

NVTAC Monthly Newsletter: June 2023



JUNE SPOTLIGHTS



Celebrating Pride Month

The White House released a proclamation on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Pride Month. President Biden stated, "My entire Administration stands proudly with the LGBTQI+ community in the enduring struggle for freedom, justice, and equality. And we are making strides. On my first day in office, I signed a historic Executive Order charging the entire Federal Government with protecting LGBTQI+ people from discrimination — from health care to housing, education, employment, banking, and the criminal justice system. Last December, surrounded by dozens of couples who have fought for marriage equality in the courts for decades, I had the great honor of signing into law the landmark Respect for Marriage Act. This bipartisan law protects the rights of same-sex and interracial couples — like caring for one's sick partner and receiving spousal benefits. Deciding who to marry is one of life's most profound decisions, so we etched a simple truth into law: Love is love."

[Read the Full Declaration](#)



Special Issue of Health Equity

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Research and Development (ORD) published a special issue of the peer-reviewed journal Health Equity which is focused on improving care for veterans through health equity research.

[Download the Articles](#)



Home Depot Foundation and Jared Allen's Homes For Wounded Warriors Build Smart Home for Veteran

Explosives destroyed Staff Sergeant Chris Burrell's vehicle as he was leaving a mission to support Iraqi police, severely damaging his right leg and left him with a traumatic brain injury. After focusing on rehabilitation, he returned to active duty, managing his brigade's canine program. In 2021, Chris retired from the army after 20 years of service. The Home Depot Foundation and the Jared Allen's Homes for Wounded Warriors built Chris a smart home designed for his individual needs. It is fully wheelchair accessible, with lower, roll-under countertops, zero-threshold doorways, and a wheelchair-accessible shower. "USICH is committed to building a country where everyone has a home. (...) Together, we can ensure that people of all gender expressions and sexual orientations have a safe, stable, accessible, and affordable home."

[Home Depot Foundation Article](#)

Veterans can apply for the Homes for Wounded Warriors. Information about donations is also available on the [Homes for Wounded Warriors](#) website.



Challenges of an Aging Veteran Population

A new article published by the War Horse discussing the challenges of caring for an aging veteran population that is rapidly growing. According to VA research, the number of women veterans over the age of 65 is expected to increase by 237 percent between 2021 and 2041. “We’re trying to always think of what programs can help with the specific individual needs and situation — both the socioeconomic and other situations — because not one thing fits or works for everybody,” says Scotte Hartronft, the director of geriatrics and extended care at VA.

[War Horse Article](#)

SUCCESS STORY



Do you have a success story you would like to share? If you are a grantee who helped a veteran who is struggling with housing or employment, we would love to hear from you.

[Submit Your Success Stories](#)

RESOURCES



Continuing Conversations: Serving LGBTQ+ Veterans

In 2021, the National Veterans' Training Institute (NVTI) hosted its first podcast dedicated to discussing serving LGBTQ+ veterans and is excited to now announce an addition to that podcast—Continuing Conversations: Serving LGBTQ+ Veterans. This podcast focuses on educating and providing resources to service providers who work with LGBTQ+ veterans. Listen as a panel shares their experiences working with and/or being LGBTQ+ veterans, provides insight into their needs, and explains how to connect them with resources and support. Access this podcast along with others in the podcast series at [NVTI.org On-Demand Learning: Podcasts](https://nvti.org)



Podcast Covering Veteran Mental Health Care

Make the Connection is a national awareness program operated by the VA aimed at reducing the negative perceptions and stigma associated with seeking mental health

NVTAC Newsletter: June 2023

care. Through the website, veterans and their loved ones hear from hundreds of other veterans who may be experiencing similar challenges, learn strategies for support and recovery, along with local resources available through a resource locator.

[Make the Connection Podcast](#)



The American Bar Association (ABA) Military & Veterans Legal Center

The ABA Military and Veterans Legal Center offers legal services for military personnel, veterans, and their families. Qualifying candidates can search for legal aid and pro bono programs by state.

[ABA Military & Veterans Legal Center Website](#)



U.S. Department of the Interior Resources for Veteran Employment

The U.S. Department of the Interior is committed to increasing the employment of veterans within the Department's workforce by promoting recruitment, employment,

training/development, and utilization of special hiring authorities available for veterans. The [Office of Veterans Employment Programs](#) offers resources and expertise that encourages the recruitment/hiring of veterans and prepares them for careers within the federal government.



Million Veteran Program (MVP)

The VA's MVP is a national research program specialized in determining how genes, lifestyle, military experiences, and exposures affect the health and wellness of veterans. MVP research may lead to new ways of preventing and treating illnesses in veterans and all Americans. Over 950,000 veterans have joined the MVP since its inception in 2011. It is the largest research effort at the VA to improve health care for veterans and one of the largest research programs in the world studying genes and health. Any veteran can join the MVP by visiting their [website](#).



Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Podcast: How VA Helps Unsheltered Veterans

Special guests Allison Bond, Deputy Director of the Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program, and Anthony Love, the Principal Advisor to the Executive Director for Intra/Inter-Agency Collaboration and Director of Community Engagement in the VHA

NVTAC Newsletter: June 2023

Homeless Programs Office, demystify unsheltered homelessness, explain why it harms veterans, and discuss what the VA and the federal government are doing to combat it.

[How VA Heps Unsheltered Veterans Podcast](#)

EVENTS



Upcoming VA Events

The VA offers a variety of events around the country geared toward veterans and their families to help them purchase a home, earn a degree, start their career, maintain their health, and more.

[Schedule of Upcoming VA Events](#)

