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## Boozman Bulletin: A Meaningful Way to Thank our Veterans

Herbert 'Lucky' Page earned his nickname during a WWII battle in the Pacific after he was thought to have been killed in action and placed with the remains of deceased Marines.

"I woke up and I was on the ship. I thought I was blind. I couldn't see," Page said. "They were cleaning my eyes out and I asked what happened to me. They said some Marines were walking by the dead Marines, and they heard me moaning so they pulled me out. They had pulled my dog tags, so they didn't have a name for me. The doctor who was working on me said I was lucky."

The Lake Conway resident told me his memories serving as a Marine during WWII and the Korean War for the Veterans History Project (VHP), a project of the Library of Congress that preserves the oral histories of our nation's veterans. Hearing his personal accounts of war is unforgettable. His stories show the reality of war and his selfless sacrifice and dedication.



*I interviewed WWII and Korean War veteran Lucky Page for the Veterans History Project.*

With more than 100,000 stories from American veterans, the VHP collection is home to the largest oral history archive in the U.S. [I will submit Page's interview to the VHP](#) so future

generations can access his story to better understand the realities of war.

These histories are compiled through audio or video recorded interviews, in addition to original correspondence, photographs, maps and diaries to forever memorialize our veterans in history. Many of these interviews are accessible on the [Library of Congress's website](#).

I'm proud of the work my office is doing to preserve these living histories. My staff has hosted 11 workshops since last year, training more than 260 people. I'm pleased to see the enthusiasm of Arkansans to join the project. These workshops have encouraged professors at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the University of the Ozarks to create curriculums incorporating the VHP.

Two of the biggest champions of the VHP in Arkansas are Hot Springs Village residents Jeff and Jeanne Meek. I am inspired by their dedication and commitment to sharing the stories of our veterans. Jeff has collected the oral histories of hundreds of veterans that are part of the VHP collection. As a member of Daughters of the American Revolution, Jeanne helps submit these interviews to the collection.

VHP is very much a collaborative effort, so often, it partners with Veteran Service Organizations and other organizations like DAR and the American Red Cross to help with interviews or related costs.

The American Red Cross also helps train interviewers, supplies equipment and provides the veteran a commemorative DVD copy of the interview.

The VHP recently recognized the training conducted across Arkansas by my office. I'm proud of the efforts of my staff to promote this important program and encourage others to become involved and preserve the memories of our veterans. As we celebrate Veterans Day, participating in the VHP is a meaningful way to thank these men and women for their service and sacrifice and honor their commitment to our nation.

To hear from the veterans my office has interviewed for the VHP [click here](#).

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#### Quick Takes:

- **Rising Obamacare Premiums on the Way:** The Obama administration recently [confirmed that health insurance premiums sold through Obamacare will see double-digit increases](#)—an average of a twenty percent-plus surge—in 2017. This is not, as the President has billed it, “affordable care.” This is not surprising. There is nothing in the law that controls costs. This is one reason I voted against Obamacare and [support its repeal](#). We need to turn to free market approaches to lower the costs. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the administration next Congress to accomplish this.
- **Holding DoD Accountable:** The Department of Defense suspended efforts to collect improperly awarded enlistment bonuses for California Army National Guard members. Defense Secretary Ash Carter ordered a full review of the incentive program. I encourage him to conduct a similar examination of its unlawful policy to collect taxes on the severance payments received by veterans who suffer service-ending combat-related injuries. This year I introduced the [Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act](#)

[of 2016](#) to ensure no money is being withheld.

- **Recognizing Arkansas First Responders:** I recently visited with Arkansas first responders as part of a [state-wide #EverySecondCounts tour](#) thanking these men and women who put their lives on the line every day to keep our communities safe. I was also honored to receive the [Legislator of the Year award from the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police](#).
- **Federal Court Strikes Blow to Obama's Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB):** The CFPB was created by the Dodd-Frank legislation passed by the Democrat-controlled Congress and signed into law by President Obama early in his presidency. I didn't support this legislation and continue to be concerned about the CFPB because the way it was structured, there is no accountability to the American people. [A federal appeals court ruled the structure unconstitutional last month](#). Serious reforms need to be made to this agency.
- **Combatting Human Trafficking:** An investigation into human trafficking by the Fort Smith Police Department resulted in the arrest of two out-of-state residents in October when they traveled to the state to pick up an Arkansas girl who police say they were planning to use for child prostitution. Human trafficking is a growing problem and I'm committed to taking necessary action to combat this program. [I'm proud of what we've accomplished on this front this Congress](#) and will continue to press for additional measures to break the cycle of human trafficking at home and abroad.
- **Fighting for Farmers:** I was honored to receive the [Riceland Foods 'Friend of the Farmer' award](#) for my commitment and dedication to the Arkansas rice industry. As the number one producer of rice in our country, Arkansas has a unique role in the industry. This is a testament to the skill and hard work of Arkansas's rice farmers, and I am proud to support and fight for policies that give our farmers the opportunity to succeed.
- **Protecting the U.S. Timber Industry:** Right now the United State is pursuing a new agreement with Canada that would require it to maintain softwood lumber exports at or below an agreed U.S. market share, but the Canadian government has been unwilling to consider serious proposals consistent with this. [I joined my colleagues in urging President Obama to seek a fair, effective and sustainable agreement](#) with Canada in order to protect industry jobs.
- **Attending the 58<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inauguration:** While details for inauguration events are being finalized, many Arkansans have already expressed their interest in visiting Washington, D.C. to celebrate the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump. Arkansans may [request](#) tickets of my office to the Presidential Swearing-in ceremony by [completing the form on my website](#).
- **Connect on Social Media:** Stay up to date with what I'm doing for Arkansans via social media. You can find me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).



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