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33. Today in History:
1. **Gold Star widow's blog recounts life after loss of soldier husband.** Jane Horton has recorded her intimate thoughts in a blog she started to chronicle that difficult time, the year since her husband’s death and what happens to Gold Star families — the term for families of military personnel killed in action — once the fervent attention begins to fade.

2. **‘Jungle skippers’ mark anniversary at Fort Benning.** When 11 paratroopers dressed in vintage World War II uniforms jumped from a low-flying C-47 aircraft Friday at Fort Benning, the scene brought back memories for former pilot Ted Machen, a member of the 317th Troop Carrier Group. "It reminded me of old times," Machen said.

3. **Iraq War vets applying tech skills they learned to their Iowa business.** Perry Graham’s blue National Guard uniform hangs at the ready from a shelf while Jake Long’s hangs on a nearby doorknob at their cell phone repair business. At any moment, one or both of these 29-year-old Iraq War veterans could be called upon to help bury a U.S. veteran.

4. **Veterans want real policy, not just politics, from this election.** Veterans are emerging as a significant political force this year because of their numbers, sacrifice, public popularity and the government’s need to plan for serving troops returning from the Middle East as fighting winds down.

5. **Army wife to run Texas half marathon for deployed husband.** Bambi Kline will be one of more than 1,400 runners participating in Sunday’s 35th Annual GECU Trans Mountain Challenge Half Marathon/Half Marathon Relay/5K in Texas. "This will be my first half marathon," she said. "I guess you can say I’m only half crazy."

6. **Wisconsin man convicted of stealing $51,000 from veterans.** A Milwaukee County jury Friday convicted Kevin Kavanaugh of stealing more than $51,000 from money donated to help veterans and their families. Prosecutors said the 62-year-old Kavanaugh had skimmed the money from bank deposits and phony withdrawals from accounts for the local chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, a veterans service organization.
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7. **The Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs.** [Nevada Appeal](#) We are to prioritize the needs of Nevada's veterans; work toward increasing coordination of state government's veteran assistance efforts with federal, local and non-profit services; and report to Gov. Sandoval on our findings before the council ...

8. **Veteran centers under scrutiny after two deaths.** [Tulsa World](#) Minter's death sparked legislative reviews of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs. At a hearing last ... Arterberry's family has filed a tort claim, the first step toward a lawsuit, against the Veterans Administration and the state of Oklahoma ...

9. **Veterans Home in Rifle Celebrates Upgrades.** [KREX News Channel 5](#) The Colorado State Veterans Home in Rifle celebrated a grand opening on Saturday, showcasing its $3.8 million expansion and upgrade. A grant was provided to the home by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition to improving the ...

10. **Veterans Day parade thanks those who served.** [Buffalo News](#) This is the fourth year that the agencies have coordinated a Veterans Day parade, but organizers hope this year's parade is the biggest, said Evangeline Conley, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Buffalo. The parade is meant ...

11. **Veterans, Pentagon Contend With Sexual Assault In Military.** [Minneapolis Public Radio](#) The growing recognition among Pentagon officials that the problem of sexual abuse "threatens to undermine the armed forces' combat readiness. The Department of Defense recently announced stepped-up prevention efforts including increased training for officers and enlisted personnel. The Pentagon is establishing special new units to investigate sexual assaults." In Minnesota, most troops serve in the National Guard or reserves, which handle sexual assault cases differently than the active duty military. The National Guard has a victim-focused policy that critics say can leave perpetrators unpunished.
12. **Trained To Execute Missions, Returning US Military Veterans Find Purpose As Entrepreneurs.** AP  More "than 200,000 people are discharged from the US military each year, and advocates say they often possess qualities that make good entrepreneurs: resourcefulness, a taste for risk-taking and a can-do attitude." This is why "Nonprofit groups, state governments and US agencies" have made an effort to provide vets with "business training aimed at giving them new purpose and easing their transition to civilian life." The US Small Business Administration says that vets already have a history of excelling in the business world, with nearly "one in 10 small businesses" being veteran-owned. According to the US Small Business Administration, "retired service members are at least 45 percent more likely than those without active-duty military experience to be self-employed."

13. **Can Meditation Ease PTSD In Combat Vets?** KQED San Francisco  The limited ability of prescription drugs to treat PTSD has renewed interest in meditation, specifically "compassion meditation," which "aims at a specific and widely held hypothesis about what is happening in the brain of someone like John Montgomery, the Vietnam vet. The idea is that in combat, a switch - a fight-or-flight survival mode located in a part of the brain called the amygdala - has been turned on, and become essentially stuck. Meanwhile, another part, the frontal cortex, takes the backseat." Studies show that repeated sessions "can increase 'positive affect' and 'social connectedness,' both of which are deficient in PTSD patients, according to a 2012 meta-analysis on the efficacy of different kinds of meditation in treating PTSD."

14. **Veterans Find Help, Relief Through Horse Therapy Program In Diamond.** Joplin (MO) Globe  Ozark Center has partnered with Magic Moments Riding Therapy and the Wounded Warrior Project to offer horse therapy to injured veterans. Del Camp, vice president of operations at Ozark Center said of horse therapy, "We know it works," adding that veterans could benefit when accompanied by clinical therapy. The report notes that each class in the horse therapy program "will be taught by a Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International-certified instructor with the assistance of several trained volunteers. Veterans will be encouraged to progress at their own pace, according to their individual abilities."

15. **Community Rallies Around Zephyrhills High School Graduate Injured In Afghanistan.** WFTS-TV  Tyler Jeffries, whose unit "was clearing an area [Saturday] when the squad moved forward [and] TJ stepped on an IED. The explosion took off part of each of his legs. TJ was flown to Germany and then Walter Reed in Maryland where doctors had to remove even more of his left leg." Jeffries received messages of support from his school and community.
**16. Local Heroes Recognized At Purple Heart Ceremony.** Athens (GA) Banner-Herald "Hundreds of people came out to say thank you to wounded warrior Sean Adams and attend a Purple Heart ceremony on his behalf Saturday at Oconee Veteran's Memorial Park." Retired Maj. Don Lohmeir was the guest speaker at the event and "spoke of the many people before Adams...who received Purple Hearts and the meaning behind it." The Athens Banner Herald reports that Lance Cpl. Adams lost both legs and several fingers in an explosion caused "by an improvised explosive device while serving in Afghanistan."

**17. Iraq Veteran Puts Experiences Into Book.** Daily Inter Lake (MT) Veteran Mike Banzet, a retired pilot who spent time in Iraq, wrote a book entitled "A Flowershop in Baghdad" which is "about American exceptionalism and the good the United States and its allies performed in Iraq." Banzet's positive experiences come from the things "he witnessed as a pilot during a year spent helping train the new Iraqi Air Force." Larry Bond, a New York Times best selling author, said that Banzet's book "is insightful, funny, personal, at times deeply moving, and always thoughtful" and that his "work with the Iraqis gave him a valuable perspective on the Iraq war and why we fought it, or more properly, who we fought it for. He's knowledgeable, opinionated, and has a lot to share." Banzet "now works as a civilian for the Air Force."

**18. WWII Paratrooper Shares Experiences At Lansdale Historical Society.** Norristown (PA) Times Herald World War II veteran Tony Zanzinger, a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division, described to the Lansdale Historical Society "how he jumped into Normandy and the Netherlands during operations Overlord and Market Garden, fought during the siege of Bastogne, and captured Hitler's mountain retreat home at Berchtesgaden. ... Although he may not acknowledge it, Zanzinger is preserving the sacrifices his generation made through these public history events."

**19. Local Veterans Honored With Trip To See Memorials For The First Time.** WCYB-TV "Some of our local veterans are being honored in a special way this weekend." Before the sun ever came up, a group of veterans "had their bags packed ready to make a very special pilgrimage. The Honor Flight of Northeast Tennessee is sending 20 of our region's veterans to Washington DC to see American's national memorials and monuments."
20. Outreach Event For Veterans Set Oct. 26 In Mobile. Mobile (AL) Press-Register Covenant Hospice "will be providing an outreach event to help veterans in the community better navigate their benefits by giving them an opportunity to conveniently obtain information from several agencies in one place." The event "will give veterans the opportunity to receive information about resources available to them through local, state and federal agencies without having to make numerous phone calls or trips to several offices. Representatives from the VA Caregiver Program, Gulf Coast Veterans Advocacy Council, suicide prevention programs, Rolling Thunder, Mobile Memorial Gardens, Honor Flight, Mobile Vet Center, Champus VA, and the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs will be among those available."

21. Stand Down Held In Tuscaloosa. WBRC-TV "Reaching out to homeless veterans was the goal of an event today in Tuscaloosa." WBRC (Reynolds) added, "Stand Down is a military term that means taking a break from battle. But for some homeless veterans, every day is a struggle. That's why the Department of Veterans Affairs wants to make it easier for these men and women who served their country to get help through the stand down initiative. Tuscaloosa's VA Medical Center held its stand down for homeless veterans earlier today. It was done in conjunction with Beulah Baptist Church and several other agencies. Vets got shaves, haircuts and facials. There were also booths and tables were set up to show them what resources are available for them here in west Alabama. And none of these people were able to leave there empty handed. They also got free food, as well as personal items to take back with them."

22. Standdown To Help Veterans With Services. Walla Walla (WA) Union-Bulletin The Tri-State Veterans Standdown event will be held this Wednesday in the state of Washington. The event is open to all military veterans, including those who are homeless which will be presented with a special invitation by the "Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 466, Echo Company 181 BSB." Walla Walla Union Bulletin reports that the "breakfast and lunch will be served during the event," along with services such as "eye and dental exams, haircuts, showers, hygiene products, veterans benefits officers, PTSD counseling, employment services and obtaining discharge papers."
23. **Santa Barbara County Hosts First Stand Down.** KEYT-TV Santa Barbara County hosted its first ever 'Stand Down' event to help homeless and unemployed veterans. The event took place at the Santa Maria Fairpark and was the culmination of more than a year of planning." KEYT-TV (Martinez) added, "On any given night, the US Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that more than 67 thousand veterans are homeless. Dozens of those veterans are living in Santa Barbara County." Timothy Alves, Vietnam veteran: "This is a generation that was left behind. The Vietnam veteran was left behind and we're not going to let that happen again." Martinez: "Santa Barbara County Supervisor Steve Lavagnino was inspired to take action after watching a news report about a yearly event helping homeless vets in San Diego. With the help of dozens of local organizations and hundreds of volunteers, Lavagnino brought it here. Veterans 'Stand Down' focuses on providing services to this often forgotten and vulnerable segment of society."

24. **Veterans Count Spectacular Variety Show In Nashua Will Recall USO Specials Of Yore.** Nashua (NH) Telegraph "It will be like a local Bob Hope USO special, with Tony Pace headlining instead of the late comedian and the Nashua High School North auditorium standing in for an overseas US military base. Like the USO shows, this Veterans Day variety show of comedy, song and dance will benefit men and women – and their families – who wear or once wore a US military uniform."

25. **Vets Group Certifies Norfolk And Shipyard.** Hampton Roads (VA) Business Journal The group, Virginia Values Veterans, "has certified Huntington Ingalls Industries, which is the owner of Newport News Shipbuilding; the city of Norfolk; and seven other Virginia companies that have worked to hire veterans." The city of Norfolk "is the first Virginia municipality to receive the certification, said Lori Crouch, a city of Norfolk spokeswoman. The other companies that received the certification include ECPI, Bon Secours, Allied Associates, LightGrid, Farmers Insurance of Richmond and Winning the Training Game of Richmond."

26. **Veterans Of The Forgotten War Receive Honors.** KCRG-TV More than 320 Iowa veterans who served during the Korean War received peace medals in Cedar Falls Saturday. KCRG-TV reported that the "The Peace Medal Presentation was sponsored by the Consulate of Korea in Chicago, UNI, Korean War Veterans Association, The Korean American Society of Iowa and Midland Korean Southern Baptist Fellowship."
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28. Chelmsford Boy Raises Money For Veterans. Lexington (NC) Dispatch

29. KU Student, Veteran On Mission To Get Degree After Injuries. Lawrence (KS) Journal World

30. A Heartfelt Thanks From One Veteran To Another. Morristown (NJ) Daily Record


32. VA / VSO-MSO Hearings as October 15, 2012: No Hearings Scheduled

33. Today in History:

- 1793 – Queen Marie-Antoinette of France is tried and convicted in a swift, pre-determined trial in the Palais de Justice, Paris, and condemned to death the following day.
- 1815 – Napoleon I of France begins his exile on Saint Helena in the Atlantic Ocean.
- 1863 – American Civil War: The H. L. Hunley, the first submarine to sink a ship, sinks during a test, killing its inventor, Horace L. Hunley.
- 1864 – American Civil War: The Battle of Glasgow is fought, resulting in the surrender of Glasgow, Missouri, and its Union garrison, to the Confederacy.
- 1878 – The Edison Electric Light Company begins operation.
- 1880 – Mexican soldiers kill Victorio, one of the greatest Apache military strategists.
- 1888 – The "From Hell" letter sent by Jack the Ripper is received by investigators.
- 1894 – The Dreyfus affair: Alfred Dreyfus is arrested for spying.
- 1910 – Airship America launched from New Jersey in the first attempt to cross the Atlantic by a powered aircraft.
- 1917 – World War I: At Vincennes outside of Paris, Dutch dancer Mata Hari is executed by firing squad for spying for the German Empire.
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- **1928** – The airship, *Graf Zeppelin* completes its first trans-Atlantic flight, landing at Lakehurst, New Jersey, United States.
- **1934** – The Soviet Republic of China collapses when Chiang Kai-shek's National Revolutionary Army successfully encircles Ruijin, forcing the fleeing Communists to begin the Long March.
- **1939** – The New York Municipal Airport (later renamed La Guardia Airport) is dedicated.
- **1940** – The President of Catalonia, Lluís Companys, is executed by the Spanish dictatorship of Francisco Franco, making him the only European president to have been executed.
- **1944** – The Arrow Cross Party (very similar to Hitler's NSDAP (Nazi party)) takes power in Hungary.
- **1945** – World War II: The former premier of Vichy France Pierre Laval is shot by a firing squad for treason.
- **1951** – Mexican chemist Luis E. Miramontes conducts the very last step of the first synthesis of norethisterone, the progestin that would later be used in one of the first three oral contraceptives.
- **1953** – British nuclear test Totem 1 detonated at Emu Field, South Australia.
- **1956** – Fortran, the first modern computer language, is shared with the coding community for the first time.
- **1965** – Vietnam War: The Catholic Worker Movement stages an anti-war rally in Manhattan including a public burning of a draft card; the first such act to result in arrest under a new amendment to the Selective Service Act.
- **1966** – Black Panther Party is created by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale.
- **1969** – Vietnam War; The Moratorium to End the War in Vietnam is held in Washington DC and across the US. Over 2 million demonstrate nationally; about 250,000 in the nation's capitol.
- **1970** – The domestic Soviet Aeroflot Flight 244 is hijacked and diverted to Turkey.
- **1971** – The start of the 2500-year celebration of Iran, celebrating the birth of Persia.
- **1979** – Black Monday in Malta. The Building of the Times of Malta, the residence of the opposition leader Eddie Fenech Adami and several Nationalist Party clubs are ransacked and destroyed by supporters of the Malta Labour Party.
- **1989** – Wayne Gretzky becomes the all-time leading points scorer in the NHL.
- **1990** – Soviet Union leader Mikhail Gorbachev is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to lessen Cold War tensions and open up his nation.
- **1997** – The first supersonic land speed record is set by Andy Green in ThrustSSC (United Kingdom), exactly 50 years and 1 day after Chuck Yeager first broke the sound barrier in the Earth's atmosphere.
- **1997** – The Cassini probe launches from Cape Canaveral on its way to Saturn.
- **2001** – NASA's Galileo spacecraft passes within 112 miles of Jupiter's moon Io.
- **2005** – A riot in Toledo, Ohio breaks out during a National Socialist/Neo-Nazi protest; over 100 are arrested.
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- **2007** – Seventeen activists in New Zealand are arrested in the country's first post 9/11 anti-terrorism raids.
- **2008** – The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed down 733.08 points, or 7.87%, the second worst day in the Dow's history based on a percentage drop.
- **2011** – Global protests break out in 951 cities in 82 countries.