

1ST DISTRICT SERVICE OFFICER VA & R REPORT FOR AUGUST 2021



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Notes of Interest;

Did you know the Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers Act of 2021 (PAWS) Bill, S. 951, sets up a grant program for service dog organizations that provide trained dogs to veterans suffering from PTSD or TBI? The Bill and its companion Bill, H.R. 1022, establish a three-year pilot program that's administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Extending the COVID-19 moratoriums on foreclosures and evictions will allow households that may have fallen behind on their mortgages more time to recover. Ultimately the extension will help thousands of VA home loan borrowers stay in their homes, and provide those hard-hit by the pandemic, the time needed to get back on a regular monthly mortgage payment schedule.

Did you know veterans may lose a major healthcare benefit if a new proposal is approved? In an effort to balance the Federal budget, Congress is considering an option for veterans to pay for Tricare for Life. Tricare is currently provided at no cost for veterans who served 20 years or more. The change would cost veterans more than \$1,100 a year.

Did you know the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry (AHOBPR) was established in 2014 to help put data to work for veterans through research and potential health effects of airborne hazard exposures? The collection of data through the AHOBPR assists the VA in both looking at medical conditions that may be related to military service, but also to research treatment for the various medical conditions that may be caused by the exposure. Even if a veteran has not experienced any symptoms or illnesses that you believe are related to exposures during military service, your participation in the registry could help VA provide better care to all veterans. You are eligible to participate in the registry if you were deployed to the Southwest Asia theater of operations any time after Aug. 2, 1990 or Afghanistan or Djibouti on or after September 11, 2001.

Did you know only about 20 percent of the eligible veterans actually belong to a major veterans organization such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), AMVETS, DAV (Disabled American Veterans), Marine Corp League and others? These organizations, interacting with our Government at the State and Federal level representing the interests of all veterans, have resulted in the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and all of the benefits which veterans have earned by their service to their country.

Most veterans now have access to the [American Forces Travel website](#), which advertises discounted airline tickets, hotels, rental cars, cruises and travel packages. It also offers discounts on event tickets for things like sporting events, concerts or theater. The travel website, a joint venture of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, or MWR, and online travel agency Priceline, offers customers discounts of up to 60% off regular prices on most travel and events. The site is available to active-duty troops, Guard and Reserve members and honorably discharged veterans, among others.

Please Remember..... *That all gave some, but many gave all!*

