



Salon

Benefits of membership

FREE Read Salon *now*

 CLICK AND WATCH A BRIEF AD
TO READ ALL SALON STORIES

SPONSOR ▶

**SALON
PREMIUM**

Help

powered by

YAHOO! SEARCH

Salon

The Web

A&E Books Comics Community Life News & Politics Opinion Sports Tech & Business Letters

 Current
News
&
Politics

- Controversial

- Bush

- judge

- broke

- ethics

- law

- A

- Salon/

- CIR

- investigation

- reveals

- that

- Terrence

- Boyle,

- a

- key

- circuit

- court

- nominee

- touted

- by

- the

- White

- House

- and

- Senate

- Majority

- Leader

- Bill

- Frist,

- ruled

- in

- multiple

- cases

- involving

- corporations

- in

- which

- he

- held

- investments.

- By

- Will

Stiffing veterans

The underfunded V.A. is being overwhelmed by injured soldiers -- and the administration that sent them to war won't pay to take care of them.

By **Judith Coburn**

Print Email Font: S / S+ / S++

Much has been written about how President Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld waged war on the cheap, sending too few ill-equipped young soldiers -- 30 percent of them ill-trained Reservists and National Guardsmen -- into battle. But little has been reported about how shockingly on-the-cheap the homecomings of these soldiers have proved to be. The Bush administration awarded Blake Miller a medal, but it has fought for three long years to deny soldiers like him the care they need. While Miller and his men were being thrown into the fire in Falluja, the White House was proposing to cut the combat pay of soldiers like them. (Only an outburst of outrage across the political spectrum caused the administration to back off from that suggestion.)

The Veterans Administration, now run by a former Republican National Committeeman, has been subjected to the same radical hatcheting that the White House has tried to wield against the rest of America's safety net. Cutbacks, cooking the books, privatization schemes, even a proposal to close down the VA's operations have all been in evidence. The administration's inside-the-beltway supporters like the Heritage Foundation and famed anti-tax radical Grover Norquist like to equate VA care with welfare. Traditionally, however, most Americans have held that the VA's medical care and disability compensation was earned by those who served their country.

Unfortunately, in our draft-free country, the fight to protect the Veteran's Administration and to fully fund it has gone on largely out of public sight. Other than the Washington Post and the Associated Press, relatively few journalistic organizations have bothered to regularly cover the VA. The fight over it that White House hatchetmen, VA political appointees, and their allies in Congress have had with Congressional critics (Democratic and Republican) along with veterans' organizations has been monitored closely only by veterans' websites like [Larry Scott's VAWatchdog.org](http://LarryScott'sVAWatchdog.org), veteransforcommonsense.org and military.com.

While national deficits soar, thanks in part to skyrocketing war costs, veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan are flooding into the increasingly underfunded VA system.

Click on the sponsor logo

Evans

• **Stiffing veterans**

The underfunded V. A. is being overwhelmed by injured soldiers -- and the administration that sent them to war won't pay to take care of them. By Judith Coburn

• **First officer is charged in Abu Ghraib scandal**

Former interrogation director Lt. Col. Steven Jordan reacted to ongoing abuse by building a plywood wall to hide it, according to documents



to read this article and all of Salon for **free**

Absolutely no registration or membership required for a FREE Site Pass. Now you can read this and all of Salon.com.

- Premium members: [Log in](#)
- Not a member? [Join Salon](#) today!



Print Email

• **POST A LETTER ABOUT THIS ARTICLE**

• **Read all letters on this article (8)**

• **What bloggers are saying about this article**

obtained
by
Salon.
By
Mark
Benjamin

- **No
oil
for
blood**

Tired
of
waiting
for
the
world
to
act
in
Darfur,
activists
have
spurred
a
growing
divestment
movement
aimed
at
foreign
companies
that
do
business
with
Sudan.
By
Katharine
Mieszkowski

Table
Talk

**Understanding
the
mind
of
the
American
South.**

**How
will
baseball
season
shape
up?**

Daily
Delivery
Salon

headlines
in
your
mailbox

HTML

Text

Site
Pass
sponsored
by



[Support independent media](#)

Join Salon Premium today

<https://sub.salon.com/registration/>

Salon Media Group, Inc
101 Spear Street, Suite 203
San Francisco, CA 94105
Telephone 415 645-9200
Fax 415 645-9204

[Salon](#) | [About Salon](#) | [Contact & Help](#) | [Advertise in Salon](#) | [Premium log in](#) | [Salon Personals](#)

[Arts & Entertainment](#) | [Books](#) | [Comics](#) | [Community: Table Talk & The Well](#) | [Corrections](#) | [Life](#) | [News & Politics](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Sports](#) | [Tech & Business](#) | [Letters](#)

[Investor Relations](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#)

Copyright ©2006 Salon Media Group, Inc. Reproduction of material from any Salon pages without written permission is strictly prohibited. SALON is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as a trademark of Salon Media Group Inc.