



NAAV NEWS

2022

2nd QUARTER

Publication of the National Association of Atomic Veterans

FROM THE DESK OF OUR NATIONAL COMMANDER



Keith Kiefer
NAAV - Commander

Greetings fellow NAAV members.

First order of business is I need to apologize for the delay in getting the second quarter newsletter out. As you should know, at the end of 2021 our newsletter editor, Bob Ruyle, retired. The responsibility for this has fallen on my shoulders until a replacement can be found. My wife has offered to help in the interim. This is great, however, I still need to be available to provide input and teach her the publishing software. Since I'm only one person and can't be in two places at the same time, something has to give. Right or wrong, I believed the members would want me to concentrate on benefits/legislation, especially since at the end of December 2022, we would have to start all over with new legislation. If you don't agree with my prioritization, at least maybe you can forgive me.

As you'll read in this newsletter we have

accomplished a lot.

RECA (Radiation Exposure Compensation Act) was set to expire July 11, 2022. It now extends to June 7, 2024.

Enewetak Atoll Radiological Clean up Veterans were not recognized as Atomic Veterans.

Polomare Spain Broken Arrow Clean up Veterans were not recognized as Atomic Veterans.

Thule Greenland Broken Arrow Clean up Veterans were not recognized as Atomic Veterans.

Passage of the PACT Act now recognizes each of these groups as Atomic Veterans.

We didn't have an Atomic Veteran's Service Medal. DTRA has them in the works.

We didn't have a memorial Bridge in New York. Former New York State Commander Ed Gettler initiated this effort and saw it dedicated in July.

We didn't have a memorial Highway in Missouri. Missouri State Commander Bernie Crosby made that happen.

We didn't have Ohio recognizing Atomic Veterans Day. Past State Commander David England and Ohio State Commander David Crawford brought that about.

We didn't have National Atomic Veterans Day perpetually. Gillie Jenkins and his Representative Abigail Davis Spanberger (VA-7) (their story in next newsletter)



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were instrumental in getting this proclamation signed by President Biden.

We didn't have a Multigenerational Legacies of Trauma. This has the potential to provide information for getting benefits for our children. Dr. Yael Danieli and Kathy Sinai were the key driving force behind this (with support from LabRats and others.)

All of the above we didn't have a year ago, we now have all of these.

I'm sure I've missed some accomplishments.

We aren't done yet.

I hope all of you were able to honor July 16th, 2022, Atomic Veterans Day appropriately.

We have been invited to both the British All Test Reunion and the BNTVA Convention, for a number of reasons, we have had to send our regrets for this year.

Please stress to your children the importance of completing the Survey (see page 4).

Enclosed is a ballot for NAAV Board of Directors that are up for election. Please complete this and mail prior to the 20th of November.

Also, you will find the application for the Atomic Veteran Service Medal. Please fill

out and send in. They anticipate distribution of the medals will occur in December.

Please call your two Federal Senators and your Congressman. Ask your two Senators to Cosponsor S2798, Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2021 and your Congressman to cosponsor HR5338, Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2021. Your call can make a difference. I need your help.

Keith (K²)

Passage of the PACT Act!

The process of this legislation brought to mind a range of thoughts and emotions. At times it reminded me of watching paint dry, the 70's electronic computer video game Pong, Nail biting suspense and disappointment, a Chameleon, and making sausage. This bill was voted on so many times in the House and Senate it was an enactment of "Who's on First." After passing the House and Senate several times it was determined a Senate provision was unconstitutional bouncing the bill back to the Senate. The name changed, as well as, the bill number.

More information on the PACT ACT starts on page 14.

FROM THE DESK OF OUR NAAV VICE COMMANDER

Hope everyone is doing Great. Summer is passing into Fall. Maybe weather will start to get cooler. We are making great headway with our bills before Congress this year. A bridge in New York was renamed, Atomic Veteran Memorial Bridge in July.



Fred Schafer
NAAV
Vice Commander

Convention:

Maybe next year will happen. Hopefully Airfare, hotel's everything may cost less.

Keith Is staying busy with a lot of projects. He is a very busy person. We need to thank him for the time he spends doing what he does. Looks like Keith will need to make another trip to DC, in December for more support on one of the bills before Congress.

We have many Members and Spouses with health problems. We need to keep in our prayers.

Membership: We have lost several members, due to age. We have been checking on past members, who have not updated their information.

Keith Has set up an account to pay your dues online. If you order from the store and want to pay online, call Keith. His phone # is 612-232-6596.

I will repeat this. **"Keep working with you states to get July 16th as Atomic Veterans Day annually. Also get a section of Highway to become an Atomic Veterans Memorial Highway.**

State Commanders PLEASE Please Make contact with your members and get members to get current in dues and Information, **just \$ 25.00** will get them current. Please update your information. If your phone numbers are not current, E-mail or call with that information. When you send in dues let us know of any changes. Thank you to members that send in extra dues earmarked for helping someone that needs help with their dues and other support of NAAV.com, **Please make checks out to NAAV. Not to me. Let's help update the Data Base.**

A big **Thank you** to the State commanders and members that have supported NAAV. We are getting our Data Base updated. Many of our Life members have passed away and we were not notified.

Please stay safe and be careful
Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Schafer".

Fred Schafer
National Vice Commander
derf@trcschafer.com

2022 Convention Cancelled



The underwhelming response to the convention survey in the first quarter newsletter led to the decision of cancelling the event for 2022. Most members want to remain COVID careful at this time.

**We need your immediate
help!**

**JOIN AND SHARE
YOUR FAMILY'S NUCLEAR
EXPERIENCE -- EXPLORING THE
AFTERMATH OF TRAUMA IN FAMILIES**

International Center for the study, prevention and treatment of MultiGenerational Legacies of Trauma has launched a new study for children of people who experienced nuclear radiation/ fallout exposure. If you are a child of a person who was exposed to nuclear radiation/fallout, you are invited to participate in this important study by completing the questionnaire.



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#33783110.0

IRB Approved at the
Protocol Level
Mar 30, 2022

NAAV is a project sponsor, along with esteemed allied organizations. The questionnaire is available here:

<https://www.iglow.world/>

This is a comprehensive questionnaire that can help to better understand how families have been affected by and lived after nuclear radiation/ fallout exposure. If your parent/s/family are veterans/survivors of nuclear exposure/fallout, this opportunity is for you—the next generation. Please, complete and forward as widely and to as many people who share this experience, as possible.

Every response is welcome and valuable.

For more information and to participate in this ground-breaking study please check out the weblink below—there is a consent form link and you must respond to it in order to make the second link “live.”

<https://www.iglow.world/>

Yael Danieli, PhD

[Survey of Family Adaptation to Trauma](#)

If the hyperlink doesn't work please go to:

<https://www.iglow.world/>

The [#lookmeintheeye](#) campaign made history on the 8th June 2022 when the UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson became the first Prime Minister to officially meet with nuclear test veteran representatives and listen to their stories.



The meeting was organised by Rebecca Long-Bailly MP who had invited Sir John Hayes MP to the meeting as he has long been a campaigner for the nuclear veterans and supports medallic recognition for the veterans, including asking the Prime Minister to take personal responsibility for the matter.

Representatives of the Office for Veterans Affairs and the Minister for Defence People and Veterans Leo Docherty listened to the testimonies and the evidence.

Listening to the stories of John Morris, Laura Morris, Steve Purse, Jacqueline Purse, Laura Jackson, and Alan Owen the PM was shocked to hear the trauma of the tests and how it has affected the servicemen and their families.

The meeting was scheduled for 30 minutes, many rehearsals had taken place, lots of hours preparing for the meeting by the working group, many meetings beforehand, and a lot of organisation to get to this stage.

The PM gave us 40 minutes of his time, which we are extremely grateful for, he has stood by his promise to meet with us and look us in the eye. John Morris who was present at Operation Grapple said to the PM **"You have looked me in the eye, you can now tell me that I am worthy of recognition or tell me to sod off."**

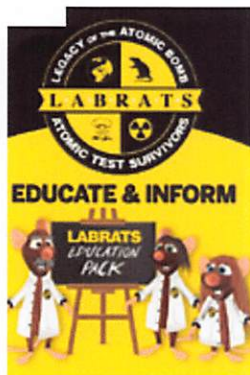
We continue the pressure with the campaign with support from all political parties, we have given the PM a deadline of the 3rd of October 2022, the 70th anniversary of Operation Hurricane, the first British Detonation. We requested a ceremony to mark this anniversary, at which the 70 years of denial can end.

It is now in the hands of the Prime Minister, he alone can make this happen, he has already sat and listened, kept his promise, now he needs to act and end 70 years of injustice.

We are not finished; the campaign was to get the Prime Minister to look us in the eye and he has kept to his word. We will wait and see if he becomes the first Prime Minister to end 70 years of injustice.

We are all very grateful to the Prime Minister for his time and for arranging this meeting with us. Read more in Susie Boniface's piece, online at the Daily Mirror:

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/boris-johnson-meets-nuclear-test-27183272>



Alan Owen – on behalf of LABRATS International

New York Atomic Veteran Memorial Bridge Dedication

Former NAAV New York State Commander Ed Gettler, NAAV Director Lincoln Grahlf and NAAV National Commander Keith Kiefer had the honor of being at the NY Atomic Veteran Memorial Bridge dedication.



Bridge over Taconic State Parkway in Yorktown Heights

State Senator Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) and Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (R-Mahopac) championed the passage of this legislation. The catalyst for this legislation was from a presentation at a Memorial Day Service which Ed Gettler gave. Assemblyman Byrne was moved and inspired by this presentation, starting the process of the bridge dedication.

During the bridge dedication ceremony Lincoln was presented with a proclamation (See page 8).

In attendance was American Legion Post 1009 members, Yorktown Heights Board Supervisors, friends and other supporters.

Len Hones, a veterans supporter, composed and played a sound track merging it with photos making a video of the event. It can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/EuzNJgi6wMQ>

Thank you Lilly Adam's, Len Hones, Brad Issak and others for the photography and photos.

roclamation



FROM

SENATOR PETE HARCKHAM

AND

ASSEMBLYMAN KEVIN BYRNE

HONORING DR. FRANCIS LINCOLN GRAHLFS FOR HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE
AND DEDICATED ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF ATOMIC VETERANS

WHEREAS, IT IS THE INTENT OF THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE AND THE NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY TO RECOGNIZE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO SUBSTANTIALLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE VITALITY OF THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THE ENTIRE EMPIRE STATE; AND

WHEREAS, ATTENDANT TO SUCH CONCERN, WE, NEW YORK STATE SENATOR PETE HARCKHAM, AND NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMAN KEVIN BYRNE ARE JUSTLY PROUD TO RECOGNIZE DR. FRANCIS LINCOLN GRAHLFS FOR HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY AND DEDICATED ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF ATOMIC VETERANS; AND

WHEREAS, DR. FRANCIS LINCOLN GRAHLFS IS AN AUTHOR, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATOMIC VETERANS DIRECTOR, AMBASSADOR AND MEMBER, AS WELL AS A LONG- TIME BOARD MEMBER; AND

WHEREAS, WHILE IN HIS TWENTIES AND SERVING AS A PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS, DR. FRANCIS LINCOLN GRAHLFS TOOK PART IN OPERATION CROSSROADS IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN; AND

WHEREAS, DURING THE OPERATION, DR. FRANCIS LINCOLN GRAHLFS SERVED AT THE HELM OF THE RESCUE TUG, U.S.S. ATR-40 AND WAS ORDERED TO DECONTAMINATE THE U.S.S. TEXAS, WHICH WAS ULTIMATELY UNSUCCESSFUL, BUT LEFT DR. FRANCIS LINCOLN GRAHLFS AND OTHERS WITH STRANGE SYMPTOMS; IT WAS EVENTUALLY REVEALED THAT SERVICE MEMBERS WERE BECOMING ILL BECAUSE OF SECRET U.S. GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS; AND

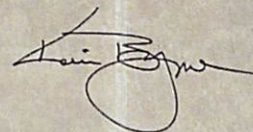
WHEREAS, DR. FRANCIS LINCOLN GRAHLFS BECAME A PUBLISHED AUTHOR AFTER EXPERIENCING ILLNESS AT THE HANDS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AND HE PUBLISHED BOOKS TITLED, "VOICES FROM GROUND ZERO: RECOLLECTIONS AND FEELINGS OF NUCLEAR TEST VETERANS" AND "UNDAUNTED: THE STORY OF A UNITED STATES NAVY TUG AND HER CREW IN WORLD WAR II", AND CONTINUES TO BE A MEMBER ADVOCATE FOR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATOMIC VETERANS AND VETERANS FOR PEACE; AND

WHEREAS, WHEN INDIVIDUALS OF SUCH NOBLE AIMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION, IT IS APPROPRIATE TO PUBLICLY PROCLAIM AND COMMEND THEM FOR THE EDIFICATION AND EMULATION OF OTHER; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

PROCLAIMED, THAT WE, NEW YORK STATE SENATOR PETE HARCKHAM AND NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMAN KEVIN BYRNE RECOGNIZE DR. FRANCIS LINCOLN GRAHLFS FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE AND SERVICE TO HIS NATION.



SENATOR PETE HARCKHAM
40TH SENATE DISTRICT



ASSEMBLYMAN KEVIN BYRNE
94TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



JULY 12, 2022

DATE



VOTE FOR NAAV BOARD MEMBERS

Four seats on the NAAV Board of Directors are up for election this year. Please take time to fill out the ballot and send it to Lincoln Grahlfs. His address is already printed on the back of the ballot. Just fold it in half, tape it, put a stamp on it, and drop in the mail.

APPLICATION FOR ATOMIC VETERANS SERVICE MEDAL

Find the instructions and application on pages A through E.

Fill out and mail in per the instructions.

SECTION V. AGENCY DISCLOSURE NOTICE

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

SECTION VI. PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 2013 (AEC), 38 U.S.C. 1154 and 1112 (Veterans Benefits), 42 U.S.C. 2210 (DOJ compensation program), Pub. L. 108-183 section 601 (Veterans Benefits Act of 2003), Pub. L. 94-367, Pub. L. 100-426 (Radiation Exposure Compensation Act) amended by Pub. L. 100-510, and E.O. 9397 (SSN).

PURPOSE(S): For use by agency officials and employees, or authorized contractors, and other DOD components to provide data or documentation relevant to the processing of administrative claims or litigation; to conduct scientific studies or medical follow-up programs; and in the preparation of the histories of nuclear test programs.

ROUTINE USES: Disclosure of records permitted outside DoD under 5 U.S.C. 552a(b) (Privacy Act) to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Justice, and Department of Labor for identifying and processing claims by individuals who allege job-related disabilities as a result of participation in nuclear test programs and for litigation actions, Veterans Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction for the purpose of reviewing and overseeing the DoD Radiation Dose Reconstruction Program audits of dose reconstructions and to the Department of Health and Human Services, National Council on Radiation Protection & Measurements, and Vanderbilt University for the purpose of conducting epidemiological studies on the effects of ionizing radiation on participants of nuclear test programs. The DoD 'Blanket Routine Uses' also apply.

DISCLOSURE: Voluntary. However, failure to provide the requested information and authorization may delay or preclude DTRA from providing or releasing information.

**DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY**OMB No. 0704-0447
Expiration: 30 Nov 2020**Atomic Veterans Service Certificate Application and
Nuclear Test Personnel Review Information Request and Release****PLEASE RETURN YOUR RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS BELOW.**

Responses should be sent to: **Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Attn: RD-NTS (NTPR), 8725 John J. Kingman Road, Stop 6201, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-6201.** For assistance, please either call the NTPR toll-free helpline: (1-800-462-3683), email us at dtra-ntp@mail.mil, or write us at the address above.

SECTION I. PARTICIPANT PERSONAL DATA (please print)

1. Last Name	2. First Name	3. Middle Name	4. Sex <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F
5. SSN	6. Branch of Service	7. Rank	8. Service Number
9. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)	10. Place of Birth	11. Deceased <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	12. Date of Death (mm/dd/yy)

SECTION II. PARTICIPATION DATA (please print)

13. Name(s) of Test Series / Occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan	
14. Test Location(s) or Occupation Area	15. Test or Occupation Date(s) (mm/dd/yy)
16. Participating Unit Assigned During Test or Occupation	
17. Permanent Home Unit Assigned During Test or Occupation (to lowest level, e.g., company, squadron, if known)	
18. Remarks	

SECTION III. IDENTITY OF THE REQUESTER (please print)

19. Requester is (check one):

- ☐ Participant identified in Section I, above
- ☐ Next of kin, if participant is deceased (specify name/relationship) _____
- ☐ Legal guardian (must submit copy of court appointment)
- ☐ Other (specify relationship AND obtain signed authorization from participant per Authorization Statement below)

Relationship: _____

20. How did you hear of the NTPR Program: _____

21. Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

22. Telephone

Home (____) _____

Other (____) _____

**If you have any questions regarding this form, please call the NTPR toll-free helpline:
1-800-462-3683**

SECTION IV. SIGNATURE AND AUTHORIZATION

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the information in Section III is true and correct. Violations of the provisions of the Privacy Act are enforceable through legal action, and criminal and civil penalties may apply. It is a crime to knowingly and willfully request or obtain records concerning an individual from a Government agency under false pretenses.

Signature of Requester _____ Date _____

AUTHORIZATION STATEMENT

(Must be completed if requester is not the participant, next of kin of a deceased participant, or legal guardian)

Pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974, I authorize the Defense Threat Reduction Agency to release information to, and mail any resulting Atomic Veterans Service Certificate to:

(Print name of authorized individual)

Signature of Participant _____ Date _____

PRESIDENT BIDEN SIGNS VETERAN BILLS

NAAV Director/past National Vice Commander Lincoln Grahlf's and the National Commander, Keith Kiefer, had the honor of witnessing the signing of nine bills intended to benefit Veterans.

Among the bills was a two year extension of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA). Prior to this bill becoming law, the program was slated to sunset on July 11, 2022.

If nothing more is done, this extension will sunset on June 7th, 2024. NAAV continues to advocate for extension and expansion of the program.

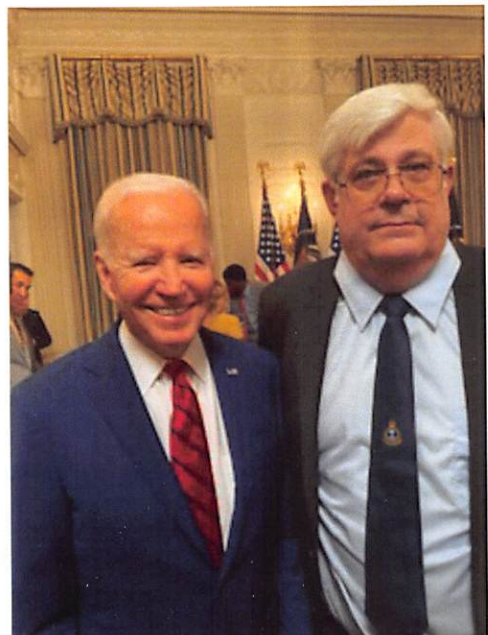
Lincoln will become 100 years old in December. President Biden said he will send him a birthday card. Lincoln and the President talked for about twenty five minutes. Ten of those twenty five minutes can be seen on a CSPAN video just after the twenty minute mark. Link is here:

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?520802-1/president-biden-signs-veterans-care-bills-white-house>

We managed to pull the PACT Act (although renamed) across the finish line. This is a major victory for many Veterans suffering from service connected toxic exposure. It is intended to cover three groups exposed to ionization radiation, plus victims of burn pits, victims of contaminated water, among others.



L to R: Lincoln Grahlf's, Keith Kiefer, President Joe Biden



President Biden Keith Kiefer

Letter of Encouragement From A NAAV Member

Greetings to all Fellow NAAV Members

I am Michael Cobb, a brother nuclear veteran, having served in VP 872 during Operation Dominic on Christmas Island. About one and a half years ago, I was diagnosed with bladder cancer. Being one of the designated cancers covered under Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), I filed a claim by mistake with my County Veteran Service Officer, who filed for disability with the benefits section of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). I should have filed directly with the Department of Justice (DOJ). Some six months into the claim I realized my mistake.

This freaked me out, and in panic, I contacted Keith Kiefer and Fred Schafer and subsequently filed with DOJ. I was under the impression that only the DOJ would pay the \$75,000, and that my claim through the VA would amount to \$3200 per month for a total of \$75,000 maximum benefit, as long as I was considered totally disabled. This was a terrible thing to contemplate as it meant to get the \$75,000, I would have to hope that the cancer remained! And I thought that the reverse was that if I didn't have cancer, I would not get the DOJ amount of \$75,000. I was told that if the required physical exam showed I did not have cancer, I would be eligible for about \$1400 a month. Accepting the VA claim seemed like a gamble to me since the DOJ claim would pay the full \$75,000 immediately. I filed with DOJ immediately.

Meanwhile the VA contacted me and advised me all the paperwork was completed, and that they had arranged for the mandatory physical exam to complete my VA claim. I requested a three-month delay since I believed this was a complication which could affect the DOJ claim, even though I had refused the physical exam thinking this would stop the process. It did not.

The VA paid on my claim retroactive to my filing date, and I received some \$42,000 total before my DOJ claim was authorized. DOJ subsequently approved my claim and paid the difference after some delay.

Having received the \$75,000 through the two claims, I was relieved and thought that was the end of it.

Now the Good Part...

The VA advised I would continue to receive the \$3200 per month until January 2022, at which time a physical exam would be required to evaluate my current status.

I was contacted by the outside contractor, which does the exams and was advised that an exam "might" be required after a review of my medical records at the VA. (The VA has been my sole provider for the past 20+ years, and my care has been fantastic. I cannot say enough good things about my Fresno Veterans Hospital.)

Subsequently I was advised no exam would be required; my records were sufficient to determine I was still classified as 100% disabled due to the cancer diagnosis.

Earlier this year, I received a cost-of-living adjustment and now receive \$3300 per month.

At this time I am undergoing a two-year treatment plan since the physicians at the Palo Alto VA felt my cancer would reoccur without further treatment.

At this time I suspect the confirmed diagnosis of cancer is considered to be a 100% disability though it may be dependent on continued treatment.

I wrote this article and shared my story to advise all shipmates and NAAV veterans who have the listed cancers to look into the Department of Veterans Affairs program through either your veteran representative at your VA, or through your State Department of Veterans Affairs, or through your County Veteran Service Office like I did. This is a veterans program in addition to DARPA, and all atomic veterans should be eligible.

If I can be of any help to any of my fellow veterans, please do not hesitate to call me at 559-822-2390. I do not "internet," I'm a voice guy! Please leave a message, as I don't answer unknown phone numbers.

I hope to see you all in August; we have a lot to celebrate with the approval of the medal!

Michael Cobb
VP872
Friant, California

TAPS



Elnore Moeder.....Fairfax, VA
Dr. R. L. Miller.....Redding, CA
William H. Perry.....Palm City, FL
Bob J. Muhl.....Middleton, ID
Fred B. Zimmerman.....Grandbury, TX
Richard H. Jenkins.....Victorville, CA

QUOTE OF THE DAY

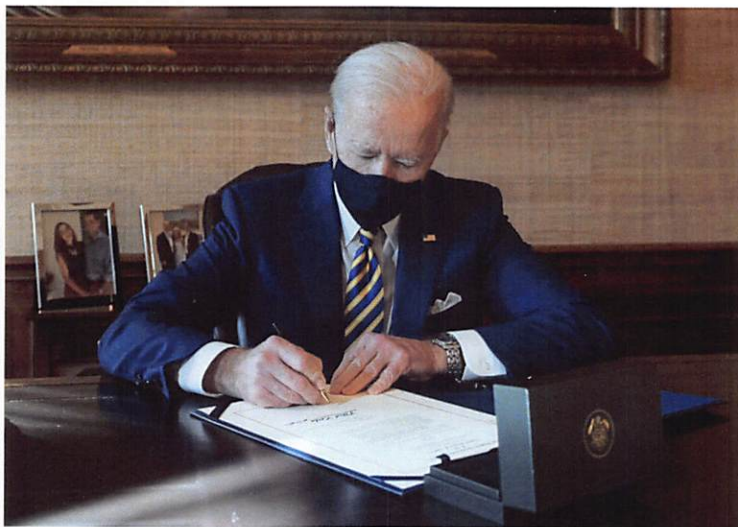
**Why are they called apartments
if they are all stuck together?**

**Change of Address,
Membership or Renewal
Write or E-Mail**

Fred Schafer
Vice Commander & Treasurer
NAAV
130 Cleveland Street
Lebanon, OR 97355-4505
Phone: 541-258-7453
E-Mail: derf@trcschafer.com

President Biden rejuvenates National Atomic Veterans Day, lauds soldiers and the “true extent of their service”

By Humberto Mendez - August 4, 2022



(Photo by Wikimedia Commons)

Last month, President Joe Biden announced that every July 16 will be known as National Atomic Veterans Day. In commemoration of the soldiers who took part in nuclear testing, the battles of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, and war prisoners during these conflicts, the government engraved their effort into posterity by honoring them on that date every year, moving forward.

A warhead nicknamed “Trinity” marked the first nuclear testing done by the U.S government on June 1945, and in the subsequent years, the government would exponentially increase the amount of nuclear bomb usage for testing and warfare purposes. During its highpoint, the United States government conducted more than 200 atmospheric tests on home soil in the Southwest and in the Pacific. During the years 1946 through 1963, it is estimated that at least 200,000 American servicemen were directly or indirectly affected by radioactivity.

Aerial bomb testing, Nuclear fallout, and prolonged exposure to toxic residues on POWs are among the listed causes that affected soldiers during this period.

However, in favor of supporting American veterans, in 1966 the U.S Congress repealed the Nuclear Radiation and Secrecy Agreements Act, effectively permitting compensations and benefits for Atomic Veterans as gratitude for their service.

At the time, Repealing the act represented a massive turning point for atomic veterans, it meant the government they sacrificed their well being for was validating their effort through benefits given to them.

“Veterans exposed to radiation through their service-related activities were finally able to break their silence and qualify for select VA benefits and services,” Biden said during the Washington, D.C. ceremony. “Tragically, many Atomic Veterans passed away without ever receiving the health care they deserved and without their families knowing the true extent of their service.”

Biden described the proclamation as “one sacred obligation” the government failed to fulfill to their veterans, highlighting the renewed commitment the U.S has to the Atomic Veterans.

“It is a mistake our country must never repeat,” Biden said. “I am committed to ensuring that all of our nation’s veterans and their families, caregivers and survivors have timely access to the services, medical care and benefits that they deserve.”

Biden’s proclamation wouldn’t be the first time a U.S president commemorates the Atomic Veteran’s effort. In 1983, former President Ronald Reagan decided to make homage to them proclaiming their patriotic effort as “Americans who through their participation in these tests helped lead the United States to the forefront of technology in defense of our great nation.”

“In honoring these veterans, let us rededicate ourselves once more to our national goal of a world at peace in which nuclear war is unthinkable,” Reagan said at the time.

However, the proclamation made by Reagan lasted just one day. It would be 32 years until, in 2015, the Virginia House of Delegates made it so that the commemoration should occur every year, but only in that state.

Seven years later, Biden took it a step further, honoring and officializing their legacy with their own day each summer.

“We renew our commitment to supporting Atomic Veterans and to preserving their stories,” Biden said during the commemoration, “so that Americans will always remember both their crucial role in our history and our aspiration for a world without nuclear weapons.”



Article from page 13

Humberto is a junior at Florida International University. He reports on issues around politics in South Florida and Latin-America.

Honoring Our PACT Act Dies and Resurrects

Strange Doings — Reappears as S. 3373 Under a New Name

Strange doings occurred in the House. The “Honoring Our PACT Act” (H.R. 3967) has undergone a metamorphosis behind the scenes since the Senate returned it to the House in mid-June. The bill reappeared in modified form as Senate Bill 3373.

S. 3373 had been originally conceived as the “Protecting Our Gold Star Families Education Act.” Yet, the House gutted it, removing its text and inserting the entire text of the Senate-passed version of H.R. 3967, except for one specific clause. That clause involved the tax treatment of income derived from contract buyouts of health care professionals as authorized by Sec. 902 of the bill. Also, it renamed the act, the “Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022.”

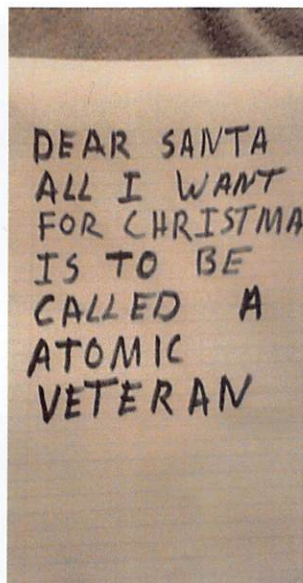
The severely amended bill was then passed with a 342-88 vote by the House (H.R. 3967 passed 256-174) — suggesting, perhaps, true bipartisanship occurred — on July 13 and was on its way to Senate the following day. The President has said before he would sign the measure. It should be noted this action will cost in the neighborhood of \$433 billion for compensation and healthcare and affect about 3.7 million veterans and their survivors (100,000), according to the Congressional Budget Office. It is a significant piece of legislation, whatever its bill number and name.

Now, let us see what is in the heart of the Senate.

The bill/law Public Law No. 117-168 was signed into law August 10, 2022.



Ernest Davis prays for President Biden at the SFC Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022 signing ceremony.



Left to right: John Baenen and NAAV New York State Commander Ken Brownell

John Baenen, Ken Brownell and Ernest Davis all Enewetak Atoll Cleanup Veterans had the honor of being at the President's (PACT Act) signing ceremony.

John Baenen's wish for Christmas of 2016 finally arrives in 2022.

On March 3, 2022, in a bipartisan vote, the House passed H.R. 3967, the Honoring our PACT Act. The law will impact all generations of veterans. Over 60 veteran and military service organizations supported the Honoring Our PACT Act.

DAV testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on March 29, in support of this legislation that would:

- Provide health care based on toxic exposures;
- Add 23 burn pit and toxic exposure-related diseases;
- Add hypertension as a presumptive disease associated with Agent Orange exposure;
- Concede exposure to burn pits and toxic environments;
- Provide a new framework for establishing presumptive diseases in the future;
- Expand radiation-risk activities to include veterans who participated in radiation cleanup at Enewetak Atoll, Palomares, Spain and Thule, Greenland;
- Include Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Guam, American Samoa and Johnston Atoll as conceded locations for Agent Orange exposure; and
- Require registries for veterans who served at Ft. McClellan and for those exposed to PFAS chemicals.

Veterans who participated in nuclear cleanups at Enewetak Atoll, in the Marshall Islands; Palomares, Spain; and Thule, Greenland would be classified as Atomic Veterans, making them eligible for benefits covering 22 diseases associated with exposure to radiation.

The Enewetak Atoll cleanup veterans were subjected to toxic levels of radiation while remediating the atoll following above-ground U.S. nuclear weapons testing that occurred from 1946 to 1958. The U.S. conducted 43 nuclear tests on the Enewetak Atoll. Four-thousand veterans participated in the radiological cleanup; only about ten percent are estimated to be alive today.

The Palomares, Spain, veterans were tasked with cleaning up the aftermath of a 1966 accident in which a nuclear-armed B-52 bomber collided with a refueling jet, releasing four hydrogen bombs over Palomares, a village in Spain. Approximately sixteen hundred U.S. Air Force members participated in the cleanup of radioactive material with [little protection](#). A similar crash in Thule, Greenland, exposed another approximately 500 cleanup veterans in 1968.

Atomic cleanup veterans have developed cancer and other chronic illnesses linked to toxic exposure. Prior to passage, only service members who participated in active nuclear tests or were stationed- or prisoners of war- in Japan after the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are authorized to receive specific benefits and services from the VA. Those who participated in the cleanup of nuclear tests or accidents prior to passage were excluded. This law rights that wrong.

Sen. Moran joins Jon Stewart, Sen. John Tester and Sen. John Boozman at a press conference on June 7, 2022.

Aug 3, 2022 — Known as the Pact Act, the bill passed in the Senate on Tuesday night in an 86-11 vote. It will provide assistance to veterans who were exposed .

60+ veterans groups and comedian Jon Stewart — have spent days ... Jon Stewart at a rally called on the Senate to pass the PACT Act occurred in Aug.

Other Groups like UCS (Union of Concerned Scientists) and AMAC (Association of Mature American Citizens) also advocated for the legislation and Veterans.



Jon Stewart is an American comedian, writer, producer, director, political commentator, actor, and television host for the Daily Show, a satirical news program on Comedy Central, from 1999 to 2015. He now hosts The Problem with Jon Stewart, which premiered September 2021 on Apple TV+.

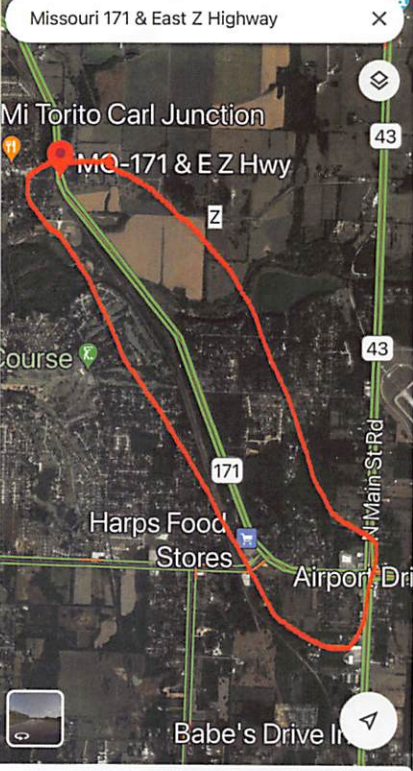
Missouri now has an Atomic Veteran Memorial Highway

Thanks to NAAV Missouri State Commander Bernie Crosby and his state legislators, Missouri now has an Atomic Veteran Memorial Highway. Bernie was also honored in the Carl Junction Fourth of July parade.

A section of Highway 171 near Carl Junction between East Z Highway and Highway 43, approximately four miles long, is now designated as the “Atomic Veteran Memorial Highway.”

A casual conversation between Bernie Crosby and Teresa McNaught in a doctor’s office was the key to Bernie’s twenty year quest to obtain a Missouri Atomic Veteran Highway. Bernie’s networking with Teresa led to Teresa putting him in touch with Missouri Rep. Ann Kelly. Rep. Kelly took the ball and ran with it, linking Bernie to his State Rep. Bob Bromley. Rep. Bromley and others joined Bernie and Rep. Kelly in passing the legislation.

We all need to have the tenacity Bernie has demonstrated in the states that don’t presently have an Atomic Veteran Memorial Highway.



MO-171 & E Z Hwy
Carl Junction, MO 64834



Lt Governor Mike Kehoe and Bernie Crosby at the signing



L to R; State Rep. Bob Bromley, Gov. Mike Parson, Bernie Crosby, and State Rep. Ann Kelley



Bernie riding in the fourth on July city parade in an honor spot



L to R

Joan Grahlf

Dr. Yael Danieli

Lilly Adams

Lincoln Grahlf



Left photo

L to R

Lincoln Grahlf

Lilly Adams

Joan Grahlf



Right photo

Senator Harckham

Suzie Belanger



**Ed
Gettler**



**Left photo
Brad Issak**

**Right
photo
Len Hones**





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Have a good day!

