November 8, 2012

1. Obama’s victory brings hope to supporters but questions on whether Washington can change.
2. What Obama’s re-election means for the military, veterans.
3. Researchers study colliding helmets in effort to reduce brain injuries.
5. Veterans and military job fair, fundraiser for homeless vets planned.
6. Haslam Recognizes 5 Veteran State Employees.
7. Local veteran Ness shares personal reflections for Veterans Day.
8. Innovation At VA: App Offered To Hurricane Sandy Victims.
14. US Chamber, American Legion To Host Veterans Job Fair.
15. We Honor Veterans Presentation On Nov. 19 In Taftville.
16. Homeless Challenge Takes Center Stage In Valley Forum.
17. United Way To Host Veterans Resource Fair.
18. Fort Riley To Host Education Fair.
19. Offering Hope For Military.
22. Sports Games, Free Events In Honor Of Veterans.
24. Veterans’ Needs Come To Light At Town Hall.
25. American Indian Veteran’s National Memorial To Be Dedicated Nov. 14 At Heard Museum.
26. Cherokee Veterans From All Eras To Be Honored Nov. 9.
27. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as November 8, 2012:
28. Today in History:
1. **Obama’s victory brings hope to supporters but questions on whether Washington can change.** America woke up Wednesday morning to a surprisingly decisive re-election victory for President Barack Obama, but also to the reality of a still-divided Congress, a still-fractured electorate and a country still anxious over serious fiscal and ideological battles ahead.

2. **What Obama’s re-election means for the military, veterans.** Even though Barack Obama has served as commander in chief for the last four years, his re-election Tuesday will mean significant changes for the military in coming months, especially in terms of defense spending.

3. **Researchers study colliding helmets in effort to reduce brain injuries.** Once cheered as the sound of a good hit, the loud crack heard on the gridiron when two football helmets collide is more often greeted these days by gasps, as fans recognize the potentially season-ending injuries such jarring impacts can cause.

4. **Veterans Day: A time of reflection for old warriors.** Evidently, some parts of a soldier’s experience never change. “If I could talk to a kid just going off to war,” said Frank Oliver, an 80-year-old veteran of the Korean War and a resident of Gig Harbor’s Peninsula Retirement Living, “I’d tell them, stay sober, watch out for those girls, and keep your nose clean.”

5. **Veterans and military job fair, fundraiser for homeless vets planned.** The Providence Journal The fair is sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and its Rhode Island affiliate, the state Department of Labor and Training, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and others. Registration for employers and job seekers at the Hiring Our Heroes site.

6. **Haslam Recognizes 5 Veteran State Employees.** The Chattanooga Governor Bill Haslam and First Lady Crissy Haslam joined Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Mary-Bears Grinder and Major General Terry “Max” Haston of the Tennessee Military Department on Wednesday to recognize five veteran ...
7. **Local veteran Ness shares personal reflections for Veterans Day.** Spring Valley Tribune The United States Department of Veterans Affairs states that Veterans Day "is largely intended to thank living veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that ..."

8. **Innovation At VA: App Offered To Hurricane Sandy Victims.** AOL Government This is one in a series of articles about innovation at the Department of Veterans Affairs and part of a larger series on innovation at agencies across the federal government. A mobile app originally developed to aid veterans has been offered to mental ...

9. **Manhattan VA Facility Remains Closed.** American Legion "In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, VA New York Harbor Healthcare System's Manhattan facility remains closed." But in order to "accommodate veterans' needs, several phone numbers and programs have been developed to ensure the continuity of care for patients" who have been displaced by the closure. The website adds, "VA officials continue to assess the damage and no timeline for repairs have been established."

10. **Civilian Population Should Have Access To Talking Prescription System.** Washington Times "Sgt. Shaft" column says Veterans Affairs "mental health initiatives include two...public awareness campaigns designed to help veterans who seek mental health care assistance." The Veterans Crisis Line and Make the Connection "campaigns have received 43 industry and association awards for communication and design excellence." In commenting on the awards, VA Secretary Eric Shinseki said both campaigns "have been effective in helping us address two of our highest priorities – mental health care and suicide prevention." An earlier item in the "Sgt. Shaft" column points out that VA and the "Department of Defense (DoD) are investing more than $100 million in research to improve diagnosis and treatment of mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI) and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)."

11. **What Obama's Re-Election Means For The Military, Veterans.** Stars And Stripes "Even though Barack Obama has served as commander in chief for the last four years, his re-election Tuesday means significant changes for the military in coming months, especially in terms of defense spending," which could go down. Meanwhile, Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki "promised to end veterans homelessness by late 2015, eliminate the veterans benefits backlog by late 2015, and establish a joint VA-DOD lifelong medical records system by 2017. All of those ambitious deadlines will now come during Obama's second term."
12. **Brain Anatomy May Play Role In Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.** *HealthDay.* "In combat veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, the area of the brain that controls fear and anxiety responses is much smaller than normal, according to a new study" that was "published Nov. 5 in the journal Archives of General Psychiatry." The lead author of the study was "Dr. Rajendra Morey, assistant professor of psychiatry at Duke University." This is "one piece in a bigger puzzle to understanding why some people develop PTSD and others do not," Morey said in a university news release. Morey added, "We are getting closer to that answer." *Duke Medicine News.* "Funding for the study was from the US Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Institutes of Health." Duke Medicine News points out, "The finding provides new insight into a condition that strikes nearly 14 percent of combat veterans serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, according" to VA.

13. **Exercise Helps PD Patients Keep Walking.** *MedPage Today.* "Three different exercise programs improved the walking ability of Parkinson's disease patients, though in somewhat different ways, researchers reported." The study, which was reported online in Archives of Neurology and "funded by the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, the Baltimore VA Medical Center, Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center, the National Institute on Aging, and the VA Office of Rehabilitation Research and Development," found that low-intensity "treadmill exercise led to a 12% increase in distance achieved on the 6-minute walk test." MedPage Today adds, "Resistance and stretching exercises also resulted in a significant 9% increase...but only a nonsignificant 6% improvement was seen for high-intensity treadmill exercise."

14. **US Chamber, American Legion To Host Veterans Job Fair.** *Wilmington (DE) News Journal.* "The US Chamber of Commerce's National Chamber Foundation and The American Legion will host a 'Hiring Our Heroes' job fair for veterans and military spouses on Nov. 15." The fair will run from "9 a.m. – noon at the Walter L. Fox American Legion Post #2, 835 South Bay Road, Dover." Partners in the event include the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

15. **We Honor Veterans Presentation On Nov. 19 In Taftville.** *Norwich (CT) Bulletin.* At seven in the evening on November 19th, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2212 in Taftville, Connecticut, is scheduled to "host a We Honor Veterans presentation." After noting that Hospice Southeastern Connecticut will make the presentation, the Bulletin adds, "The program is a national initiative sponsored by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the Department of Veterans Affairs with the goal of focusing more attention on the needs of veterans and to help support hospices in meeting those needs."
November 8, 2012

16. **Homeless Challenge Takes Center Stage In Valley Forum.** [Verde (AZ) Independent](#) "Support groups and individuals from throughout the Verde Valley gathered Friday at the Verde Valley Guidance Center Friday to focus the response to the local homeless issue." Veterans Affairs "proposed the Summit to bring together non-profit groups with an interest in the homeless problem and to present models to implement." Ed Sheir, a case manager for VA's homeless program, said his agency has a "mandate to end homelessness in five years, by 2015."

17. **United Way To Host Veterans Resource Fair.** [Augusta (VA) Free Press](#) "The United Way of Greater Augusta will be holding a Veterans Resource Fair in collaboration with the Staunton Veteran's Day Parade, Saturday, Nov. 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Central United Methodist Church" in Staunton. A mobile van operated by Veterans Affairs is scheduled to attend the event.

18. **Fort Riley To Host Education Fair.** [WIBW-TV](#) The Fort Riley Army Education Center in Kansas "will host the first annual 'Fort Riley, Kansas Education Fair' from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. on November 13 at Riley's Conference Center." The event "will highlight educational opportunities for service members, their families," veterans, "and individuals in the surrounding communities." The US Veterans Affairs Department will attend the fair "to assist with questions concerning VA educational programs."

19. **Offering Hope For Military.** [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) Diane Kinney is "founder and director of Base Camp Hope, a St. Paul-based nonprofit that offers military veterans, service members and their families counseling for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)." Prior to founding Base Camp Hope, Kinney "kept meeting veterans who appeared to be suffering from PTSD, but were not getting professional treatment through" Veterans Affairs. The Star Tribune adds, "The VA offers some excellent services, Kinney said, but as a large government bureaucracy, it's not for everybody."

20. **Support Group Open To Spouses Of Military Service Members.** [St. George (UT) Spectrum](#) "A workshop offering support to spouses of military service men and women is set for Wednesday at the new St. George Vet Center. The new center offers a variety of support services for military families, which is why Bruce Solomon, readjustment counselor, saw the need to address the trials of the spouses involved in the military." Solomon "added that if there is enough interest from the Cedar City area, the Vet Center would like to consider adding a support group in the area in the future."
November 8, 2012

21. **Filipino WWII Veterans Argue For Benefits.** [Courthouse News](https://www.courthousenews.com) "The 9th Circuit seems unlikely to revive the claims of Filipino World War II veterans challenging the government's benefits scheme." Some of those veterans "say that the Department of Veterans Affairs improperly determines benefit eligibility by relying on a list held at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Mo., that fire had damaged in 1973." But at a hearing Monday in San Francisco, Judge Milan Smith "said that Congress had set up a mechanism to resolve issues related to veterans' benefits through the VA, and that federal trial courts could not address individual claims made by veterans."

22. **Sports Games, Free Events In Honor Of Veterans.** [U-T San Diego](https://www.ut-sandiego.com)


24. **Veterans' Needs Come To Light At Town Hall.** [St. Helens (OR) Chronicle](https://www.chronicleonline.com)

25. **American Indian Veteran's National Memorial To Be Dedicated Nov. 14 At Heard Museum.** [Native American Times](https://www.nativeamerican-times.com)

26. **Cherokee Veterans From All Eras To Be Honored Nov. 9.** [Cherokee (OK) Phoenix](https://www.cherokeephoenix.com)

27. **VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as November 8, 2012:**

   **November 15, 2012.** House Veterans Affairs Committee will hold a hearing titled, “Review of Veterans Employment Challenges and Initiatives in the 112th Congress.” 10:00 am in Cannon Room 334.

28. **Today in History:**

   - 1861 – **American Civil War**: The "Trent Affair" – The USS *San Jacinto* stops the United Kingdom mail ship Trent and arrests two Confederate envoys, sparking a diplomatic crisis between the UK and US.
   - 1889 – **Montana** is admitted as the 41st U.S. state.
November 8, 2012

- 1892 – The New Orleans general strike begins, uniting black and white American trade unionists in a successful four-day general strike action for the first time.
- 1895 – While experimenting with electricity, Wilhelm Röntgen discovers the X-ray.
- 1901 – Bloody clashes take place in Athens following the translation of the Gospels into demotic Greek.
- 1923 – Beer Hall Putsch: In Munich, Adolf Hitler leads the Nazis in an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the German government.
- 1933 – Great Depression: New Deal – US President Franklin D. Roosevelt unveils the Civil Works Administration, an organization designed to create jobs for more than 4 million of the unemployed.
- 1936 – Spanish Civil War: Francoist troops fail in their effort to capture Madrid, but begin the 3-year Siege of Madrid afterwards.
- 1939 – Venlo Incident: Two British agents of SIS are captured by the Germans.
- 1939 – In Munich, Adolf Hitler narrowly escapes the assassination attempt of Georg Elser while celebrating the 16th anniversary of the Beer Hall Putsch.
- 1940 – Greco-Italian War: The Italian invasion of Greece fails as outnumbered Greek units repulse the Italians in the Battle of Elaia–Kalamas.
- 1942 – World War II: Operation Torch – United States and United Kingdom forces land in French North Africa.
- 1942 – World War II: French resistance coup in Algiers, in which 400 civilian French patriots neutralize Vichyist XIXth Army Corps after 15 hours of fighting, and arrest several Vichyst generals, allowing the immediate success of Operation Torch in Algiers.
- 1960 – John F. Kennedy defeats Richard Nixon in one of the closest presidential elections of the twentieth century to become the 35th president of the United States.
- 1965 – The British Indian Ocean Territory is created, consisting of Chagos Archipelago, Aldabra, Farquhar and Des Roches islands.
- 1965 – The Murder (Abolition of Death Penalty) Act 1965 is given Royal Assent, formally abolishing the death penalty in the United Kingdom.
- 1965 – The 173rd Airborne is ambushed by over 1,200 Viet Cong in Operation Hump during the Vietnam War, while the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment fight one of the first set-piece engagements of the war between Australian forces and the Vietcong at the Battle of Gang Toi.
- 1966 – Former Massachusetts Attorney General Edward Brooke becomes the first African American elected to the United States Senate since Reconstruction.
- 1966 – U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson signs into law an antitrust exemption allowing the National Football League to merge with the upstart American Football League.
- 1970 – Tom Dempsey of the New Orleans Saints sets a NFL record for the longest field goal, kicking a 63-yarder, giving the Saints the 19-17 win against the Detroit Lions.
November 8, 2012

- **1973** – The right ear of John Paul Getty III is delivered to a newspaper together with a ransom note, convincing his father to pay 2.9 million USD.
- **1987** – Remembrance Day Bombing: A Provisional IRA bomb explodes in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland during a ceremony honouring those who had died in wars involving British forces. Twelve people are killed and sixty-three wounded.
- **2004** – War in Iraq: More than 10,000 U.S. troops and a small number of Iraqi army units participate in a siege on the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah.