

04DEC2022

**VFW Launches PACT Act Assistance Website:** The VFW is pleased to announce the launch of a new website to inform veterans about the benefits for which they may qualify under the PACT Act. The new site, [www.PACTActInfo.org](http://www.PACTActInfo.org), allows veterans to enter certain military service details and medical information to determine eligibility for compensation benefits on a presumptive basis as a result of exposure to toxins. **The site will then provide referrals to VFW Service Officers** in their state of residence to assist with their claims. The site also warns veterans about claim sharks and non-accredited entities that may try to exploit them for financial gain.

**VA to Host Town Halls for "PACT Act Week of Action":** VA will be hosting 90+ town hall events to discuss new eligibilities and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances while in service. These events will take place in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia the week of **December 10-17, dubbed by VA as the "PACT Act Week of Action."** These sessions will provide veterans and survivors of toxic-exposed veterans needed information and resources such as potential eligibility, help enrolling in benefits, and claims assistance. [Read more](#) to find a town hall meeting near you.

**TRICARE Open Season Closes Dec. 13:** This is the last week for beneficiaries to enroll in or change their health care, dental, and vision coverage. Any changes will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2023. If you are satisfied with your current plan then your coverage will continue automatically for 2023, as long as you remain eligible. Beneficiaries should verify their information is up to date and those making benefit changes need to set up an allotment with their regional contractors for enrollment coverage to begin Jan. 1, 2023. Individuals who do not set up their allotment by the deadline will be unenrolled due to nonpayment. [Learn more](#) or [find TRICARE contact information](#).

### **Update from Congressman Andrew Garbarino**

#### **House Passes Bill To Support Veteran Services**

This week, the House of Representatives voted to pass *H.R.4601, the Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act*, a bill cosponsored by Andrew, with wide bipartisan support. This bill would authorize \$50 million annually for five years for competitive grants to expand the work of County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs), local county employees who assist veterans in understanding and obtaining the benefits they have earned, in addition to connecting them with other important resources. They are often the first point of contact in the community for veterans' services. **Andrew is proud to have supported this legislation and is pleased to see it moving closer to becoming law**

## DAV Drivers Are Back For Northport VAMC

Andrew is proud to announce the return of Northport VAMC's transportation services for Long Island's veteran community. For almost three years, Long Island's veterans have been unable to utilize transportation services to make in-person appointments at Northport VA Medical Center. **For several months, Andrew been leading the fight for a solution to bring back these services so Long Island's veterans are able to make their appointments.** Andrew will always fight to ensure our veterans receive the highest quality care. Details below:

**Starting:** December 5, 2022

**Schedule:** Monday – Thursday (Fridays are currently not available but may be in the near future)

**How to book:** DAV Call Center will commence scheduling appointments which started on Monday November 28, 2022. The DAV Call Center can be reached at extension 7980

**Where to go:** Drop off/Pick up area close to entrance of Building 200 (during current construction)

DAV Vans have been equipped with supplies mandated by Infection Control and will be utilized accordingly