



Service Officer Update May 2022

VFW Magazine, MAY 2022

VFW encourages all veterans who served in the following operations to join the Airborne Hazards and Open Pit Registry even if they don't believe they were exposed or are not experiencing symptoms:

Operation Desert Storm

Operation Desert Shield

Operation New Dawn

Operation Iraqi Freedom

Operation Enduring Freedom

To register visit: <https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry> (different)

VFW Day OF Service: VFW Commander in Chief, Mathew Mihelcic encourages all members to participate in the inaugural VFW Day of Service, first Saturday of May, to serve the community. Great article, pg. 16 or www.todayvfw.org for more info.

Retain New Members: Proven retention methods for new members; 30 and 60 days, and 6 months for letting new members know they matter and are important to the VFW. pg 56. Request PDF of article email magazine@vfw.org.

American Legion Magazine, MAY 2022

Tang Alpha Lima podcast <https://www.legion.org/tangoalphalima> 2 years old, award winning, new episodes every Tuesday

VA-Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration Update: Gulf War Veterans The latest issue of *Military Exposures & Your Health* is now online at <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/publications/military-exposures/meyh-6/index.asp>

Read this biannual newsletter to learn about VA programs, benefits, and research for Veterans with service since 1990.

This issue includes articles about:

- The Individual Exposure Longitudinal Record
- The Karshi-Khanabad Surveillance Program
- Resources on military environmental exposures
- Radiation cleanup projects at Palomares and Enewetak
- One Veteran's experience with Whole Health at VA
- "She Wears the Boots" podcast on military exposures
- Breast cancer and post-9/11 women Veterans
- Camp Lejeune: Care, benefits, and research
- Research on long COVID-19 among Veterans
- Research from VA's Epidemiology Program
- Gulf War illness and a case definition

[VA brings new electronic health record system to Columbus, Ohio, medical facilities](#)

05/02/2022 11:12 AM EDT

The Department of Veterans Affairs launched its new electronic health record April 30 at the VA Central Ohio Healthcare System in Columbus, Ohio, marking the third rollout in VA's modernization effort to replace the more than 30-year-old software that tracks and stores patient information. (email from Charles P Wylie)

American Legion/VFW Red Poppys

Lt. Col John McCrae, a Canadian physician, serving on the front lines on May 3, 1915 wrote a poem, In Flanders Fields, to symbolize all of the blood shed in WW I. In 1918 the poem was promoted as was the meaning of the Red Poppy. In 1920 the American Legion designates the Red Poppy as its official flower.

Before Memorial Day in 1922, the VFW conducted their first poppy distribution, becoming the first veterans' organization to organize a nationwide distribution. The poppy soon was adopted as the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, as it remains today. In 1923 it was decided that VFW "**Buddy**"® **Poppies** would be assembled by disabled and needy veterans who would be paid for their work to provide them with financial assistance. The next year, disabled veterans at the Buddy Poppy factory in Pittsburgh assembled VFW Buddy Poppies. The designation "Buddy Poppy" was adopted at that time. In February 1924, the VFW registered the name Buddy Poppy with the U.S. Patent Office. A certificate was issued on May 20, 1924, granting our organization all trademark rights in the name of Buddy under the classification of artificial flowers. We've made that trademark a guarantee that all poppies bearing that name and the VFW label are genuine products of the work of disabled and needy veterans. No other organization, firm or individual can legally use the name Buddy Poppy. Today, the Buddy Poppies are still assembled by disabled and needy veterans in VA Hospitals. The VFW Buddy Poppy program provides compensation to the veterans who assemble the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home For Children.

In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you, from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow,
In Flanders fields.