

WOMEN VETERANS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020

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CALENDAR

MAY 7TH
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
 Commemorated with prayers from various religious leaders and hosted by the U.S. President.

MAY 8TH
MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY
 Recognize all the contributions, support, and sacrifices made by these individuals.

MAY 15TH
PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY
 Remember those who are protecting us and in harm's way here at home.

MAY 16TH
ARMED FORCES DAY
 Pay tribute to all the men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

MAY 25TH
MEMORIAL DAY
 Honor all those who have died serving in the U.S. military.

VOTING DAY—JUNE 20TH
DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PRIMARY ELECTIONS
 Vote for municipal and ward elections as well as the U.S. President.

LEGISLATION

The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act (P.L. 116-23) made veterans who served in the waters offshore of Vietnam eligible to receive VA health care and benefits for conditions presumed associated with Agent Orange exposure. Granting of these claims began in January. If you have not filed a claim and you think you are eligible, contact a DAV Service Officer and file a claim as soon as possible to get the benefits you are entitled to.

COMMANDER'S ACTION NETWORK (CAN)

You can learn more about all the legislation DAV is helping to become public law—like the Public Law 116-23 stated above.

Everyone should be signed up for this. When you sign up with [DAV](#) to receive alerts, you get all the legislation that DAV is working on and would like you to help with. It will be in an email and you press the Take Action line to bring you to filling out your name and address so it can be sent to your representative. (Sometimes your computer will remember your address information after you put in your name, so you don't have to fill it out each time.) Then a prepared letter comes up. You put in a Subject like "Please Support This Legislation" and click on Submit and it will go to your representative, whether it was a bill from the House or the Senate or both. The more people who do this, the more likely we can get important legislation through and passed.

Currently the DAV is working on passing legislation on the Veteran Burn Pit Exposure Recognition Act of 2019, S. 2950, that has been introduced in the Senate. Go to the site to see what [legislation](#) DAV is working on.

Health Care Services for Women Veterans

HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR WOMEN VETERANS

VHA DIRECTIVE 1330.01(2), amended July 24, 2018 (good through February 2022 unless re-certified or rescinded) This directive gives the standard minimum requirements for our women's health (WH) care and our Primary Care Provider (PCP). Several specified requirements for women veterans who get their care at the VA which starts on page 12:

“6. COMPREHENSIVE CARE FOR WOMEN VETERANS.

- a. **Comprehensive Primary Care.** VHA policy....All women Veterans receiving primary care must be offered assignment to a WH-PACT team let consistent with VHA Handbook 1101.10....*enhances quality of gender-specific care.*
- b. **Assignment to a WH-PCP.** All newly enrolled women Veterans must be assigned to WH-PCPs. Each women Veteran already enrolled for primary health care must be offered assignment to a WH-PCP and a WH-PACT Team...(VA medical facilities, CBOCs, outpatient clinics, etc.).....
- d. **Requirements for Women's Health Primary Care Providers (PCP) and WH-PACT Teamlets.**
 - (3) In order to be initially designated as a WH-PCP, a provider must have at least one of the following:
 - (a) Documentation of attendance at a Women's Health Mini-Residency within the previous 3 years;
 - (b) Documentation of at least 20 hours of women's health continuing medical education (CME) or continuing education unit (CEU) within the previous 3 years;
 - (c).....(f).....and
 - (4) In order to maintain the designation as a WH-PCP, a provider must complete at least 10 hours of CME or CEU in women's health every 2 years.”

Under 6.d., your PCP should have training on health issues specific to women. They are trained on these issues.

VHA Handbook 1330.02 concerns the Women Veterans Program Manager (WVPM) duties. You can contact your WVPM at your VA Medical Center. Overton Brooks VAMC: Courtney Fitzgerald; Alexandria VAMC: LaShondra Brown-Dixon; New Orleans VAMC: Stephanie Condon Perry.

News from the Department Women Veterans' Representative

FORUM 2020

FORUM 2020 The DAV Department Women Veterans Forum was changed to June 11th from 10 AM to Noon at the Hotel Bentley of Alexandria, 200 Desoto Street, if the Department of Louisiana DAV Convention is still going to be held. Previously, for the May Convention, we had confirmed the Women Veterans Program Manager from each of the VA Health Care System Hospitals, Overton Brooks, Alexandria, and New Orleans. You need to register to be able to attend. Get your [Registration Form](#), fill it out, and send it in with your money by the deadline date on the form. Your Chapter Adjutant should also have the forms. Due to the COVID 19 virus (Coronavirus) things may change—check with your Chapter Officers regularly for updates. They will be notified first.