



ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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Nation mourns the loss of literary legend and civil-rights icon Maya Angelou, 86

Maya Angelou, a true Renaissance woman who overcame a brutal childhood to become a modern literary force, is being remembered as a uniquely American voice of hope and reconciliation.

"She was a poet witness of great purpose. ... She brought forgiveness without forgetting to her pages," Arizona Poet Laureate Alberto Ríos said. "Her work was not tutored. It was not a work of great university crafting, but was work

that came from the heart, and not an invented heart, but a lived life."

Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" is a literary staple, and she also wrote and recited the most popular presidential inaugural poem in history. She died Wednesday at 86.

USA TODAY Full story on B1



Maya Angelou, a high-school dropout, went on to become one of her generation's most honored writers and a leader in human rights. GETTY IMAGES

SCANDAL AT THE VA

Wait-time logs altered, VA investigation finds

Inspector general confirms allegations by whistle-blowers at Phoenix hospital, increasing calls for Shinseki's ouster.

Dennis Wagner
The Republic • azcentral.com

The Department of Veterans Affairs inspector general on Wednesday confirmed whistle-blower allegations that the Phoenix VA Health Care System violated patient scheduling policies to conceal delays in medical care.

However, investigators said that it will take more analysis to determine whether any veteran deaths resulted directly from falsified records and prolonged waits.

Late Wednesday, angry lawmakers on the U.S. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs blasted three senior VA officials during a hearing, accusing the agency of stonewalling and showing indifference to the suffering of veterans.

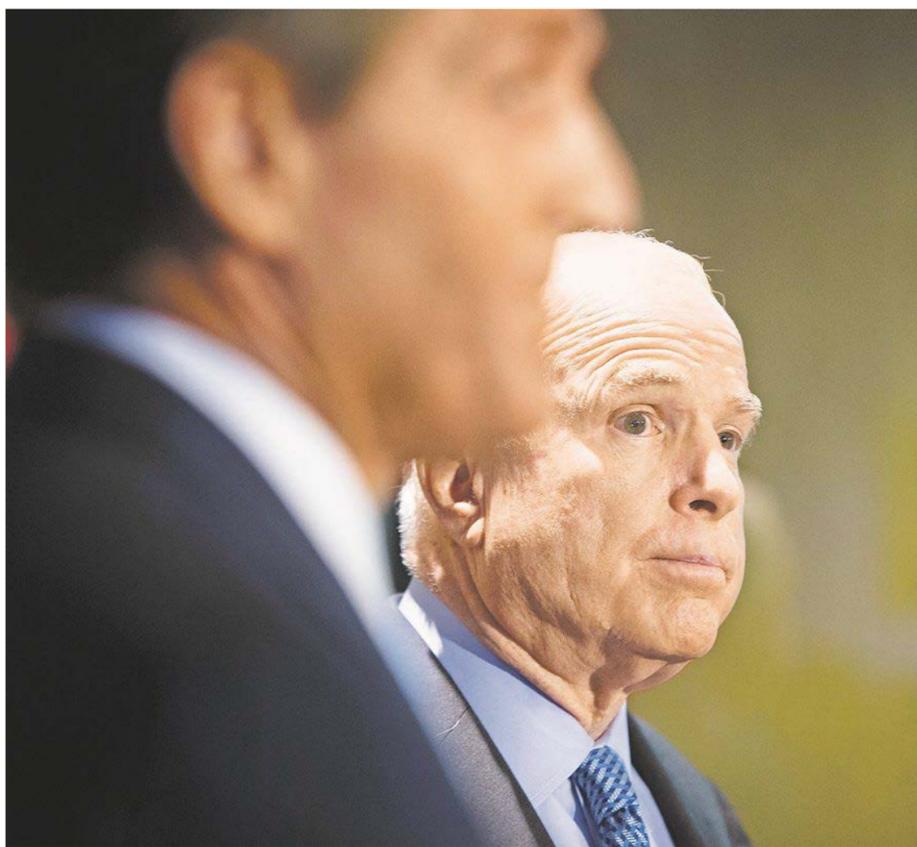
The day's events renewed a chorus of calls for the resignation or firing of VA Secretary Eric Shinseki, though there was no indication late Wednesday how the White House will respond.

The Office of Inspector General found that while Phoenix was reporting wait times of just 24 days, the actual delay in appointments averaged nearly four months. It also found that 1,700 veterans had signed up for initial appointments in Phoenix but did not appear on any wait lists.

"The Phoenix HCS (Health Care System) leadership significantly understated the time new patients waited for their primary care appointment in their FY 2013 performance appraisal accomplishments, which is one of the factors considered for awards and salary increases," the IG's interim report said.

"Our reviews have identified multiple types of schedul-

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U.S. Sens. Jeff Flake (left) and John McCain address members of the media at McCain's Phoenix office after Wednesday's release of an inspector general's report that found at least 1,700 veterans had signed up for initial appointments with the Phoenix VA Health Care System but were not on waiting lists. The senators continued their criticism of President Barack Obama's response to the crisis.

TOP, CHARLIE LEIGHT/THE REPUBLIC; ABOVE, MICHAEL CHOW/THE REPUBLIC

Migrants arrested in Texas released in Ariz.

Feds say Texas sector is overwhelmed; immigrants put on supervised release in Phoenix and Tucson.

Daniel González
The Republic • azcentral.com

Scores of undocumented immigrants from Central America have been released at Greyhound Lines Inc. bus stations in Tucson and Phoenix over the past several days after they were flown to Arizona from south Texas, officials acknowledged.

Andy Adame, a spokesman for the Border Patrol in Tucson, confirmed that over the weekend federal officials flew about 400 migrants apprehended in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas to Tucson to be processed. He said the migrants were flown to Arizona because the Border Patrol does not have enough manpower to handle a surge in illegal immigrants in south Texas.

The release has drawn criticism from those on both sides of the immigration issue.

Border enforcement groups are concerned that the migrants will now disappear into the U.S., spurring even more to come illegally.

"This is a huge concern," said Ira Mehlman, a spokesman for the Federation for American Immigration Reform, a Washington, D.C.-based group that advocates for more immigration and bor-

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Guatemala national Judy Elizabeth Martinez holds baby Marjorie and calls family after being released by ICE at a Phoenix bus station. MICHAEL CHOW/THE REPUBLIC

MORE INSIDE

» Congress reacts furiously to revelations of mismanagement and misconduct in the Phoenix VA Health Care System, calling for Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki's resignation and a criminal investigation. **A7**

» The inspector general's report is the latest of 19 reports that VA investigators have issued since 2005 identifying problems affecting patient care. A rundown of issues at the VA. **A7**

MORE ONLINE

» Follow all the latest developments on the VA health-care scandal and read earlier *Republic* investigative reports at **vets.azcentral.com**.

» Send us your tips about the VA health-care system. Go to **VAtips.azcentral.com**.

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USA TODAY LIFE

Summer Books Preview: Three top American booksellers share their top reads for summer. **B7**

INSIDE

Chance of rain
High 98° || Low 82°

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WORLD CUP 2014



Maracana Stadium. CARLOS CHAVEZ/THE REPUBLIC

If the imminent start of soccer's World Cup triggers a desire to travel to Brazil and enjoy the spectacle, it may be too late. **A13**

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