

## Here are the latest news and events

➤ **VA expands Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits for dependents**

<https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/87864/va-expands-gi-bill-benefits-dependents/>

The Isakson and Roe Act allows service members to transfer all or part of their Post-9/11 GI Bill entitlement to their ward or foster child.

➤ **Details on FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Expense Reimbursement Program**

<https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/87667/details-femas-covid-19-funeral-expense-reimbursement-program/>

NCA has received calls from family members and funeral homes asking about the Funeral Expense Reimbursement Program. Here are the details on FEMA's program.

➤ **VA offering financial wellness seminars for Veterans**

<https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/87522/veterans-financial-future-seminar/>

April is Financial Literacy Month making it a good time to update budgeting skills. VA offering financial wellness seminars for Veterans.

➤ **Isakson and Roe Act enhances Veteran education benefits**

<https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/87153/isakson-roe-enhances-veteran-education-benefits/>

The Isakson and Roe Act of 2020 features 32 provisions that impact the administration and oversight of education benefits.

➤ **Female Veterans wanted for leadership trainee program**

<https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/88104/female-veterans-wanted-leadership-trainee-program/>

VA encourages female Veterans to apply for a 24-month management trainee program in environmental management services with non-competitive placement.

➤ **Get career-ready with a paid VA internship**

<https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/87810/get-career-ready-paid-va-internship/>

Through the federal Pathways Internship Program, you can get real-world experience doing work that makes a difference at VA.

➤ **Land a job at VA with these federal resume tips**

<https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/86677/land-job-federal-resume-tips/>

Preparing one resume to apply for private sector and federal jobs is a common mistake. Learn how to tailor your resume to help you get hired at VA.

➤ **Beyond MST mobile app for military sexual trauma survivors**

<https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/87896/beyond-mst-mobile-app-military-sexual-trauma-survivors/>

VA is committed to supporting Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma. The new, free Beyond MST mobile app is designed specifically to support MST ...

➤ **Simple Exercises to Reduce Back Pain**

<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/ss20210329-simple-exercises-to-reduce-back-pain?inheritRedirect=true>

Regular back pain can make your life harder than it should be. Watch a VA physical therapist share some exercises that may reduce your back pain.

➤ **Better Than a House Call**

<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/ss04092018-the-doctor-can-see-you-now?inheritRedirect=true>

House calls from doctors are mostly a thing of the past, but you can still see your doctor from the comfort of home. For your next appointment, ask about VA Video Connect.

➤ **Get Care from Virtually Anywhere**

<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/ss20210427-get-care-from-virtually-anywhere?inheritRedirect=true>

Veterans can meet with their VA health care team virtually and from the comfort of their own homes without incurring data charges. To learn more, join VA and T-Mobile for a Facebook Live event on May 4 at noon ET.

➤ **Refill Prescriptions from Your Phone**

<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/ss20210414-refill-prescriptions-from-your-phone?inheritRedirect=true>

VA's new Rx Refill app will help you manage your VA prescriptions on your mobile device. See how you can scan your label, track delivery, and access medication information on My HealthVet.

- May 1, 2021 (Saturday) from 9am to 1pm **KAYAKING FOR HEROES** on the Hudson River. Vet to Vet trained mentor familiar with the area will be guiding all participants for safety. Meet at Kowawese Unique Area at Plum Point located at 90 Plum Point Lane, New Windsor, NY 12553. RSVP is required NLT Friday, April 30th at 17:00 hrs. For info contact Izzy Quintana at email [iquintana@vettovetrc.or](mailto:iquintana@vettovetrc.or)

- **Spring Social in Central Park with Veterans of New York!!!** Veterans of New York invites you to join us at our Spring Social in Central Park! Veterans of New York invites you to join us at our Spring Social on Saturday, May 15th! Come join your fellow veterans and supporters for a fun spring day in Central Park. This will be a great networking opportunity so make sure not to miss out. Food and drinks will be provided, but we encourage everyone to bring something. The event will be held from 1-3pm in Sheep Meadow, which is located on the west side of the park between W. 66th & W. 70th Street. The rain date will be for the following weekend on Saturday, May 22nd. If you would like to attend, please RSVP on Eventbrite using the link below. See you there!!!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-social-in-central-park-with-veterans-of-new-york-tickets-151974735525>

- **VA offers independent living assistance:** The Independent Living program help Veterans and service members who are unable to work due to a service-connected disability, as well as those who need help living as independently as possible. The Independent Living track can also provide job assistance with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. More info: [https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/86923/veterans-unable-work-due-service-connected-disability-can-qualify-independent-living-assistance/?utm\\_source=VRfeature&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=VetResources](https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/86923/veterans-unable-work-due-service-connected-disability-can-qualify-independent-living-assistance/?utm_source=VRfeature&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources)
- **Find your next job with the help from an American Corporate Partners mentor:** National nonprofit American Corporate Partners (ACP) works with post-9/11 Veterans to help them find meaningful employment. The average starting salary for Veterans who utilized ACP was more than \$86,000 with companies like IBM, Deloitte, John Deere and more. More info: [https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/87333/find-next-great-job-help-acp-mentor/?utm\\_source=VRfeature&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=VetResources](https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/87333/find-next-great-job-help-acp-mentor/?utm_source=VRfeature&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources)
- **APPLICATIONS OPEN: Operation Purple Camp! Applications Are Open!** Operation Purple® Camp In-Person and At-Home Options Available Now We're looking for all military kids who want to have the best week of summer ever at Operation Purple Camp! Applications are open now. Don't miss out! Your child can apply to attend Operation Purple Camp in-person or virtually, through our new home version of camp! Whether they're at our traditional camp, or taking part in Operation Purple Camp at Home, campers will have fun, learn about the outdoors, and be celebrated for their service as military kids. Who's ready to have the best summer ever?! *NMFA will only accept one Operation Purple Camp application per child. You may not apply for both in-person and at-home camp. You must choose one.*

Apply for In Person

Camp: <https://www.militaryfamily.org/programs/operation-purple/operation-purple-camp/>

Apply for At Home

Camp: <https://www.militaryfamily.org/programs/operation-purple/operation-purple-camp/operation-purple-camp-at-home/>

- **Upcoming Virtual CLE Webinar and Pro Bono Opportunity-** Feerick Center Veterans Rights Project (VRP) invite you to a Virtual CLE Training Program

The Importance of Understanding Downward Child Support Modifications:  
Training Pro Bono Volunteers to Lead KYRs Presentations to Veteran

Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Time: 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Via Zoom

Webinar: [https://fordham.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Fjr47oOCTkybkKDY4vLLuQ](https://fordham.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Fjr47oOCTkybkKDY4vLLuQ)

**Speakers:**

**Tyler Levsen**, Staff Attorney

Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT)

**Hillie Teller**, Assistant Director, Community Outreach

Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT)

**About the Program:**

This training will provide information about **child support modifications and enforcement** to prepare potential volunteer attorneys and law school students to lead Know-Your-Rights (KYRs) presentations to veterans at local colleges and Vet Centers.

Learn about:

- Child support in New York Family Court
- How to change a child support order (modification)
- How to deal with unpaid child support (arrears) and child support enforcement
- Laws that impact veterans regarding child support
- Resources that can help

- **Project Sanctuary helps Veteran & military families heal:** Project Sanctuary hosts Veteran and active duty families through six-day therapeutic retreats at locations across the United States. While at retreats, families participate in sessions directed at improving relationships, financial literacy and mental health.

More info: [https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/87537/project-sanctuary-helps-military-families-heal/?utm\\_source=VRfeature&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=VetResources](https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/87537/project-sanctuary-helps-military-families-heal/?utm_source=VRfeature&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources)

- **Veterans - do you and your family feel engaged and connected within your community?** Let us know the good and bad so we can improve services. Our 2021 Community Integration Annual Survey allows your input to directly influence our program growth and help us better serve our community's veterans, their families, and caregivers. The first 2,000 participants will also receive a \$5 Starbucks Card! Take the

survey: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/5895654/AWP2021>

- **United Way Virtual Service Fair May 5th 9am-1pm:** United Way is Committed to Serve Those Who Served On **May 5 from 9am to 1pm**, United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region is presenting a virtual service fair that will offer the chance for veterans, military families and community members to have the opportunity to connect with more than 20 nonprofit organizations including several that serve veterans and military families. By offering a safe and virtual volunteer fair we hope you can learn of the different volunteer opportunities right here in our community! Veterans, military families and community members are all welcome to attend. Organizations will also connect attendees to programs and services available in the community for those who may be experiencing financial hardship. Participants will have a chance to meet dozens of community leaders in a small virtual group setting. We look forward to seeing you there!

RSVP: [https://app.mobilecause.com/form/PzjZiw?parent\\_id=625787&vid=icwdh](https://app.mobilecause.com/form/PzjZiw?parent_id=625787&vid=icwdh)

- **Farmer Veteran Coalition helps Veterans into agriculture careers:** Farmer Veteran Coalition is a nationwide organization and the largest non-profit organization that guides Veterans to careers in agriculture. More info: <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/87165/farmer-veteran-coalition-helps-veterans-agriculture-careers/>

- **FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Expense Reimbursement Program** The FEMA Funeral Expense Reimbursement Program covers funeral expenses when a loved one's death was related to COVID-19. This new program, which began on April 12, 2021, can be used to reimburse a family for funeral-related expenses that VA doesn't cover, such as the cost of the casket or urn, clergy fees and funeral home fees. More info: [https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/87667/details-femas-covid-19-funeral-expense-reimbursement-program/?utm\\_source=VRfeature&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=VetResources](https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/87667/details-femas-covid-19-funeral-expense-reimbursement-program/?utm_source=VRfeature&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources)
  
- **MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY 2021 VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE** Friday May 7 is Military Spouse Appreciation Day! To celebrate, Bunker Labs is hosting a virtual roundtable of military spouses. Military spouses Liz Marion, Sabrina Wojtowicz, Miranda Perales and Alexa Modero will lead a discussion on the military spouse experience and how entrepreneurship can combat military spouse unemployment, underemployment, and career instability. According to 2016 Department of Labor statistics, only 53 percent of military spouses participated in the labor market compared to 76 percent of the general population. Thirteen percent are unemployed (three times the national average), and 31.6 percent are underemployed. Entrepreneurship is an exciting, flexible, and fulfilling option that can address these high unemployment and underemployment numbers. **Fri, May 7, 3:00 PM (EDT)**  
**RSVP:** <https://chapters.bunkerlabs.org/events/details/bunker-labs-national-events-virtual-presents-military-spouse-appreciation-day-2021/>
  
- **HOW TO USE BUNKER LABS FOR EXPONENTIAL GROWTH & GET ON SHARK TANK** We're celebrating Mother's Day with one awesome Mom, entrepreneur, and veteran, Beth Fynbo! Beth is the President and Founder of Busy Baby Mat. Beth participated in one of the first Bunker Labs cohort programs in Minneapolis and also won one of the Ford Fund pitch competitions in 2018. Since then, she has leveraged the network and ecosystem to achieve exponential growth for her business. Recently, Beth appeared on Shark Tank with her product and getting an offer from Shark Lori Greiner that she ultimately rejected. Beth will share her entrepreneurial story and how you can utilize the Bunker Labs programs, resources, and network to grow your business **Thu, May 6, 3:00 PM (EDT)**  
**RSVP:** <https://chapters.bunkerlabs.org/events/details/bunker-labs-national-events-virtual-presents-how-to-use-bunker-labs-for-exponential-growth-and-an-appearance-on-shark-tank/>

- **VETERANS IN RESIDENCE PITCH COMPETITION-** Join us for the national Veterans in Residence Pitch Competition featuring participants of the 21A Cohort. Three companies chosen from 23 cohorts across the county will pitch for a chance to win cash prizes, provided by Ford Motor Fund, to help propel their business forward. There will be pitches, there will be laughs, there will be Bunker orange and of course, the best pitch will be rewarded!

**Wed, May 5, 1:00 PM (EDT)**

**RSVP:** <https://chapters.bunkerlabs.org/events/details/bunker-labs-national-events-virtual-presents-veterans-in-residence-cohort-21a-pitch-competition/>

- **Upcoming Food/Store Gift Card Distribution Drive-Thru Event:** The New York Community Cares about Military and Veteran Families! The impacts of COVID-19 have been tough on so many. That's why Blue Star Families and the New York community are joining forces for a special event to support military and veteran families. **Food/Store Gift Card Distribution Drive-Thru Event**  
**Date: Saturday, May 1st from 10 AM – 1:30pm PM ET**

**Location:** Fisher House near the Bronx VA Hospital  
130 W Kingsbridge Rd, Bronx, NY 10468

Drive up to the Blue Star Families tables, and volunteers will give you a bag filled with groceries and a local store gift card. \*Volunteers will be wearing masks and gloves. Participants do not need to leave their cars. Register today: [https://bluestarfam.org/event/new-york-community-cares/?mc\\_cid=e696cae657&mc\\_eid=ce46f38766](https://bluestarfam.org/event/new-york-community-cares/?mc_cid=e696cae657&mc_eid=ce46f38766)

- **Search and add WWI Veterans on RollofHonor.org-** Search, add, and honor WW1 Veterans for free on RollofHonor.org – a great place to learn about those who served in The Great War. More info: <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/87265/search-add-wwi-veterans-rollofhonor-org/>

**Here upcoming virtual events for May/June 2021**  
**hosted by Samuel B. Cottes, Jr. BA**

Veterans Outreach Program Specialist Staten Island Vet Center

VA Hospital Dental & Dental Care

Mon, May 3, 2021 12:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/151092243969/>

Pre-need eligibility for burial in a VA cemetery

Mon, May 3, 2021 2:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/151124685001/>

NYC Veterans Community Civil Service 101 Information session

Tue, May 4, 2021 12:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/143847807665/>

How to enroll in the Veterans Affairs Healthcare

Fri, May 7, 2021 12:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/151094739433/>

Veteran NCO Club

Fri, May 7, 2021 7:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/151132277711/>

Understanding Military Retirement Pay and CRDP/CRSC

Mon, May 10, 2021 12:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/151096940015/>

Free or Low Cost Health Insurance Presentation to Vets and their Families

Wed, May 12, 2021 12:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/151259271553/>

VA Education Benefits

Fri, May 14, 2021 12:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/151116715163/>

New York City Veterans Property Tax Exemptions

Sat, May 15, 2021 12:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/151126672947/>

How to apply for a VA Veteran ID Card(VIC Card)

Sat, May 15, 2021 2:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/151122548611/>

VA Caregiver Program

Mon, May 17, 2021 12:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/151123543587/>

How to get your DD 214

Fri, May 21, 2021 12:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/151123964847/>

New York City Veterans Property Tax Exemptions

Sat, May 24, 2021 12:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/151126672947/>

Pre-need eligibility for burial in a VA cemetery

Mon, May 24, 2021 2:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/151124685001/>

New York City Veterans Property Tax Exemptions

Fri, Jun 4, 2021 12:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/151121786331/>

Pre-need eligibility for burial in a VA cemetery

Fri, Jun 4, 2021 2:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/151093995207/>

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