

# The Weekly Report

October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

*The latest news, views, and announcements*

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## National Veterans Employment & Education Division

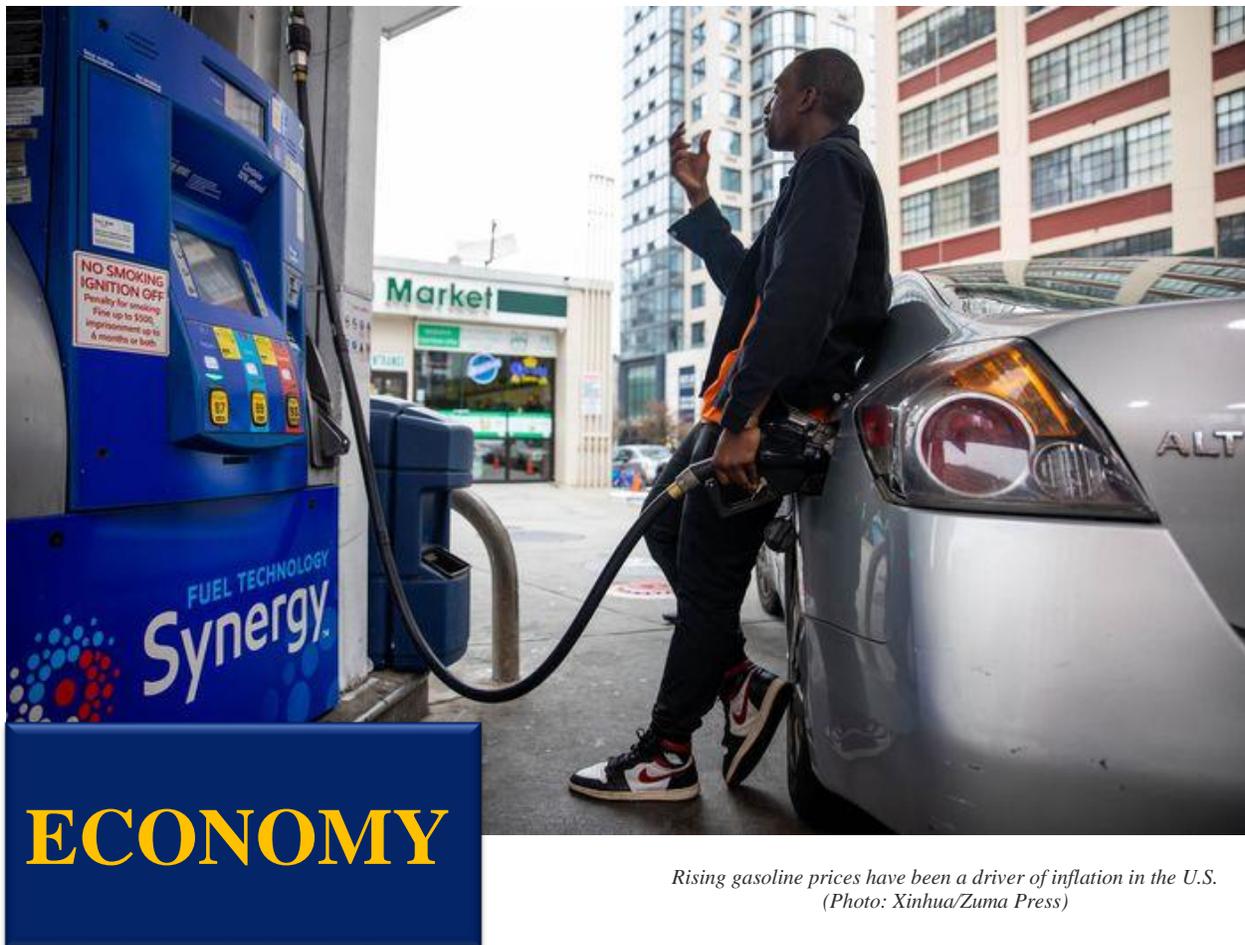


### VE&E'S LATEST NEWS STORY

The Veterans Employment and Education Division will be participating in 27 Yellow Ribbon events from October – December 2021.

The **Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP)**, established by the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), is a Department of Defense (DOD) program that assists transitioning National Guard, Reserve members, and their families to learn about what benefits and resources are available to them throughout the deployment cycle. The American Legion attends YRRP events as a resource and provides information to attendees on the Legion's programs and services.





## ECONOMY

*Rising gasoline prices have been a driver of inflation in the U.S.  
(Photo: Xinhua/Zuma Press)*

### INFLATION SETS OFF ALARMS AROUND THE WORLD

*The big question for the global economy:  
Will price rises feed further inflation cycles?*

Rising inflation is triggering anxiety around the world as a surge in demand following the easing of Covid-19 lockdowns has been confronted by [supply bottlenecks](#) and rising prices of energy and raw materials.

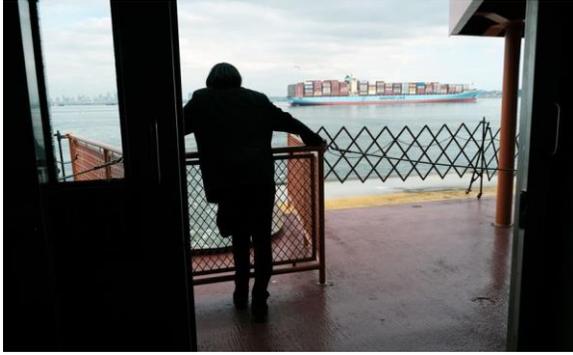
The sharpest consumer-price increases in years in many countries have evoked different responses from central banks. More than a dozen have raised interest rates but two that haven't are those that loom largest over the global economy: the Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank.

Their differing responses reflect differences in views about whether the pickup in prices will feed further cycles of inflation or will instead peter out. Which view is right will do much to shape the trajectory of the global economy over the next few years.

The large central banks are relying on households showing faith in their track records of keeping inflation low, and the expectation that there are enough under-utilized workers available to keep wage rises in check.

Other monetary authorities aren't sure that they have yet earned that kind of credibility as inflation fighters, and see a higher risk that wage rises will surge. In poorer countries, a larger share of spending usually also goes to essentials such as food and energy that have seen the largest price rises, so policy makers are quicker to tamp down on inflation.

Chile's central bank on Wednesday increased its interest rate by one and a quarter percentage points to 2.75%, surprising economists with its biggest rate increase in 20 years.



*A cargo ship filled with containers moves through New York Harbor as it heads out to the Atlantic Ocean.  
(Photo: Spencer Platt/Getty Images)*

“It’s affected us so much, everything has increased,” said Sandra Valenzuela, a 46-year-old in Santiago, who lost her sales job last year and is now grappling with putting enough food on the table at home. “We have to adapt to the economy.”

Her family has cut back on eating meat, saying it is now too expensive, and is buying cheaper brands of other goods.

Price rises began to accelerate world-wide in March, taking inflation rates higher than most central bankers had expected. By August, the annual rate of inflation in the Group of 20 largest economies—which account for about four-fifths of the world’s output—had risen to a decade high.

The inflation surge is being driven by a combination of economic forces that few central bankers have seen before.

The rebound in consumer demand has come much sooner and much more strongly than usual in the aftermath of an economic contraction. But supply has struggled to meet that demand. Expecting a more subdued and more drawn-out recovery, few manufacturers have added capacity during the Covid-19 pandemic, while factories and many parts of the global transport network have been hindered by government restrictions on work and movement.

Central bankers from the Group of 20 leading economies, meeting Wednesday in Washington, D.C., said that they expect that those forces of

supply and demand will balance out over coming months, and that as they do inflation rates will ease.

Some of them have already raised key interest rates, most notably Brazil and Russia, which were among the first to move back in March. And as inflation has advanced, with no clear end in sight, other central banks have joined them.

Of the 38 central banks tracked by the Bank for International Settlements, 13 have raised their key rate at least once. In October, the central banks of New Zealand, Poland and Romania increased borrowing costs for the first time since the pandemic struck. Singapore, which tightens policy by nudging its exchange rate higher, joined that group Thursday.

For all central bankers, the big worry is that inflation becomes embedded as households start to factor expectations that faster inflation is here to stay into wage bargaining and businesses make the same assumption as they set prices. Where memories of high rates of inflation are fresher than they are in the U.S. and Western Europe, that is a greater risk.



*A wholesale vegetable market in Bengaluru, India.  
(Photo: Dhiraj Singh/Bloomberg News)*

“Emerging markets are turning hawkish because there is a risk of inflation expectations going much higher,” said Bhanu Baweja, chief strategist at UBS Research.

Almost every country in South America has been through a period of very high inflation in living memory, and prices are again surging there following a decline in new coronavirus

infections. Without increases in wages to match, many households are in financial peril.

Like Chile, Colombia and Peru are also seeing rising prices after years of controlling inflation. That has prompted central banks in both countries to tighten their monetary policy as households struggle to make ends meet.

Peru, which had one of Latin America's biggest economic contractions in 2020, is grappling with its fastest increase in consumer prices in more than a decade. The central bank has been raising its reference interest rate since August, including a half-point increase in October to 1.5%. Peru's inflation hit 5.2% in September.

Most current central bankers work off a game plan that owes much to the successful fight against very high inflation last seen in rich countries during the 1970s. A key lesson they take from that period is that when wages rise very quickly to match inflation, further sharp rises in prices are likely, and a vicious cycle ensues.

In some countries, the risk of a wage and price spiral is greater because there are few workers who can be recruited to help meet rising demand.

That is a particular problem in Central Europe, where a number of central banks have raised their key interest rates over recent months. Emigration to richer Western Europe and low birthrates have reduced the number of workers. According to projections from the European Union's statistics agency, Poland's population could fall by more than a fifth by 2100.

"Central and Eastern Europe is one of the regions of the world where we think that the risk of sustained higher inflation in the next few years is greatest," said Liam Peach, an economist at Capital Economics.

For policy makers at the Fed and the ECB, the threat of a wage and price spiral seems lower, while they are also counting on memories of a long period of very low inflation to anchor household expectations of future price rises. That view has recently been questioned by economists, including Fed economist Jeremy

Rudd, who argues the evidence simply doesn't show expectations actually drive inflation.

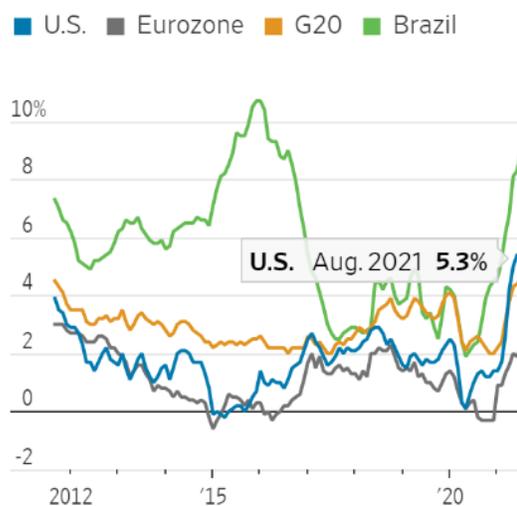
Rising food and energy prices have also pushed up inflation across much of sub-Saharan Africa. Ethiopia's central bank in August raised its rate for lending to commercial banks to 16% from 13% and doubled the cash-reserve ratio requirement for commercial banks to 10%.

Inflation in sub-Saharan Africa's top wheat producer surged to 30% in September, from 26.4% the previous month, as a mix of conflict, blocked trade routes and locust infestations cut food production.

For most parts of Asia, central banks are still cautious about tightening monetary policy too early for fear of undermining weak economic recoveries which weren't stoked by big official stimuli.

Chinese producers have so far absorbed rising commodity prices, hurting their profitability. China's factory-gate inflation surged 10.7% in September, the most in nearly 25 years, in large part due to higher coal prices. The country's consumer inflation rose 0.7%, far below the official target of around 3%.

Annual rate of inflation



Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Speaking at the G-20 forum on Wednesday, China's central bank governor, Yi Gang, said the country's inflation is generally "mild."

In Turkey, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan this week fired three top central-bank officials. He has demanded lower interest rates to encourage economic growth, raising concerns among investors who say rate cuts will add to inflationary pressures. Turkey's annual inflation rose to 19.58% in September, its highest level in 2½ years, according to the country's official statistics agency.

Elsewhere, governments are resorting to measures that were common during the 1970s, but have since been set aside in most countries. On Wednesday, Argentina's interior commerce secretary, Roberto Feletti, announced a 90-day price freeze on 1,247 goods in stores amid concerns about rising food prices.

"We need to stop food prices from eroding salaries," he said.

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## WORKERS QUITTING THEIR JOBS HIT A RECORD IN THE U.S. IN AUGUST

As the economy struggles to get back on track amid the pandemic, businesses are struggling to find employees — and workers are discovering that they have leverage.

Nearly 4.3 million workers voluntarily quit their jobs in August, the Labor Department said Tuesday. That was up from four million in July and is by far the most in the two decades the government has been keeping track.

The explosion of quitting is the latest evidence that the balance of power in the labor market has swung toward workers, at least temporarily. Average hourly earnings have surged in recent months, particularly for the lowest-paid workers, and yet many businesses report they are still having difficulty finding workers.

The abundance of opportunities may be helping to fuel the wave of quitting: The government's tally includes people who left jobs to take other, perhaps better-paying, positions — or who didn't have another job lined up but were confident they could find one — as well as those choosing to leave the work force. (The figure does not include retirements, which are counted separately.)

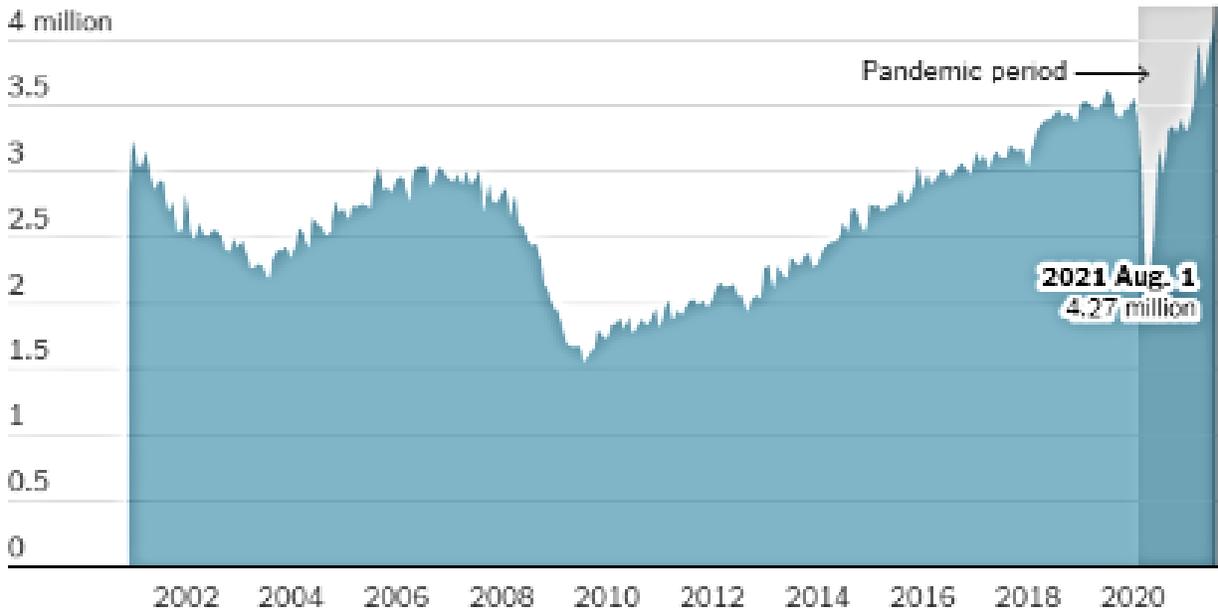
The number of open jobs actually fell somewhat in August, to 10.4 million from a record 11.1 million in July, as the latest wave of the pandemic

took a bite out of consumer demand, especially in the service sector. But the slowdown did little to ease the hiring logjam: There were more open jobs than unemployed workers in August. Openings were particularly elevated in the leisure and hospitality sector, where the number of people quitting was also highest. Economists said the spread of the more-contagious Delta variant of the coronavirus could be contributing to workers' reluctance to return to work.

At the same time, hiring fell in August. That is consistent with data released earlier showing that job growth slowed in late summer. That data, also from the Labor Department but based on different surveys, showed that the Delta-driven slowdown continued in September. So did the hiring difficulties: The labor force shrank in September, as higher wages failed to draw people back to work.

"We know that the Delta variant has likely made it more difficult to unlock labor supply because there are some workers who are concerned about health risks — and then on top of that, many school reopening's were disrupted," said Daniel Zhao, an economist at the career site Glassdoor. "It's possible that as the Delta wave recedes, then we will realize some of those benefits of reopened schools and a revitalized economy, but that is going to take some time."

## Number of People Who Left Their Jobs Voluntarily by Month



Note: Seasonally adjusted. Voluntary quits exclude retirements. • Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics • By The New York Times



**EMPLOYMENT  
& TRANSITION**

## FOUR BIPARTISAN KINZINGER BILLS AIM TO SECURE CRITICAL U.S. SUPPLY CHAINS



*Kinzinger Pushes Bill to Protect Manufacturing Supply Chains*

In addition to being a lead cosponsor on three pieces of bipartisan legislation focused on the nation's supply chains, U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) recently authored a bipartisan bill that would create a unified national effort to secure critical supply chains and help create jobs.

“The introduction of these bills represents a major first step in addressing the critical supply chain issues we face,” Rep. Kinzinger said on Oct. 6. “I believe my colleagues would agree these bills are not yet perfect, and each measure will require further negotiations and consultations with stakeholders and experts.

“But I am committed to remaining engaged to see this through so that we may strengthen our national and economic security for generations to come,” he added.

Rep. Kinzinger on Oct. 5 authored and sponsored the **Manufacturing Economy And National Security (MEANS) Act, H.R. 5492**, with lead original cosponsor U.S. Rep. Tom Malinowski (D-NJ) to establish an Office of Manufacturing Security and Resilience in the U.S. Commerce Department.

“The bipartisan MEANS Act will create a unified national effort — spanning all levels of government, in partnership with industry,

academia, and the workforce — to secure critical supply chains, bolster manufacturing sectors, and create jobs,” said Rep. Kinzinger. “The MEANS Act is complemented by the other bipartisan bills introduced this week, fitting together to bring about the tools we need to rise to the great challenges before us.”

Also on Oct. 5, Rep. Kinzinger cosponsored the **Building Resilient Supply Chains Act, H.R. 5495**, alongside bill sponsor Rep. Malinowski to establish the Supply Chain Resiliency and Crisis Response Office in the Commerce Department. Additionally, Rep. Kinzinger on Oct. 5 cosponsored the Supply Chain Health and Integrity for the Nation Act, also known as the **Supply CHAIN Act, H.R. 5479**, with bill sponsor U.S. Rep. Carolyn Bourdeaux (D-GA) to establish the Supply Chain Resiliency and Crisis Response Office in the Commerce Department.

Lastly, Rep. Kinzinger is a lead original cosponsor of the **Supply Chain Security and Resilience Act, H.R. 5505**, sponsored on Oct. 5 by U.S. Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA) to establish a National Resilience Center of Excellence in the Commerce Department.

The congressman added that he's proud of the work each office has done to get lawmakers to the point of introducing these four bills. “I look forward to keeping up the momentum as we move these through Congress,” said Rep. Kinzinger. “There was give and take on both sides, and that is the essence of compromise and bipartisanship — it's how legislating is supposed to be done.”

The American Legion commends bipartisan efforts in Congress to bolster the United States' critical market supply chains as well as generate new jobs for American citizens, transitioning servicemembers and veterans. Such efforts falls in line with passed [Resolution No.13: Support 'Buy American' Policy within the Federal Government to Create Opportunities for Veterans.](#)

**“I started this process last year, culminating in the MADE in the Americas Act, which I introduced in May to address the issues in our supply chain vulnerabilities and to incentivize more manufacturing to be done here in the United States,” Rep. Kinzinger explained. “It’s been a great deal of work to get from MADE to MEANS, but I’m grateful to the efforts of my staff and those of the offices we worked with on these four pieces of legislation.”**

“Once a weak supply chain is found, Kinzinger says the goal is to move that manufacturing back into the United States using incentives”



## HOW COMPANIES CAN PROVIDE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNEMPLOYED VETERANS

When Lieutenant Commander Bill Reynolds retired from the Navy in 2012 after 30 years of active service, he didn’t know what the term “business casual” meant, much less how to apply for the jobs that required it.

“I had to Google it,” Reynolds says. “I got so used to wearing the uniform.”

When Reynolds first joined the military in 1982, he enlisted as a hospital corpsman, and went on to serve as the only medical provider on submarines. After completing a Navy-sponsored Physician Assistant program, he’d spend the last 15 years of his military career serving as a PA through deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. By the end of his tenure, he had experienced more than a civilian PA could ever imagine. Still, he found himself unprepared for the challenges of transitioning to civilian life.

“There’s a program in the Navy called the Transition Assistance Program, but it’s only a week long,” says Reynolds, who today works as the director of the Military and First Responder Trauma Recovery Program at Sierra Tucson, an addiction treatment center. “In a perfect world there would be a month’s time set aside where you get help with filing VA benefits and [finding]

resources that are available. One week isn’t enough.”

In 2020, the jobless rate for all veterans increased to 6.5%, according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics. Of the 581,000 unemployed veterans last year, 54% were ages 25 to 54, 41% were ages 55 or above and 5% were ages 18 to 24. Of course, these numbers also reflect the effects of the pandemic, but prove that despite having a long working history within the military, veterans still struggle to find long-term employment.



“The military is extremely linear in its approach — there’s a standard operating procedure and your job description is defined,” says Jeff McMillan, Army veteran and chief analytics and data officer at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. “And then all of a sudden you take your uniform off and it’s all gone. There’s

nothing. And it's scary because you don't even know what you should be asking to do."

It's not that veterans don't have the skills for civilian jobs, according to McMillan, who mentors veterans and co-chairs Morgan Stanley's Veterans program. It's that they lack the support necessary to learn how to translate those skills into terms civilian employers would understand.

"The military trains you to be a soldier and they do extraordinarily," he says. "They teach us how to fight and how to participate in combat. And while many of those underlying skills are incredibly valuable and applicable to the civilian world, nobody told me how to find a job. Nobody told me how to network. Nobody told me how to navigate and market myself for a position in the civilian sector. Nobody. I had to figure it out myself."

Within the military, educational opportunities to earn a BA, an MA and even a MBA while serving exist, should members have the initiative to take advantage of them, and government-sponsored transition assistance programs, like the one



Reynolds experienced, exist within all branches. In addition, 90-day skills bridge program conducted by the Department of Defense pays veterans to fulfill a civilian role on an internship-like basis.

But even with the existence of those seemingly robust programs, many veterans feel under-prepared once they hit the job market. Because at the end of the day, no one can prepare a civilian employee for civilian work like a civilian employer. That's where employer-sponsored programs for veterans need to do more heavy lifting, according to Rob Sturrus, executive vice president of Wealth Solutions at business solutions company, Alight.

"[The workforce] is a different environment than the military, so how do we give the tools and support instead of just assuming that they can

navigate through?" Sturrus says. "They'll ask questions when they have them, but how do we go above and beyond to make sure that they're taking advantage of the programs that are in place and we're supporting them and directing them there?"

There is no shortage of companies that are putting forward efforts to try and attract veterans. UPS, American Express, Wells Fargo and Bank of America have their own established outreach programs, to name a few. But after years of working in hyper-specific fields, many veterans don't even know what they want to do with the remainder of their careers, which is why it's critical to pair recruiting tactics with a variety of available job options.

In 2021, Alight launched a recruitment portal tailored specifically to veterans, equipped with a skills translator tool that allows veterans to manually input their military experience and positions, and the system breaks them down and returns viable open positions within Alight's network that may correspond with those experiences. For example, a veteran that worked as military police will likely be paired with positions in fraud detection and protection, Sturrus says, the law enforcement of the financial world.

"They don't have to try to interpret and read between lines," Sturrus says.

Hiring more veterans isn't just to the veterans' advantage, but to that of employers, too. Because of the nature of the military, veterans have proven to be detail oriented, work well in teams and have a tendency to be well-disciplined. But one of their most invaluable qualities, according to Sturrus, is their loyalty.

"I have never worked with a group of individuals who are loyal not just to the organization, but to the organization's purpose," he says. "Core values become ingrained in them in ways that I've not seen with other colleagues who we've been onboarded. It's more than commitment to the organization, it's commitment to getting it done right."

Finding pathways for veterans in need and lowering the unemployment rate for this demographic has to be a joint effort between the private and military sector, because the systems currently in place are leaving veterans feeling like they're "shooting from half court," according to McMillan.

Fortunately, unemployment is not the toughest battle most veterans have had to face, and many of them are prepared to fight for their jobs as long as employers are there to provide them the means to get them.

"Your job is to take the hill," McMillan says. "And if to take that hill, you have to have to have 50 conversations, then you have those 50 conversations and when you come back you'll have a much better sense of who you are and your story and your narrative."

The American Legion commends the article's author in illustrating the challenges transitioning servicemembers and veterans face in finding gainful employment. The American Legion passed [Resolution No. 70: Improve Transition Assistance Program](#) to ensure that the program is achieving maximum efficiency in preparing and aiding servicemembers reintegrate back into civilian life through expanded pre-separation policies. Additionally, The American Legion understands the importance of the role that private and public sector employers play after servicemember separation and through passed [Resolution No. 316: Support Employment of Veterans in the Public and Private Workforce](#), the Legion encourages sustained effort by these entities to aid veterans.

## ¿Did You Know?



### Jobs for Veterans State Grants

The Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) program provides federal funding, through a formula grant, to 54 State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) to hire dedicated staff to provide individualized career and training-related services to veterans and eligible persons with significant barriers to employment and to assist employers fill their workforce needs with job-seeking veterans.

**Program Staff:** The JVSG program supports the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) specialist position, Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) staff, and Consolidated Position staff. DVOP specialists provide individualized career services to veterans with significant barriers to employment, with the maximum emphasis directed toward serving veterans who are economically or educationally disadvantaged. Veterans with barriers include homeless veterans and vocational rehabilitation clients. Local Veterans' Employment Representatives conduct outreach to employers and business associations and engage in advocacy efforts with hiring executives to increase

employment opportunities for veterans and encourage the hiring of disabled veterans. Consolidated Position staff serve in a dual role as DVOP and LVER.

**Program Authorization:** Title 38, United States Code, Section 4102A (b) 5 (38 U.S.C. §4102A(b)5) authorizes funds provided to each state to staff and support DVOP specialists, LVER staff, and the reasonable costs associated with such representatives, including travel to the National Veterans' Employment and Training Services Institute (NVTI). DVOP and LVER roles and responsibilities are defined in 38 U.S.C.

§4103A for DVOP specialists and 38 U.S.C. §4104 for LVER staff.

**Program Funding Allocation:** Most State Workforce Agencies' funding allocation is determined by a ratio that reflects the total number of veterans seeking employment in a given state to the total number of veterans seeking employment in all states. Several states receive a minimum amount of funding to ensure that a certain level of staff can be maintained, particularly in states with remote pockets of

Native Americans and a large number of sparsely populated rural counties.

**Program Administration:** Every four years states submit a combined Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) state plan. State plan generally include a narrative description of the populations of veterans that will receive targeted services, provisions for priority of service for veterans and other eligible persons and performance goals. Each year thereafter, states submit an Annual Funding Modification to their approved state plan.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION:

- [Cash vs. Accrual Desk Aid \(PDF\)](#)
- [JVSG COVID-19 Questions and Answers for State Workforce Staff, dated May 12, 2020 \(PDF\)](#)
- [JVSG Application Instructions](#)
- [JVSG Forms/Automated System Instructions](#)

## Staff Meetings & Conferences on Employment

*The National Veterans Employment and Education Division* attended the quarterly meeting for the Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment, Training, and Employer Outreach (ACVETEO). The ACVETEO is a non-discretionary federal advisory committee whose objectives and scope of activities include assessing employment and training needs of veterans and their integration in the workforce, determining the extent to which programs and activities of the Department of Labor (DOL) are meeting such requirements, making recommendations to the Secretary of Labor, and carrying out such activities deemed necessary in making required reports and recommendations. The committee reports to the U.S. Department of Labor.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Gregory Green, Designated Federal Official, DOL moderated the meeting. James Rodriguez, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) welcomed all present and provided opening remarks. Three subcommittees, the Subcommittee on Direct Services, the Subcommittee on Underserved Populations, and the Subcommittee on Innovative Veteran Training and Employment, presented reports with recommendations.

**The Subcommittee on Direct Services** offered three recommendations:

- The first recommendation was to accelerate the expansion of the Employment Navigator and Partnership Pilot (ENPP). According to the report, the pilot “is a game-changer for transitioning service members, for employers, and for the communities where both thrive.” Additionally, the report stated that the metrics obtained from the pilot demonstrate its success.

<sup>1</sup> ACVETEO Charter 2019 – U.S. Department of Labor.

<https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/VETS/legacy/files/ACVETEO-Charter-2019.pdf>

- The second recommendation was for DOL to seek the use of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to allow funding for workforce development training for unemployed or underemployed veterans. “WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.”<sup>2</sup>
- The last recommendation was for VETS to recommend that the VA permanently establish the Veterans Retraining and Assistance Program (VRAP). The VRAP includes a DOL and VA joint effort to offer training to Vets who cannot locate work. The second report came from the Subcommittee on Underserved Populations.

**The Subcommittee on Underserved Populations** report provided two recommendations:

- The first suggestion was to expand eligibility to be seen by a Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) specialist to the following individuals: military spouses for a maximum of 5-years post-transition to be seen by a Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) specialist; veterans unemployed because of natural disaster or national emergency, who do not have a significant barrier to employment or are part of a targeted population; and transitioning service members, Reservists, and National Guard personnel.
- The subcommittee’s second recommendation was to recommend DOL develop and release a new annual report assessing unemployment, labor force participation, and other key measures for veterans in traditionally underrepresented populations such as Native Americans and LGBTQ.

**The Subcommittee on Innovative Veteran Training and Employment** report contained five recommendations:

- The first was to have DOL VETS consult subject matter experts from relevant government and private organizations to identify necessary training needs, based on the current economy and “next” economy, and how training should be delivered.
- Secondly, the sub-committee recommended that DOL VETS lead the way to collaborate with the DOD, VA, trade associations, and the business community in order to transform current employment models, which include preparing transitioning service members for critical roles needed in the economy where the available workforce is understrength.
- The Innovative Veteran Training and Employment report recommended further that DOL VETS: work together with the VA to support military spouses through information sharing and collaboration
- Support an extension of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)<sup>3</sup> to match the timeline of the GI Bill to benefit protected veterans who may choose education right after service
- Compile and share best practices and platforms. The platforms seek to examine apprenticeship successes, on-the-job training, online workshops and learning, and the use of virtual technology.

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<sup>2</sup> U.S Department of Labor. Employment and Training Administration. WIOA Programs. <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/wioa/about>

<sup>3</sup> Internal Revenue Service. Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC). “The Work Opportunity Tax Credit, or WOTC, is a general business credit provided under section 51 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) that is jointly administered by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Department of Labor (DOL).” <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/work-opportunity-tax-credit>

The American Legion commends the Subcommittee on Direct Services, the Subcommittee on Underserved Populations, and the Subcommittee on Innovative Veteran Training and Employment recommendations as we support these suggestions as seen through our Resolutions:

[American Legion Resolution No. 10](#): *Support for Employment Navigator and Partnership Pilot Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission*. As the ENPP remains a pilot and is proving to be a great resource for transitioning service members and their spouses, The American Legion urges the U.S. DOL to continue with the pilot to evaluate its effectiveness.

[American Legion Resolution No. 68](#): *Support the Increased Funding of Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist and Local Veterans' Employment Representative Programs*. The American Legion continues to advocate full funding and staffing for the Veterans' Employment and Training Service and its effective programs.

[American Legion Resolution No. 14](#): *Enhancing the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) for Veteran Workers Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission*. Whereas the WOTC is a tax credit issued by the federal government and designed to incentivize private-sector employers to hire among target groups that consistently face difficulty in finding stable employment, The American Legion supports increasing the WOTC.

[American Legion Testimony: H.R. Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2020](#). Additionally, [American Legion Resolution No. 542](#): National Economic Commission Veterans Employment Policy, strongly urges that all efforts for manpower development and retraining be vigorously pursued so that all veterans are gainfully employed in suitable and respectable occupations in which they can make their most significant contributions to their country and their community.

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*The National Veterans Employment and Education Division* attended a virtual hearing held by the Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee, on October 14, 2021, regarding legislation to strengthen manufacturing and competitiveness.<sup>4</sup> Chairwoman Schakowsky, Representative Kelly, Ranking Member Bilirakis, Chair of the Full Committee, Representative Pallone, and Ranking Member of the Full Committee, Representative Rodgers, gave opening remarks:

**Chairwoman Schakowsky** commented on the domestic manufacturing and shortage of critical products due to the COVID 19 pandemic, which “has created a manufacturing disruption, changed demand patterns, caused surges, and underscores America's insufficient domestic production capacity.” The Chairwoman brought attention to The Inform Consumers Act, which she and Ranking Member Bilirakis introduced, which would require increased accountability of e-commerce companies to verify the authenticity of large volume sellers; all the while “protect consumers and legitimate businesses, increase trust in the marketplaces, and discourage criminals and fraudsters.”

**Representative Kelly** advanced, H.R. 5479 “The Supply Chain Health and Integrity for the Nation Act,”; legislation that she, Representative Bourdeaux, and representative Kizinger introduced. The legislation intends to “centralize government oversight to monitor supply chain gaps and vulnerabilities as well as identify opportunities to reduce supply chain risk.”

**Ranking Member Bilirakis** brought attention to H.R 4594 “Restoring Brand USA Act”, which he introduced with Representative Welch, which would aid in revitalizing the tourism industry, which was affected by the global health pandemic. Ranking Member Bilirakis also highlighted three bills on the docket introduced by his colleagues “that would improve American competitiveness in American technologies, remove barriers providing the growth and creation of American jobs, and incentivize investment in American companies.” Those bills are H.R. 5476, “Advancing Tech Startups Act” led by Representatives

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<sup>4</sup> [Hearing on "Investing in American Jobs: Legislation to Strengthen Manufacturing and Competitiveness" - Energy and Commerce Committee \(house.gov\)](#)

Johnson, Rush, and Philips; Representative Joyce's H.R. 3774, the "Advancing Gig Economy Act"; and H.R. 2907, the "Global Investment in American Jobs Act" by Representative Pence and Representative Rush.

**Full Committee Chair Pallone** provided a general background on how American manufacturing diminished, stating, "between 2002 and 2016, our nation shared a global manufacturing activity declined from 28% to just over 18%, and more than 5 million manufacturing jobs have been lost since 2000." With industrial counterparts abroad taking the U.S.'s place as the most competitive in manufacturing, Representative Pallone warned of dependence on necessary goods and volatile supply chains that "threaten our industrial and technological sovereignty and our declining manufacturing capacity harms our national security and economic vitality."

**Full Committee Ranking Member Rodgers** raised concerns of United States Innovation and Competition Act (USICA), cautioning that expansive government subsidies are not the way to compete with China. She stressed that lifting "tax and regulatory burdens will lead to economic competitiveness, leadership, and prosperity".

Following opening remarks, Chairwoman Schakowsky welcomed four witnesses to testify:

**Mr. Scott Paul, President of the Alliance for American Manufacturing**, raised concerns of the U.S.'s long-term manufacturing decline and the more immediate supply chain challenge, listing manufacturing as "one of the rare drivers of upward mobility for the vast majority of Americans who don't have a 4-year college degree." When closing these opportunities, as a result, millions of citizens are denied opportunities. Furthermore, Mr. Paul stressed that National Security and commercial markets are dependent on American manufacturing. Additionally, manufacturing spurs innovation given that manufacturing companies "file 2/3 of research and development and 90% of patents." He concluded that targeted sound investments between public and private-sector partnerships can result in an exponentially higher resurgence.

**Mr. Scott Lincicome, Senior Fellow of Economic Studies at the CATO Institute**, made comments intended exclusively to inform attendees and reiterated several themes from his written testimony that are apt. First, he claimed, "U.S. Manufacturing is more competitive and resilient than is often claimed" and that declining trends and GDP decreases are prevalent globally, not solely in the U.S, and therefore are not cause for concern. Second, according to Mr. Lincicome, U.S. industrial policies tend to undermine the very objectives they seek to achieve since they do not treat real-time market conditions and that immediate cures to global level shocks do not exist.

**Mr. Eric Sills, CEO of Standard Motor Products**, testified on his company's manufacturing experience and how it faced altered market conditions during the global pandemic, not to weigh in on the proposed bills. Mr. Sills suggested regional trade agreements such as USMCA, formerly NAFTA, in order to be "less beholden to Asia and supply chain shocks".

**Dr. Caoliann O'Connell, Senior Physical Scientist at RAND Institute**, highlighted three aspects of her written testimony: "the scope of the problem, the role of the public sector in improving supply chain resiliency, and critical first steps to improving supply chain resiliency". To her first point, Dr. O'Connell stressed how singular disruptions can impact supply chain disruptions, citing the Solarwinds cyberattack as a prime example. Regarding the legislation presented are manufacturing-focused, she emphasized that it was a distinct element of many in the supply chain. Furthermore, O'Connell recommended further research to weigh priorities on which part of the supply chain is the most important, for "if everything is considered essential, then nothing will be truly protected."

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# ECONOMIC NEWS RELEASE

- The national unemployment rate is **5.1 percent** (September 2021)
- Gulf War II veterans' unemployment rate is **3.5 percent** (September 2021)
- Gulf War II women veterans' unemployment rate is **2.1 percent** (September 2021)
- In September 2021, the veteran unemployment rate was **3.9%**. The comparable non-veteran unemployment rate was **4.8%** in September
- Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled **5,569** an increase of **82** 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	
	Sept. 2020	Sept. 2021	Sept. 2020	Sept. 2021	Sept. 2020	Sept. 2021
Unemployed	568	304	496	266	72	37
Unemployment rate	6.4	3.6	6.4	3.6	6.5	3.3



## EDUCATION, LICENSING & CREDENTIALING

*Lina Khan, chair of the Federal Trade Commission, has warned the for-profit higher education industry that its marketing claims will be closely scrutinized.*

*(Photo: Graeme Jennings/Washington Examiner/Bloomberg)*

### FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES ON NOTICE

For-profit colleges sometimes use overblown — or flat-out false — promises to attract new students and their money. The FTC is ramping up its efforts to stop shady practices on campus. The Commission is sending a Notice of Penalty Offenses to the largest 70 for-profits, warning them that the FTC will not stand for unfair or deceptive practices.

Why the heads-up? Under federal law, the FTC may put companies on notice that some practices have been found to be unfair or deceptive in administrative cases with final cease and desist orders, other than consent orders. If a company

knows about (the law says has “actual knowledge” about) the orders and uses those same deceptive marketing tactics, the FTC can sue the company in federal court for civil penalties. The Notice outlines those prohibited practices: claims about the career or earning prospects of their graduates, the percentage of graduates that get jobs in their chosen field, whether the school can help a graduate get a job, and more. These are just the kinds of information a student would want to know before committing to a program — and it’s exactly how some for-profit schools market their programs.

The FTC has been going after false and misleading claims in education for nearly a century, but fraud in this sector persists. Most recently, the University of Phoenix agreed to a \$191 million judgment to settle the FTC's charges that, to attract students, it used deceptive ads that falsely touted its relationships with and job opportunities at companies such as AT&T, Yahoo!, Microsoft, Twitter, and The American Red Cross. In another matter, DeVry University paid \$100 million to settle the FTC's charges that the for-profit misrepresented the employment and salary prospects of its graduates. Additionally, the Commission has published a guide for vocational schools describing practices that the agency determined are deceptive.

Servicemembers and student veterans are often the targets of schools' deceptive marketing. For-profit schools have had a strong incentive to enroll veterans because of the education benefits servicemembers can use to pay for college. This has led to aggressive targeting of servicemembers, veterans, and their families. For example, the FTC's case against Career Education Corporation ("CEC") charged it with recruiting prospective students using marketers who falsely claimed to be affiliated with the U.S. military, tricking students who were looking to serve their country.

There are tools to help veterans, servicemembers, and all kinds of students navigate the education marketplace and blow the whistle on bad actors. If you have a federal student loan and feel like a school misled you or broke the law, apply for loan forgiveness through the Department of Education's (ED's) Borrower Defense to Repayment procedures. If you're getting started (or re-started), ED's Opportunity Centers are designed to help prospective students (including people of modest means, first-generation college students, and veterans) apply for admission to college and arrange for financial aid and loans. Find one near you.



Servicemembers: talk with your Personal Financial Manager to get hands-on help with your next steps. And vets can call the VA's GI Bill Hotline to discuss questions about education benefits: 1-888-GIBILL (1-888-442-4551) or visit the VA site to learn more. Before enrolling, you can find out important information about any school — including whether it's a for-profit school — at the U.S. Department of Education's sites, College Scorecard or College Navigator. The FTC's Military Consumer site also has helpful advice on finding and paying for school.

The American Legion welcomes the Federal Trade Commission's renewed efforts in holding for-profit schools accountable that use deceitful tactics to target veterans, servicemembers, and their families for their generous education benefits. Through [Resolution No. 304: Support Accountability for Institutions of Higher Learning](#), The American Legion supports greater accountability for these institutions. The 2021 Fall National Executive Committee (NEC) reaffirmed this position by passing [Resolution No. 16: Veteran and Servicemember Financial Protection](#). Through numerous efforts such as closing the 90-10 loophole, the American Legion has increased accountability and oversight to ensure veterans and servicemembers are receiving high-quality educations.



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**¡BREAKING  
NEWS!**

**¡BREAKING  
NEWS!**

**¡BREAKING  
NEWS!**



With little notice to servicemembers, the Department of Defense (DOD) terminated the Troops to Teachers program (TTT) this October – and we need your help in calling on Congress to reauthorize the program.

**Take action by contacting your Congressman through our Legislative Action Center.**

<https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/Swfss5Jhm3tBtAYzQ68d-A>

Established in 1993, Troops to Teachers was designed to assist transitioning servicemembers and veterans to begin careers as educators in K-12 public, charter, and Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. The Department of Defense reported that the program placed over 21,000 veteran teachers in classrooms since its inception. Additionally, the program provides counseling and referral services to help participants meet education and licensing requirements, as well as helps them secure a teaching position. Since 1993, more than 100,000 veterans have successfully transitioned to a career in education.

In the wake of record teacher shortages across the country, the value of Troops to Teachers cannot be understated. It provides employment assistance to transitioning veterans, which aids in lowering veteran unemployment; it alleviates nationwide teaching shortages, which improves education quality; and it increases access and representation among traditionally less-represented groups to teaching careers. DOD reported that the program placed over 21,000 veteran teachers in classrooms since its inception.

Now is not the time to cut transition pathways for our servicemembers. Studies have proven that veteran educators fill thousands of vacancies in high-needs schools and subject areas; are more likely to not relocate after they are employed as teachers; are considered effective instructors; have high job and life satisfaction; and even have a positive effect on increasing student likelihood to serve.

Senate Section 573 in the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would reauthorize the Troops-To-Teachers program and produce an assessment illustrating the cost and benefits of the program to members of the armed forces, veterans, and local educational agencies.

The American Legion proudly supports this amendment and asks that you contact your Representatives and tell them to keep Senate Section 573 in the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

**¡TAKE ACTION NOW!**

<https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/Swfss5Jhm3tBtAYzQ68d-A>

**¡TAKE ACTION NOW!**

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# Staff Meetings & Conferences on Education

*The National Veterans Employment and Education Division* met with representative from Capstone, a private global policy analysis firm, to answer question and inform them on past and present issues facing student veterans as well as emerging policies and programs. The discussion focused on Veterans Employment Through Technology Education Courses VET TEC, a popular program piloted by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA). Established in 2017 with the signing of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, VET TEC partners with technology-focused private companies to provide eligible veterans with industry training in computer software, computer programming, data processing, information science, and media applications.



The program was originally funded at \$15 million per fiscal year until 2022, but due to its immense popularity the program was expanded to \$45 million per year and offered to transitioning servicemembers through the Isakson and Roe Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020. However, the program was not extended and is expected to sunset at the end of the 2022 fiscal year. The American Legion supports new and innovative training opportunities for veterans and their families that lead to gainful employment through [Resolution No. 343: Support Student-Veterans Return-On-Investment Education Outcomes](#).

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*The National Veterans Employment and Education Division* met with representatives from fellow Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs), Student Veterans of America (SVA) and Veteran Education Success (VetEdSuccess), to discuss the flight school loophole. The loophole in language in public law (38 USC 3313) allows flight schools at public schools to charge student veterans exorbitant tuition. Tuition at private schools is capped, but tuition at public schools is not capped contingent upon student veterans being charged the same rate as in-state residents.

On September 21, 2021, VE&E testified before the Economic Opportunities (EO) Subcommittee of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) on H.R. 4874, The Fly Vets Act, which would solve the issue by capping tuition at flight schools but also allowing those wishing to pursue flight school to accelerate their education benefits to pay for tuition. Another issued raised in the meeting was the possibility of other third-party training providers using the loophole. H.R. 4874 would close the loophole for flight schools but might leave it open for other bad actors. Nevertheless, flight schools have been the most egregious offenders, costing taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars per student. The American Legion supports closing the Flight School loophole through [Resolution No. 23: Close the GI Bill Flight School Loophole](#).

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## HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING

### HOMELESS AND COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL CARE PROGRAMS HELP OLDER VETERANS

When Shannon Cudé left the Marine Corps in 1995 after two years of service, he returned to a civilian world that was different than he remembered. The types of jobs available had changed significantly. Although Cudé found employment in construction, he was unable to support himself and became homeless.

Fortunately, Cudé sought help and was eventually connected to the Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia. There, Cudé received the help he had earned and deserved as a Veteran.

He was assigned a case worker through the Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program, which guided him to other programs that would

change his world again – this time for the better. With help from his case manager, Cudé obtained housing through a HUD-VASH voucher, which provided him with rental assistance.

As Cudé got older and continued to take advantage of VA's services, it became clear that the programs that serve older Veterans needed to be modified to better meet their needs.

#### **Number of older homeless Veterans has increased**

According to Those Who Served, a 2020 study by the U.S. Census Bureau, the median age of Veterans today is 65. VA reports that although the overall number of Veterans experiencing homelessness has decreased, the number of older

Veterans experiencing homelessness has increased.

And research shows that the mortality rate of adults 50 and older who are experiencing homelessness is four times higher than that of the general population.

The HUD-VASH program has seen an increase in the number of older Veterans they serve, especially those with complex mental and physical health conditions.

To address the needs of older Veterans, HUD-VASH has been collaborating with VA's Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC) to expand resources for the older Veteran population.

GEC is uniquely positioned to understand and care for older Veterans. It offers specialized housing for these Veterans that is tailored to the level of support they need.

Those who do not need hospital or nursing home care but who cannot live alone because of physical or psychiatric health conditions may choose to live in a VA-sponsored assisted living facility. These are private homes where a small number of residents rent rooms and share common spaces. GEC's Community Residential Care (CRC) program provides a trained caregiver 24 hours a day to help with activities of daily living.

Veterans who need a higher level of care can be housed in an assisted living facility or nursing home.

Cudé is one of many older Veterans participating in HUD-VASH/GEC initiatives.

"For Veterans who are older, it can be hard to look at the next steps," said Mallory Phillips, Cudé's case worker. "But I'm grateful he stuck it out with me and was willing to roll with the changes and try new things."

### **Regaining stability after a traumatic loss with help from VA**

In July 2020, six years after Cudé moved into the home he had secured through HUD-VASH, disaster struck.

"I came home to a burning house and began trying to contain the fire," he said. "It was the Marine in me. I fell through the floor and saw my shoes had melted on my feet. I was coping with pain and losing all my things."

Cudé was rushed to the ICU of a burn center where he was treated for 30 days. He was then transferred to a medical respite center where he lived for another eight months.

It was imperative that he secure safe housing before his release so he could continue to benefit from the resources and supportive services he still needed to recover from his injuries.

Based on the Housing First approach, Cudé was granted emergency hotel assistance through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. SSVF provides grants to nonprofit organizations that offer temporary housing to Veterans facing homelessness.

While staying at the hotel, Cudé completed the necessary paperwork to secure new long-term housing.

#### **"Never had people look at my life like this"**

Thanks to the collaboration of the Virginia Housing Authority, HUD-VASH, CRC and VA, Cudé made a successful transition to an assisted living facility using his HUD-VASH voucher.

It was a long journey, but Cudé is grateful for the support he received and for the strong combined effort of all these programs to serve older Veterans.

"I've never had people look at my life like this, people who are really concerned about me," he said. "It means a lot to me."

As stated in American [Legion Resolution No. 332: Support Finding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\) and Veterans' Affairs \(VA\) Supporting Housing](#)

[\(HUD-VASH\) Homeless Program](#), The American Legion believes the nation has a responsibility to ease the difficulties experienced by America’s veterans returning to civilian life and that HUD-VASH is a prominent element of the VA’s plan to end veterans’ homelessness.

**More information:**

- Older Veterans can access resources through the [Geriatrics and Extended Care](#) program.

- Read more about the [HUD-VASH program](#) to determine if you are eligible to receive rental assistance.
- Veterans who are homeless or at risk for homelessness should contact the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838).
- Visit the [VA Homeless Programs website](#) to learn about housing assistance and other resources for Veterans exiting homelessness.

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## HOMELESS VETERANS IN CALIFORNIA PLEA FOR HELP

*FOX 11 toured the homeless encampment outside the VA in Brentwood with Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough and Congressman Mark Takano. Elex Michaelson talked with veterans who are living on the streets and pressed McDonough for solutions from lawmakers*



The National Veterans Employment and Education Division followed a recent FOX 11, Los Angeles, CA news story, “Homeless veterans in California plea for help.”<sup>5</sup> The report covered the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Denis R. McDonough, visiting a homeless encampment outside the VA in West Los Angeles, CA. He was accompanied by Congressman Mark Takano (D-CA-41), Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. The story began with the following statement “Why is it, that as the richest nation

on earth, so many of our streets are filled with homeless vets?”

Secretary McDonough and Congressman Takano toured the encampment, during which an American flag could be seen displayed on almost every tent to designate those who served. Secretary McDonough and Congressman Takano spoke with several veterans living in the encampment. One of the veterans, Terry Mitchell, who served during the Gulf War, was astounded that some of the richest parts of L.A. were just several feet away from the encampment and stated, “We all need help.” Another homeless veteran, Douglas Steven Bue expressed his thoughts and said, “Why is a veteran that saved the lives of Americans living on the streets like this?”

It was reported that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimates there are 37,000 homeless veterans in the U.S. Of those 37,000, approximately 11,000 are in California. Additionally, the report indicated that Congress is considering spending trillions of dollars on human infrastructure to help address the problem. Congressman Takano stated, “I have personally spoken to the President about this. He is personally committed to making sure we take care of our veterans.”



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<sup>5</sup> FOX 11 Los Angeles, CA. (October 7, 2021). Homeless veterans in California plea for help. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyU18PqV1uo>

American Legion [Resolution No. 332: Support Funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\) and Veterans Affairs \(VA\) Supportive Housing \(HUD-VASH\) Homeless Program](#). HUD-VASH is a prominent element of the VA's plan to eliminate veteran homelessness, and the need for safe, affordable, and permanent housing is imperative.

## Staff Meetings & Conferences on Homelessness

*The National Veterans Employment and Education Division* participated in a virtual interview with Mr. Wesley Burns, a senior at Irvington High School in Fremont, California. Mr. Burns is conducting a project titled “Lack of Resource for Homeless Veterans” and contacted The American Legion as subject matter experts. He asked relevant and important questions; however, several stood out amongst the others.

**Q:** The first was, “Why is veteran homelessness still such a big problem with all the resources available to the homeless?”

**A:** VE&E Policy Coordinator Stuart Lee explained that homelessness is an ongoing problem with the civilian and veteran populations. He referenced several studies that showed veterans are more likely to experience homelessness due to mental health conditions such as post-traumatic stress, substance abuse disorders, and other significant risk factors.<sup>6</sup> Veterans may be more vulnerable to these conditions due to higher exposure to combat-related trauma and geographic dislocation for military deployments.

**Q:** The second was, “Are there any approaches that seem to help eliminate veteran homelessness more effectively than others?”

**A:** Lee discussed the “Housing First” model, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) and the Housing and Urban Development - Veterans Affairs, Supported Housing (HUD-VASH) programs. Additionally, he elaborated on some of the supportive services provided to low-income veterans in both programs. Lee also addressed the “shared-housing” model and American Legion [Resolution No. 12: “Housing Options for Homeless Veteran](#), which urges the VA to consider veteran homeowners who may be willing to lease living spaces in their residences to homeless veterans as a viable option to end veteran homelessness.

**Q:** The last was “How does finding a homeless veteran a job differ from finding a civilian a job?”

**A:** Lee explained the roles of Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists, which is “to provide individualized career services to veterans with significant barriers to employment” and Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERS), which is “to conduct outreach to employers and business associations and engage in advocacy efforts with hiring executives to increase opportunities for veterans and encourage hiring of disabled veterans.”<sup>7</sup> He provided an overview of the significant barriers to employment and described how both entities work together to assist economically disadvantaged veterans with obtaining employment. Additionally, Lee discussed other barriers to employment that many veterans

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<sup>6</sup> Tsai J, Rosenheck RA. Risk factors for homelessness among US veterans. *Epidemiol Rev.* 2015;37:177-95. doi: 10.1093/epirev/mxu004. Epub 2015 Jan 16. PMID: 25595171; PMCID: PMC4521393.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of Labor: Jobs for Veterans State Grants “Program Staff.” <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/grants/state/jvsg>

face, such as identifying transferable military skills, service-related disabilities, and involvement with the criminal justice system.

At the conclusion of the interview, Mr. Burns was very appreciative of the experience. He wrote the following message in an email to Policy Coordinator Lee:

*“Thank you for making yourself available to be interviewed. I know your time is valuable, and I appreciate you making the time to help me with my project. Your insight on Veteran Homelessness was especially useful. Thank you again for speaking with me, and for adding so effectively to my research.”*

*Thank you,  
Wesley Burns*



## **IN STRUGGLE TO FIX SUPPLY CHAIN SMALL BUSINESSES FEAR LOSING OUT TO LARGER COMPANIES WITH MORE SPENDING POWER**

*Larger companies with more buying power tend to flex their muscles to make sure their shipping needs get taken care of first, small businesses say.*

Small businesses are hopeful that shipping bottlenecks may begin to ease after President Joe Biden announced an initiative in which the congested port of Los Angeles will run “24/7.” But owners and experts warn that the ports are just one part of the supply chain logjam.

“With the holidays coming up, you might be wondering if gifts you plan to buy will arrive on time,” Biden said at a news conference Wednesday. “Today we have some good news. We’re going to help speed up the delivery of goods all across America. “Our goal is not only to get through this immediate bottleneck, but to address the long-standing weaknesses in our transportation supply chain that this pandemic has exposed,” he said.

The plan calls for the West Coast ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, California, to operate night shifts for the next 90 days to help alleviate backlogs ahead of the critical holiday shopping season. “This supply chain crisis is hurting businesses and consumers alike, leading to inflation and shortages of key supplies,” Suzanne Clark, the president and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which participated in meetings with the White House to address the issues, said in a statement. “Coupled with massive labor shortages, this is a major threat to our fragile economic recovery and long-term competitiveness.”

Others at the meeting included the heads of Walmart, UPS, FedEx, the American Trucking Association and the International Longshoremen and Workers Union. Small-business leaders say they’ve been dealing with delays for over a year now.

Megan Gluth-Bohan, the CEO and owner of TRInternational Inc., a 30-employee chemical distribution company, said her customers have

been clamoring for citric acid, caustic soda and propylene glycol for applications from industrial cleaning to beverages to the suspension fluid for vaccines, largely sourced from South Korea and Southeast Asia.

Backlogs at Long Beach and Los Angeles have added nine to 12 weeks to her delivery time and more than doubled her shipping costs. “It’s deeply unnerving and disappointing to not be able to deliver when we would like to deliver — and, frankly, to not be able to deliver in as cost-effective a manner as we used to. These increased freight costs have reached a point where it exceeds my margin and exceeds what I can do. So we now have to pass that along to those customers, and those customers will pass that along to the end consumer,” she said.

Gluth-Bohan said she welcomed news that the administration was getting involved to untangle the shipping snarls. “I’m thrilled that the White House is paying attention,” she said. “I think any time you can unstick what’s stuck and cause things to flow more freely without as much delay, that affects all of us in a positive way.

“What the American public needs to understand is that this isn’t just for items that you get for Christmas shopping. This is for items that you use to clean your clothes or to have liquid oxygen and ventilators at a hospital,” she said. The supply chain has been stretched, kinked and squeezed at every turn by the economic disruptions of the pandemic.

A decrease in the flow of goods from the U.S. to China has meant there’s not enough shipping containers to bring items over. Some companies have taken the extreme and costly step of ordering new ones built. There aren’t enough truckers to move all the goods to shelves, as demand has spiked and drivers have taken early

retirement or sat out the boom because of concerns about contracting the coronavirus.

Longshoremen needed to unload and maneuver heavy steel containers at ports are in shorter supply because of Covid restrictions and sicknesses. Across the board and down the aisles, small-business owners say they've been feeling the impacts. The fireworks industry met the Fourth of July this year with reduced selection and skimpier shelves because of the shipping issues.

Even when a cargo container loaded up with their supplies is removed from a ship, it can remain lost in a labyrinth of stacked containers at a port for months, said William Weimer, the vice president and general counsel of Phantom Fireworks. The industry welcomed the news from the administration. "We are very happy that the White House has done this. Hopefully it will help to the extent of getting ships in and out quicker," Weimer said.

Fireworks sellers are still dealing with shippers who have reduced the space they're willing to devote to their goods. "Getting the ships in and out of the ports is a very big deal, to be sure, but still just one of the cogs in the entire supply chain process," Weimer said.

Transportation and shipping professionals are skeptical that the move will make a significant impact. "Moving to 24/7 and nighttime will cause a minor efficiency gain. However, the backlog and continued volume ramp for the holiday peak will still be a major challenge," said Glenn

Koepke, the senior vice president of customer success at FourKites, a Chicago-based logistics software firm.

Small-business owners said larger companies with more clout and buying power are able to flex their muscles to make sure their shipping needs get taken care of first.

"Big players usually have contracts and negotiations with the shipping liners and agents who can fast-track the unloading process, so these global companies might not suffer much in this scenario," said Antonio Gioia, the president of Magtec Corp., a paper and petrochemical importer based in Miami.

Gluth-Bohan of TRInternational said smaller businesses may have trouble having their voices heard as private- and public-sector solutions are sought. "People who are running a small business who maybe don't have 50 containers on a ship, maybe they just have one, but for them that one container represents payroll for the next two months," she said.

The American Legion supports domestic manufacturing efforts to strengthen domestic supply chains, reduce bottlenecks, and ensure a robust veteran-owned small businesses manufacturing base. This can be demonstrated through [Resolution No. 149: Support "Buy American" Policy at the Department of Veterans Affairs to Create Jobs and Opportunities for Veterans](#)

## Staff Meetings & Conferences on Small Business

*The National Veterans Employment and Education Division* attended a virtual subcommittee hearing of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure titled "Growing the Small Business Supplier Base in Government Contracting". The hearing included expert witness testimony from Ms. Alba Alemán, Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Citizant, Inc testifying for the U.S. Women's Chamber of

Commerce; Ms. Lynn Ann Casey, Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Arc Aspicio; Mr. Victor Holt, Chief Executive Officer and Founder of V-Tech Solutions, Inc., testifying for the HUBZone Council; and Ms. Sophia Tong, Chief Executive Officer and Founder of T and T Consulting Services Inc.

Subcommittee Chairman Kweisi Mfume (D – MD) highlighted that the U.S. Government is the largest buyer of goods with nearly 650 billion in goods purchased annually. However, the federal small business supplier base is declining, down nearly 30% within the past decade. This decrease can be attributed to category management. Category management is a government-wide procurement initiative to increase efficiency in procurement acquisition. Category management has worthy goals of increasing procurement expediency but pushes small businesses out of contracting opportunities by prioritizing large contracting vehicles. The Chairman emphasized that fewer small businesses would lead to weaker supply chains.

Witnesses provided evidence of category management having discursive impacts on their small businesses through lost contracting opportunities, losing staff to larger prime firms, and bullying at the hands of larger competitors who exploit public sector connections to secure contracting bids. The American Legion supports efforts to strengthen domestic supply chains and uplift veteran-owned small businesses in manufacturing, as seen in [Resolution No. 13: Support “Buy American” Policy within the Federal Government to Create Opportunities for Veterans](#)



## CAREER FAIRS

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## **FORT LEE, VA**

**October 20, 2021**

10am-2pm ET (In-Person)

11am-2pm ET (Virtual)

The Lee Club  
Fort Lee, VA 23801

### **FORT LEE JOB FAIR**

Fort Lee Job Fair will be held in-person and virtual. Companies may opt to participate in-person, virtual or both. Be sure to re-visit the website prior to attending to confirm how companies will be participating in the job fair.

*Presented by [JobZone](#)*

[More information](#)

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## **VIRTUAL JOB FAIR**

**October 21, 2021**

*1-3pm ET*

### **VIRTUAL HIRING EVENT: CAREERS IN STEM**

Military community job seekers from around the globe will meet, network, and interview with STEM industry employers at this interactive virtual hiring event.

*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.*

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# LEGISLATION TRACKING

## EDUCATION, LICENSING & CREDENTIALING PORTFOLIO

**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. 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 DEVELOPMENT 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](#)

**H.R.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

[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](#)

## ACTION TAKEN ON LEGISLATION

### EDUCATION, LICENSING & CREDENTIALING PORTFOLIO

**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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What's Next: Waiting for formal introduction of legislation

## **HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING PORTFOLIO**

**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

What's Next:

[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

What's Next:

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

**Draft Legislation on 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

What's Next:

[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

What's Next:

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

What's Next:

[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

What's Next:

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

**Draft Legislation on 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

What's Next:

Resolution: *Pending Draft Resolution*

**Draft Legislation on 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

What's Next:

[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.

Support: 4/21/2021 - This bill was submitted for testimony

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

What's Next:

[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.

Support: 4/21/2021 - This bill was submitted for testimony

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.

Support: 6/23/2021 - This bill was submitted for testimony

Status: 6/23/2021 - Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

What's Next:

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

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## **SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO**

**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.

Support: 4/21/2021 - This bill was submitted for testimony

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](#)

# 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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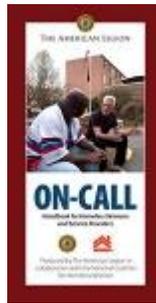
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## See our Publications



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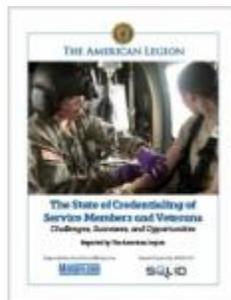
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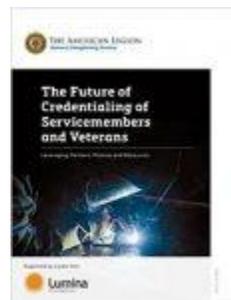
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## Awards Program



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...

### **VISTA VANISHED: STUDENTS, STAFF SPEAK OUT FOLLOWING ABRUPT CLOSURE OF FOR-PROFIT COLLEGE**

“Students and professors say little warning was given prior to the closure of a for-profit college in Killeen and other cities Friday.” [Continue reading the article](#)

### **AFTER TAKING A YEAR OFF KERN COUNTY VETERANS STAND DOWN WAS BACK UP THURSDAY**

“U.S. Coast Guard veteran Nacoyia Henry worked as a volunteer Thursday at the Kern County Veterans Stand Down at Stramler Park.” [Continue reading the article](#)

### **VETERANS ASK CONGRESS TO REVIVE TROOPS TO TEACHERS PROGRAM AFTER IT WAS ENDED THIS MONTH**

“A number of veterans' organizations sent a letter to Congress Thursday urging them to reverse a recent decision by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to cancel a military education program, Troops to Teachers..” [Continue reading the article](#)

### **GOVERNOR HOGAN ANNOUNCES HOUSING VOUCHERS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS IN CECIL COUNTY**

“Governor Larry Hogan today announced that HELP Veterans Village Phase II will receive 50 Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development..” [Continue reading the article](#)

### **A ‘CAREER CRIMINAL’ WAS IN JAIL FOR DEFRAUDING THE GOVERNMENT THEN HE CONNED INMATES OUT OF \$17,000, FEDS SAY**

“Even while he was in jail awaiting sentencing for fraudulently seeking \$4.7 million in Paycheck Protection Program funds, Michael Moller couldn’t help but carry out one more con, prosecutors said.” [Continue reading the article](#)

### **FORT RILEY SOLDIERS WILL GET ACCESS TO FREE, DATA-DRIVEN JOB TRAINING AND PLACEMENT**

“Junction City, Kansas, is one of the most diverse cities in the state, and much of that diversity is owed to nearby Fort Riley” [Continue reading the article](#)

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