher - Traumatic Brain Injury News Daily