
Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs
Week of January 20, 2012

- 1. Arkansas Veterans Coalition Meeting with Guest Speaker Congressman Tim Griffin**
 - 2. More Ships Added to VA's Vietnam Ship List**
 - 3. Arkansas State Cemetery at Birdeye Grand Opening**
 - 4. VA Announces Changes to Emergency Care Payment Policy**
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1. Arkansas Veterans Coalition Meeting with Guest Speaker Congressman Tim Griffin

Congressman Tim Griffin will be the guest speaker at the Arkansas Veterans Coalition meeting on Friday, March 2, 2012 at 9 a.m.

The quarterly meeting will be held at the VFW State Headquarters in Sherwood, AR (4210 East Kiehl Ave Sherwood, AR 72120).

2. More Ships Added to VA's Vietnam Ship List

VA has updated the [list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships](#) that operated in Vietnam, adding 47 more vessels and expanding information for others. The list can help Vietnam-era Veterans find out if they qualify for presumption of Agent Orange exposure when seeking VA disability compensation for herbicide-related diseases.

3. Arkansas State Cemetery at Birdeye Grand Opening

The Arkansas State Cemetery at Birdeye Grand Opening is scheduled for Friday, April 27 at 1p.m.

4. VA Announces Changes to Emergency Care Payment Policy

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today a change in regulations regarding payments for emergency care provided to eligible Veterans in non-VA facilities.

“This provision helps ensure eligible Veterans continue to get the emergency care they need when VA facilities are not available,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

The new regulation extends VA’s authority to pay for emergency care provided to eligible Veterans at non-VA facilities until the Veterans can be safely transferred to a VA medical facility.

More than 100,000 Veterans are estimated to be affected by the new rules, at a cost of about \$44 million annually.

VA operates 121 emergency departments across the country, which provide resuscitative therapy and stabilization in life-threatening situations. They operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. VA also has 46 urgent care units, which provide care for patients without scheduled appointments who need immediate medical or psychiatric attention.

For more information about emergency care in non-VA facilities, visit www.nonvacare.va.gov.

ADVA Vet News is a weekly email update providing information of interest to Service Officers and Veterans. Information has been provided from a variety of sources and does not necessarily constitute an opinion or position by ADVA.

A service of the [Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs](http://www.arkansas.gov) Public Information Department, 1501 W. Maryland Ave, N. Little Rock, AR 72120

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