

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

VA Stories of Note: July 21 – July 27, 2017

Stars and Stripes, July 27: [House to vote again Friday on urgent VA funding](#) The House is scheduled to vote again Friday on a bill to provide urgent funding to the Department of Veterans Affairs for a program, nearly depleted, that allows veterans to receive care in the private sector.

USA Today, July 24: [Veterans Affairs secretary: VA health care will not be privatized on our watch](#) As a physician, my professional assessment is that the Department of Veterans Affairs has made significant progress over the past six months — but it still requires intensive care. In order to restore the VA's health, we must strengthen its ability to provide timely and high quality medical care while improving experiences and outcomes for veterans.

USA Today (video), July 27: [VA secretary: 'System is still in critical condition'](#) Dr. David Shulkin, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, tells USA TODAY reporter Donovan Slack that the VA remains in intensive care, but that progress is being made.

Rose Unplugged (Audio) (Pittsburgh, Pa.), July 25: [Rose speaks with Secretary David Shulkin](#) In this eight-minute interview, Secretary David Shulkin speaks with Rose Tennett about the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection, modernizing IT, President Trump's commitment to improving VA, the unanimous House vote to expand the GI Bill, and increasing Choice.

The Mike Gallagher Show (SRN, Audio) (Irving, Texas), July 25: [VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin and Mike discuss how to stop veteran suicides](#) In this seven-minute interview, Secretary David Shulkin speaks with Mike Gallagher about veteran suicide and the importance of not privatizing VA.

The Journal (Martinsburg, W.Va.), July 24: [VA gives students a taste of work](#) Cameron Ebrahimi, 17, thought he might want to become a doctor one day. Then after spending much of last summer volunteering at the Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center, he knew his career path would lead into medicine. "I like relating to people, getting the opportunity to talk with families," he said of medicine. "To help out with veterans is amazing to me."

KTXL (FOX-40, Video) (Sacramento, Calif.), July 21: [Veterans Affairs, Community Step Up to Help 84-Year-Old Homeless Twins](#) In October 2016, two brothers lost their Orangevale home after it foreclosed when payments got too high. The 84-year-old twins, Clifford and Gary Koekoek, have been living on the streets together with nowhere to turn. But things are looking up for the brothers since their story aired on FOX40 Tuesday evening.

Albuquerque Journal (Albuquerque, N.M.), July 20: [PGA program helps veterans](#) The recreation hall at the Department of Veterans Affairs facility in Albuquerque regularly posts a schedule of upcoming activities on its bulletin board. Jim Hungerford, a disabled veteran who served in the Air Force, saw a posting for golf in early spring, and he didn't hesitate to sign up.

Stars and Stripes, July 26: [GI Bill expansion moves to Senate floor for a vote](#) In a unanimous vote Wednesday morning, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee advanced quick-moving legislation to expand veterans' education benefits to a Senate floor vote. Committee members stepped off the Senate floor for a fast vote Wednesday morning. Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., chairman of the committee, urged the Senate to put it on the schedule soon for a vote by the full chamber.

WIBW (CBS-13, Video) (Topeka, Kan.), July 26: [Topeka VA working to make health care for female veterans easier](#) The VA of Eastern Kansas is making sure its women veterans are up-to-date on their health check-ups. They hosted a mobile mammography vehicle Wednesday afternoon, where the veterans got routine screens on-site. Women Veteran Program Manager Kathy Zima-Sauer says as the population of women veteran's grows, so do their needs for proper health care.