

October 2009 Department News Bulletin

October Military History Anniversaries:

Significant October Events in U.S. Military History are:

Oct 17 1777 - American Revolution: British Maj. Gen. John Burgoyne surrenders 5,000 men at Saratoga , N.Y.

Oct 17 1941 - WWII: The U.S. destroyer Kearney is damaged by a German U-boat torpedo off Iceland ; 11 Americans are killed.

Oct 18 1939 - WWII: President Franklin D. Roosevelt bans war submarines from U.S. ports and waters.

Oct 19 1781 - American Revolution: British troops under General Lord Charles Cornwallis surrendered to General Washington at Yorktown, Virginia, effectively ending the American Revolution.

Oct 19 1917 - WWI: The first doughnut is fried by Salvation Army volunteer women for American troops in France .

Oct 19 1942 - WWII: The Japanese submarine I-36 launches a floatplane for a reconnaissance flight over Pearl Harbor. The pilot and crew report on the ships in the harbor, after which the aircraft is lost at sea.

Oct 19 1987 - In retaliation for Iranian attacks on ships in the Persian Gulf, the U.S. navy disables three of Iran 's offshore oil platforms.

Oct 20 1944 - WWII: U.S. troops land on Leyte keeping General MacArthur's pledge "I shall return."

Oct 20 1944 - WWII: Battle of Leyte Gulf began. Largest naval battle of WWII.

Oct 21 1837 - Under a flag of truce during peace talks, U.S. troops siege the Indian Seminole Chief Osceola in Florida.

Oct 21 1861 - Civil War: The Battle of Ball's Bluff, Va. begins, a disastrous Union defeat which sparks Congressional investigations

Oct 21 1904 - Panamanians clash with U.S. Marines in Panama in a brief uprising.

Oct 21 1917 - WWI: The first U.S. troops enter the front lines at Sommervillier under French command.

Oct 21 1967 - Vietnam: The "March on the Pentagon," protesting American involvement draws 50,000 protesters.

Oct 21 1983 - Grenada: The United States sends a ten-ship task force to Grenada .

Oct 22 1862 - Civil War: Union troops push 5,000 confederates out of Maysville, Ark. , at the Second Battle of Pea Ridge.

Oct 22 1968 - Vietnam: Operation Linebreaker 1, the Bombing of North Vietnam ended.

Oct 23 1861 - Civil War: President Abraham Lincoln suspends the writ of habeas corpus in Washington, D.C. for all military-related cases.

Oct 23 1942 - WWII: The Western Task Force, destined for North Africa, departs from Hampton Roads, Virginia.

Oct 23 1983 - Lebanon: Terrorist attack on Marine Barracks in Beirut kills 220 Marines and 21 other U.S. service members.

Oct 24 1863 - Civil War: General Ulysses S. Grant arrives in Chattanooga, Tennessee to find the Union Army there starving.

Oct 24 1944 - WWII: The aircraft carrier USS Princeton is sunk by a single Japanese plane but the Japanese are defeated in the Battle of Leyte Gulf.. From this point on, the depleted Japanese Navy increasingly resorts to the suicidal attacks of Kamikaze fighters.

Oct 25 1958 - Lebanon: The last U.S. troops leave Beirut .

Oct 25 1983 - Grenada: Operation Urgent Fury Began. 1,800 U.S. troops and 300 Caribbean troops land and soon turn up evidence of a strong Cuban and Soviet presence—large stores of arms and documents suggesting close links to Cuba.

Oct 26 1950 - Korea: A reconnaissance platoon for a South Korean division reaches the Yalu River. They are the only elements of the U.N. force to reach the river before the Chinese offensive pushes the whole army down into South Korea.

Oct 27 1941 - WWII: In a broadcast to the nation on Navy Day, President Franklin Roosevelt declares: "America has been attacked, the shooting has started." He does not ask for full-scale war yet, realizing that many Americans are not yet ready for such a step.

Oct 28 1962 - The U.S. began its blockade of Cuba to compel the Russians to remove long-range missiles aimed at the United States.

Oct 30 1941 - WWII: The U.S. destroyer Reuben James, on convoy duty off Iceland, is sunk by a German U-boat with the loss of 96 Americans.

Oct 31 1952 – Cold War: The U.S. explodes the first hydrogen bomb at Eniwetok Atoll in the Pacific.

Oct 31 1968 - Vietnam: The bombing of North Vietnam is halted by the United States .

Oct 31 1971 - Vietnam: Saigon begins the release of 1,938 Hanoi POW's.

[Source: Various Oct 09 ++]

NATIONAL MUSEUM of the MARINE CORPS:

Situated on more than 135 acres adjacent to Marine Corps Base Quantico, the National Museum of the Marine Corps depicts great events of American history from the perspective of Marines who participated in them and strives to help visitors from around the world understand the steadfastness and strength of the United States Marine Corps. The Museum encloses approximately 118,000 square feet, with an eventual expansion to nearly 181,000 square feet. The Museum's signature 210 foot stainless steel spire soars over the tree line and is clearly visible, day or night from I-95 and the surrounding area. Designed by the award-winning firm of Fentress Bradburn Architects, the National Museum of the Marine Corps emulates the iconic image of the raising of the American flag over Iwo Jima. Additionally, the spire also evokes notions of swords at salute, aircraft climbing in to the heavens or a howitzer at the ready. The dramatic composition of structural lines embodies the spirit of the Marine Corps, a poised balance of strength and stability. The building will be an architectural treasure to be cherished by all Americans.

CENSUS 2010:

The census is a count of everyone living in the United States every 10 years. It is mandated by the U.S. Constitution and the next one will be in the summer of 2010. Your participation in the census is required by law. The 2010 Census questionnaire will be one of the shortest in history, consisting of 10 questions. It should take less than 10 minutes to complete and federal law protects the personal information you share during the census. Census data are used to distribute Congressional seats to states, to make decisions about what community services to provide, and to distribute \$400 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year. With preliminary work starting on the 2010 Census there are some basic cautionary notes for you to be aware of:

If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.

Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.

While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, the Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers nor will

employees solicit donations. Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home.

The Census Bureau will not contact you by email, so be on the lookout for email scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an email that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau. [Source: NAUS Weekly Update 25 Sep 09 ++]

MEDICARE RATES 2010:

Most Medicare beneficiaries won't pay higher premiums for Part B medical insurance coverage in 2010. Under current law, Part B premiums cannot rise faster than Social Security annual cost-of-living increases. The Congressional Budget Office predicts there will be no cost-of-living increases for Social Security recipients in 2010 and 2011. But the law doesn't protect all Medicare recipients from elevated health insurance costs. Approximately 75% of people will be protected from the premium increase, according to Juliette Cubanski, a policy analyst at the Kaiser Family Foundation. The remaining 25% of Medicare recipients will face larger than normal premium increases because the costs are spread across a smaller share of beneficiaries. Here is who will have to pay greater Medicare premiums in the near future:

Medicaid Recipients: Medicaid, which is funded by states and the federal government, already pays Medicare part B premiums for low-income individuals who qualify for both government programs. Medicaid will absorb the larger premiums for the 17% of Medicare beneficiaries who are also eligible for Medicaid. "The individual doesn't pay the higher cost of the Part B premium, but the state does," says Cubanski.

High Income Retirees: Seniors with a modified adjusted gross income above \$85,000 for individuals and \$170,000 for couples in 2009 already pay steeper premiums than other retirees. The wealthiest 5% of Medicare beneficiaries aren't exempt from further Part B premium hikes.

New Enrollees: Retirees who sign up for Social Security and/or Part B medical coverage for the first time next year will also face higher premiums than existing Medicare recipients. While most Medicare Part B recipients currently pay \$96.40 per month and will continue to be charged the same premium amount next year, costs are likely to increase for a quarter of retirees to \$104.20 monthly in 2010 and \$120.20 in 2011, according to the Medicare Trustees.

Part D Users: Current law does not protect Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage recipients from premium increases in years when there is no Social Security cost-of-living adjustment. Retirees who experience increases in their Part D premiums could receive smaller Social Security checks next year. [Source: US News & World report Emily Brandon article 26 Aug 09 ++]

HEALTH CARE REFORM Update 13:

Action in Congress heated up in mid-JUN as the Senate Finance Committee began considering more than 500 amendments to Chairman Max Baucus' (D-MT) draft legislation. Meanwhile, a group of 7 bipartisan moderate senators who have various concerns with the Baucus bill are collectively considering options to reshape health reform legislation once it reaches the Senate floor for action. In the House, leaders are negotiating to try to build a compromise plan from three different bills

approved by three different committees. The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) contacted members of Sen. Baucus' staff on 23 SEP about a provision in his plan that would assess a fee on insurers offering "cadillac" plans. MOAA received assurances that this initiative would explicitly exclude Tricare, TFL and VA coverage.

A knowledgeable White House official MOAA contacted 24 SEP offered a similar assurance that "The President is committed to ensuring that any national health reform plan that may be enacted will explicitly exclude any changes for Tricare, Tticare For Life, or VA programs or beneficiaries. " Further, in a colloquy between House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Veterans Affairs Ranking Minority Member Steve Buyer (R-IN), Waxman reassured Buyer that the House bill will not disadvantage veterans or military beneficiaries, and agreed to various modifications proposed to make those protections explicit. [Source: MOAA Leg Up 25 Sep 09 ++]

VA DISABLED VET BENEFITS:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a range of benefits for veterans. However, certain benefits have specifically been created to assist disabled veterans:

Disability compensation provides a monthly cash benefit to veterans whose disabilities resulted from injury or disease contracted in or aggravated by military service. The amount is based on the level disability.

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) program is designed to help veterans with service-connected disabilities prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs. Assistance is also available to help veterans with living skills.

Automobile and special adaptive equipment grants are available to certain disabled veterans and service members to purchase new or used automobiles (or other conveyances) to accommodate a disability.

Clothing allowances are designed for certain veterans entitled to receive compensation for a service-connected disability for which he or she uses a prosthetic or orthopedic device.

Housing grants are provided for constructing an adapted home or modifying an existing home to meet the adaptive needs of certain veterans and service members. There are three grant programs available for permanent residences, and two of the three grant programs are also available for temporary residences.

Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance (S-DVI) is life insurance for veterans who have received a service-connected disability rating by the VA.

The Congressional Research Service has published a report on these benefits which covers eligibility, legislative history, and the application process. The report titled "Veterans' Benefits: Benefits Available for Disabled Veterans" is available for review at http://209.85.48.22/9056/110/0/p1012284/CQcrs_VetsBens4DisabledVets.pdf. A copy of the report can also be seen as an attachment to this Bulletin. This report will be updated as new information becomes available. [Source: CRS Christine Scott/Carol Davis report 31 Jul 09 ++]

PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS' HOMES Update 01:

A Pennsylvania newspaper reported 19 SEP that an inspection at the Delaware Valley Veterans Home in Philadelphia last year found conditions endangering the welfare of residents. Inspectors found dried blood and feeding tubes on the floors, and one patient's leg had to be amputated after maggots were seen falling from his foot, the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review said, citing a report obtained through a federal Freedom of Information Act request. The report by the Wisconsin-based Long Term Care Institute concluded that the facility, the bed count of which has been cut from 240 to 120, "failed to provide a sanitary and safe environment for their residents. "It cites substandard treatment of wound care and multiple concerns regarding nursing competencies. There was a significant failure to promote and protect their residents' rights to autonomy and to be treated with respect and dignity," the report concluded. VA spokesman Dale Warman told the paper in an e-mail that many steps had been taken to improve care. A corrective action plan updated on 29 JUN including the hiring of consultants and additional staff and remedial training and retraining programs for staff, officials said.

The report said no action was taken on one unnamed veteran, even though his toes had turned black, until maggots were observed falling out of the resident's foot, at which point an amputation was ordered. One inspector reported seeing a nurse use the wrong medication despite a week-old order from a physician changing the prescription, the report said. Some patients had substantial weight loss, including one veteran who lost 51 pounds for unknown reasons. "The potential for dehydration for these residents presents immediate jeopardy," the report said. An internal investigation was triggered three months before the report was issued when David Allen, 56, a mute and disabled Vietnam veteran, choked to death on solid food although he was supposed to be on a soft-food diet. His death was not mentioned in the report, but the VA said in a statement that the contracts of two agency nurses were terminated and other staff members were given additional training on swallowing difficulties "as well as the effects of behavioral medications.

[Source: Marine Corps Times AP article 19 Sep 09 ++]

SWINE FLU Update 01:

Research suggests the H1N1 virus can still spread many days after a fever goes away. When the coughing stops is probably a better sign of when a swine flu patient is no longer contagious. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been telling people to stay home from work and school and avoid contact with others until a day after their fever breaks. New research suggests they may need to be careful for longer - especially at home where the risk of spreading the germ is highest. Swine flu also appears to be contagious longer than ordinary seasonal flu, several experts said. Gaston De Serres, a scientist at the Institute of Public Health in Quebec presented one of the studies 14 SEP at an American Society for Microbiology conference. He said, "This study shows you're not contagious for a day or two. You're probably contagious for about a week," The conference was the first big meeting of infectious disease experts since last spring's emergence of swine flu, which now accounts for nearly all of the flu cases in the United States. More than 1 million Americans have been infected and nearly 600 have died from it, the CDC estimates.

It is unclear whether the new research will lead the CDC to rethink its advice on how long people with swine flu should hole up. Long breaks from school and work do not seem worth it for a virus that now seems to cause mostly mild illness, said the CDC's flu chief, Nancy Cox. Swine flu is spreading so widely now that confining the sick does less good, she said. "We tried to have our guidance balance out all of these factors," she said. "It's just virtually impossible not to have virus introduced into settings such as schools and universities." Doctors know that people can spread ordinary seasonal flu for a couple of days before and after symptoms start by studying virus that patients shed in mucus. The first such studies of swine flu are just coming out now, and they imply a longer contagious period for the novel bug. "It's probably realistic that this virus sheds much longer than seasonal flu," said Dr. Jonathan McCullers, an infectious diseases specialist at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. Three reports suggest this is so:

De Serres and other researchers in Canada took nose and throat swabs from 43 patients with lab-confirmed flu and dozens of other sick family members. On the eighth day after symptoms first appeared, 19 to 75% showed signs of virus remaining in their noses, depending on the type of test used. "This proportion appears to be very big, and it is," but it's not clear how much virus is needed to actually spread flu, so the lower number is more reliable, he said.

Dr. David C. Lye reported on 70 patients treated at Tan Tock Seng Hospital in Singapore. Using a very sensitive test to detect virus in the nose or throat, he found that 80% had it five days after symptoms began, and 40% seven days after. Some still harbored virus as long as 16 days later. How soon they started on antiviral medicines such as Tamiflu made a difference in how much virus was found, but not whether virus was present at all.

Dr. Guillermo Ruiz-Palacios of the National Institutes of Medical Science and Nutrition in Mexico, where the first cases of swine flu were detected, noted infected people, "shed the virus for a very, very long time," often for more than a week after the start of symptoms, he told the conference. This was especially true of obese people, and patients who started on medicines longer than two days after symptoms first appeared.

The new reports suggest a longer contagious period for swine flu, but how long is not clear, Cox said. Even with it in your nose, "you might not be shedding enough virus to infect other people," she said. That is why signs like coughing may matter more, De Serres said. "Contagiousness varies, not only with the presence of the virus, but the other symptoms that would make you transmit," he said. Swine flu symptoms can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue, and sometimes diarrhea and vomiting. Young children may be cranky, less playful or not eat as much as normal, the CDC advises. The agency's advice to stay home for a day after fever breaks does not apply to health care settings. There, confinement for seven days from the start of symptoms or until they go away, whichever is longer is still advised. People who have had swine flu should cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze and wash their hands a lot once they do return to work and school, the CDC says.

[Source: AP Medical Writer Marilyn Marchione, AP Medical Writer Marilyn Marchione, 14Sep09 ++]

Interesting Communications:

From: Wayne Dwernychuk [mailto:wdwernychuk@telus.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 17:15
Subject: Hatfield's Da Nang dioxin report ... more information

The number of requests for the Da Nang report has been overwhelming, as a result Hatfield Consultants will enable interested parties to download the complete report from the Hatfield site.

Please visit: <http://www.hatfieldgroup.com/about+us/newsdb.aspx?nid=52>

and review 'Report Availability' for information on timing and accessing the report. This method will ensure you get the document in relatively short order, when it is released to the public.

If you are aware of individuals who would be interested in this document, please feel free to forward this notice.

Dr. Wayne Dwernychuk
Sr. Scientist/Advisor
Hatfield Consultants
(Retired)
www.hatfieldgroup.com

Memorial Calls for Photos of Vietnam Vets

From: vva@vva2.talklist.com [mailto:vva@vva2.talklist.com] On Behalf Of K. Riskedahl
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2009 6:53
Subject: VVA: Fwd: Memorial Calls for Photos of Vietnam Vets

Memorial Calls for Photos of Vietnam Vets
<<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=55839>>
Tue, 15 Sep 2009 08:34:00 -0500
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15, 2009 - The National Call for Photos, a campaign to gather images of the more than 58,000 men and women whose names are on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, will be launched Sept. 17 at a Newseum event here hosted by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and FedEx Office. FedEx Office will use its locations across the country to help in gathering photos.

Established in 1979, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial here, promoting healing and educating people about the impact of the Vietnam War.

The fund's latest initiative is The Education Center at The Wall, an underground facility near the memorial that is being designed to help visitors discover the stories of those named on The Wall and celebrate the values embodied by service members from all of America's wars.

Exhibits will include a wall of photographs of people whose names are on The Wall, a selection of the more than 100,000 items that have been left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a timeline of key military events of the Vietnam War and a history of the memorial.

The center also will celebrate the values embodied by America's service members: loyalty, duty, respect, service, honor, integrity and courage, officials said. An exit exhibit will show images of those who have served in America's conflicts, from the Revolutionary War to Iraq.

More than \$20 million has been raised for the education center, including a \$10 million gift from Time Warner. It is estimated that the center will cost \$85 million to build.

Other Memorial Fund initiatives include educational programs for students and teachers, a traveling Wall replica that honors veterans and a humanitarian and mine-action program in Vietnam.

Agent Orange Zone blog

From: gerald.ney@navy.mil
To: gerald.ney@navy.mil
Sent: 7/23/2009 6:22:40 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subject: FW: Agent Orange Zone blog

-----Original Message-----

From: vva@vva2.talklist.com [mailto:vva@vva2.talklist.com] On Behalf Of Nancy S. Switzer
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2009 12:58

Agent Orange Zone blog
Tuesday July 21 UPDATE

<http://agentorangezone.blogspot.com/>

Presidential Certificates for deceased Veterans Memorial

From: gerald.ney@navy.mil
To: vva@vva2.talklist.com
Sent: 7/23/2009 6:28:08 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subject: Presidential Certificates for deceased Veterans Memorial

-----Original Message-----

From: VeteranIssues@yahoogroups.com
[mailto:VeteranIssues@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Colonel Dan

Sent: Monday, July 20, 2009 12:23

Subject: For deceased Veterans, A Presidential Memorial Certificate

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased veterans.

General Program Requirements

This benefit may not be requested for a living veteran.

The veteran must have received an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions.

Certain National Guard and reserve members may also qualify.

Commissioned Officers of the Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are considered to be active duty members and veterans, once discharged.

Eligible recipients (those who may receive a Presidential Memorial Certificate) include the deceased veteran's next of kin and loved ones.

Requests for this benefit may only be submitted by an eligible recipient. An eligible recipient is the next of kin, a relative or a friend, or someone authorized to act on behalf of such relative or friend.

Your Next Steps:

The following information will lead you to the next steps to apply for this benefit. Application Process
For more information, see the Program Contact Information below.

Program Contact Information:

For more information about the Presidential Memorial Certificate program, please visit our web site at:

<http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/pmc.asp>
<<http://www.govbenefits.gov/ExternalLinkPageFlow/ExternalLinkPageFlowController.jspf?url=http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/pmc.asp>>

When requesting a PMC, there is no form or format to use. A simple written request will suffice.

Eligible recipients or their authorized agent may request a PMC using any one (1) of the three (3) methods listed below. Please only use one method.

You may:

1. Visit any VA regional office and speak with a representative.

2. Send a request by fax to 1-202-565-8054; or by mail to:

Presidential Memorial Certificates (41A1C)

Department of Veterans Affairs

5109 Russell Road

Quantico, VA 22134-3903

3. Use the "Contact the VA" web link (on the bottom of the page) at: <http://www.cem.va.gov/pmc.htm>.

All written or faxed requests must include a copy of the veterans' death certificate and a copy of the veterans' honorable discharge. Please do not provide original documents, as they cannot be returned.

Managing Agency

National Cemetery Administration (NCA)

<http://www.cem.va.gov>

<http://www.govbenefits.gov/ExternalLinkPageFlow/ExternalLinkPageFlowController.jspf?&url=http://www.cem.va.gov>

Health registries - All Veterans Need To Register Today!

From: gerald.ney@navy.mil

To: vva@vva2.talklist.com

Sent: 7/24/2009 3:46:35 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: FW: Veteran Health registries - All Veterans Need To Register Today!

-----Original Message-----

From: fradtke1@comcast.net [mailto:fradtke1@comcast.net]

Sent: Monday, July 20, 2009 8:28

Subject: Fwd: All Veterans Need To Register Today!

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs" <admin@veteranprograms.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2009 12:55:14 PM (GMT-0500) Auto-Detected

Subject: All Veterans Need To Register Today!

All Veterans Need To Register Today!

In This Issue, Current Health Registries

<<http://sz0032.wc.mail.comcast.net/zimbra/public/blank.html#LETTER.BLOCK 9>>

Contact Information

<<http://sz0032.wc.mail.comcast.net/zimbra/public/blank.html#LETTER.BLOCK10>>

July/2009

Certain veterans can participate in a VA health registry and receive free medical examinations,

including laboratory and other diagnostic tests deemed necessary by an examining clinician. VA maintains health registries to provide special health examinations and health-related information.

Why is it important to be listed in a health registry? If you are pursuing a claim for a service connected disability and you are not listed in a health registry, there is a high probability you will be denied of your claim. Secondly, if you are not listed in a health registry, your current service-connected disability may be negatively affected in the future. Get listed today! Even if you are not sure whether these registries apply to you, get listed anyway. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose. Again, get listed today.

Current Health Registries

Gulf War Registry

<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102644410695&s=1867&e=001HnBz9DI6eQsl__sEfgUrK4ROilcn3-9r0u98gOHKh6NSeNnePAd_JVWUiSGWgWmxBPZ-N0Jbbmn84Br3SpdHQyclPZZi_xoaQv8JoFyJi8bbMM9OIEgs4i_RyOjixiYEL> : For veterans who served in the Gulf War and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

Depleted Uranium Registry

<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102644410695&s=1867&e=001HnBz9DI6eQsl__sEfgUrK4ROilcn3-9r0u98gOHKh6NSeNnePAd_JVWUiSGWgWmxBPZ-N0Jbbmn84Br3SpdHQyclPZZi_xoaQv8JoFyJi8bbMM9OIEgs4i_RyOjixiYEL> : VA maintains two registries for veterans possibly exposed to depleted uranium. The first is for veterans who served in the Gulf War, including OIF. The second is for veterans who served elsewhere, including Bosnia and Afghanistan.

Agent Orange Registry

<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102644410695&s=1867&e=001HnBz9DI6eQsl__sEfgUrK4ROilcn3-9r0u98gOHKh6NSeNnePAd_JVWUiSGWgWmxBPZ-N0Jbbmn84Br3SpdHQyclPZZi_xoaQv8JoFyJi8bbMM9OIEgs4i_RyOjixiYEL> : For veterans possibly exposed to dioxin or other toxic substances in herbicides used during the Vietnam War, while serving in Korea in 1968 or 1969, or as a result of testing, transporting, or spraying herbicides for military purposes.

Ionizing Radiation Registry

<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102644410695&s=1867&e=001HnBz9DI6eQsl__sEfgUrK4ROilcn3-9r0u98gOHKh6NSeNnePAd_JVWUiSGWgWmxBPZ-N0Jbbmn84Br3SpdHQyclPZZi_xoaQv8JoFyJi8bbMM9OIEgs4i_RyOjixiYEL> : For veterans possibly exposed to atomic radiation while on active duty during specified activities

Contact Information

Call your local VA today at 800-827-1000 to inquire.

Visit: U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs

<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102644410695&s=1867&e=001HnBz9DI6eQsl__sEfgUrK4ROilcn3-9r0u98gOHKh6NSeNnePAd_JVWUiSGWgWmxBPZ-N0Jbbmn84Br3SpdHQyclPZZi_xoaQv8JoFyJi8bbMM9OIEgs4i_RyOjixiYEL>

Quick Links

Find Local VSO

<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102644410695&s=1867&e=001HnBz9DI6eQsl__sEfgUrK4ROilcn3-9r0u98gOHKh6NSeNnePAd_JVWUiSGWgWmxBPZ-N0Jbbmn84Br3SpdHQyclPZZiXoaQv8JoFyJi8bbMM9OIEgs4i_RyOjixiYEL>

<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102644410695&s=1867&e=001HnBz9DI6eQsl__sEfgUrK4ROilcn3-9r0u98gOHKh6NSeNnePAd_JVWUiSGWgWmxBPZ-N0Jbbmn84Br3SpdHQyclPZZiXoaQv8JoFyJi8bbMM9OIEgs4i_RyOjixiYEL>

Stressor Letters

Compensation News

<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102644410695&s=1867&e=001HnBz9DI6eQsl__sEfgUrK4ROilcn3-9r0u98gOHKh6NSeNnePAd_JVWUiSGWgWmxBPZ-N0Jbbmn84Br3SpdHQyclPZZiXoaQv8JoFyJi8bbMM9OIEgs4i_RyOjixiYEL>

Join Our Mailing List

<<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/email.jsp?m=1102607797588>>

U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs

<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102644410695&s=1867&e=001HnBz9DI6eQsl__sEfgUrK4ROilcn3-9r0u98gOHKh6NSeNnePAd_JVWUiSGWgWmxBPZ-N0Jbbmn84Br3SpdHQyclPZZiXoaQv8JoFyJi8bbMM9OIEgs4i_RyOjixiYEL>

We are thankful to have the opportunity to serve you. And, as always, thank you for your service to our country.

Sincerely,

Beth Ann McGruder
Internet Manager

U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs

<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102644410695&s=1867&e=001HnBz9DI6eQsl__sEfgUrK4ROilcn3-9r0u98gOHKh6NSeNnePAd_JVWUiSGWgWmxBPZ-N0Jbbmn84Br3SpdHQyclPZZiXoaQv8JoFyJi8bbMM9OIEgs4i_RyOjixiYEL>

FROM THE DESK OF: Department Webmaster Havelka:

Greetings Fellow Patriots,

Over the years I've met some people who have thankfully taken it upon themselves to fill some voids left by all the current Veterans Organization's who've had numbers in volunteerism drop dramatically.

One of these individuals is Frederick Johnson, Founder and CEO of the non-for profit, Heroes Today. To view their Website, go to www.heroestoday.org .

I received this plea from them in a recent News Letter.

Dear Supporter,

Heroes Today is again looking for a distressed family of Iraq/Afghanistan veterans. Last year on Christmas day we were very successful! We were able to provide the family that was referred for this outreach with one week's worth of food, clothing and toys for both children and also gifts for the parents. We also connect the family with community resources that will help them further get out of their situation. Heroes Today has decided to offer this program two times a year summer and winter with plans on having it as a continuous program throughout each year.

The conditions are that it is the family of a verifiable Iraq/Afghanistan veteran, or the family of a soldier currently serving in Iraq/Afghanistan. Family is defined as the following,

(a) A woman or man that is currently taking care of household and children while their loved one is in Iraq/Afghanistan.

(b) A married couple one or both being Iraq Veterans that are currently having hardships. We are ready to step in and help the family that is identified to us ASAP.

If you would like to give a financial donation to support this program you can go to our web site and click the donate button to give a secure donation. You can also mail your check or money order to:

Heroes Today
P.O. Box 3948
Pittsburgh, PA. 15230