December 3, 2018

VETERANS
MONTHLY INFORMATION PACKAGE

FLAGLER COUNTY

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Feel free to make copies and distribute throughout your organization.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 1, 2018

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie
Statement on the Passing of President George H. W. Bush

“All of America’s veterans are saddened by the passing of President George H. W. Bush. His courage in combat was special even during the war in the Pacific, where our forces demonstrated some of the highest levels of valor and heroism in our history. When holding the highest offices in our country, he never forgot those who wore the uniform. The Department of Veterans Affairs sends its thoughts and prayers to the Bush family in remembrance of this extraordinary American.”
Statement by Secretary Robert Wilkie on Forever GI Bill Housing Benefit Payments

To clear up any confusion, I want to make clear that each and every post-9/11 GI Bill beneficiary will be made 100 percent whole – retroactively if need be – for their housing benefits for this academic year based on Forever GI Bill rates, not on post-9/11 GI Bill rates.

I made this clear to Chairmen Isakson and Roe on calls Tuesday and want to reassure Veterans and taxpayers that is indeed the case.

Although VA has encountered issues with implementing the Forever GI Bill on Congress’ timeline, we will work with lawmakers to ensure that – once VA is in a position to process education claims in accordance with the new law – each and every beneficiary will receive retroactively the exact benefits to which they are entitled under that law.

###
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 30, 2018

VA announces fully capable Tele-counseling service within its Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program

WASHINGTON — Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program (VR&E) announced the ability for Veterans nationwide to meet with more than 1,000 Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors (VRC) via “Tele-counseling,” or virtual communication.

Tele-counseling, which is accessible on any device with a webcam and microphone, increases VA’s responsiveness to Veterans’ needs, reduces travel costs and time for both Veterans and VRCs, and improves Veterans’ access to necessary VR&E services.

“We strive to provide Veterans with access to personalized, interactive face-to-face care and services regardless of where they live,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “VR&E’s Tele-counseling service is another example of how VA continually modernizes in support of Veterans’ needs.”

Tele-counseling allows Veterans to meet with VRCs virtually through VA Video Connect without having to download specialized software or obtain unique usernames and passwords. Access to a scheduled counseling session is obtained through a unique link sent directly to the Veteran and is valid for that counseling session only.

Veterans participating in most VR&E rehabilitation plans of service may use Tele-counseling and are encouraged to speak with their VRCs about it. Participation is voluntary and not required.

VR&E’s updated Tele-counseling application was developed through a partnership with Veterans Health Administration’s (VHA) VA Telehealth Services. VR&E recently tested the ability to use Tele-counseling during initial evaluation appointments at six regional benefits offices. This test was conducted to identify how using Tele-counseling can reduce time Veterans wait for an appointment. Best practices were identified and incorporated into the rollout of the updated Tele-counseling application.

Since 2014, over 56,000 Veterans have either completed a rehabilitation plan, are employed, or have achieved a greater independence in living through VR&E assistance. The VR&E Program currently has more than 122,000 participants. For more information about VR&E, visit https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocarehab/.

###
 Lease was awarded on September 6, 2018 to Construction Manager, Inc of Goldsboro CMI was formed in 2007 with a focus on high-end design-build construction projects. CMI is proud to be a veteran owned and operated small business in eastern North Carolina. They have been awarded 11 VA leases, 10 VA-CBOC's and 1 Mental Health Clinic.

**Project Scope**

- The project includes the property acquisition, design, development, construction, and property operation management of the CBOC.
- The design for the clinic will be based upon the VA's PACT Team model.
- **Description:** A one story building of which the VA will be the sole occupant.
- **Net Usable Square Footage:** 16,595
- **Parking Spaces:** 136
- **Lease Term:** 20 years

**Services Provided**

- Primary Care
- Mental Health
- Podiatry
- Dietician
- Lab Services
- Home Based Primary Care
- Physical Therapy

**Estimated Schedule**

- **Shovel in Dirt:** Projected June 2019
- **Competition:** Estimated June 2020

St. Augustine CBOC 904-829-0814
Veteran Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255
Site Location

Southwest Corner of Deerfield Preserve and CR 207
ORLANDO – The former VA Community Living Center on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Campus at Lake Baldwin in Orange County is being converted to a 114-bed state veterans’ home. The Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs accepted title of the facility in August 2018 and is preparing a nine-month refurbishment to prepare the facility for residents.

The building, dedicated in 1999, was converted to clinical and office use by the VA approximately six years ago, when a newer community living center was opened at the VA’s new Lake Nona campus.

“No timeline has been set for reopening the Lake Baldwin facility to local area veterans, as inspections, federal and state budgeting and upcoming renovations must be considered,” said Steve Murray, spokesperson for the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs. “The new home will eventually be renamed for an eligible Florida Medal of Honor recipient, as with other facilities in our network of state veterans’ homes.”

Information on hiring of staff and admission of residents will be released in the months leading to the opening.
In This Issue:
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1. Blue Water Navy Bill Continues to be Stalled in the Senate: In July, the House unanimously passed H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018, to end the injustice of denying Vietnam, Korean DMZ, and Thailand veterans who suffer from life-threatening health conditions related to exposure to Agent Orange the care and benefits they deserve. This important bill continues to be stalled in the Senate and the VFW needs your help to make sure this bill is passed before the end of the year. Contact your senators to demand that the Senate passes H.R. 299. Contact your senators by email or call (202) 224-3121 and ask to be transferred to your senators’ offices.

2. VA Responsibility for Making Student Veterans Whole: The VA released a statement this week regarding the implementation of Forever GI Bill changes that were supposed to have been enacted this past August. VA Secretary Robert Wilkie has now directed the Veterans Benefits Administration to cease attempting to implement the changes and instead reset the entire effort in order to get the job done correctly. The reset begins this Saturday, with the full implementation date now shifting to December 2019. VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence said “The VFW was disappointed to learn about the 12-month delay in implementing this amazing benefit, but we recognize why hitting the reset button was necessary in order for the VA to get this right.” The Forever GI Bill changed student housing allowances to reflect the ZIP codes where students attend the majority of their classes. This change was required to go into effect on Aug. 1, 2018, but the VA admits that its antiquated computer system was unable to simultaneously handle individual ZIP code changes and the influx of students registering for the fall semester. “Shifting the implementation deadline a year isn’t a free pass for the VA to arbitrarily pay student veterans less than they are due simply because it was unable to correct internal problems in time,” said Lawrence in a press release. “I appreciated hearing the VBA undersecretary in testimony address the need to make student veterans whole, and I pledge that the VFW will continue to push for the proper implementation of the Forever GI Bill so that all student veterans receive the prompt and full benefits they earned and deserve.”

3. VFW Testifies on How VA Implements New Policy Initiatives: On Thursday, the House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing to
evaluate VA’s ability to develop and implement new policies to improve how it administers veterans benefits and processes claims. VA Under Secretary for Benefits Dr. Paul R. Lawrence testified that VA has dramatically transformed and modernized its claims processing in the past several years. Subcommittee members expressed concerns with IT delays and deficiencies which impede VA’s ability to properly administer benefits, including the recent IT challenges which impacted the implementation of the Forever GI Bill. VFW National Veterans Service Deputy Director Michael Figlioli acknowledged that VA is slowly heading in the right direction, but veterans and their family members cannot fully benefit from new policies if VA fails to ensure changes are implemented accurately and consistently at all VA Regional Offices and affected business lines. VA cannot sacrifice quality for speed or rush to develop imperfect platforms such as the National Work Queue. Read VFW’s Testimony. Watch the hearing.

4. US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs: Representing the interests of the veterans’ community, VFW Washington Office Executive Director Bob Wallace attended the 22nd meeting of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs here in Washington, D.C., this week. It was his second consecutive appearance, having traveled to Moscow to attend last year’s conference. The Joint Commission was established in 1992 by Presidents George H.W. Bush and Boris Yeltsin as a forum through which both nations seek to determine the fates of their missing service personnel. Since then, U.S. analysts have had access to many important Russian governmental archives for research on past conflicts ranging from the Korean and Vietnam Wars to the Cold War, as well as World War II losses during lend-lease operations. With international tensions high due to Russia’s four-year involvement in the Ukraine, it is hoped that the humanitarian aspect of the Joint Commission will be able to keep some diplomatic doors open between our two countries. Leading the U.S. side of the commission is retired Air Force Gen. Robert H. “Doc” Foglesong, a member of VFW Post 4725 in Red Lodge, Mont. Learn more.

5. Generational Health Effects of Serving in the Gulf War: This week, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine published a new report entitled *Gulf War and Health, Volume 11: Generational Health Effects of Serving in the Gulf War*. The report is a review of more than 4,000 scientific studies on how toxins that Gulf War veterans, including post-9/11 veterans, have been exposed to impact their reproductive health and the health of their descendants. The report found that several toxins and diseases prevalent in Iraq and Afghanistan have reproductive effects on exposed veterans and birth defects in their children. The report also makes suggestions on how to improve research and health care. Read a summary of the report or the full report.

6. VA Researchers Named TIME Magazine’s 50 Most Influential People: Two scientists conducting research with VA, Dr. Ann McKee and Dr. Tony Wyss-Coray, were named to TIME Magazine’s list of the 50 most influential people in health care. McKee works at the VA Boston Healthcare System as chief of neuropathology and is the director of VA’s brain bank. Her research is focused on identifying and understanding chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) — a degenerative condition caused by repeated brain injuries. Wyss-Coray works in Palo Alto, Calif., as a senior research scientist and associate director of the Center for Tissue Regeneration, Repair and Restoration. He is also a professor of neurology and neurological sciences at Stanford University. His research focuses on the effects of aging and immune responses on the brain and the role of Alzheimer’s in brain degeneration and memory loss. Learn more about VA Research.
7. MIA Update: This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced 13 new identifications. Returning home with full military honors are:

-- **Army Cpl. DeMaret M. Kirtley** was a member of Battery A, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division. In late November 1950, his unit was assembled with South Korean soldiers in the 31st Regimental Combat Team on the east side of the Chosin River, North Korea, when his unit was attacked by Chinese forces. Kirtley was reported missing in action on Dec. 6, 1950, when he could not be accounted for after the withdrawal. Interment services are pending. Read about Kirtley.

-- **Marine Corps Sgt. Meredith F. Keirn** was a light machine gun section leader for Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. In late November 1950, he was reported to have been killed while defending a hill overlooking the Toktong Pass, a critical main supply route between the villages of Hagaru-ri and Yudam-ni, North Korea. His remains were reportedly buried at the base of “Fox Hill,” in the Toktong Pass, but they could not be recovered following the war. Interment services are pending. Read about Keirn.

-- **Marine Corps Reserve Sgt. Johnson McAfee** was a member of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force. In late November 1950, his unit was engaged in heavy fighting against units of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces in North Korea. McAfee was reported to have been killed in action in the vicinity of the Chosin Reservoir. His remains were buried at the base of “Fox Hill,” in the Toktong Pass, but they could not be recovered following the war. Interment services are pending. Read about McAfee.

-- **Army Pvt. Floyd A. Fulmer** was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 110th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division. On Nov. 14, 1944, he was reported as missing in action after fierce combat in the Raffelsbrand sector of the Hürtgen Forest, near the village of Simonskall, in Germany. On Nov. 15, 1945, the War Department declared him deceased. Interment services are pending. Read about Fulmer.

-- **Army Pvt. Harry W. Wilder** was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 110th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division. On Nov. 25, 1944, his company was deployed as direct fire support for American infantrymen attacking the town of Grosshau. Two tank destroyers and six tanks, including the M10 tank destroyer Akers was on, were destroyed in the fighting. He was killed during the battle, though his status was initially listed as missing in action. On Dec. 21, 1944, his status was amended to killed in action. Interment services are pending. Read about Wilder.

-- **Army Cpl. Joseph Akers** was a member of Company C, 803rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, participating in intense fighting in the Hürtgen Forest. On Nov. 14, 1944, he was reported as missing in action after fierce combat in the Raffelsbrand sector of the Hürtgen Forest, near the village of Simonskall, in Germany. On Nov. 15, 1945, the War Department declared him deceased. Interment services are pending. Read about Akers.

-- **Army Air Forces Capt. Lawrence E. Dickson** was a pilot with the 100th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group, in the European Theater. On Dec. 23, 1944, Dickson departed Ramitelli Air Base, Italy on an aerial reconnaissance mission and sustained an engine failure during his return flight. According to witnesses, Dickson’s plane had rolled over with the canopy jettisoned. He was not observed ejecting from the plane. Dickson’s remains were not recovered and he was subsequently declared missing in action. Interment services are pending. Read about Dickson.

-- **Navy Electrician’s Mate 3rd Class Charles H. Harris** was stationed aboard the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by
Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Harris. Interment services are pending. Read about Harris.

-- Navy Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Marvin B. Adkins was stationed aboard the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Adkins. Interment services are pending. Read about Adkins.

-- Marine Corps 2nd Lt. Harry H. Gaver, Jr. was stationed aboard the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Gaver. Interment services are pending. Read about Gaver.

-- Navy Seaman 1st Class Walter C. Foley was stationed aboard the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Foley. Interment services are pending. Read about Foley.

-- Navy Fireman 3rd Class Willard I. Lawson was stationed aboard the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Lawson. Interment services are pending. Read about Lawson.

-- Navy Seaman 1st Class Kenneth H. Sampson was stationed aboard the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Sampson. Interment services are pending. Read about Sampson.


As always, we want to hear your advocacy stories. To share your stories or photos with us, simply email them directly to vfwac@vfw.org.
U.S. Army veteran overcomes deployment and helps new student veterans adjust to college life

Standing in front of fellow veterans, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University graduate student Amanda Meurer gives these first-year students study tips and other skills on being successful.

By her side is Mako, a golden retriever service dog who helps the U.S. Army veteran with anxiety and her diagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder. Mako has been with Meurer since this summer through the K9s For Warriors program. He is able to sense when she’s anxious and signals her to pet him which soothes her anxiety. Mako is also trained to help her with mobility.

“In the military when you have a friend with you it is called a battle buddy. Now, I have a battle buddy that just happens to be a dog,” she said.

Meurer, seeking her Master’s degree in Human Security & Resilience with Embry-Riddle’s Worldwide Campus, spent eight months in a military camp in Iraq that faced mortar and rocket attacks. She was a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 8th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment nicknamed the “Flying Tigers.” In addition to PTSD, she suffered shoulder and back injuries maintaining ground vehicles and was placed on medical retirement and honorably discharged.

Today, as a peer mentor, she teaches new student veterans UNIV 101, which is everything from how to plan class schedules for their Academic Study Plan to what services are available on campus and in the community. She received a
bachelor’s degree in May in Homeland Security and has also worked at the Veteran Student Services office helping veterans adjust to college life.

“When you are in the veteran community, you are part of a different brother and sisterhood. It’s nice to have people you can be yourself around,” Meurer said. “I want to be able to help student veterans and hopefully they will be able to help someone else one day.”

It took Meurer a couple of months to come out of her shell when she transferred to Embry-Riddle in 2015 from a community college in Kentucky, following a little over five years in the Army. But once she did, she found her place in leadership positions, including helping to reestablish the Student Veterans Organization and serving on organizations, including the Homeland Security Student Association, the Order of the Sword and Shield security studies honor society, Omicron Delta Kappa’s leadership honor society and Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority.

“She can relate to what student veterans are going through in their transition from the military to college life,” said Dawn McGowan, UNIV 101 instructor for the veterans course and former director of Veteran Student Services. “She is a great communicator and motivates students to be successful.”

Meurer ultimately hopes to work for a government law enforcement or intelligence agency as a way of continuing to give back. She’s passionate about wanting to end the opioid crisis, which has impacted her hometown in Kentucky.

“I may not be wearing the uniform, but I’ll be able to serve through the civil sector,” she said.
Research shows how service dogs can help veterans with PTSD

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — For veterans struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder, service dogs might be able to offer both behavioral and physiological benefits to help counter some of those symptoms, according to research that is being led by the Purdue College of Veterinary Medicine.

Maggie O’Haire, assistant professor of human-animal interaction in the College of Veterinary Medicine, is at the forefront of the research that is taking a closer look at how service dogs help veterans with PTSD. The latest findings have indicated that veterans may benefit physiologically from having a service dog — the first published research to use a physiological marker to show the effects of service dogs.

“I think a lot of veterans are struggling and they are looking for treatment options anywhere they can find them,” O’Haire says. “There is a lot of hope around this practice and veterans deserve to know if it works.”

A preliminary study that took place in 2015-16 showed that overall symptoms of PTSD were lower among war veterans with service dogs. The pilot study was co-funded by the Human Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI) and Bayer Animal Health. The study examined 141 veterans — with 76 of them having a service dog and 66 being on a waiting list for a dog.

O’Haire led that study with the help of K9s For Warriors an accredited nonprofit organization that provides veterans with service dogs. The pilot research project provided scientific evidence of mental health benefits experienced by veterans with PTSD who have service dogs. The findings during that study also went beyond behavioral benefits and assessed cortisol levels because it is a biomarker in the stress response system, O’Haire says. For veterans with service dogs, their cortisol levels were higher in the morning than those who were on the waiting list. People without PTSD typically have high cortisol levels in the morning as part of their response to waking up. O’Haire’s research has also revealed that for veterans, having a service dog was also associated with less anger, less anxiety and better sleep.

Another phase of that study funded by Merrick Pet Care and Newman’s Own Foundation examined the dogs themselves and how they are incorporated into the treatment of veterans. That data is currently being analyzed.

A large-scale National Institutes of Health clinical trial has been ongoing for about a year and has two years to go, according to O’Haire. Researchers are studying veterans with and without service dogs over an extended period of time. O’Haire hopes the longitudinal nature of this clinical trial will reveal a better understanding of physiological and behavioral processes, PTSD symptoms, and service dogs in general.

Writer: Abbey Nickel, 765-496-1325, nickela@purdue.edu
Source: Maggie O’Haire, 765-494-7472, mohaire@purdue.edu

A video is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42Tlb5dTU_M
Save the Date

V4V
Vets 4 Vets

Saturday, January 5th, 2019

Veterans Memorial Arena
300 A Phillip Randolph Blvd
Jacksonville, FL 32202

1030 – 1100
Coffee, Networking and Exhibitors

1100 – 1200
Speakers

1200 – 1300
Free Lunch, Networking and Exhibitors

Listen, Learn, and
Let your Voice be Heard

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER!!
Ellicott City woman who formerly headed veterans charity convicted of tax evasion, wire fraud

The longtime president of a veterans charity was convicted Thursday by a federal jury in Washington, D.C., of spending money meant for the charity on jewelry, shopping and other personal expenses.

Patricia Driscoll, 40, of Ellicott City, was found guilty of two counts each of wire fraud and tax evasion, and one count of first-degree fraud, U.S. Attorney Jessie K. Liu announced.

Driscoll is scheduled to be sentenced in March and faces decades in prison.

Her defense attorney decried the verdict, insisting his client broke no laws.

“The jury did not get it right — Patricia Driscoll is innocent,” attorney Brian W. Stolarz said in a statement. “We are very disappointed by the verdict and the government’s misconduct in this case. We will appeal. This is not the final chapter to this story.”

Driscoll resigned her position at the helm of the Armed Forces Foundation in July 2015 after 12 years of service amid a scandal involving what the nonprofit alleged was Driscoll’s misuse of funds.
The charity was established in 2001 to promote veterans’ emotional and physical health through outdoor activities and small grants to help needy military families pay bills. On its 2015 federal tax filing, it disclosed that it had found evidence that Driscoll had misspent more than $900,000 for personal purposes, starting in 2006.

The foundation reported about $44 million in revenue during those years, according to public tax records.

Driscoll was indicted in September 2016 on eight felony counts, but three of those charges were dismissed before the trial concluded, court records show.

Prosecutors accused Driscoll of falsifying donors and donations, failing to disclose fundraising commissions she paid herself and using foundation money for personal purposes — including shopping trips, legal fees and covering bills for her private defense-contracting business.

Some of the suspect spending included a trip to a jewelry store, a grocery, a dermatologist and more than $65,000 in legal fees related to her accusations of domestic violence against her ex-boyfriend, NASCAR driver Kurt Busch, in 2014, according to court records.

Shortly after Driscoll was indicted, the Armed Forces Foundation announced it was suspending operations and planned to shut down.

The nonprofit was co-founded by former California Rep. Duncan L. Hunter, who helped recruit Driscoll to run day-to-day operations.

Hunter was succeeded in the House by his son, Rep. Duncan D. Hunter, who promoted the organization and attended charity events after he was elected to Congress in 2008.

The elder Hunter served as an unpaid member of the nonprofit board as his career in public office wound down, at one point serving as chairman. He left the foundation in 2012.

In an unrelated criminal proceeding, the younger Hunter and his wife and former campaign manager, Margaret, were indicted in August on 60 counts of felony crimes stemming from their alleged personal use of more than $250,000 from the coffers of Hunter’s political campaign.
Both Duncan and Margaret Hunter have pleaded not guilty to all charges. Duncan Hunter was re-elected to a sixth term earlier this month and faces trial next year.

Neither the former or current congressman responded to requests for comment.

Driscoll was the subject of sometimes-colorful news articles in 2014, when she got into the bitter dispute with Busch, the champion race car driver known as “The Outlaw.”

The two met in 2010 and began dating. Driscoll recruited Busch and the NASCAR organization to help the Armed Forces Foundation’s cause. Working together, they raised money to assist military families and brought veterans to races to boost their morale.

The couple broke up in 2014, and Driscoll accused Busch of domestic violence. She alleged he smashed her head against the wall of a motor home at Delaware’s Dover International Speedway in September 2014. She sought a temporary restraining order that led to a court hearing.

At the hearing, Busch testified under oath that he believed Driscoll was a paid assassin. He said he once saw Driscoll go out for the evening dressed in camouflage and boots and return hours later wearing a trench coat over an evening gown spattered with blood and “other matter,” according to reports.

Driscoll later said some of the stories Busch told on the stand seemed to come from a movie script she had been writing.

NASCAR suspended Busch in early 2015 amid the allegations and later reinstated him when prosecutors decided there was not enough evidence to charge him with a crime.

The Armed Forces Foundation’s relationship with NASCAR drew the attention of an investigative reporter for Kickin’ the Tires, a website that covers stock car racing. The news site obtained foundation records that raised questions about Driscoll’s handling of the funds and published its findings in a news article in 2016.
Federal investigators later found evidence that Driscoll misused foundation assets and tried to cover up the misspending. She also made false statements to donors about how their money would be used, investigators said.

For example, prosecutors alleged Driscoll told donors that 95 percent of their contributions would go to help military families and veterans. They said she made the claim knowing that only a fraction of the money would be used for that purpose.

“Driscoll also falsely categorized and caused others to falsely categorize expenses in the Armed Forces Foundation’s books and records as being for the benefit of the veterans, troops and their families, when, in fact, they were for her own private benefit,” the U.S. Attorney’s Office said in its statement Thursday.

At the same time Driscoll was spending the money meant for the charity, the foundation reported that it provided financial help to between as many as 220 military families each year, the foundation website reported.