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DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Mtg	SECVA Suite	
8:30 – 9:30 am	HVAC Hearing AAR & Prep for HAC MilConVA Hearing	OBCR	Hearing Binder
10:00 – 10:30 am	ERT Rayburn 2362B ** COS will accompany		
10:30 – 1:00 pm	HAC MilConVA Budget Hearing	Rayburn 2362B	
1:00 – 1:30 pm	ERT VACO		
2:00 – 2:30 pm	Coronavirus Update w/ Dr. Stone	SECVA Suite	
4:00 – 4:30 pm	ERT White House (b)(6)		
4:30 – 5:30 pm	White House Coronavirus Task Force Principals Mtg		
5:30 – 6:00 pm	ERT Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill 400 New Jersey Ave, NW		
6:00 – 8:00 pm	REMARKS: VFW Legislative Reception & Awards Presentation	Hyatt Regency	
8:00 pm	ERT Residence		

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(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 1:46 PM
To: RLW
Cc: (b)(6) Powers, Pamela; Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris); Scott, Traci; Hutton, James; Tallman, Gary
Subject: brief remarks for March 4 VFW reception
Attachments: VFW reception.docx

Sir,

On March 4 you will attend a legislative reception hosted by VFW, and speak to the group for just a few short minutes (2-3).

They are hoping you can speak about the importance of continued Veteran's advocacy. As discussed, attached here are two pages to remind you of some of details of the Bonus Marchers in 1932.

(b)(6) has hard copies of the attached.

Here is a quick rundown of the event... all of them are getting just a few minutes to speak:

- 6:15PM Call to Order and Introduction of CIC
Washington Office Executive Director BJ Lawrence
- 6:17PM Remarks by the VFW Commander-in-Chief
CIC Schmitz
- 6:20PM Speaker — Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie
- 6:23PM Speaker — House Committee on VA Chairman Takano
- 6:26PM Speaker — Senate Committee on VA Chairman Moran
- 6:29PM Commander-in-Chief Schmitz will present the VFW Beyond the Call Citizenship Award
Response – Congressman Lee Zeldin
- 6:34PM Commander-in-Chief Schmitz will present the VFW Lima-Charlie (Loud & Clear) Entertainer
Award
Response – Air Force Technical Sergeant Nalani Quintello
- 6:39PM Commander-in-Chief Schmitz will present the VFW Lima-Charlie (Loud & Clear) Influencer
Award
Response – Kate Manion, Zero Blog Thirty
- 6:44PM Commander-in-Chief Schmitz will present the VFW Congressional Award
Response – Senator Jon Tester
- 6:49PM Closing Remarks

Washington Office Executive Director BJ Lawrence

(b)(6)

Lead Speechwriter

Department of Veterans Affairs

(b)(6)

(office)

(VA cell)

(personal cell)

The CDC has issued a Level 1 Global Travel Watch in response to COVID-19. Please visit the CDC page for more information about this notice and for more information about COVID-19.

Due to the CDC's Level 1 Global Travel Watch, the Department of State has issued a Global Level 2 Health Advisory advising U.S. citizen travelers and those residing abroad to exercise increased caution due to COVID-19.

You are encouraged to visit travel.state.gov to view individual country Travel Advisories for the most urgent threats to safety and security. Please also visit the website of the relevant U.S. embassy or consulate to see information on entry restrictions, foreign quarantine policies, and urgent health information provided by local governments.

Travelers are urged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive Alerts and make it easier to locate you in an emergency. The Department uses these Alerts to convey information about terrorist threats, security incidents, planned demonstrations, natural disasters, etc. In an emergency, please contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate or call the following numbers: 1(888) 407-4747 (toll-free in the United States and Canada) or 1 (202) 501-4444 from other countries.

For further information:

- Consult the CDC website for the most up-to-date information.
- For the most recent information on what you can do to reduce your risk of contracting COVID-19 please see the CDC's latest recommendations.
- Check with your airlines or cruise lines regarding any updated information about your travel plans and/or restrictions.
- Visit our Embassy webpages on COVID-19 for information on conditions in each country.
- Visit the Department of Homeland Security's website on the latest travel restrictions to the U.S.
- Seek medical care right away if you believe you may have COVID-19 (or similar symptoms) or were exposed to someone who may have COVID-19 in the last six weeks.

Approved: CA/OCS: (b)(6) (xx)

Drafted: OCS/ACS/EUR: (b)(6) ext (b)(6) cell (b)(6)

Cleared:

- M: (b)(6) (OK)
- P: (b)(6) (OK)
- D: (b)(6) (OK)
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- M/SS: (b)(6) (OK)
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- CA/Press: (b)(6) (OK)
- CA/VO: (b)(6) (OK)
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- NES-SCA/EX: (b)(6) (OK)
- EUR-IO/EX: (b)(6) (OK)

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DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Thursday, March 5, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Mtg	SECVA Suite	
8:30 – 9:00 am	Travel Restrictions for VA Personnel ** COS, VHA, GC & HRA	SECVA Suite	
10:00 – 11:30 am	Bi-Weekly Mtg w/ US & AS	OBCR	Tab 1
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch	SECVA Suite	
1:30 – 3:00 pm	EHRM Update Briefing ** no read aheads for this meeting / will be discussion only	OBCR	
3:00 – 3:30 pm	ERT White House (b)(6)		
3:30 – 4:30 pm	White House Coronavirus Mtg	WH (b)(6)	Tab 2
4:30 – 5:00 pm	ERT Residence		

4/1/2020 11:34 AM

**Video Script For
Women's History Month
March, 2020**

I'm Robert Wilkie, Secretary of VA.

I'm honored to help celebrate Women's History Month by paying tribute to women Veterans and thanking our VA women Veteran employees.

Women's history and VA history are inextricably linked.

In 1867, Emma Miller was the first woman employee of what would become VHA when she was appointed as matron of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Ohio.

In 1890, the National Homes hired its first teams of women nurses, and two years later, Congress authorized the first Federal benefits for women.

In 1942, Edith Nourse Rogers, the first congresswoman from New England, introduced the bill establishing the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. In 1944, she helped draft

and co-sponsor the first G.I. Bill. Our Medical Center in Bedford, Massachusetts, is named in her honor.

In 1944, flight-nurse Lt. Aleda Lutz – second woman recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross – died over France while transporting 15 wounded soldiers. In her honor, we have the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center in Saginaw, Michigan.

In 1946, Dr. Margaret Craghill – the Army’s first woman doctor – became VA’s first chief medical consultant on women Veterans’ care and helped select VA’s first team of women doctors.

In 1962, neuro-psychiatrist Dr. Valerija Raulinaitis [VAL-er-EE-ah RAWL-eh-NIGH-tis] became VA’s first woman hospital chief of staff, and by 1971 the first woman hospital director.

And in 2015, the US Air Force Academy recognized former VA Under Secretary for Benefits Allison Hickey for achievement with its Character and Leadership

Award. She was among the very first women to attend the Air Force Academy in the Class of 1980.

Today, we continue to make progress by making sure women Veterans are cared for after they serve their country. About 10% of the Veterans we serve are women, and that number will soon increase, as women are now about 20% of our military force.

41% of all women Veterans are enrolled with VA for care, and that number is rising each year.

Our goal at VA is to be the place where women who have proudly served their country receive excellent care in a safe climate where they feel at home.

I'm confident we'll get there, in part because we've put women in key leadership positions here at VA – including Chief of Staff and offices that lead our efforts on modernization, benefit appeals, customer service and accountability. In fact, 60% of the VA workforce are women, and nearly one-third of them are Veterans!

Working together, we can ensure that all those who have borne the battle receive the care and benefits they have earned and deserve.

To all the women who have worn the uniform, and to our VA women Veteran employees—thank you.

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DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

Friday, March 6, 2020

SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

7:45 – 8:15 am	Daily Sync Mtg	SECVA Suite	
9:00 – 9:30 am	(b)(6) & Traci re: Upcoming Speeches	SECVA Suite	
10:00 – 10:30 am	Video Tapings for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (b)(6) Birthday • Women's History Month • Introduction of "Hello Girls" 	Broadcast Center	Tab 1
11:30am – Noon	Dr. Stone re: Catch Up Items ** COS will sit in	SECVA Suite	
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch	SECVA Suite	
2:00 – 2:30 pm	Hotwash: HAC MilConVA Budget Hearing	OBCR	
3:00 – 3:30 pm	(b)(6) re: Artificial Intelligence ** COS & VHA leadership will sit in	SECVA Suite	Tab 2
3:40 – 4:00 pm	ERT White House (b)(6)		
4:00 – 5:00 pm	White House Coronavirus Task Force Principals Mtg		See folder
5:00 pm	ERT Residence		

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**Video Script For
BG Wilma Vaught (Retired) 90th Birthday Event
March 14, 2020**

Good afternoon everyone. I'm Robert Wilkie, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Today, it is my great honor to help pay tribute to one of our Nation's very special Veterans.

I can't think of a better way to celebrate Women's History Month than to celebrate Wilma Vaught's 90th birthday!

Let there be no doubt—Wilma Vaught is a pathfinder and pioneer with a distinguished career spanning 28 years in the Air Force.

She was the first woman to deploy with a Strategic Air Command bombardment wing on an operational deployment. She was the first female Air Force officer to attend the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. And, she was the first woman promoted to Brigadier General in the comptroller career field.

Upon her retirement in 1985, Wilma was one of only seven women generals in the Armed Forces.

Wilma is an iconic leader and one of the most acclaimed women Veterans who have served our Nation since the American Revolution.

Her groundbreaking achievements are on par with:

- **Dr. Mary Edwards Walker**—abolitionist, prohibitionist, prisoner of war and surgeon during the American Civil War—and the only woman to receive the Medal of Honor.
- The **Hello Girls**, some of our Nation’s first women Soldiers, who performed so well as communicators deployed during World War I.
- The **“Six Triple Eight,”** the only all African American WAC unit deployed to Europe in WWII, famed for their efficiency and excellence in getting fellow Servicemembers their mail.

Her perseverance and achievements paved the way for other great leaders such as BG Anna Mae Hays, our country’s first female general, GEN Ann Dunwoody,

America's first female four-star officer, and GEN Laura Robinson, our first female combatant commander.

Wilma, thank you for your service in uniform. Thanks also for your unwavering devotion to Veterans and Servicemembers in the years after your service.

What you accomplished by spearheading the efforts that led to the amazing Women in Service to America Memorial (WIMSA) and Foundation will forever allow Americans of all generations to admire the incredible achievements of women Veterans and to understand that courage, patriotism, excellence, and sacrifice are not exclusive to gender.

It is fitting that your many friends and admirers honor you at this very special place on this very special day. Wilma, God bless you and your family, and God bless all our nation's Veterans.

Happy Birthday, and best wishes on behalf of all America's Veterans!

**Video Script for
HELLO GIRLS movie
March, 2020**

I'm Robert Wilkie, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

You're about to watch a documentary that traces the amazing story of the first female soldiers who served during World War I.

The 'Hello Girls' were 223 extraordinary women who served as telephone operators during the war.

In 1917, the telephone was a new technology that could offer commanders an advantage on the battlefield in France.

General John "Black Jack" Pershing needed skilled telephone operators who understood this new technology. When the men weren't quick

enough, he enlisted the Hello Girls, against the wishes of the Army.

Thousands of women would apply for the job – bilingual, smart tech whizzes united in the cause of saving France.

But the 223 ‘Hello Girls’ were more than switchboard operators – they were pioneers who opened the door for generations of women, even though it would be decades before America recognized their service.

Today, women continue to break down barriers in the service of America, and they don’t have to fight for status, inclusion or services at VA.

During Women’s History Month and every month, we’re working to provide a full range of services for our women Veterans, and the numbers show we are succeeding. Women are the fastest

growing population we serve at VA, and we expect 20 percent of our patients will be women in just a few short years.

And women continue to enroll in and use VA at record levels. In the last fiscal year, 41 percent of all women Veterans were enrolled in VA, and we expect that number to keep climbing.

That says a lot about the quality of our care and our expanded ability to care for women Veterans.

The documentary you're about to watch highlights the trailblazers who set in motion all of these changes. I hope you're as moved by their history as I am.

To all the women Veterans who served, who endured, and are still serving this great nation in uniform, thank you.

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