



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
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VFW Post 8555 Newsletter/Calendar

The USS Maine explodes in Cuba's Havana Harbor

A massive explosion of unknown origin sinks the battleship USS Maine in Cuba's Havana harbor on February 15, 1898, killing 260 of the fewer than 400 American crew members aboard.

One of the first American battleships, the Maine weighed more than 6,000 tons and was built at a cost of more than \$2 million. Ostensibly on a friendly visit, the Maine had been sent to Cuba to protect the interests of Americans there after a rebellion against Spanish rule broke out in Havana in January.

An official U.S. Naval Court of Inquiry ruled in March that the ship was blown up by a mine, without directly placing the blame on Spain. Much of Congress and a majority of the American public expressed little doubt that Spain was responsible and called for a declaration of war.



Subsequent diplomatic failures to resolve the Maine matter, coupled with United States indignation over Spain's brutal suppression of the Cuban rebellion and continued losses to American investment, led to the outbreak of the [Spanish-American War](#) in April 1898.

Within three months, the United States had decisively defeated Spanish forces on land and sea, and in August an armistice halted the fighting. On December 12, 1898, the Treaty of Paris was signed between the United States and Spain, officially ending the Spanish-American War and granting the United States its first overseas empire with the ceding of such former Spanish possessions as [Puerto Rico](#), Guam and the Philippines.

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/the-maine-explodes>

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VFW Post 8555 Spotlight



Request your military service records (including DD214)

Submit a military records request to get your DD214 or other military service records through the milConnect website.

You'll need to sign in to milConnect to get your military service records

Follow these steps to submit a military records request.

- 1 From your signed-in homepage, click or tap on **Correspondence/ Documentation**. Then select **Defense Personnel Records Information (DPRIS)** from the drop-down menu.
 - 2 Choose the **Personnel File** tab.
 - 3 Select **Request My Personnel File**.
 - 4 Fill out the form. In the **Document Index** section, check the boxes next to the document(s) you'd like to request.
 - 5 Click or tap on the **Create and Send Request** button.
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You can also request your military records in any of these ways:

Mail or fax a Request Pertaining to Military Records (Standard Form SF 180) to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). [Get Form SF 180](https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-sf180/) (<https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-sf180/>)

- Write a letter to the NPRC. Send it to:
1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63138
- Visit the NPRC in person
- Contact your state or county Veterans agency
- Hire an independent researcher

FEBRUARY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Food Distribution	2	3	4 District 20 Joint Meeting 1000
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 VFW Meeting	14	15 VPR Sinking of USS Maine 1898	16	17	18
19	20 Presidents Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 VPR Liberation of Kuwait, OP Desert Storm 1991				

MARCH 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Food Distribution (0745)	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 VFW Meeting	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 VPR Start of Kosovo Campaign 1999	25 District Picnic Camanche Park Pavilion 1 / 1200
26	27	28	29	30	31 VPR - End of OP Restore Hope Somalia 1995	