

# VSC NAACP VETERANS NEWS Issue 1

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Welcome to the first issue of Virginia State Conference (VSC) NAACP Veterans News Newsletter. If you would like to serve on the Armed Services and Veterans Affairs (ASVA) Committee, please contact me at 703-360-0261, [everettlewis1@cox.net](mailto:everettlewis1@cox.net) . If you serve as Chair of the ASVA Committee for your chapter, please send me your name, email and phone. I welcome everyone's input of information that can be printed in the newsletter.

We seek to establish a working relationship with those agencies in government, national, state, and local, having the responsibility in the affairs of members of the various Armed Services and Veterans and to see that the programs to which they are responsible are administered fairly and justly to members of the minority community. We also study conditions pertaining to veterans and members of the Military Service and their dependents and survivors in the community. We serve as a center of information on matters affecting the members of the Active Military, Reserve, and State National Guard and Veterans.



The new logo for the United States Space Force, the Sixth Branch of our military, was unveiled Jan 24, 2020 which features an arrowhead shape centered on a planetary background and encircled by the words, "United States Space Force" and "Department of the Air Force."

The logo, which bears the date 2019 in Roman numerals, also is similar in design to that of Air Force Space Command, from which Space Force was created by legislation that President Trump signed in August 2019.

Space Force is the first new military service since the Air Force was created in 1947. It is meant mainly to improve protection of U.S. satellites and other space assets, rather than to put warriors in orbit to conduct combat in outer space. Congress made it part of the Department of the Air Force.

## THE REAL ID ACT

Q: Is my retiree identification card compliant with the REAL ID Act?

A: Currently, all forms of military identifications issued with a bar code from the DEERS/RAPIDS programs are REAL ID Act compliant, allowing access to commercial aircraft and government buildings as they do now. Also, in Spring/Summer 2020, the Department of Defense will roll out the next generation of military retiree ID cards. This new ID will reflect a color photo of the card holder instead of the current gray-scale version, along with new security enhancements to protect a person's identity. Replacing current retiree ID cards is not required. Because there is no mandate to replace current IDs in circulation, replacements will be based on normal attrition to avoid burdening retirees, their family members and ID card issuance facilities.

## US Senator Mark R. Warner Helps Veterans

Senator Warner recently presented U.S. Army Major General Philip Churn of Woodbridge, VA with the Legion of Merit - a military award given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements. "Major General Churn earned this medal more than five years ago but ran into trouble having it awarded after moving on to his next assignment. That's when he reached out of my office, and with help of my staff, we were able to jump through the right bureaucratic hoops and make sure that Major General Churn receive this well-earned award. You can watch the ceremony at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-LS7sLMq10&feature=youtu.be>

"If you or a veteran or service member you know needs help with a federal agency, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 540-857-2676 or send me an email using the form on my Senate website," said Senator Warner. <https://www.warner.senate.gov/public/>





On Sep 1, 2017, Carlos Lemont Hopkins, Esq. (Lt. Col., Virginia Army National Guard) was appointed Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs. He serves under Gov. Ralph Northam.

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**VIRGINIA 20 WOMEN  
VETERANS 20 SUMMIT**

**EMPOWERED**

COLLABORATING AND CREATING  
CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE

**SAVE THE DATE**

**JUNE 17 - 18 2020**

GREATER RICHMOND CONVENTION CENTER, RICHMOND, VA

PRESENTED BY  
THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN SERVICES (DVS)  
WITH THE VIRGINIA EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION (VEC)  
AND THE VIRGINIA STATEWIDE PARTNERS

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Contact 804-786-0571

[womenvet@dvs.virginia.gov](mailto:womenvet@dvs.virginia.gov)

<https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/education-employment/virginia-women-veterans>

## SAVE THE DATE

June 4, 2020 - Scheduled opening of the National Museum of the U S Army, 1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir, VA [thenmusa.org](http://thenmusa.org) [armyhistory.org](http://armyhistory.org)



## **The Salem VA Medical Center hold Town Hall events**

The Salem VA Medical Center (VAMC), located at 1970 Roanoke Blvd, Salem, VA 24153, serves veterans throughout the State of Virginia for mental health treatment and southwestern Virginia for medical and surgical care. The Salem VAMC also has Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) in Danville, Lynchburg, Staunton, Tazewell, and Wytheville. The Salem VAMC provides healthcare to more than 38,000 Veterans in 26 counties in Southwest Virginia. The Center holds a Veterans Town Hall event every three months to keep its vets up-to-date on center policies. The next town hall is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2020 in Building 5. Call before arriving. VAMC Director is Rebecca Stackhouse. (540) 982-2463

<https://theroanoketribune.org/?cat=8>

## **These Military Medical Facilities Will Stop Seeing Retirees and Military Family Members**

Approximately 84,000 active duty family members and 110,000 military retiree beneficiaries will be impacted by military treatment facility (MTF) downsizing proposed in a DOD report to Congress released Feb. 19.

### **Active Duty Only**

**Facilities scheduled to limit patients to active duty servicemembers:**

**Virginia: Kenner Army Health Clinic outpatient facility (Fort Lee); Naval Branch Health Clinic Dahlgren outpatient facility**

**Other facilities facing changes:**

**Virginia: JB Langley-Eustis: 633rd Medical Group-Langley to become an ambulatory surgery center and outpatient clinic. McDonald Army Health Clinic is**

transitioning from an ambulatory surgery center to an outpatient facility “with significant specialty services.”

Read more at

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2020-news-articles/advocacy/these-military-medical-facilities-will-stop-seeing-retirees,-families/>



### **Veterans News Network**

Veterans News Network (VNN) is a television channel developed for Veterans, largely by Veterans that is available 24/7. It includes entertainment, education, inspiration, and Veteran news. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yA3X-ZxMTfg>



### **How African American WWII Veterans Were Scorned By the G.I. Bill**

<https://progressive.org/dispatches/how-african-american-wwii-veterans-were-scorned-by-the-g-i-b/>

