

AMVETS Legislative Update



The debt ceiling debacle is (finally) over. The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 was signed into law this weekend, and the country can finally breathe a sigh of relief.

But, as always, it's on to the next fight. Republicans are expected to unveil a new tax proposal shortly. The House Committee on Veterans Affairs is also gearing up for a busy month, and I'm sure we will have more for you on that soon.

Tomorrow was the anniversary of D-Day, the 1944 amphibious assault on Utah Beach that served as a significant turning point in World War II. American veterans of this battle visited Normandy this week to mark the 79th anniversary of their brave actions and remember those lost.

Other news of interest is included below. We will continue monitoring these stories as they develop, and we hope you have a great week.

With high regard,

-Paul Shipley, AMVETS National Third Vice Commander



The [debt ceiling deal](#) was signed into law on Saturday, avoiding a possible national default this week. The legislation suspends the U.S. government's \$31.4 trillion debt ceiling, keeps non-defense discretionary spending relatively flat until after the next presidential election, and changes a few other regulations. Now, Republicans in Congress are expected to unveil a [new tax package](#). Stay tuned.

Yesterday marked the [79th anniversary of D-Day](#), the assault that led to the liberation of France and Western Europe from Nazi control in 1944. Dozens of World War II veterans traveled to Normandy to visit Utah Beach and recall their experiences during the battle. Read some of their stories [here](#).

Veterans across the country are calling for more research and use of [psychedelic drugs for treatment](#). Many veterans suffer from mental illness, addiction, and physical pain symptoms that could be alleviated by these substances. Kentucky recently funded ibogaine research, and similar pushes are expected in New York and California in the coming weeks.

This week, Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) will collaborate with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to host 140 veterans for the [16th annual National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic](#). WWP is both sponsoring the event and leading the cycling portion of the San Diego-based clinic. This program is rehabilitative and educational, offering wounded veterans from across the country an opportunity to engage in adaptive sports and recreational activities.

The VA has released a [Workforce Dashboard](#) that will provide insight into the department's growing workforce and how it is delivering more care and benefits to

veterans. This public dashboard will include the total number of VA employees, progress toward yearly goals, the utilization of new authorities granted by the PACT Act, and more. It will be updated on the fourth Friday of each month.

A new study was published [linking Agent Orange to an increased risk of blood cancers](#) in veterans. An association for an increased risk of developing myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs) was found in veterans exposed to Agent Orange. These are acquired stem cell disorders that can progress and become deadly leukemias.

This Week's Events

June 6

House Veterans Affairs Committee

Subcommittees on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs and Technology Modernization Joint Oversight Hearing

From Months to Hours: The Future of VA Benefits Claims Processing

Senate Veterans Affairs Committee

An Abiding Commitment to Those Who Served: Examining Veterans' Access to Long Term Care

June 7

The House Veterans Affairs Committee hearing can be viewed [here](#).

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing will take place at 3pm and can be viewed [here](#).



Starting July 16th, 988 will be a universal entry point so that no matter where you live in the U.S., you can easily access 24/7 emotional support.

In the meantime, please continue to share 1-800-273-TALK (8255) to be connected with a trained, caring counselor.

We're here for you.

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