



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
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## VFW Post 8555 Newsletter/Calendar



# CELEBRATING THE LEGACY

## Fun Facts About 4th of July: America's Birthday

- **The Declaration of Independence was actually approved on July 2nd, 1776.** The Continental Congress voted for independence two days before the famous date, leading John Adams to predict that July 2nd would be celebrated with parades and festivities.
- **Only two people signed the Declaration on July 4th, 1776.** Despite popular belief, most delegates didn't sign until August 2nd, 1776, when the official parchment copy was ready.
- **Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on July 4th, 1826.** Remarkably, both founding fathers passed away on the exact 50th anniversary of the Declaration's adoption, just hours apart.
- **Calvin Coolidge was born on July 4th, 1872.** The 30th President of the United States shares his birthday with the nation, making him the only president born on Independence Day.
- **The Liberty Bell didn't ring on July 4th, 1776.** The famous story of the Liberty Bell ringing to announce independence is a myth—the bell was actually cracked and couldn't ring at that time.
- **Americans purchase over 200 million pounds of fireworks annually for July 4th.** The tradition of fireworks dates back to the first anniversary celebration, inspired by John Adams' vision of "illuminations" marking the holiday.
- **The largest firework display happens in New York City.** Macy's 4th of July Fireworks typically launches over 75,000 shells and attracts more than 3 million spectators along the East River.



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# VFW Post 8555 Spotlight



# Access to Care Outside the VA Is Now Easier: Navigating VA Community Care Referrals

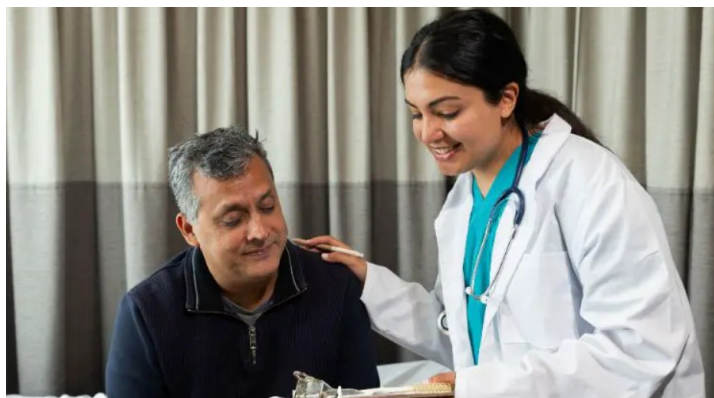
## What Exactly is VA Community Care?

So, what's VA Community Care all about? It's a health program that gives eligible veterans access to medical care from civilian doctors and community providers. This happens when the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) cannot provide the needed care in its own facilities, such as a local VA medical center.

This program grew from earlier efforts, like the VA Choice Act of 2014, which responded to long waits for VA appointments. The MISSION Act in 2019 further expanded access, setting specific standards for when a veteran could choose a community provider. These standards often relate to wait times or drive times to a VA location.

The main idea is to give veterans more options for their VA health care. It's about getting you the right care, at the right time, in the right place, potentially including urgent care or specialized treatments. This system connects veterans with a broader care network.

The VA partners with community providers through a structure known as the Community Care Network (CCN). The CCN is a network of credentialed providers organized by regions across the United States. This network community care approach helps manage and deliver care effectively.



## The Big News: Streamlining Your VA Community Care Referrals

Here's some news that could really change things for many veterans seeking care benefits. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has updated its process for VA community care referrals. This change focuses on getting you to non-VA doctors, part of the broader care network, with fewer hurdles.

A key part of this update is a provision from the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act. This act included this important shift for veteran care. An original report from Military.com highlighted this development.

What's the most significant part of this veterans health initiative? VA administrators can no longer override a VA doctor's referral for you to get outside care. This means if your VA doctor says you need to see a community provider, that decision carries more weight directly; there's no more secondary internal doctor review just for the referral itself.

VA Secretary Doug Collins stated, "Now, we're making it even easier for veterans to get their health care when and where it's most convenient for them." He added, "We are putting veterans first at the department, and that means placing a premium on customer service and convenience. This important change will help us do just that." This enhances the overall VA care experience.

Why does this change matter so much for your VA health? It could mean faster access to the care you need, reducing delays sometimes associated with administrative reviews. Less red tape is often a good thing when accessing health benefits, including mental health services. This simplification places more trust in your VA doctor's initial assessment of your medical care needs.



# June 2025

July 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Food Distribution	5	6 VPR D-Day	7
8 Pentecost	9 VFW Meeting	10	11	12	13	14 Army Birthday Flag Day VPR Flag Day
15 Father's Day	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20	21
22 Carne Guisada Fundraiser	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5 © Calendar-12.com

# July 2025

August 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2 Food Distribution	3	4 Independence Day VPR Independence Day	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 VFW Meeting	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 VPR Korean Armistice Day	28	29	30	31	1	2 © Calendar-12.com