

# Economic Nuggets

November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

*The latest news, views, and announcements*

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## National Veterans Employment & Education Commission Newsletter



### VE&E'S LATEST ANNOUNCEMENT



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Congress passed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act), a once-in-a-generation investment in our nation's infrastructure and competitiveness. For far too long, Washington policymakers have celebrated "infrastructure week" without ever agreeing to build infrastructure. The President promised to work across the aisle to deliver results and rebuild our crumbling infrastructure. After the President put forward his plan to do exactly that and then negotiated a deal with Members of Congress from both parties, this historic legislation is moving to his desk for signature.

This Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will rebuild America's roads, bridges and rails, expand access to clean drinking water, ensure every American has access to high-speed internet, tackle the climate crisis, advance environmental justice, and invest in communities that have too often been left behind. The legislation will help ease inflationary pressures and strengthen supply chains by making long overdue improvements for our nation's ports, airports, rail, and roads. It will drive the creation of good-paying union jobs and grow the economy sustainably and equitably so that everyone gets ahead for decades to come. Combined with the President's Build Back Framework, it will add on average 1.5 million jobs per year for the next 10 years.



## ECONOMY

*Labor Secretary Martin J. Walsh said in a statement that the rule “improves the economic security of these workers and their families, many of whom are women and people of color.”*

*(Photo: Kriston Jae Bethel for The New York Times)*

### WHY IS BIDEN TAPPING THE STRATEGIC OIL RESERVE, AND WILL THAT LOWER GAS PRICES?

Employees of federal contractors will make at least \$15 per hour under a final rule that the Labor Department announced Monday, providing a likely wage increase for over 300,000 workers, according to administration estimates.

The wage floor will affect contracts that are executed or extended beginning on Jan. 30, 2022. The current minimum wage for contractors is \$10.95 under a rule enacted by the Obama administration in 2014 and is scheduled to rise to \$11.25 on Jan. 1. Both rules require that the minimum wage increase over time to account for inflation.

Paul Light, an expert on the federal work force at New York University, has estimated that five million people work for employers that have federal contracts, including security guards, food workers, janitors and call center workers, but most already make more than \$15 per hour. The

rule will also apply to construction contracts entered into by the federal government.

Labor Secretary Martin J. Walsh said in a statement that the rule “improves the economic security of these workers and their families, many of whom are women and people of color.”

President Biden announced the rule in April when he signed an executive order directing the department to issue it. Mr. Biden’s announcement came amid a series of pro-labor moves by the administration, which included reversing Trump-era rules softening worker protections and enacting legislation that allocated tens of billions of dollars to strengthen union pension funds.

Administration officials said they did not expect the minimum wage increase to result in significant job losses or cost increases, contending that the higher wage would improve

productivity and reduce turnover, providing employers and the government with greater value.

The federal minimum wage remains \$7.25 per hour, though many cities and states have laws setting their wage floors substantially higher. The House of Representatives has passed a bill to raise the federal minimum to \$15 per hour by

2025, but the legislation has not advanced in the Senate.

*Scheiber, N. (2021, November 22). \$15 minimum wage for federal contractors will take effect Jan. 30. The New York Times. Retrieved November 23, 2021, from <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/22/business/economy/minimum-wage-federal-contractors.html?searchResultPosition=3>.*

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## SUPPLY WOES START TO EASE IN EUROPE, BUT BUSINESSES' COSTS SURGE

European businesses are seeing some easing in the delays they face getting hold of parts and raw materials, but supply-chain blockages pushed their costs higher, driving them to raise prices at record pace and fueling inflationary pressures.

Factories around the world have faced shortages since the end of last year, when a surge in demand for goods such as laptops and bicycles took many by surprise at a time when shipping and other parts of the logistics network were in disarray.

Those shortages have worsened over recent months as a result of fresh lockdowns in key Asian manufacturing centers in response to a resurgence in Covid-19 infections.

But over recent weeks, there have been signs of a modest easing of bottlenecks as Asian factories reopen.

A monthly survey of European businesses by data firm IHS Markit that is closely watched by policy makers found that there was some easing of delays during November, but not enough to rein in rising costs and remove the threat of a further rise in consumer prices.

“We are seeing the first signs of increasing availability for some raw materials, but it is still too early to speak of a trend reversal here,” said a spokeswoman for German chemical giant BASF SE. “It is currently not foreseeable to what extent this development will stabilize and what influence this will have on prices.”



*In recent weeks, bottlenecks at British ports like Felixstowe, seen here in October, have loosened from the conditions that had made them among the most congested in Europe.*

*(Photo: Joe Giddens/Pa Wire/Zuma Press)*

IHS Markit's measure of the time taken for parts ordered by factories to be delivered to them rose to 21.5 in November from 19.4 in October. A reading below 50.0 indicates that delivery times are getting longer, so the November reading indicates that delays are building at a slower pace.

Despite those persistent shortages, European manufacturers reported a pickup in output during November, contributing to

an acceleration in economic growth as activity in the services sector also strengthened. That was a surprise for most economists, who had expected supply problems and a recent pickup in Covid-19 infections to drag on the economy.

But while signs that the economic recovery continues will be welcome news for policy makers at the European Central Bank, they will worry about rising costs, with businesses

reporting that they in turn raised their prices at the fastest pace on record.

“Upward pressure on prices has meanwhile intensified far above anything previously witnessed by the surveys,” said Chris Williamson, IHS Markit’s chief business economist.



*China’s electricity shortages have hit factories that produce a lot of the goods we use every day, including Apple gadgets and furniture. The country’s coal problems expose the growing pains in transitioning to a greener future and risks to the global supply chain. (Photo composite: Sharon Shi)*

There are some signs that global supply-chain woes are beginning to recede. In Asia, Covid-related factory closures, energy shortages and port-capacity limits have eased in recent weeks. Ocean freight rates have retreated from record levels.

In recent weeks, bottlenecks at British ports have loosened from the conditions that had made them among the most congested in Europe.

“Uncomfortable stability is the phrase of the moment,” said Tim Morris, chief executive of UK Major Ports Group, a trade body.

But for many European businesses, freight charges remain much higher and waiting times much longer than they were before the pandemic hit, and are likely to remain so for many months to come.

“There are so many choke points...not enough containers, not enough ships, train problems in

Germany,” said Marie Müller-Blech, who works at Inge’s Christmas Decor GmbH, a family run company in central Germany.

Since late last year, the most acute shortages have been felt in businesses that use semiconductors. The switch to home working and a heightened emphasis on home leisure activities saw a surge in demand for electronic devices that overwhelmed the semiconductor industry.

There are signs that demand for electronic devices is cooling. According to HSBC, a U.K.-based bank that has long financed Asian trade, global growth in new orders for electronics slowed in October from the previous month.

Some automobile manufacturers, who have had to idle factories because of the semiconductor shortage, are looking forward to a busier 2022.

“By the end of the year, Volkswagen expects an overall slight improvement in semiconductor supply,” said a spokesman for the German auto giant. “However, the semiconductor supply situation remains very volatile. We expect bottlenecks in production beyond 2021.”



*Hannon, P. (2021, November 23). Supply woes start to ease in Europe, but businesses' costs surge. The Wall Street Journal. Retrieved November 23, 2021, from [https://www.wsj.com/articles/supply-woes-start-to-ease-in-europe-but-businesses-costs-surge-11637670072?mod=Searchresults\\_pos8&page=1](https://www.wsj.com/articles/supply-woes-start-to-ease-in-europe-but-businesses-costs-surge-11637670072?mod=Searchresults_pos8&page=1).*

# ECONOMIC NEWS RELEASE

- The national unemployment rate is **4.6 percent** (October 2021)
- Gulf War II veterans' unemployment rate is **3.8 percent** (October 2021)
- Gulf War II women veterans' unemployment rate is **5.5 percent** (October 2021)
- In October 2021, the veteran unemployment rate was **4.2%**. The comparable non-veteran unemployment rate was **4.6%** in October
- Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled **5,428** an increase of **225** from the preceding week

## HOUSEHOLD DATA

Table A-5. Employment status of the civilian population 18 years and over by veteran status, period of service, and sex, not seasonally adjusted

*[Numbers in thousands]*

Employment status, veteran status, and period of service	Total		Men		Women	
	Oct. 2020	Oct. 2021	Oct. 2020	Oct. 2021	Oct. 2020	Oct. 2021
Unemployed	483	327	428	268	55	59
Unemployment rate	5.5	3.9	5.6	3.7	5.0	5.1



# EMPLOYMENT & TRANSITION

## THE SKILLBRIDGE ADVANTAGE FOR EMPLOYERS

While the DoD's [SkillBridge Program](#) is advantageous for servicemembers transitioning out of the military, that is only half of the story. The other half is the advantages SkillBridge brings to employers.

### WHAT IS SKILLBRIDGE?

For employers not familiar with SkillBridge, it is a training program servicemembers transitioning out of the military can take during the last six months of their enlistment. The training is provided by one of 1,311 SkillBridge-approved industry partners – like Amazon,

Boeing, General Dynamics, and KBR to name a few.

During the time in the program, servicemembers continue to get paid by the military, while at the same time acquiring training experience they can use once out of the military. Training options usually fall into these four categories:

### OJT

Also known as Employment Skills Training (EST), it is training performed at a place of work doing an actual job. Working in one of the many

trade fields are popular OJT options – plumbing, electrician, construction, etc.

### **APPRENTICESHIP**

Generally a combination of OJT and classroom training in a selected trade.

### **INTERNSHIP**

Working at an entry-level position under the supervision of the providing organization. Only one internship is allowed under the program.

### **JOB SHADOWING**

Generally limited to one day working alongside an employee of the company. No limit to the number of job shadowing experiences while in the SkillBridge program.



### **WHAT DOES SKILLBRIDGE DO FOR EMPLOYERS?**

The military teaches several “soft skill” work ethos that most employers find desirable in an employee, like:

- Loyalty
- Teamwork
- Dedication
- Timeliness
- Attention-to-detail
- Problem solving
- Mission oriented

... just to name a few.

As a SkillBridge industry partner, it gives you an opportunity to see a servicemember in action, displaying their military-learned skills while working for you and thus showing you their

potential as far as what they could do for you as an employee of your company.

Right now in this tough job market, it is hard for employers to find good, cleared talent. SkillBridge participants are a known resource as they have proven themselves while in the military – many times performing their job under austere conditions in hostile places. There is no reason to question whether they would have this same level of commitment working for you.

Another often overlooked advantage is many of the SkillBridge participants either have or have had a security clearance. As you know, this can be a huge advantage (in time and money) to fill a job requiring a clearance with a person that has previous security clearance experience.

And finally, because the military continues to pay the person working for you under SkillBridge, it is free labor for you while they are in the program.

### **TRAINING VENUE OPTIONS**

SkillBridge training can be delivered in a number of ways. Depending on how your SkillBridge training is set up, it could be taught on site, on a military installation, by virtual, online or distance learning, or a hybrid of two or more of the options. Right now, there are 2,637 SkillBridge training programs taught in these [locations](#).

### **HOW DO I JOIN SKILLBRIDGE?**

Becoming a SkillBridge partners is a five-step process:

1. Identify your training opportunity.
2. Prepare for the application process.
3. Self-nominate your organization for the SkillBridge program by filling out the inquiry [form](#).
4. Keep in touch with DOD and applicable military service branch(s).
5. Remain engaged through communication with DOD/ service branch.

For more specifics on each step, consult the [Provider’s Handbook](#).

Every year approximately 200,000 servicemembers leave military service. Don't pass up your share of this plethora of talent and experience that could help fill your employment shortages. Become part of the SkillBridge program!

The American Legion, through [Resolution No. 316: Support Employment of Veterans in Public and Private Workforce](#), encourages employers, whether in the public and private sector, to hire veterans. SkillBridge serves as an effective outreach program not only through facilitating connections between transitioning

servicemembers and organizations, but through its ability to provide effective workforce development programs such as On-The-Job-Training [Resolution No.305: Support the Development of Veterans On-The-Job Training Opportunities](#) and apprenticeship opportunities [Resolution No.25: Support and Expand Apprenticeship Opportunities for Servicemembers](#).

*29, Ron Kness / Oct. "The Skillbridge Advantage for Employers." ClearanceJobs, ClearanceJobs, 29 Oct. 2021, <https://news.clearancejobs.com/2021/10/29/the-skillbridge-advantage-for-employers/>.*

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## WHO NEEDS COLLEGE? VETS USING NEW GI BILL PROGRAM TO GET GOOD-PAYING JOBS

The Department of Veterans Affairs has released numbers on the effectiveness of its new GI Bill program, and they look pretty impressive. But you might want to sign up for it quickly before it runs out of money.

In a Facebook post on Tuesday, the VA Education Service provided numbers about the effectiveness of the Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses, or VET TEC, program, which is designed to train veterans in computer coding, security and networking jobs.

According to the VA, more than 1,200 of the approximately 2,000 veterans who have participated in the program since it began found employment in their fields within 67 days of graduation, with an average starting salary of more than \$57,000.

Currently, however, the successful and popular program is only temporary. The pilot program is scheduled to last until Sept. 30, 2023.

Congress limited the VET TEC program to \$15 million in annual funding. The VA will accept applications until the funding runs out, which happened within one month in fiscal 2021 and in seven months after it was introduced in fiscal

2020. The VA began accepting applications for fiscal year 2022 on Oct. 1.



To be eligible for the program, you must be a veteran and have been out of the military for at least six months. You also must have at least one day of GI Bill benefit eligibility remaining. You will not be charged any GI Bill entitlement for using the VET TEC program.

You can enroll in the program only as long as funding remains.

You can see a listing of schools that participate in the VET TEC program on the VA's GI Bill website. Schools listed as "preferred providers" will refund tuition payments to the VA if you don't get meaningful employment within six months of graduation.

The VET TEC program also offers employment assistance, including a special employer consortium and a resume-building and review service through Hiring Our Heroes.

Check out the [VET TEC website](#) for more information.

The American Legion applauds the success of the VET-TEC program. Through [Resolution No. 338: Support Licensure and Certification of](#)

[Servicemembers, Veterans and Spouses](#), the American Legion commends the VA's program as a solid step in aiding veterans and servicemembers transitioning into the civilian workforce all the while reducing employment barriers and gaps.

*Absher, Jim. "Who Needs College? Vets Using New GI Bill Program to Get Good-Paying Jobs." Military.com, 3 Nov. 2021, <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2021/11/03/who-needs-college-vets-using-new-gi-bill-program-get-good-paying-jobs.html>.*

¿DID YOU KNOW?

# MILITARY CONSUMER

## YOUR TOOL FOR FINANCIAL READINESS

Roughly 200,000 servicemembers leave the service every year. Transitioning personnel face many decisions: figuring out changes to their benefits, revamping their budget, and planning for a civilian job. If you're like the majority of veterans, you might want a career different than what you did in the service. Here are some resources to help.

Check out [Military Consumer's advice](#) to get you started. DoD and other agencies offer training and counseling as you prepare to leave the service. Transitioning Veterans is a free DoD program that helps you navigate benefits. Call 800-342-9647 or start a [live chat \(link is external\)](#) at [MilitaryOneSource.mil](#) to schedule an appointment. The [Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service](#) and the Department of Veterans Affairs [Transition Assistance Program](#) offers career counseling.

If you're interested in working for the federal government, [Feds Hires Vets](#) has information about veterans preferences, the federal hiring process, and job listings. Search [CareerOneStop \(link is external\)](#) for information in your state's [job bank \(link is external\)](#), including special programs for [veterans \(link is external\)](#).



Know that some employers check into your background before deciding whether to hire you or keep you on the job. When they do a background check, [you have certain](#)

[rights](#) under federal law. Before you apply for a job, [order a free copy of your credit report](#) so you can fix any mistakes before an employer sees it. To get your free credit report, visit [AnnualCreditReport.com](https://AnnualCreditReport.com) ([link is external](#)) or call 1-877-322-8228.

## Staff Meetings on Employment Topics

*The National Veterans Employment and Education Division* had an introductory meeting with Yoel Goldberg, Sales and Customer relations with 6Degrees LTD. The company is a veteran owned startup headquartered in Tel Aviv, Israel that has created the MyMove controller, which assists individuals with dexterity loss to utilize technological smart-devices. 6Degrees is branching out into the U.S. with a headquarters in New York and is spreading awareness about its product and benefits it can offer to service-connected disabled veterans in order to regain independence and become gainfully employed. Mr. Goldberg additionally offered to provide information of the HR companies that 6degrees is working with to provide employment for disabled veterans using the MyMove product.



Yoel Goldberg

*The National Veterans Employment and Education Division* The purpose of the executive session was to consider three proposed pieces of legislation. Subsequently, the committee moved to a hearing determine four nominations.

Relevant legislation considered were [S.594 — Anti-Spoofing Penalties Modernization Act](#) and [S.2699 — American Cybersecurity Literacy Act](#). S.594, introduced by Senators Collins, Peters, Cinema, and Warnock, the bill amends the Communications Act of 1934 to double fines and penalties for providing misleading or inaccurate caller identification information with intent to defraud, cause harm, or wrongly obtain anything of value. S.2699, introduced by Senator Klobuchar and Senator Thune, would direct the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and Department of Homeland Security to develop a cybersecurity literacy campaign among the public to reduce cybersecurity risks. Both measures were favorably reported.

Noteworthy nominees were The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, to be a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Mr. Alvaro M. Bedoya, to be a Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).



Chairwoman Cantwell opened the hearing by providing background on the issues that the nominees, if appointed, would serve to rectify. She highlighted that the pandemic highlighted the deep divide throughout the country, making clear that broadband access is a necessity. Additionally, mapping of broadband must go hand in hand with broadband investment.

Regarding the FTC's core mission, Senator Cantwell described the agency's need to enforce anti-trust laws, protect consumers from

unfair and deceptive practices, including its new legal authority to tackle privacy and data security to prevent online abuse.

Ms. Rosenworcel provided opening remarks before the committee, stressing the need for modern communications to reach everyone across the United States. “Americans count on FCC to support connections they need to work, learn, access healthcare and information needed to make decisions.”



She stressed that “Communications tech are the infrastructure of opportunities” that break down barriers that used to hold people back. During her last 10 months as the acting chair of the FCC, she was able to push forward the “Emergency Broadband Benefit” affordability program which currently has 7.5 million households enrolled in it. The FCC set up the Emergency Connectivity Fund to close the homework gap that impacts millions of children from having quality access to education, made historic investments in telehealth tech, and kicked off major auction of midband spectrum 3.45 gigahertz which is vital for leadership in 5g wireless service.

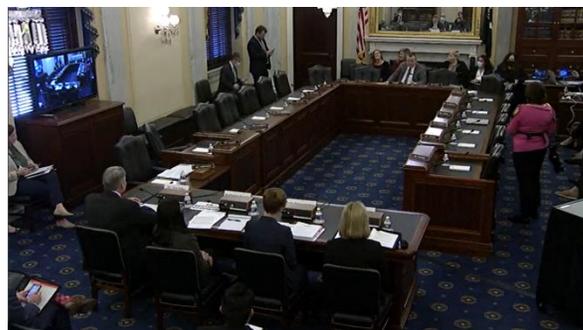


Mr. Bedoya began his work on privacy and consumer protection through the 2011 Chief Council judiciary subcommittee on privacy, where he first dealt with smartphone geolocation technology. He learned after the hearing’s announcement from a Minnesota coalition for battered women that victim through geolocation technology was being stalked by abusers. During his time as a staffer, he took part in major oversight hearings into tech giants logging consumers movements and facial features, helped protect small business from bureaucracies, and assisted negotiating bipartisan law to force the NSA to be more transparent.

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***The National Veterans Employment and Education Division*** virtually attended the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC) hearing to consider 21 proposed pieces of legislation. Two panels of witnesses, one with the VBA, VHA and VA OIG, and the other with DAV and VFW, were present to comment on the legislation. Relevant bills to the Employment and Transition portfolio were S.1296 - Daniel J. Harvey Jr. and Adam Lambert Improving Servicemember Transition to Reduce Veteran Suicide Act and S.2761 - Every Veteran Counts Act of 2021. S1296, introduced by Senator Sherrod, would require DOD and VA to implement to the TAP program a five-year pilot to further assess the feasibility and advisability of transition counseling in order to reduce suicide incidence among veterans. S.2761 - Every Veteran Counts Act of 2021, introduced by Senator Hirono, would direct the VA secretary to maintain veteran demographic information to be published on the VA’s website.

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*The National Veterans Employment and Education Division* spoke with Adam Roche, Senior Director of External Engagements at Hiring Our Heroes, and Marnie Holder, Director of Hiring Events at Hiring Our Heroes. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss further longitudinal events between The American Legion and the U.S Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Ms. Holder discussed that Career fair events through Hiring our Heroes would recommence in 2022 with the first In-Person event taking place on February 8 at Fort Gordon. Long term career fair coordination discussed included holding a joint event at the American Legion National Convention in August 2022.



**EDUCATION,  
LICENSING &  
CREDENTIALING**

## **TOMORROW'S MSSP AND MSP SECURITY TALENT: TRAINED BY U.S. COMMUNITY COLLEGES?**

*Microsoft aligns with U.S. community colleges to train 250,000 cybersecurity professionals by 2025. Will MSSPs gain new talent pipeline?*

Conventional wisdom says businesses that lack security expertise often hire MSSPs to close the cyber talent gap. But where do MSSPs go to recruit, hire and train their talent? If Microsoft has its way, the answer may increasingly involve community colleges.

Indeed, Microsoft has launched a national initiative to help fill the cybersecurity workforce gap, positioning community colleges as the centerpiece of the training and recruitment effort.

In calling nearly 1,100 U.S. community colleges the “single greatest potential asset” to grow the cybersecurity workforce, Microsoft said it will launch a campaign to help prepare and recruit 250,000 people by 2025 to fill the nearly 500,000 open jobs nationwide that require cybersecurity skills. Microsoft did not offer any details on how much money will go into the program.

### **COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND CYBERSECURITY TRAINING: A UNIVERSAL TALENT PIPELINE?**

While Microsoft acknowledged that it will employ some of the new entrants, the company said the “vast majority” will work for other employers nationwide. Should the program reach its goals, it would cut in half the nearly 500,000 open cybersecurity jobs in the U.S.

Amid that backdrop, now could be the time for MSSPs to approach community colleges about internship program strategies and first steps to build longer-term talent pipelines.

“The country’s cybersecurity challenges in part reflect a serious workforce shortage,” Microsoft president and vice chair Brad Smith wrote in a blog post. “Until we redress the cybersecurity workforce shortage, we will fall short in strengthening the country’s cybersecurity protection.” In a nod to the bigger picture, Smith

said the “constant foreign cybersecurity attacks” threaten not just businesses but also daily life.



Microsoft set the scene with some statistics on the U.S. cybersecurity job market:

- For almost every two cybersecurity jobs in the U.S. today, a third remains unfilled because of a shortage of skilled people.
- Currently, there are 464,200 open jobs in the U.S. that require cybersecurity skills. They account for six percent of all open jobs in the country. That means more than one out of every 20 open jobs in America today is a job that requires cybersecurity skills.
- On average, cybersecurity jobs pay \$105,800 per year, and some offer a growth path to the C- suite.
- Many of the open cybersecurity jobs don’t require a four-year college degree. Students can qualify for cybersecurity jobs with an industry-recognized certificate or an associate degree from a community college.

Here’s what Microsoft plans to do:

- Provide every community college in the country (and all higher education institutions) with access to free curriculum, educator training, and tools for teaching. The program will be delivered through Microsoft’s Learn for Educators.
- Partner with the National Cybersecurity Training & Education Center to help 150 community colleges to train and retain cybersecurity faculty. The goal is to set a

foundation for cybersecurity training at nearly 15 percent of the community colleges nationwide.

- Provide grants to fund and provide technical assistance to 42 community colleges that are accelerating their cybersecurity programs, in a collaboration with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).
- Launch a new national scholarship program to provide scholarships and additional resources that will reach at least 25,000 students during the next four years.

### **CYBERSECURITY TRAINING AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES: ADDRESSING DIVERSITY?**

In terms of numbers alone, the pool of potential candidates for cybersecurity jobs is encouraging. Currently, about 82 percent of the country's cybersecurity jobs are held by men and 80 percent by people who are white. Community college trained cybersecurity people could help to change those figures. Based on AACC figures, of the nearly 12 million people enrolled in one capacity or another, 40 percent are black, African American or Hispanic; 57 percent are women; five percent are veterans; 20 percent are people with disabilities; and 29 percent are first generation.

With technology companies facing justifiable criticism over a lack of diversity among their ranks of cybersecurity professionals, community colleges could present a fertile source to address that issue. Along those lines, Microsoft said it is prepping similar programs to include the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic-Serving Institutions as well as four-year universities.

“We believe the steps we're taking today can make an important contribution to addressing

America's cybersecurity workforce shortage,” Smith said. “But we also know that much more is needed. That's why we are thinking about this effort as not just a program, but a campaign.”

Community colleges have educated many servicemembers, veterans, and their families for decades. The American Legion commends Microsoft for partnering with community colleges to increase the capacity of cybersecurity specialists and provide critical career paths with good paying jobs. Veterans and transitioning servicemembers have increasingly show interest in IT and technology related career fields.

Microsoft has been a member of the American Legion employment task force and continues to work with us to improve employment opportunities for veterans and their families. According to Merrick Van Dongen during our July 15th Employment Innovation TaskForce: Microsoft Software and Systems Academy (MSSA) Will have hired 3000 veterans by the end of the summer through the program working with over 750 hiring partners as well as Microsoft business and technology groups. MSSA program has been in place since 2013. MSSA Retention Rate (95% Retention rate in the program. Same average rate for employment, either with Microsoft or with hiring partners.) The American Legion welcomes this new initiative through [Resolution No. 338: Support Licensure and Certification of Servicemembers, Veterans and Spouses.](#)

*D. Howard Kass • Oct 30, 2021. “Tomorrow's MSSP and MSP Security Talent: Trained by U.S. Community Colleges?” MSSP Alert, 30 Oct. 2021, <https://www.msspalert.com/cybersecurity-talent/tomorrows-mssp-and-msp-security-talent-trained-by-u-s-community-colleges/>.*

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## VETERANS AND MILITARY SPOUSES HAVE ACCESS TO FREE TECH TRAINING THROUGH A NEW CAREER PROGRAM



A new program plans to give veterans and military spouses interested in the tech industry free education, paid fellowships at one of 400 employers nationwide, and access to a network of employers looking to hire.

Announced Tuesday via a webinar, the program, known as Career Forward, is operated by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes and funded through a \$10 million grant from Google. The funding pays for 8,000 participants to use the program.

Participants will move through a three-step career process. First, they will earn Google career certificates via an online education platform, Coursera. After finishing the certificate program, which takes between three and six months, they can be placed in a 12-week paid fellowship in one of the Hiring Our Heroes network companies. Finally, once they've completed the certification and fellowship, they can access Google's employer consortium, which considers program graduates for related job openings.

"We know that a traditional four-year degree is not for everyone, or the only pathway to career success," Eric Eversole, the president of Hiring Our Heroes, said during the announcement event. "Credentials, such as career certificates, send a clear message to employers that a candidate has the skills, drive and commitment to succeed in any role."

The program is open to all veterans, active-duty and veteran spouses, and active-duty members preparing to transition out of the military living in the U.S. Troops and spouses stationed overseas who are within one year of returning stateside also can register.

Users register for one of five certificate programs: project management; data analytics; UX design; IT support; and Google IT Automation with Python Professional. Only the Google IT Automation with Python Professional certificate program requires prior experience. Graduates of the Google certification programs earn an average starting salary of \$63,600, according to Google.

More than 60% of veterans do not have a college degree, according to 2017 data, the most recent available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The veteran unemployment rate sat at 3.6% in September, the latest date for which data is available, according to the Department of Labor; the overall U.S. unemployment rate was 4.8%.

Military spouse unemployment is estimated at between 20% and 24%, down from an estimated 36% at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, according to Hiring Our Heroes. The Department of Labor does not track military spouse unemployment rates.

Hiring Our Heroes currently administers multiple industry-focused programs, including a Salesforce fellowship, a Toyota Technician training program, and a fellowship for the solar power industry. About 5,000 veterans and military spouses have graduated from those programs, with 92% of veterans and 86% of military spouses securing full-time employment as a direct result, officials said.

Those interested in participating can [apply on the Hiring Our Heroes website](#).

The American Legion recognizes the value of credentialing for servicemembers, veterans, and

their families. Although higher education is an avenue every veteran should have available to them, credentialing and skill programs may also be considered. These programs provide servicemembers, veterans and their families with in-demand skills and certificates that lead to gainful employment. Gainful employment is the primary metric of positive student outcomes. The American Legion welcomes innovative credentialing and licensure opportunities for

veterans and their families through [Resolution No. 338: Support Licensure and Certification of Servicemembers, Veterans and Spouses](#).

Bushatz, A. (2021, November 3). Veterans and military spouses have access to free tech training through a new career program. Veterans and Military Spouses Have Access to Free Tech Training Through a New Career Program. Retrieved November 3, 2021, from <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2021/11/03/veterans-and-military-spouses-have-access-free-tech-training-through-new-career-program.html>.

## Staff Meetings on Education Topics

*The National Veterans Employment and Education Division* met with a representative from Student Veterans of America (SVA) to coordinate The American Legion's role in the upcoming 14th Annual SVA National Conference in Orlando, Florida. VE&E will lead a breakout session during the conference on The American Legion and veterans in higher education. The American Legion has worked closely with Student Veterans of America (SVA) to advocate for veteran education benefits and bring awareness to issues facing student veterans. Every year, VE&E has participated in SVA's national conference in various capacities.



*The National Veterans Employment and Education Division* attended a legislative hearing by the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee SVAC. Representatives from VBA, VHA, and the Inspector General provided testimony regarding veterans' education, health, and accountability. When asked how the VA protects veterans from predatory schools and schools at risk of closing, the VA representative stated that the compliance survey and GI Bill comparison tool provide sufficient oversight of schools. The Forever GI Bill, signed into law in 2017, requires VA to adopt a risk-based model (RBS) to replace the VA compliance survey by 2022. The VA compliance survey is an inadequate measure of schools' health because it only considers financial data without considering student enrollment or outcomes. The American Legion supports the risk-based survey model developed by the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) through [Resolution No. 11: GI Bill Risk Based Survey](#).

*The National Veterans Employment and Education Division* had multiple conversations with Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC) and House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) on the Covid 19 protections extension bills and the continued controversy surrounding 85/15.

*The National Veterans Employment and Education Division* met with representatives from VBA's policy and operations departments. The topics discussed included, risk-based surveys, lead generators, non-title iv programs, restoration of benefits, and program compliance.

- The VA continues to develop their model of the risk-based survey (RBS). They noted that the model developed and piloted by NASAA had some value but was far from perfect. The RBS is on track to be implemented next year as dictated by Congress and the will showcase their model at their annual event in Crystal City, VA in July 2022.
- The Isakson and Roe Act explicitly prohibited schools receiving VA funds from paying third parties to recruit students. These third parties are also known as “lead generators.” During the meeting, VSO representatives raised their concerns that the VA has been too lenient with schools who have continued to use lead generators despite longstanding VA policies against them. VA promised to look into the issue.
- Students using veteran education benefits are eligible for restored benefits if the school they were enrolled in closed. Unfortunately, the process to apply for restoration is confusing and requires students to reenroll in another program of education within a limited time period. This stipulation makes restoration of benefits impractical for many veterans and their families. During the meeting, VA agreed that the policy can be applied more broadly and will look into the issue.

*The National Veterans Employment and Education Division* attended the monthly GI Bill Stakeholder meeting in which VBA Education Service presented updates to Isakson and Roe implementations as well as other GI Bill topics. The VA has implemented most of the provisions of the Isakson and Roe Act, including enrollment verification.



Students using the Post 9/11 GI Bill are required to verify their current enrollment status with the VA on a monthly basis. Failure to enroll for two or more months can result in suspension of benefits. Thus far, the VA has rolled out enrollment verification only for non-college degree schools (NCD). According to the VA, 96% of NCD students were in good standing with enrollment certification. Based on feedback, the VA has added features to increase accessibility of the program such as verification through text messages.

- Emergency COVID-19 protection for student veterans is set to expire in December. Many higher education classes remain online due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. At the initial onset of the pandemic, most classes adapted to online learning formats, which left student veterans at risk of financial instability from decreased monthly housing allowances (MHA) which is capped at half of the national average (~\$895). Congress passed legislation to set MHA at the full residential rate regardless of the class format. However, that measure will expire next month. VA confirmed that as of November 9<sup>th</sup>, 56,734 students at 1,872 schools in 52 states and territories will be negatively impacted if the protections are not extended. American legion supports protecting student veterans from unnecessary financial burdens, thereby, allowing them to continue their education using VA educational entitlements through [Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Servicemember and Veteran Student’s Education at Institutions of Higher Education.](#)



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*The National Veterans Employment and Education Division* met with Transition Case Study Work Group for the George Bush Higher Education Task Force about Isakson Roe issues and challenges involving VA implementation. VE&E also met with Chief of Staff Saba from Congressman Ro Khanna's office to discuss on-line Stem training for Veterans in Rural Areas. Ro has a bill drafted and we plan to introduce later this month.

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## HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING

*Fed Chairman Jerome Powell has been seeking to assure investors that inflation risks are being closely monitored, while not appearing so worried that markets might anticipate a faster pivot to tighter money.*  
(Photo: Sarah Silbiger - Pool Via Cnp/Zuma Press)

### FEDERAL LAWMAKERS IN BOTH PARTIES SEEK TO REDRESS VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

While homelessness among veterans improved dramatically between 2009 and 2019, thousands remain on the streets – a tragedy lawmakers in both parties are seeking to address in proposed legislation.

In March, Sens. Chris Van Hollen, D-Maryland, Rob Portman, R-Ohio, Elizabeth Warren, D-Massachusetts, and Dick Durbin, D-Illinois,

introduced the [Improving Housing Outcomes for Veterans Act](#).

The measure is a response to a [May 2020 Government Accountability Office report](#) that, among other things, detailed insufficient coordination on housing between the Department of Veteran Affairs and local housing providers.

Veteran homelessness dropped nearly by half between 2009 and 2019, the GAO found. But as of 2019, there still were more than 37,000 homeless veterans.

“Advocacy groups estimate that many more veterans may be considered at risk of homelessness,” the GAO added.

The GAO recommended that the VA medical centers and providers develop ways to better collaborate local community services; that the VA should make clear to local providers how it measures the effectiveness of veteran housing programs, and that the Department of Labor improve its data collection.

The VA and Department of Labor acted upon those recommendations, according to the GAO.

“Our bill... is designed to codify and fully implement those recommendations so that we can better serve our veterans,” Van Hollen told Capital News Service.

“Our overall goal is to make sure that we are there for our veterans, just as they were there for our country,” he added. “And we need to do that in every area of endeavor, including making sure every veteran has a safe and secure place to call home, a place to live.”

The proposed legislation also would require the VA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to improve coordination between the agencies’ homelessness programs and would direct the VA to provide training to community groups serving homeless veterans.

Companion legislation has been introduced in the House by Reps. Anthony Gonzalez, R-Ohio, Kathleen Rice, D-New York, David Joyce, D-Ohio, Bill Johnson, R-Ohio, and Brian Kirkpatrick, R-Pennsylvania.

An April roundtable led by Sen. Jon Tester, D-Montana, later resulted in the creation of a separate bill called the [Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Act](#).

The proposed legislation would allocate \$60 million annually to the Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program through the Department of Labor to help unemployed veterans get long-term jobs.

It would also upgrade housing facilities and create a pilot program for substance use recovery to assist veterans who have been less than honorably discharged.

“We’re looking at maybe putting an omnibus together at the end of the year,” Tester told CNS, referring to a catch-all spending bill that would contain a host of pending legislation. “Those bills certainly are going to be part of the equation for that omnibus, depending on if somebody wants to hold them up or not, and then we’ll also look at other avenues if that doesn’t work.”

Tester is chairman of the Senate Veteran Affairs Committee.

“This is all circular, it’s all intertwined and homeless vets are not something this country should be proud of,” Tester said. “We need to do everything to get them into housing and get them long-term employment, and that’s really the goal here.”

Van Hollen shares that view and is a strong supporter of the HUD-Veteran Affairs Supportive House program, better known as VASH.

The senator said that when he was in the House, he worked on the issue with Ike Leggett, former executive of Montgomery County and a Vietnam War veteran.

“One of the things I’ve been very involved in...is dramatically increasing the amount of VASH vouchers,” Van Hollen said. “Through getting more VASH vouchers, we were able to eliminate veteran homelessness in Montgomery County. We need to do that statewide.”

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Van Hollen assisted in allocating an additional \$50 million for the HUD-VASH program. That boost would provide an estimated

4,650 new rental vouchers for veterans facing homelessness.

The increase is in the fiscal 2022 [Transportation, Housing and Urban](#)

[Development, and Related Agencies](#) spending bill, which hasn't passed yet.

*Service, C. N. (2021, November 12). Federal lawmakers in both parties seek to redress veteran homelessness. The Southern Maryland Chronicle. Retrieved November 16, 2021, from <https://southernmarylandchronicle.com/2021/11/13/federal-lawmakers-in-both-parties-seek-to-redress-veteran-homelessness/>.*

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## CAPITO, MANCHIN BILL TO EXPAND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FOR WEST VIRGINIA VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

U.S. Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) and Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), today introduced bipartisan, bicameral legislation to expand the Department of Labor (DOL) Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) to all 50 states and U.S. territories. The HVRP program offers job training services to Veterans experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Currently, no organization in West Virginia is receiving HVRP funding and in the past four years, only one organization has applied for the program. The Reaching Every Homeless Veteran Act of 2021 would require the DOL to examine why several rural states are not receiving funding and provide community outreach to increase awareness and encourage applications.

“Our veterans have sacrificed so much so we are able to enjoy the freedoms we have today. There is no reason West Virginia entities wanting to assist our homeless veterans should be excluded from participating in the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, without a viable explanation for their denial. Federal agencies need to be held accountable for the backlog of information that restricts entities back home from receiving necessary resources our residents rely on. This legislation helps address those issues, holds government accountable, and will contribute to our goal of ending veteran homelessness in West Virginia,” Senator Capito said.



“Our brave Veterans served our country with honor and no matter what state they live in, they should have the same opportunities for support programs like the Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program (HVRP). This critical program helps Veterans experiencing homelessness get back on their feet and find steady, good-paying jobs. Several rural states, including West Virginia, have not been awarded funds for HVRP programs. This is worrisome, and I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support our commonsense legislation to require the Department of Labor to investigate these inconsistencies. As a member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, I’m committed to addressing Veteran homelessness and supporting those who defended our great nation,” Senator Manchin said.

“Employment services for homeless and recently homeless veterans are crucial to maintain an avenue out of housing insecurity,” said Kathryn Monet, CEO National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. “The Reaching Every Homeless Veteran Act of 2021 will expand the reach of the Department of Labor's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program to areas of the country not currently serviced. NCHV applauds SVAC Ranking Member Jerry Moran and Senator Joe Manchin for leading this bill in the Senate, as well as Representatives Tracey Mann of Kansas and Chris Pappas of New Hampshire for leading the

U.S. House of Representatives companion."

The Reaching Every Homeless Veteran Act of 2021 would require the DOL to investigate and provide comprehensive reports to Congress on the why certain states, including West Virginia, are not receiving HVRP funding, while still ensuring the same high-quality application criteria standards. In instances where a state or territory is without eligible applicants, the DOL would be mandated to coordinate an outreach and education program in coordination with the state Director of Veterans' Employment and Training to increase awareness around HVRP and the benefits of the program.

The [HVRP program](#) offers customized employment and training services to homeless or at-risk-of-homelessness veterans to address their specific barriers to employment. Services may include occupational, classroom and on-the-job training, as well as job search, placement assistance and post-placement follow-up services.

In addition to Senators Capito and Manchin, the Reaching Every Homeless Veteran Act of 2021 was co-sponsored by Senators Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.) and Mazie Hirono (D-

Hawaii). U.S. Representatives Tracey Mans (Kan.-01) and Chris Pappas (N.H.-01) introduced a companion legislation in the House of Representatives.

American Legion [Resolution No. 319: Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Service within the Department of Veterans' Affairs](#). The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) homeless veterans programs have proved to be successful in the rehabilitation of veterans by assisting him/her to become a productive citizen. Additionally, the VA has begun to invest in more employment services for veterans and is gaining critical knowledge in administering employment services to veterans. The American Legion supports legislation that calls for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the state workforce agencies to share responsibilities for all Title 38 veterans employment services.

Full text of the legislation is available [here](#).

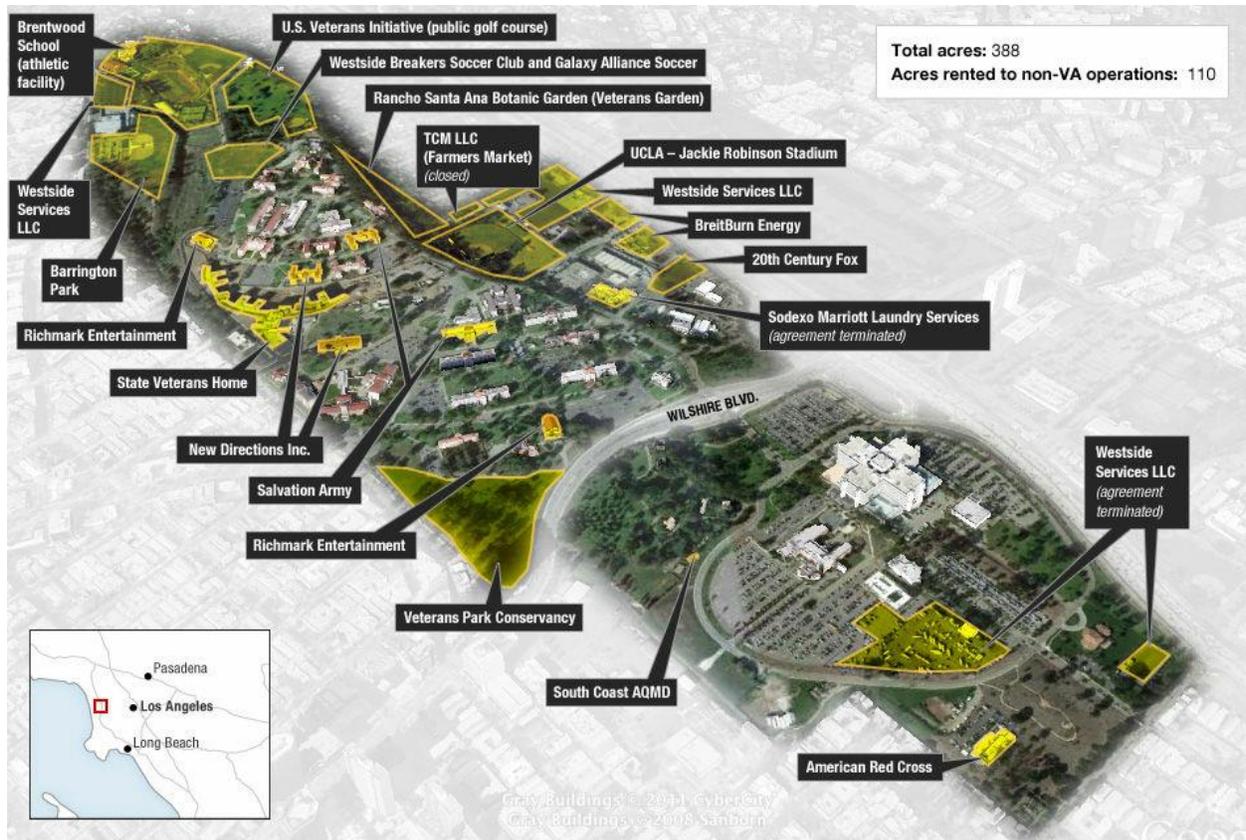
*Capito's, S. (2021, October 28). Capito, Manchin Bill to expand employment program for West Virginia Veterans Experiencing Homelessness: U.S. senator Shelley Moore capito of West Virginia. CAPITO, MANCHIN BILL TO EXPAND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FOR WEST VIRGINIA VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS. Retrieved November 3, 2021, from <https://www.capito.senate.gov/news/press-releases/capito-manchin-bill-to-expand-employment-program-for-west-virginia-veterans-experiencing-homelessness>.*

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## Staff Meetings on Homelessness Topics

**The National Veterans Employment and Education Division** attended a briefing hosted by the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the Master Plan 2022 Draft for the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System Campus. The venue provided an outlet for veteran stakeholders to express their concerns regarding the project's development and goals.

One critical concern raised was the length of time that the project has taken to build permanent housing on the campus, given that the land was deeded to serve the purpose of housing veterans decades ago. Additionally, attendees took issue with the lack of space on the campus specifically designated for housing and occupancy limits given the exigent need to house homeless veterans in the Greater Los Angeles Region. The American Legion will continue to monitor ongoing dialogue between stakeholders and the VA regarding the project's development.



*The National Veterans Employment and Education Division* met with William Meadows, Strategic Advisor to the Under Secretary of Benefits, to discuss how The American Legion and VA can work more closely on issues related to veterans' education, employment, and VA home loans. The American Legion was instrumental in the creation of the Veterans Administration in 1930 and continues to work with the VA to help servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

**NEWS  
ALERT!**

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

**Veterans Employment & Education Commission**

**AWARDS PROGRAMS**

The Veterans Employment & Education Commission is striving to award all possible pending awards. We implore all departments to submit nominations for the awards with the hope that we receive all 400+ possible nominations. Each department is encouraged to participate in this program.

The deadline for submission to the Veterans Employment & Education Commission in Washington, D.C., is January 15. It is important that the Department winners are submitted by this time to ensure that they are considered for the national award to be delivered at the annual National Convention.

Please submit written correspondence AND/ OR an electronic scanned copy in the form of an e-mail to the Washington, D.C. National Headquarters office.



Nominations from posts, or sources outside The American Legion, must be sent to Department headquarters. The Department then selects one nominee as its winner and sends the nomination form for the winning employer to the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. That nomination form must be signed by either the Department Adjutant or Department Employment Chairman.

Selection of the national winners will be made by the Veterans Employment & Education Commission during the annual Washington Conference. The

national winners will receive a stipend for travel expenses and are presented award plaques at the National Convention.

### AWARDS ANNUAL TIMELINE

For more information please visit the post officers service guide.  
[www.legion.org/veterans/assistance/awards](http://www.legion.org/veterans/assistance/awards)

		Washington Conference	Department Conventions					National Convention				
		National Awards Selected										
<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEP</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>	
All submissions are due to the Veterans Employment & Education Commission NLT JAN 15	Veterans Employment & Education Commission processes awards	Send letter to all posts reminding them to begin search for award nominees			Send follow up letter to posts		National awards are presented for the previous year	Require all posts to begin submitting nominations for this year	Department deadline for award submittals	Department meets and submits national nominees to National Headquarters		
Recommended Department Timeline							Recommended Department Timeline					

➤ Learn how to apply for these Awards at: <https://www.legion.org/careers/awards>



## SMALL BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING

### **BROWNLEY, WALORSKI INTRODUCE BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT VETERAN ENTREPRENEURS AND VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS**

Congresswoman Julia Brownley (D-CA) and Congresswoman Jackie Walorski (R-IN) announced the recent introduction of the Veteran Entrepreneurs Act, legislation to help support veteran entrepreneurs by reducing barriers to starting a small business.

“Our servicemembers gain invaluable experience and skills during their service that can be highly beneficial to establish business ventures for these men and women when they transition to civilian life,” said Congresswoman Julia Brownley. “The Veteran Entrepreneurs Act will help our nation’s veterans access the resources they need to be successful in the current job market by lowering upfront costs for veterans operating small

businesses. I am proud to co-author this bipartisan legislation with Congresswoman Walorski to help more veterans achieve their dream of becoming entrepreneurs and small business owners, while growing our local economies in communities across our country.”

“Our nation’s veterans are leaders and innovators,” said Congresswoman Jackie Walorski. “Who better to start businesses, create jobs, and grow our economy than those who bravely served our country? This bipartisan legislation will uplift our local small business community, and it will equip servicemembers to achieve the American Dream that they fought to protect. I am grateful to work with my colleagues

on both sides of the aisle to help provide the support our veterans earned.”

### Background

Over 5% of all small businesses are franchises, and veterans make up nearly 15% of all franchise owners. The *Veteran Entrepreneurs Act* lowers up-front costs for veterans opening a franchise by cutting red tape and creating a tax credit to cover 25 percent of initial franchise fees, breaking down the financial barriers to entry that prevent many veterans from owning their own small business.

The text of the bill is available [here](#).

The American Legion fully supports efforts to expand access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs looking to start their own businesses, as demonstrated through [Resolution No. 150: Expanding Post-9/11 GI Bill for Entrepreneurship](#).

*Brownley, J. (2021, November 16). Brownley, Walorski introduce bipartisan legislation to support veteran entrepreneurs and veteran small business owners. Congresswoman Julia Brownley. Retrieved November 22, 2021, from <https://juliabrownley.house.gov/brownley-walorski-introduce-bipartisan-legislation-to-support-veteran-entrepreneurs-and-veteran-small-business-owners/>.*

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## REPS. HOLLINGSWORTH, MRVAN INTRODUCE BILL TO SUPPORT VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

U.S. Reps. Trey Hollingsworth (R-IN) and Frank Mrvan (D-IN) introduced a bill seeking to increase veterans’ economic opportunity and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses.

The Investing in Veteran Entrepreneurial Talents (VETs) Act raises the current federal government contracting goal for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs) from 3 percent to 5 percent. This brings it into parity with Woman-Owned Small Businesses (WOSBs) and Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Small Businesses (SDBs).

“Every day, Hoosiers work hard to build better futures for themselves and their families. Our veterans, and especially those disabled in their service, deserve the opportunity to succeed after their time defending this great nation,” Hollingsworth said. “I am proud to support increased access to economic opportunities for service-disabled veterans and their businesses.”

The Investing in VETs Act was drafted by Hollingsworth in consultation with veteran Eric Hedrick from Jeffersonville, Indiana, and other service-disabled veterans.

“As a service-disabled veteran-owned small business owner myself, I appreciate Representative Hollingsworth’s willingness to introduce the Investing in VETs Act on behalf of veterans,” Hedrick said.

“This legislation will allow veterans, injured while defending freedom, the opportunity to work with the very government they volunteered to serve. The Investing in VETs Act is a great step in the right direction to show appreciation to those who made the commitment to our country and to honor their ongoing, innate commitment to continuing that service.”

*Brownley, J. (2021, November 16). Brownley, Walorski introduce bipartisan legislation to support veteran entrepreneurs and veteran small business owners. Congresswoman Julia Brownley. Retrieved November 22, 2021, from <https://juliabrownley.house.gov/brownley-walorski-introduce-bipartisan-legislation-to-support-veteran-entrepreneurs-and-veteran-small-business-owners/>.*

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**Staff Meetings on  
Small Business Topics**

**The National Veterans Employment and Education Division** attended a virtual joint hosted by the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and the Subcommittee on Technology Modernization titled “Modernizing VA’s Medical Supply Chain: Progress Made?” The meeting focused on deficiencies and challenges currently afflicting the VA supply chain. The meeting began with a bipartisan criticism of the VA’s inability to administer an effective acquisition logistics program and the agency’s efforts to transition to the Defense Logistics Agency contract vehicle. The joint hearing included testimony from Deborah Kramer, Acting Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Support at the Veterans Health Administration, Michael D. Parrish, Principal Executive Director of Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and Shelby Oakley, Director of Contracting and National Security Acquisitions at the U.S. Government Accountability Office.



**The National Veterans Employment and Education Division** met with staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship to discuss small business legislative priorities. Legion staff communicated the need to address issues within the VA supply chain, expand the Vets First Contracting Program to the U.S. Department of Defense, and increase access to capital through the GI Bill for Entrepreneurship.



**CAREER FAIRS**

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## **Springfield, VA**

**December 2, 2021**

**10am - 2pm**

American Legion Post 176  
6520 Amherst Avenue  
Springfield, VA 22151

### **FORT BELVOIR AREA JOB FAIR**

Event will be held in-person and virtual. In-person event from 10am to noon reserved for veterans, military family and/or candidates who have active security clearances.

*Presented by [JobZone](#)*  
**[More information](#)**

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## **King George, VA**

**December 9, 2021**

Event will be held in-person (**3-7pm**)

Virtual (**4-7pm**)

University of Mary Washington  
4224 University Drive  
King George, VA 22485

### **DAHLGREN JOB FAIR**

*Presented by [JobZone](#)*  
**[More information](#)**

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## **Virtual Job Fair**

**December 9, 2021**

**3pm - 6pm**

### **HIRING OUR HEROES VIRTUAL CAREER SUMMIT**

The Hiring Our Heroes Virtual Career Summit is a specialized event designed to educate, inform, inspire, and connect service members, veterans, military spouses and caregivers with military-ready employers.

*Presented by [Hiring Our Heroes](#)*  
**[More information](#)**

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**The American Legion is working on future virtual workshops and career fairs.**

*The American Legion's National Veterans Employment & Education Commission's Mission is to take actions that affect veterans' economic well-being, including issues relating to veterans' education, employment, home loans, vocational rehabilitation, homelessness, and small business.*



## LEGISLATION TRACKING

### EDUCATION, LICENSING & CREDENTIALING PORTFOLIO

**H.R. 5676 - PREP Act:** This bill establishes, within the Bureau of Prisons, an Office of Prison Education. The office must provide educational services to incarcerated individuals, including veterans, in federal prisons and correctional institutions. It would also require the office to inform eligible incarcerated veterans of their earned VA educational benefits.

**Status:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

**H.R. 5545 - Responsible Education Mitigating Options and Technical Extensions (REMOTE) Act:**

This draft bill would extend expiring provisions established to support student veterans using educational entitlements during the pandemic.

Status: 10/08/21 - Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality-of-Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

**H.R. 5509: Student Veteran COVID-19 Protection Act of 2021:** This draft bill would extend expiring provisions established to support student veterans using educational entitlements during the pandemic.

Status: 10/08/21 - Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality-of-Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

**S. 1480 - Recognizing Military Service in PSLF Act:** This bill would allow service members who pause their student loan payments while deployed or on extended active-duty orders to count that period of time toward their PSLF progress – which is currently not allowed.

Status: 4/29/2021 - Referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

[Resolution No. 101 Support for Continuation of Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program](#)

**H.R. 1836 - Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2021:** This bill would expand eligibility for the post-9/11 GI Bill to count every day that a servicemember is paid and in uniform toward benefit eligibility in order to achieve GI Bill parity for National Guard and Reserve members.

Status: 6/16/2021 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

[Resolution No. 349: Support Legislation to Improve the Post-9/11 GI Bill](#)

**S. 1607 - Student Veterans Transparency and Protection Act of 2021:** This bill would improve veterans' access to information about higher education and allow the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to restore benefits that veterans use at schools subject to civil enforcement.

Status: 05/13/2021 - Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

[Resolution No. 327: Support further Assessment and Evaluation of Institutions of Higher Learning to Enable Veterans to Make Informed Education Choices](#)

**H.R. 2587 - SERVE Act:** This bill would improve the ability of veterans with medical training to assist the United States in response to national emergencies by implementing programs to certify and credential veterans.

Status: 7/14/2021 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Health

[Resolution No. 338: Support Licensure and Certification of Servicemembers, Veterans and Spouses](#)

**H.R. 3586 - Veteran Education Empowerment Act:** This bill would reauthorize and improve a grant program to assist institutions of higher education in establishing, maintaining, improving, and operating Student Veteran Centers

Status: 5/28/2021 - Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality-of-Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

**H.R. 2327 -** This bill would eliminate the time period for eligibility under Survivors' And Dependents' Educational Assistance Program of Department of Veterans Affairs

Status: 4/28/2021 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality-of-Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

**H.R. 4233 - Student Veterans Counseling Centers Eligibility Act:** This bill would award grants to community-based Veteran Centers to provide counseling and mental health services to veterans using VA higher education benefits.

Status: 9/07/2021 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Health

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality-of-Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

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## **EMPLOYMENT & TRANSITION PORTFOLIO**

**S.2483- Improving Cybersecurity of Small Organizations Act of 2021:** To require the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to establish cybersecurity guidance for small organizations, and for other purposes.

Status: 07/27/21 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

[Resolution No. 12: Cybersecurity Protections for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses](#)

**H.R.2196 - Justice for Servicemembers Act:** To amend title 9 of the United States Code to prohibit predispute arbitration agreements that force arbitration of certain disputes arising from claims of servicemembers and veterans.

Status: 10/19/2021 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law.

[Resolution No. 85: Support Employment and Reemployment Rights of National Guard and Reservists Returning from Deployment](#)

**S. 94 - Hire Student Veterans Act:** This bill allows a work opportunity tax credit for hiring a veteran attending an educational institution using educational assistance provided under certain programs administered by the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Status: 1/28/2021 - Referred to the Committee on Finance

[Resolution No. 354: Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program](#)

**H.R.447 - National Apprenticeship Act of 2021:** To amend the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly referred to as the "National Apprenticeship Act") and expand the national apprenticeship system to include apprenticeships, youth apprenticeships, and pre-apprenticeship registered under such Act, to promote the furtherance of labor standards necessary to safeguard the welfare of apprentices, and for other purposes.

Status: 02/25/2021 - Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

[Resolution No. 25: Support and Expand Apprenticeship Opportunities for Servicemembers](#)

**H.R.3582 - Veteran Employment Recovery Act:** This bill increases the work opportunity tax credit in 2021 for the hiring of certain disabled or unemployed veterans.

Status: 05/28/2021 - Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

[Resolution No. 354: Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program](#)

**S.2274 - Federal Cybersecurity Workforce Expansion Act:** To authorize the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to establish an apprenticeship program and to establish a pilot program on cybersecurity training for veterans and members of the Armed Forces transitioning to civilian life, and for other purposes.

Status: 06/24/2021 – Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

[Resolution No. 25: Support and Expand Apprenticeship Opportunities for Servicemembers](#)

**H.R.4552 - Veterans' Agricultural Apprenticeship Act of 2021:** To amend title 5, United States Code, to modify specific requirements concerning service and retirement for veterans' Preference for federal hiring.

Status: 09/08/2021 – Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

[Resolution No. 25: Support and Expand Apprenticeship Opportunities for Servicemembers](#)

**H.R.143 - HERO Transition from Battlespace to Workplace Act of 2021:** To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit to encourage private employers to hire veterans, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the reasonable efforts an employer may make under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act with respect to hiring veterans, and for other purposes.

Status: 03/08/2021 – Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

[Resolution No. 354: Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program](#)

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## HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING PORTFOLIO

**H.R. 2190 - Helping Homeless Veterans Act of 2021:** This bill permanently establishes existing programs that assist homeless veterans and other veterans with special needs.

Status: 6/16/2021 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

[Resolution No. 319: Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within the Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

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## SMALL BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING PORTFOLIO

**H.R. 4515 - Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act of 2021:** This bill would amend the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors.

Status: 7/19/2021 - Referred to the House Committee on Small Business

[Resolution No. 12: Cybersecurity Protections for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses](#)

**S.1687 - Small Business Cyber Training Act of 2021:** This bill requires the Small Business Administration to establish a program for certifying at least 5 or 10% of the total number of employees of a small business development center to provide cybersecurity planning assistance to small businesses.

Status: 5/18/2021 – Introduced in the Senate Committee on Entrepreneurship

[Resolution No. 12: Cybersecurity Protections for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses](#)

**H.R.5354 - Veterans Jobs Opportunity Act:** This bill would establish a small startup tax credit for veterans, military spouses, army reservists and national guard members seeking to start small businesses.

Status: 9/27/2021 – Introduced in the House Committee on Ways and Means

[Resolution No. 14: Enhancing the Work Opportunity Tax Credit \(WOTC\) for Veteran Workers](#)

**S. 2812 - Veterans Jobs Opportunity Act:** This bill would establish a small startup tax credit for veterans, military spouses, army reservists and national guard members seeking to start small businesses.

Status: 9/27/2021 – Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance

[Resolution No. 14: Enhancing the Work Opportunity Tax Credit \(WOTC\) for Veteran Workers](#)

**H.R.3469 - Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2021:** This bill provides statutory authority for the Boots to Business Program, which provides entrepreneurship training to individuals including veterans and active members of the Armed Forces, to be administered by the Small Business Administration.

Status: 11/03/2021 – Passed in the House of Representatives

[Resolution No. 222: Reaffirm Support of the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans' Business Development](#)

## ACTION TAKEN ON LEGISLATION

### EDUCATION, LICENSING & CREDENTIALING PORTFOLIO

**Draft Bill - VET Student Loan Act:** This draft bill would eliminate the time limits on many veterans' education benefits retroactively.

Action Taken: Bill Reviewed - Support

Status: Draft – Not yet introduced

What's Next:

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

**Draft Bill - Boldly Repaying America's Veterans with Education Act (BRAVE Act):** This draft bill would amend Section 108(f) of the Internal Revenue Service Code to eliminate the taxability of discharged student loans for veterans who died or were left permanently disabled as a result of their service.

Action Taken: Bill Reviewed - Support

Status: Draft – Not yet introduced

What's Next:

[Resolution No. 347: Veterans Education Debt Forgiveness](#)

**Draft Legislation on Work Study for Half-Time Students:** To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend eligibility for a certain work-study allowance paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain individuals who pursue programs of rehabilitation, education, or training on at least a half-time basis.

Action Taken: VE&E Testified on 9/21/21

Status:

What's Next: Waiting for formal introduction of legislation

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

**Draft Legislation on Repay MGIB:** To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs repays members of the Armed Forces for certain contributions made by such members towards Post-9/11 Educational Assistance.

Action Taken: VE&E Testified on 9/21/21

Status:

What's Next: Waiting for formal introduction of legislation

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

**Draft Legislation on Death GI Bill Transfer:** To amend title 38, United States Code to provide for the transfer of entitlement to educational assistance under Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of Department of Veterans Affairs when an eligible individual dies after approval of transfer and before transferring all of the individual's entitlement, and for other purposes.

Action Taken: VE&E Testified on 9/21/21

Status:

What's Next: Waiting for formal introduction of legislation

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

**Draft Legislation on Extend FRY After Discharge:** To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship to include spouses and children of individuals who die from a service-connected disability within 120 days of serving in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

Action Taken: VE&E Testified on 9/21/21

Status:

What's Next: Waiting for formal introduction of legislation

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

**Draft legislation on Extend VRE Time:** To extend the delimiting period for certain individuals to use educational assistance benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Action Taken: VE&E Testified on 9/21/21

Status:

What's Next: Waiting for formal introduction of legislation

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

**Draft Legislation on SCRA for Education:** "To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to establish protections under that Act for a member of the Armed Forces who leaves a course of education, paid for with certain educational assistance, to perform certain service."

Action Taken: VE&E Testified on 9/21/21

Status:

What's Next: Waiting for formal introduction of legislation

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

**Draft Legislation on Student Childcare Voucher:** "To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay to certain veterans, who receive certain educational assistance furnished by the Secretary, a weekly stipend for child care services."

Action Taken: VE&E Testified on 9/21/21

Status:

What's Next: Waiting for formal introduction of legislation

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

**Draft Legislation on Prohibit CH. 35 for HS:** To amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the use of entitlement to educational assistance under the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program for secondary school education.

Action Taken: VE&E Testified on 9/21/21

Status:

What's Next: Waiting for formal introduction of legislation

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

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## **EMPLOYMENT & TRANSITION PORTFOLIO**

**Draft Legislation on WARTAC Report:** To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report on the Warrior Training Advancement Course of the Veterans Benefit Administration.

Action Taken: VE&E Testified on 9/21/21

Status:

What's Next: Waiting for formal introduction of legislation

[Resolution No. 105: Support and Expand Warrior Transition Advancement Course \(WARTAC\)](#)

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## **HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING PORTFOLIO**

**H.R. 5529: Veterans Justice Outreach Improvement Act:** To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain improvements to the Veterans Justice Outreach Program, and for other purposes.

Action Taken: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on 10/08/2021

Status:

What's Next: Pending Action by House

[Resolution No. 145: Veterans Treatment Courts](#)

**Draft Legislation on Homeless Grant Elimination of Matching:** Adjustment of Grants Awarded by the Secretary of Veteran Affairs for Comprehensive Service Programs to serve homeless veterans.

Action Taken: VE&E Testified on 9/21/21

Status:

What's Next: Waiting for formal introduction of legislation

[Resolution No. 319: Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within the Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

**Draft Legislation on Eliminate Loan Limitations:** To amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the Freddie Mac conforming loan limitation for loans made to veterans with remaining guaranty or insurance loan entitlement under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Action Taken: VE&E Testified on 9/21/21

Status:

What's Next: Waiting for formal introduction of legislation

[Resolution No. 314: Support Elimination of the VA Home Loan Funding Fee](#)

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**H.R. 5624 - SSVF Report Requirement:** To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the shallow subsidy program under the supportive services for veteran families program, and for other purposes.

Action Taken: VE&E Testified on 9/21/21

Status: 10/19/2021 Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

What's Next: Pending Action by Committee

[Resolution No. 340: Support Permanent Authorization for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families \(SSVF\) Program](#)

**Draft Legislation on Homelessness Substance Abuse Pilot:** To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on substance use and alcohol use disorder recovery for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

Action Taken: VE&E Testified on 9/21/21

Status:

What's Next: Waiting for formal introduction of legislation

Resolution: Pending Draft Resolution

**Draft Legislation on Increase Homelessness Per Diem:** To amend title 38, United States Code, to adjust the rate of per diem payments provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grantees that provide services to homeless veterans.

Action Taken: VE&E Testified on 9/21/21, Provided Quote in Support of Bill on 10/13/2021

Status:

What's Next: Waiting for formal introduction of legislation

[Resolution No. 24: Support Funding and Changes to the Department of Veterans Affairs Grant and Per Diem Program](#)

**Draft Legislation on Homelessness Elderly Pilot:** To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on grants for care for elderly homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

Action Taken: VE&E Testified on 9/21/21

Status:

What's Next: Waiting for formal introduction of legislation

[Resolution No. 319: Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within the Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

**H.R. 5301 - Homelessness Tech Assistance:** To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide technical assistance to recipients of grants for supportive services for very low-income families in permanent housing and comprehensive service programs, and for other purposes.

Action Taken: VE&E Testified on 9/21/21

Status: 09/30/2021 Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

What's Next: Pending Action by Committee

Resolution: Pending Draft Resolution

**H.R. 5025 - Homelessness Extend HVRP:** To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase and extend the authorization of appropriations for homeless veterans reintegration programs.

Action Taken: VE&E Testified on 9/21/21

Status: 09/09/2021 Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

What's Next: Pending Action by Committee

[Resolution No. 319: Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within the Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

**H.R.492 - Supporting Veteran Families in Need Act:** To amend title 38, United States Code, make permanent the Secretary of Veterans Affairs' authority to provide financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.

Action Taken: This bill was submitted for testimony, Letter of Support submitted 4/21/2021

Status: 6/16/2021 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

What's Next: Pending Action by Committee

[Resolution No. 331: Support Housing Preference for Low-Income Veterans in the Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

**H.R. 711 - West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act of 2021:** This legislation would direct the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) West Los Angeles Medical Center campus to use revenues from leases and easements as a dedicated funding source to build additional housing for homeless veterans, offset the high costs of housing construction, and help fund the provision of supportive services for veterans in the community.

Action Taken: This bill was submitted for testimony, Letter of Support submitted 4/21/2021

Status: 6/23/2021 - Became Public Law No: 117-18

What's Next:

**S. 2172 - Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Act:** This bill improves grants, payments, and technical assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to serve homeless veterans.

Action Taken: This bill was submitted for testimony, Letter of Support submitted 6/23/2021

Status: 07/28/2021 Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably

What's Next: Pending Action by Senate

[Resolution No. 319: Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within the Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

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## **SMALL BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING PORTFOLIO**

**H.R.4433 - Veterans Entrepreneurship Act of 2021:** This bill would amend the Small Business Act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to carry out a pilot program on issuing grants to eligible veterans to start or acquire qualifying businesses, and for other purposes. This bill would provide the opportunity for veterans to utilize their GI Bill benefits to start and finance their small businesses.

Action Taken: Supported by the National Commander in a Letter of Support submitted 08/03/2021

Status: 07/16/2021 Referred to the House Committee on Small Business

What's Next: Committee Vote

[Resolution No. 150: Expanding Post-9/11 GI Bill for Entrepreneurship](#)

**H.R. 2082 - VA Supply Chain Resiliency Act:** This bill would make certain improvements relating to the supply chain of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Action Taken: This bill was submitted for testimony, Letter of Support submitted 4/21/2021

Status: 5/4/2021 - Voted 22 - 6 by House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

What's Next: A full vote in the U.S. House

[Resolution No. 55: Mandatory use of the Veterans First Contracting Program](#)

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# GLOSSARY OF FREQUENTLY USED TERMS

Acronym	Definition
<b>ACE</b>	American Council on Education
<b>ACP</b>	American Corporate Partners, a veteran's support organization
<b>ATLAS</b>	Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations, a V.A. telehealth initiative
<b>BLS</b>	Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics
<b>C&amp;P</b>	V.A.'s Compensation and Pension exam
<b>CAVC</b>	Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims
<b>CCME</b>	Council of College and Military Educators
<b>COLA</b>	Cost-of-living adjustment
<b>CSAAVE</b>	California State Approving Agency for Veterans Education
<b>DIMO</b>	Defense Security Cooperation Agency/Defense Institute for Medical Operations
<b>DOD</b>	Department of Defense
<b>DOL-VETS</b>	Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Services
<b>EdCounsel</b>	Higher education consulting firm
<b>EIDL</b>	SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan
<b>GAO</b>	Government Accountability Office
<b>GPD</b>	V.A.'s Grant and Per Diem Program for homeless veterans
<b>GWB</b>	George W. Bush Higher Education Policy Work Group
<b>HEROES ACT of 2003</b>	Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2003. Grants the Secretary of Education the authority to waive requirements that impede military borrowers' access to critical repayment protection during the war, military operation, or national emergency.
<b>HVAC</b>	House Veterans Affairs Committee
<b>MCAI</b>	American Legion's Military Credentialing Advancement Initiative
<b>MSLP</b>	The Federal Reserve's Main Street Lending Program
<b>MSO</b>	Military Support Organization
<b>NAICU</b>	National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities
<b>NASAA</b>	National Association of State Approving Agencies. Responsible for approving school funding for GI Bill
<b>NAVPA</b>	National Association of Veterans Program Administrators
<b>NCA</b>	V.A.'s National Cemetery Administration
<b>NDAA</b>	National Defense Authorization Act
<b>NLD</b>	American Legion's National Legislative Division
<b>OPM</b>	Office of Personnel Management
<b>PPP</b>	Paycheck Protection Program
<b>RBS</b>	Risk-Based Survey Model
<b>RPIC</b>	Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge
<b>S2S</b>	Service to School, a veteran's organization
<b>SAA</b>	State Approving Agency, responsible for approving school funding for GI Bill
<b>SBA</b>	Small Business Administration
<b>STEM</b>	Science, Technology, Engineering, Medical
<b>SVA</b>	Student Veterans of America, a veteran's organization

<b>SVAC</b>	Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
<b>TAPS</b>	Transition Assistance Program for Survivors, a nonprofit for Gold Star Families
<b>TEAM Act</b>	Senate Bill 4393, to improve the provision of health care for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances from burn pits
<b>TFA</b>	American Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance program
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>USDA</b>	United States Department of Agriculture
<b>USERRA</b>	Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act
<b>VA&amp;R</b>	American Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division
<b>VACO</b>	Veterans Affairs Central Office
<b>VBA</b>	V.A.'s Veterans Benefits Administration
<b>VE&amp;E</b>	Veterans Employment and Education Division
<b>VES</b>	Veterans Education Success, a veteran's organization
<b>VSO</b>	Veterans Service Organization

## RESOURCE PAGE

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What happens when three veterans walk into a podcast studio? Vibrant camaraderie, playful joking and hot takes ensue. Join Mark Seavey, Ashley Gorbulja-Maldonado and Jeff Daly as they explore current events, interesting trends and quirky stories of interest to the military community.

The weekly podcast is produced by The American Legion.



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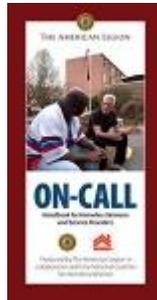


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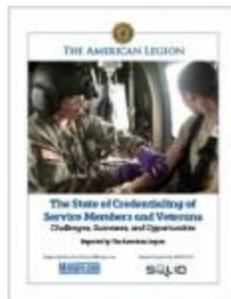
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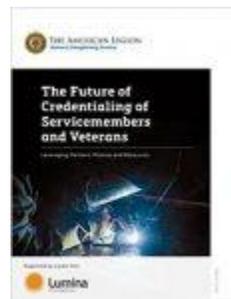
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[The Future of Credentialing of Servicemembers and Veterans](#)

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## Awards Program



The first American Legion Veterans Employment & Education Commission award was established in 1947 and honored employers across the country who had established outstanding records in the employment and retention of veterans, disabled veterans, and older workers.

- Learn how to apply for these Awards at: <https://www.legion.org/careers/awards>
- For more information contact:  
**Edwin Cruz**  
(202) 263-5771  
[ecruz@legion.org](mailto:ecruz@legion.org)

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## Services That Really Help

Career fairs and workshops, guidance on education, homeless services, small business resources and more:



- **CAREER/EMPLOYMENT CENTER:**
  - <http://legion.monster.com/?scmdlCmscc=1>
  - <https://www.legion.org/careers/resources>
- **HOMELESS VETERANS FIND HELP:**
  - <https://www.legion.org/careers/homelesstaskforce>
  - <https://www.legion.org/homelessveterans/resources>
- **VETERANS EDUCATION BENEFITS:**
  - <https://www.legion.org/education/statebenefits>
  - <https://www.legion.org/education/federalbenefits>
- **VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS TOOLS:**
  - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSBA/bulletins/2eba258>

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# MORE STORIES...

## **NYC ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF PIONEERING EMPLOYMENT TOOL FOR VETERANS**

“Mayor de Blasio and the Department of Veterans’ Services (DVS) launched VetConnectPro, a first-in-the-nation employment tool that connects veterans looking for work in the New York City public and private sector to matching employment opportunities.”

[Continue reading the article](#)

## **STUDENT VETERANS FACE HUGE CUTS IN HOUSING STIPENDS IF CONGRESS DOESN’T ACT SOON**

“Air Force veteran Ally Schroeder has had nearly everything in her education and career path planned out for the last three years, so it’s stressful not to know whether she’ll have enough money for housing in January.”

[Continue reading the article](#)

## **STUDENT VETERANS BATTLE FOR GI BILL BENEFITS AT MIT, ANOTHER SCHOOL FIGHTING THE VA**

“The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, or MIT, lost GI Bill eligibility for one of its programs and never sought approval for doctoral courses due to a series of paperwork snafus and poor communication with state approving authorities, leaving some veterans at the school in limbo and out thousands of dollars, an investigation by Military.com found.”

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## **VA ASSISTS JUSTICE-INVOLVED VETERANS THROUGH FREE PROVIDER CONSULTS AND RESOURCES**

“Veterans who have been involved with the criminal justice system (justice-involved Veterans) face a host of challenges and barriers as they navigate civilian life. Higher rates of traumatic brain injury and stressors, such as housing insecurity, are notable in those with a lifetime history of justice involvement.”

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## **VA’S STRUGGLING SUPPLY CHAIN MODERNIZATION INITIATIVE IS UNDER REVIEW**

“The Department of Veterans Affairs is reassessing the future of its medical supply chain modernization program, one of several major efforts that Congress fears is teetering on the edge of the abyss.”

[Continue reading the article](#)

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