

in this issue >>>

[The VA Caregiver Program](#)  
[San Clemente to Dedicate Vietnam War Memorial](#)  
[VA's New "Decision Ready Claims" \(DRC\) Program](#)  
[Veteran Finds Empowerment, Sense of Family, Through Adaptive Sports](#)

Issue  
**ONE**

May  
**2018**



Monthly News from the VA and Military Support Groups

# The Legacy



## Our Mission

The mission of Legacy Beyond Valor is to assist returning veterans find a place in society. They return changed by things they have seen and experienced, but the world they left behind has no comprehension of the challenges they face.

Our mission is to:

- Communicate that we DO understand and that we stand ready to help.
- Have programs in place that returning Veterans can immediately plug into.
- Establish a network of specialists in all fields, both private and public, who are committed to using their skills to help returning Veterans.

If you made it out of the valley,  
reach back and lift others.



## One Brief Encounter; One Act of Kindness

### The Beyond Valor Legacy

*You've probably walked right past him sleeping on a city bench, ignored by society – alone. Did you ever wonder who he was and what circumstances brought him to the place you've found him in?*



Fortunately for one United States Marine, my brother did. One brief encounter, one simple act of kindness, and the vision for Beyond Valor emerged.

My brother Ben called me one day eight years ago to say he had just started working as a Welding Shop Foreman. While setting up the jobs for the day, he was informed that their Shop Sweeper had been taking a bath in the bathroom sink.

Ben could have chosen to ignore this issue like most people do, but Ben was not like most of us. This was one of his employees. Instead, he took time to find out more about why this man had to resort to the work restroom to clean up. After learning the homeless man was an American hero – a United States Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran – Ben knew he had to get involved.

Ben was able to reunite this former soldier with his sister, who then helped her brother file for the benefits he deserved. The home she helped him buy provided him with a sense of worth and dignity that kept him from slipping into the abyss, becoming just another statistic. One simple act of kindness proved that someone cared, empowering him to crawl out from under that bench – a symbol of the cracks in society where lowly Americans are lost.

Beginning the day he chose to stop and speak to a homeless man, Ben was reminded of his love for our brother Frank, who was also a Marine Vietnam Veteran. As he and I discussed the issues returning servicemen were facing, we had to take a stand, get involved, and help our brothers and sisters who came home from serving their country so broken that they could not take care of themselves.

# VA's New "Decision Ready Claims" (DRC) Program

30-Day Claims Processing!

What types of claims can be made under the DRC program?

- Certain claims related to direct service, presumptive service and secondary service connections,
- Claims for increases,
- Surviving spouses,
- Transitioning service members may file pre-discharge claims less than 90 days from departure from military service.

How to file a DRC Claim

If you wish to file a claim under the DRC program, you must work with an accredited Veteran Service Organization (VSO). The VSO representative will ensure all supporting evidence, such as military service records and medical exams, is attached; thus, allowing claims processors to make decisions within 30 days. Click the "Get Started" button to begin filing your DRC.

Get [Started](#)

## The VA Caregiver Program

The VA Caregiver Support Program connects caregivers with a local Caregiver Support Coordinator.

The program provides:

- Peer support mentoring,
- A support phone line, and
- A website with resources on family caregiving.

The Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, a program specifically for eligible Post 9/11 Veterans and their caregivers, offers additional support and services, including access to health insurance and financial assistance. The primary family caregiver must meet certain criteria but is not required to be the Veteran's spouse.

Click on the button below to learn more about the Caregiver Support Program.

[Apply Now](#)

## San Clemente to Dedicate Vietnam War Memorial

For the fifth time, the 1/5 Vietnam Veterans Association will be dedicating a Vietnam War Memorial.

The fifth memorial will be in San Clemente, California, in honor of the 2,706 marines and sailors from the 5th Regiment who gave their lives in Vietnam.

For more information on the dedication and for a more complete description of the memorial, please visit [Vantage blogs](#).



*Patriot Riders escort 5th Marines Memorial*

# Veteran Finds Empowerment, Sense of Family, Through Adaptive Sports

*Ivanna Brown is one of 10 athletes selected for the Women Veteran Athletes Initiative. The participants represent all branches of the armed services and were selected by the VA and its partners — the Veterans Canteen Service, Team Red, White & Blue, the Semper Fi Fund and Comcast.*

Ivanna, who is half-British and half-Jamaican, joined the U.S. Air Force on a green card even before she earned her U.S. citizenship. Her stepfather, who was an American citizen, was in the Air Force. Following his example, Ivanna joined the military following high school graduation in Germany at age 19.

At age 25 Ivanna Brown's military career ended with a tragic car accident which left her a paraplegic. Ivanna chose to fight and find a new life, and she is proud to be a two-time participant in the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

The clinic exposed Ivanna to many different athletic pursuits, and she has become an avid participant in dragon boat racing and rowing. Hand cycling has become a daily activity as well.

The clinic is hosted by the VA in partnership with the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) once a year. Participation is open to active-duty service members and Veterans with spinal cord injuries, orthopedic amputations, visual impairments, and certain neurological problems and disabilities. For more information about the winter sports clinic, visit [www.wintersportsclinic.org](http://www.wintersportsclinic.org).

*Visit the Center for Women Veterans website to see photos of each athlete by Veterans Portrait Project photographer Stacy Pearsall. Find more on social media at @deptvetaffairs (Twitter, Instagram) and @VAWomenVets (Twitter, Facebook) and by following #WomenVetAthletes.*



*Photo from Vantage Blogs posted at <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/46594/v1>*

## The Legacy Newsletter

Each month we will gather information about what is new at the VA. Our desire is to inspire, encourage, and inform so you, our readers, can use this information to positively impact your own lives.

If you know of an upcoming event impacting Veterans or Active Duty Military families or an inspiring story we could share, please email me at <mailto:wendy.leonard@legacybeyondvalor.net>.

I look forward to hearing from you.

*Wendy Leonard*

Director of Communications  
Legacy Beyond Valor

## AS MANY AS 45,000 TRICARE USERS MAY LOSE THEIR COVERAGE

ATTENTION all retirees who use Tricare Prime and do not pay their annual fee through paycheck allotment and those who use the purchased Tricare Reserve Select, Retired Reserve and Young Adult plans. (Other Tricare users, including Tricare for Life beneficiaries and active-duty families, are not impacted.)

If you have not yet updated your payment information with the new administrator of your plan, you are in danger of losing your coverage.

You should have received letters sometime between November 18 and 28, 2017 instructing you to make this update before a blackout period that would begin December 1-23, 2017.

Tricare reports they are still missing payment information for as many as 45,000 of those accounts across the two regions. Because of the December enrollment blackout, some of those users may think they have updated their information, only to have it lost during the transition, officials said.

To check if your payment option has been updated, beneficiaries in the East should contact Humana, while those in the West should contact Health Net.

All users who pay by credit or debit card must update their information by postal mail or fax.

Humana users who pay through electronic funds transfer can update their information online, while HealthNet users must use a mail or fax form for that process as well.

Those in the new West region can access the HealthNet forms here, while those in the East region can access the Humana system here.

**It only takes a few minutes to check. Don't lose your benefits!**

To read the entire article, visit [https://www.military.com/daily-news/2018/03/22/45000-tricare-users-could-soon-be-dropped.html?ESRC=marine\\_180327.nl](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2018/03/22/45000-tricare-users-could-soon-be-dropped.html?ESRC=marine_180327.nl)