



(March 17, 2016)

In order to further improve the lines of communication and to respond to the concerns between the National VA Council and you our members, I have established a National VA Council Briefing. This NVAC Briefing will bring you the latest news and developments within DVA and provide you with the current status of issues this Council is currently addressing. I believe that this NVAC Briefing will greatly enhance the way in which we communicate and the way in which we share new information, keeping you better informed.

Alma L. Lee
National VA Council, President

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**In This Briefing: Office of Diversity and Inclusion- NewsLink: March 16, 2016**  
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NewsLink

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Web Highlight:
[National Women's History Month: 2016 Theme and 2016 Honorees](#)

Have you heard about Diversity News? See it [online](#).

Presidential Proclamation—Women's History Month, 2016. During Women's History Month, we remember the trailblazers of the past, including the women who are not recorded in our history books, and we honor their legacies by carrying forward the valuable lessons learned from the powerful examples they set.

Facts for Features: Women's History Month. The roots of National Women's History Month go back to March 8, 1857, when women from New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions.

Women Veterans Honored at the Capitol. Women Veterans gathered in Statutory Hall at the U.S. Capitol to be honored for their service by some of the most influential women in Washington.

US Women Make Strides Toward Equality, But Work Remains. Despite a more than 100-year history for International Women's Day, discrimination against women and girls continues worldwide in the form of gender-based violence and discrimination.

Presidential Proclamation—Irish-American Heritage Month, 2016. As we celebrate Irish-American Heritage Month, we recognize the Irish people's contributions to our country's dynamism, and we reaffirm the friendship and family ties between our two nations.

Facts for Features: Irish-American Heritage Month and St. Patrick's Day. Congress proclaimed March as Irish-American Heritage Month in 1991, and the President issues a proclamation commemorating the occasion each year.

VA Caribbean Healthcare System Lauded for Medical Education. The Department of Veterans Affairs' Caribbean Healthcare System was awarded the prestigious Accreditation Council for Graduate Education and Gold Foundation's DeWitt C. Baldwin, Jr. Award.

EEOC Announces 2016 Federal Training Courses. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Federal Operations, announced the issuance of the 2016 Federal Training Course Calendar, which includes two new courses: Special Emphasis Program Manager and Unlawful Harassment: An Agency Responsibility.

EEOC Proposes Regulations Describing Federal Government's Obligation to Engage in Affirmative Action for People with Disabilities. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking describing specific actions that federal agencies must take to comply with their obligation to engage in affirmative action in employment for individuals with disabilities.

EEOC Issues New Fact Sheet for Small Businesses. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued a new simplified, one-page fact sheet designed to help small business owners better understand their responsibilities under the federal employment anti-discrimination laws.



Do you know about ODI's Diversity@Work Newsletter? Check out the latest [issue](#).



For even more resources, visit our [Web site](#).



NewsLink is part of VA's ongoing effort to increase awareness and acceptance of diversity and to promote a flexible and inclusive work environment. For more information, please visit the Office of Diversity and Inclusion Web site at <http://www.diversity.va.gov>. To subscribe to NewsLink, please visit <http://www.diversity.va.gov/products/newslink.aspx>. To unsubscribe, please reply to this e-mail.

