

# September/October Report

## From The Commander's Desk

Greetings Comrades, we start this membership year facing new challenges standing proudly beside new partners with a deeply held resolve to do more for a longer period of time. As the commander of Naomi Chapter 15 I want to announce our chapter's donation of \$2,000.00 in support of the Philadelphia Stand Down scheduled for September 10, 11, 12, 2010. Designed to minister to the needs of 'Homeless Veterans' this year's Stand Down will be held at the Government Services Building in Levittown, PA. To us every challenge is an opportunity and we offer our services confident that together we can overcome. We have also donated \$1,000.00 to VA Voluntary Services in support of PTSD therapy at the Front and Onley Vet Center. In the future Naomi Chapter 15 will continue to sponsor hospital parties at the PVAMC. We will refer you to the DAV Regional National Service Office when you need help your chapter can not give but, when we do have the answers our response will be as prompt as it is accurate. With your help our fund raising efforts will allow us to be there for our comrades in need — and your active participation in chapter affairs will provide that little extra needed to guarantee success.



### New PTSD Claims Rules

Veterans who served in non-combat roles in war zones will find it easier to get disability benefits for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) under a major policy change that took effect July 13, 2010. The change means non-combat personnel will be treated more like their peers who served in direct combat roles. No longer will they have to provide evidence that a specific event - like being under fire - is the cause of their PTSD. The change applies to all PTSD-related claims received beginning July 13 and to any PTSD claim pending before VA at the time of the change including claims that were being appealed. For more info contact Naomi Chapter 15 Service Officer Leonard Johnson, (215) 765-4921 (H) or (267) 254-9097 (cell).

### COLA Will Stay The Same

The news out of Washington is that this year's COLA for Social Security recipients and veterans will be 0%. That's right it is almost certain that you will not get an increase in cash benefits for the 2011 year. Don't spend it all in the same place

### Cmdr. Blow Elected To Higher Office

Congratulations are in order for our Commander, Samuel Blow, who was elected Department 2nd Jr. Vice Commander at the 2010 Department Convention..

Philadelphia County Director  
for Veterans Affairs  
(215) 686-3256

The deadline for submitting applications for the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Program is August 31, 2015

### Chapter Meetings

Naomi Chapter 15 meets the fourth Monday of the month at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center, University and Woodland Aves. The time is 3:00 p.m., the location is the 3rd floor. If you have any questions please call or write either your commander or adjutant/treasurer at the phone number/address listed on page one.

## Naomi Q & A

**Q.** If my service-connected condition becomes worse, will the VA automatically increase my rating?

**A.** No. You must reopen your claim if your condition has worsened. The best way to do this is to contact a veterans service organization, like the DAV, or your County Director of Veterans Affairs. To request an increase in your percent of disability file a VA Form 21-4138 "Statement in Support of Claim." You may also use a blank sheet of paper to provide the pertinent information. The first paragraph should begin with "I am requesting reevaluation of my service-connected disability."

To persuade the VA to authorize a VA examination you need only to submit evidence that leads the VA to conclude there is the "reasonable probability of a valid claim. The VA may accept a private medical statement, a lay statement, or even your own statement that the condition has increased in severity. Even a sketchy medical statement that you are being treated for the service-connected condition will almost always result in a VA examination.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ANY VA BENEFITS OR SERVICES, CONTACT VA BY CALLING 1 800 827-1000 OR THE PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL DAV NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE AT 215 381-3065



October Meeting — October 25, 2010

