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THE AMERICAN LEGION ONLINE UPDATE

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General defends Gitmo's "misunderstood" mission

Three months ago, Gregory J. Zanetti was a stockbroker and financial adviser in New Mexico. Today, he helps to lead a multi-branch team of 2,200 military personnel at Guantanamo Bay in what he describes as the "most misunderstood assignment in the military."
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"Business leaders shouldn't hire veterans out of gratitude. They should hire veterans because it is smart business."

Marty Conatser,
National Commander,
The American Legion

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Remains of missing soldier found

On Sunday, nearly four years to the day that insurgents captured Staff Sgt. Keith "Matt" Maupin, Army officials told his parents that their missing son died in Iraq.
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American Legion helps homeless vets

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimates that between 150,000 and 200,000 veterans are homeless on any given night. Over the course of a year, about twice as many veterans temporarily
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Summit planned for women veterans

The fourth National Summit on Women Veterans Issues will be June 20-22 in Washington. Sponsored by
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Music video helps fundraising

The "I Remember America" music video is available on DVD from Launching Lyrics, Inc., in Lexington, Ky. The video features country-music singer Michael Peterson, who performs the title song written by the late John Stewart
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EyeMed Vision Care

Vision-care program gets even better

The American Legion's vision-care provider, Cole Managed Vision, has integrated with EyeMed Vision Care to provide you with an even stronger vision-care program. American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members now

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Legion honors Lou Dobbs

A charter member of the 1980 CNN broadcasting team that made "Moneyline" one of the fledgling network's biggest early hits, Lou Dobbs has since become better known as television's most unabashed anchor.
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SGLI/VGLI premiums reduced

Veterans and military personnel with life insurance policies managed by VA will see a reduction in their premiums, thanks to improved investment earnings and a reduction in
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Legion honors Rep.Velázquez

Last week, The American Legion recognized Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez, D-N.Y., for her efforts on behalf of current and past members of READ MORE

"Miracle Baby" breathing easier back home

When he was born March 22, Jackson Kuhn had a problem: he couldn't breathe enough to go on living. "He was breathing little, short breaths," recalls his mother, Rachel. "They tried to put a breathing tube down his throat, but that didn't work, either." So Jackson was put on emergency resuscitation at the hospital in Connersville, Ind. Then a call went out to Riley Children's Hospital at Indianapolis - Jackson desperately needed more help.

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"Benjamin Franklin wanted to be a swim coach."
Spencer Harjung, Rising Sun High School, Elkton, Md.

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Legion backs Petraeus on Iraq

Congress should give Gen. David Petraeus the tools he needs to succeed in Iraq, the head of The American Legion said April 9.
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Support surges for new GI Bill

Support for the U.S. Senate's veterans education bill (S. 22) continues to pick up steam in Congress. Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii ...
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Vets Disability Fairness Act

Not convinced that VA will adequately address regional variances in veterans disability pay, Rep. Zack Space, D-Ohio, recently ...
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Volunteer for H2H online

How would you like to help our returning warriors from the war on terror?The American Legion's "Heroes to Hometowns" program ...
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Comedians help vets at Walter Reed

Public advocate and comedian Steve Novick (right) will host a comedy show in Seattle on April 19 to benefit Operation Ward 57, a fundraising project that helps severely wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. "Laughter is the Best Medicine" will showcase Seattle-based comic talent, performing at the city's Mainstage Comedy and Music Club. If you can't make the show, tune into the live webcast at 8 p.m. PST on Saturday. Club owner Julie Mains says, Seattle's best comedians are ...

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"I've heard from specialists and young sergeants ... that they intend to leave military service to become a contractor."

Army Master Sgt. Michael W. Clauss, "Dragon" Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.
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Yellow Ribbon program needs funding

The president's fiscal year 2009 budget doesn't include funding to help National Guard members and reservists in their transitions from combat to civilian life. The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, authorized in legislation ...
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Rally for new GI Bill set for April 29

Sens. Jim Webb, D-Va., Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., and other members of Congress will attend an event outside the U.S. Capitol that highlights the plight of veterans across America struggling toearn college degrees.
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"Carrier" program airs on PBS

Starting this Sunday, April 27, PBS will air the reality-TV documentary series "Carrier," filmed on the aircraft carrier USS *Nimitz* during its 2005 deployment.
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New housing for homeless vets

VA and Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently announced that $75 million will fund permanent supportive housing foran estimated 10,000 homeless veterans
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Flights of mercy for those in need

Recognizing that many veterans, their families and children can't afford air travel to specialized medical facilities, The American Legion's National Executive Committee adopted the programs of Mercy Medical Airlift (MMA) in 2001.

MMA is the brainchild of Ed Boyer, a private pilot and former Army ordnance officer who works out of Virginia Beach, Va. What began in the early 1970s as Boyer's avocation
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"It is against the law to put the flag on the floors."
Charles Bennett, American Legion Commander, District 4, Maine

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Legion, Guard sign pact in Wisconsin

The Wisconsin American Legion signed a memorandum of understanding on April 22 with the Wisconsin National Guard, formalizing a partnership that is already successful. Since 9/11, the Wisconsin American Legion has established and maintained programs that deliver support to Wisconsin servicemembers and their families.
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