

# February 2009 Department News Bulletin

## **MILITARY HISTORY ANNIVERSARIES:**

- 1777 - General George Washington defeats the British led by British General Lord Charles Cornwallis, at Princeton, New Jersey (War of Independence)
- 1780 - American Revolution: Battle of Cape St. Vincent. (War of Independence)
- 1781 - Richmond, Virginia, is burned by British naval forces led by Benedict Arnold. (War of Independence)
- 1815 - War of 1812: Battle of New Orleans - Andrew Jackson leads American forces in victory over the British.
- 1861 - American Civil War: Jefferson Davis resigns from the United States Senate. (American Civil War)
- 1861 - The "Star of the West" incident occurs near Charleston, South Carolina. It is considered by some historians to be the "First Shots of the Civil War". (American Civil War)
- 1863 - The Battle of Fort Hindman occurs in Arkansas. (American Civil War)
- 1863 - Second Battle of Springfield (American Civil War)
- 1863 - President Abraham Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address at the dedication of the military cemetery ceremony at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. (American Civil War)
- 1877 - Crazy Horse and his warriors fight their last battle with the United States Cavalry at Wolf Mountain (Montana Territory).
- 1900 - Boers attack Ladysmith, South Africa - over 1,000 people killed.
- 1909 - United States troops leave Cuba with the exception of Guantanamo Bay Naval Base after being there since the Spanish-American War.
- 1911 - Naval Lieutenant Eugene Ely became the first man ever to land an airplane on the deck of a ship, the converted cruiser USS Pennsylvania, in San Francisco Bay.
- 1915 - Congress established the United States Coast Guard.
- 1916 - The Battle of Gallipoli concludes with an Ottoman Empire victory when the last Allied forces are evacuated from the peninsula. (World War I)
- 1916 - Paris is first bombed by German zeppelins. (WWI)
- 1917 - The Battle of Rafa occurs near the Egyptian border with Palestine (WWI)
- 1921 - A symbolic Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is installed beneath the Arc de Triomphe in Paris to honor the unknown dead of World War I.
- 1923 - American occupation forces, stationed in Germany since the close of World War I, were recalled.
- 1941 - Battle between HMAS Sydney and HSK Kormoran. The two ships sink each other off the coast of Western Australia, with the loss of 645 Australians and about 77 German seamen. (WWII)
- 1941 - The United Kingdom captures Tobruk, Libya from Nazi forces. (WWII)
- 1944 - The Allies commence Operation Shingle which was an assault on Anzio, Italy. (WWII)
- 1942 - U.S. and Filipino troops complete their withdrawal to a new defensive line along the base of the Bataan peninsula (WWII)
- 1942 - The siege of the Bataan Peninsula begins. (WWII)
- 1942 - Battle of Stalingrad - Soviet Union forces under General Georgy Zhukov launch the Operation Uranus counterattacks at Stalingrad, turning the tide of the battle in the USSR's favor. (WWII)
- 1942 - First use of aircraft ejection seat by a German test pilot in a Heinkel He 280 jet fighter. (WWII)
- 1943 - Nazis liquidate Janowska concentration camp in Lemberg (Lviv), western Ukraine, murdering at least 6,000 Jews after a failed uprising and mass escape attempt. (WWII)
- 1943 - Operation Ke, the successful Japanese operation to evacuate their forces from Guadalcanal during the Guadalcanal campaign, begins. (WWII)

- 1943 - Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill begin the Casablanca Conference to discuss strategy and study the next phase of the war. (WWII)
  - 1943 - British forces capture Tripoli in Libya from the Nazis. (WWII)
  - 1943 - Australian and American forces finally defeat the Japanese army in Papua. This turning point in the Pacific War marks the beginning of the end of Japanese aggression. (WWII)
  - 1943 - The Battle of Mount Austen, the Galloping Horse, and the Sea Horse on Guadalcanal during the Guadalcanal campaign ends. (WWII)
  - 1943 - The first day of the Battle of Rennell Island, U.S. cruiser Chicago is torpedoed and heavily damaged by Japanese bombers. (WWII)
  - 1944 - The siege of the Bataan Peninsula begins. (WWII)
  - 1944 - The Allies commence Operation Shingle which was an assault on Anzio, Italy. (WWII)
  - 1944 - The Battle of Cisterna takes place in central Italy. (WWII)
  - 1945 - The United States invades Luzon in the Philippines (WWII)
  - 1945 - The Soviets begin a large offensive against the Nazis in Eastern Europe. (WWII)
  - 1945 - The Battle of the Bulge ended (WWII)
  - 1945 - Adolf Hitler moves into his underground bunker, the so-called Führerbunker. (WWII)
  - 1951 - Chinese communist forces captured Seoul, Korea, from United Nations troops (Korean War)
  - 1951 - Operation Thunderbolt began (Korean War)
  - 1954 - The first nuclear-powered submarine (USS Nautilus) was launched in Groton CT by Mamie Eisenhower.
  - 1959 - Fidel Castro took control of Cuba.
  - 1966 - American forces move into the Mekong Delta for the first time (Vietnam War)
  - 1967 - Operation Cedar Falls began against the Communist-held Iron Triangle area north of Saigon (Vietnam War)
  - 1967 - United States Marine Corps and ARVN troops launch "Operation Deckhouse Five" in the Mekong River delta. (Vietnam War)
  - 1968 - Battle of Khe Sanh began (Vietnam War)
  - 1968 - Tet Offensive began (Vietnam War)
  - 1968 - Battle of Hue began (Vietnam War)
  - 1968 - North Korea seizes the USS Pueblo, claiming the ship had violated their territorial waters while spying.
  - 1973 - Signing of the Vietnam Peace Accord (Vietnam War)
  - 1977 - President Jimmy Carter pardons nearly all American Vietnam War draft evaders inclusive of those who had emigrated to Canada.
  - 1979 - Phnom Penh falls to the advancing Vietnamese troops, driving out Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge. (Third Indochina War - Cambodian-Vietnamese War)
  - 1991 - An act of the U.S. Congress authorizes the use of military force to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. (Gulf War)
  - 1991 - Allies start Operation Desert Storm with attacks on Iraq (Persian Gulf War)
- [Source: Various ++]

### ***LEGISLATION OF INTEREST UPDATE 11:***

In spite of a busy week working on economic stimulus packages, legislators found time to introduce several additional bills to assist the military community.

- H.R. 775 (Rep. Ortiz, D-TX) would repeal the requirement to deduct VA survivor benefits from military Survivor Benefit Plan annuities.
- H.R. 613 (Rep. Jones, R-NC) would allow a survivor to keep the entire retired pay for the month in which a servicemember dies. Current practice requires the government to recoup the money and prorate it based on the date of death.

- H.R. 235 (Rep. Berman, D-CA) would repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision, which reduce Social Security annuities for many federal civilian retirees and survivors, as well as thousands of teachers and other state employees.
- H.R. 593 (Rep. Smith, D-WA) would better protect against deduction of VA disability compensation from military disability severance pay in instances of combat- or operations-related disabilities. A narrow interpretation of the recent law change on this topic covers only injuries occurring in a combat zone - excluding those incurred in combat training or other operations-related accidents.

[Source: MOAA Legislative Update 30 Jan 09 ++]

### ***NURSING HOMES UPDATE 09:***

All states have a Nursing Facility Medicaid program that provides general health coverage plus coverage for nursing home services. These services include room and board, nursing care, personal care and therapy services. Nursing Facility Medicaid may pay for a stay in a nursing home if you need a “nursing-home level of care” or meet nursing home “functional eligibility criteria; and have income and assets below certain guidelines. Different states have different standards for determining whether you need a “nursing home level-of-care,” but generally look at your ability to function. For example, your state might assess whether you need help with activities of daily living - basic everyday activities such as getting in and out of bed, dressing, bathing, eating and using the bathroom. While Medicare covers some skilled nursing facility care, it will only cover this care for a limited amount of time (up to 100 days in a benefit period) if you meet certain criteria. If you do not meet Medicare’s requirements for the skilled nursing facility benefit or you have reached Medicare’s limit of covered skilled care, Medicaid may pay for this care.

When you have Nursing Facility Medicaid, you still have Medicare coverage for the medical services you need aside from your nursing care. For example, if you need to go to the hospital or need to go to a doctor or specialist’s office, Medicare will pay first for most of these medical services and Medicaid will pay second by covering your remaining costs, such as the Medicare coinsurances, copayments and deductibles. Medicaid may also pay for some medical services that are not covered by Medicare, such as routine dental care. In order to qualify for Nursing Facility Medicaid, you will need to meet financial guidelines in addition to meeting functional eligibility guidelines. You can have income higher than you could have if you did not need nursing home care and still qualify for Medicaid. Your state may have:

- Higher Medicaid income guidelines for people who need nursing home care than for those who do not; and/or
- A “spend-down” or “medically needy” program. Spend-down programs are meant for people who have income higher than would normally qualify them for Medicaid coverage, but who have medical expenses that significantly reduce their usable income.

Some things to be aware of if you are thinking of applying for Nursing Facility Medicaid:

- Nursing Facility Medicaid programs will consider you and your spouse together when looking at your income and assets, but you will be able to set aside a certain amount of your income and assets for your spouse to keep. This amount will not be counted when you apply for Medicaid.
- If you qualify for Nursing Facility Medicaid, you will be able to keep a small amount of your income for a personal allowance. The amount that you can keep for yourself varies by state. Contact your local Medicaid office for the exact amount in your state. You will have to pay the remainder of your income to the nursing home.
- Medicaid has a “look-back period” of up to five years. This means that Medicaid will look at any assets you have transferred in the past few years when determining eligibility and when Medicaid coverage will begin. If Medicaid determines that you have transferred assets in violation of the Medicaid rules, it can penalize you by not paying for part or all of your nursing home stay.

- If you own your home, be sure to talk to an elder law attorney about how it will affect your Medicaid eligibility and coverage. Depending on your circumstances, the equity from your home may count as an asset. When you no longer need long-term care, or when you are deceased, your assets may be used to repay Medicaid for the care that it covered for you.

To find out more about Nursing Facility Medicaid in your state, contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) refer to [www.shiptalk.org/Public/home.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fDefault.aspx](http://www.shiptalk.org/Public/home.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fDefault.aspx)

For specific eligibility criteria, or to apply, contact your local Medicaid office. To find the Medicaid office nearest you, refer to

[www.medicareinteractive.org/frames.php?URL=<http://64.82.65.67/medicaid/states.html>](http://www.medicareinteractive.org/frames.php?URL=http://64.82.65.67/medicaid/states.html)

[Source: Medicaid Interactive Section VIII.c. Medicaid and Medicare 9 Dec 08 ++]