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Subject: FW: Topics in the News

From: SMVF TA Center [mailto:SMVFTACenter@prainc.com]

Sent: Friday, February 6, 2015 11:59 PM

To: Connie Mancari

Subject: Topics in the News

SAMHSA's Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Technical Assistance Center

Topics in the News

North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory Plans to Create Military and Veterans Affairs Department

North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory used his biennial State of the State address to announce plans to create a North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

[Read more...](#)

Bill to Address Veterans' Suicide Heads to White House

A bill aimed at reducing a suicide epidemic among military veterans is on its way to the President for his signature. The Senate unanimously approved a bill named for Clay Hunt, a 26-year-old Iraq and Afghanistan veteran who killed himself in 2011. The bill comes in response to suicides that on average claim the lives of 22 military veterans every day.

[Read more...](#)

Searching for Homeless Veterans on LA's Skid Row

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Bob McDonald walked the streets of LA's Skid Row with local volunteers and VA employees, and tallied the homeless during the city's annual point-in-time, PIT count. As they made their way through alleyways and backstreets lined with tents and makeshift shelters, they stopped to talk and ask, "Are you a veteran?"

[Read more...](#)

Military Life is Stressful on All Concerned; Efforts to Help Often Fall Short

The military has never been a particularly family-friendly career. (Thus the old saying that if Uncle Sam wanted you to have a family, he'd have issued you one.) Yet 44 percent of military personnel have children and families serve, too.

[Read more...](#)

Commission Recommends Changes to Military Benefits

A special commission looking at Pentagon spending called for scrapping the centerpiece of the military healthcare system and trimming guaranteed retirement benefits for career officers, as part of a broad plan that could save the Defense Department billions of dollars.

[Read more...](#)

Webinar: Veteran Health Services: What Health Centers Need to Know

February 11, 2015; 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET

Until recently, the VA was not a major purchaser of health care from the private sector, but that is changing. Under new legislation, health centers are rapidly becoming a significant part of the VA's push into the private sector to meet the healthcare needs of our nation's veterans.

[Learn more and register...](#)

Webinar Archive Available: Credentialing, Licensing, and Reimbursing Peers Working to Support the Behavioral Health of Service Members, Veterans, and their Families

This webinar, hosted by SAMHSA's SMVF TA Center, explored the trends and benefits of credentialing, licensing, and reimbursement for peer support services to enhance care for SMVF in our communities. The webinar was originally broadcasted on January 28, 2015. The webinar is now available for on-demand viewing.

[View the webinar recording...](#)

Face of Defense: Clinicians Help Deployed Troops Fight Stress

Whether on their first deployment or their fifth, service members can feel the impact of deployment-related stressors. The primary responsibility of the Behavioral Health Department at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Role 3 Multinational Medical Unit here is to mitigate and treat the stressors that arise in a forward-deployed environment.

[Read more...](#)

Share Your Story: The Resilient Military Wife

I met my husband just as he was getting out of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). He was in Force Recon while in the Marines. I never really understood the extensive training my husband had in the USMC until years later. My husband became a civilian police officer after he served in the Marines. He was a great police officer. Very well respected in the community where we lived in Michigan.

[Read more...](#)

Denver Zoo Volunteer Helps Military Veterans Connect with their Families through the Love of Animals

As a young man he served his country in the U.S. Navy. Now retired, Samuel "Bud" Gawn serves to educate others. He has volunteered at the Denver Zoo for nearly 20 years.

[Read more...](#)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

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