Coalition Update



If you're in the military, expect a modest pay raise next year

President Donald Trump's pledge to boost defense spending and rebuild the American military in coming years will likely entail only modest pay and benefits adjustments for men and women in uniform. If next year's pay raise is linked to anticipated private-sector wage growth, long the standard for the military's annual increase, it'll mean a paycheck jump of about 1.9 percent. **READ MORE**

Trump budget trims payouts for vets, government retirees

Military Times

President Donald Trump's "taxpayer focused" budget for fiscal 2018 includes smaller cost-of-living adjustments for veterans benefits payouts and eliminating those adjustments for some federal civilian retirees altogether. The controversial suggestions are likely to be met with opposition from outside advocates and some lawmakers. **READ MORE**

Pence to service members: 'You are the best of us'

U.S. Department of Defense

The observance of Armed Forces Day is "merely one more installment on behalf of the American people on a debt of honor and the debt of gratitude we'll never be able to fully repay to all of you who served," Vice President Mike Pence told service members at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. **READ MORE**

Senior enlisted leaders place wreath at tomb to mark Armed Forces Day

U.S. Department of Defense

The senior enlisted leaders of the Defense Department and the Coast Guard placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery today to mark Armed Forces Day. "It's our way of marking Armed Forces Day and beginning the commemoration of Memorial Day," said Army Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Troxell, the senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. READ MORE

What is moral injury in veterans?

The Conversation

On Memorial Day, Americans remember those who died while in service to the country. In the past five years, a large proportion of these deaths have been suicides. Popular media often link military suicide with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). However, clinicians who work with veterans have identified an additional cluster of symptoms called "moral injury" which can occur when a personal moral code – one's understanding of "what's right" – is violated. **READ MORE**

Blue Star Museums offers free admission for eighth year

National Endowment for the Arts

NEA Chairman Jane Chu and Blue Star Families CEO Kathy Roth-Douquet announced the eighth annual launch of Blue Star Museums, a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to the nation's active duty military personnel, including National Guard and Reserve and their families, from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2017. **READ MORE**