



The Vets Speak Out

Welcome to the new era

Many of us are used to snail mail. The standard routine of going to the mailbox looking for correspondence from a friend or a business associate. If the correspondence is of an urgent nature, the wait can seem to last a decade.

Now we have the advantage of E-mail and the response time is drastically faster. We as Chapter 95 wants to harness this capability to keep our members abreast of news and events. If you would allow us the privilege of adding you to our mailing list, we would love to keep you abreast of what is going on for our veterans.

Issue 1 March 2011



Rule Change Would Provide Multiple Clothing Allowances

The Department of Veterans Affairs proposes to amend its regulations regarding clothing allowances. The amendment would provide for annual clothing allowances for each qualifying prosthetic or orthopedic appliance worn or used by a veteran for a service-connected disability or disabilities that wears out or tears a distinct article of the veteran's clothing. The proposed rule change also would provide a separate clothing allowance for each physician-prescribed medication used by a veteran for a skin condition that is due to a service-connected disability that affects a distinct outer garment. The amendment would also provide two annual clothing allowances if a veteran wears or uses more than one qualifying prosthetic or orthopedic appliance, physician-prescribed medication for more than one skin condition, or an appliance and a medication for a service-connected disability or disabilities and the appliances(s) or medication(s) together cause a single article of clothing to wear out faster than if affected by a single appliance or medication.

Newsletter Spotlight

Please be patient with me. This is the first newsletter and it will take awhile to get the format to where it should be. Also some important information may not be included yet.

Meeting time and location

73 New Shackle Island # R
Hendersonville, TN 37075
First Thursday of the month
18:00 (6 P.M.)

VA Cemeteries Top Satisfaction Survey

Our officers

Joe Montalbano—Commander

Vader T. Stultz—Adjutant

Doug Strange—Treasurer

Jimmy G. Wilburn—Sr. Vice

Commander

Gary L. Anderson 1st Jr. Vice

Commander

Michael Wright—Legislative

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Ralph E. Land—Service Offi-

cer

Charles H Glover Membership

Chairman

Vader T. Stultz—Officer Au-

thorized to Receive mail

For the fourth consecutive time in 10 years, the system of national cemeteries operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs has bested the nation's top corporations and other federal agencies in an independent survey of customer satisfaction.

The American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) is the only national, cross-industry measure of satisfaction with the quality of goods and services available in the United States. Beginning in 1999, the federal government selected ACSI to measure citizen satisfaction. More than 00 federal agencies have used ACSI to gauge consumer satisfaction with more than 200 services and programs. The Index was founded at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business.

The VA operates 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. More than 3.5 million Americans including veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in VA's cemeteries on more than 19,000 acres of land.

New Rules Aid Korean War Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange

Veterans exposed to herbicides while serving along the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in Korea will have an easier path to access quality health care and benefits under a Department of Veterans Affairs final regulation. The new rules expand the dates when illnesses caused by herbicide exposure can be presumed to be related to Agent Orange.

Under the final rule, VA will presume herbicide exposure for any veteran who served between April 1, 1968, and Aug. 31, 1971, in a unit determined by VA and the Department of Defense (DoD) to have operated in an area in or near the Korean DMZ in which herbicides were applied.

Previously, VA recognized that Agent Orange exposure could only be conceded to veterans who served in certain units along the Korean DMZ between April 1968 and July 1969.

In practical terms, eligible Veterans who have specific illnesses VA presumes to be associated with herbicide exposure do not have to prove an association between their illness and their military service. This "presumption" simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits and ensures that Veterans receive the benefits they deserve.

The DAV encourages veterans with covered service in Korea who have medical conditions that may be related to Agent Orange to contact their nearest National Service Office for assistance with claims for access to VA health care and compensation as soon as possible.

An Attack on our Budget from Arthur H. Wilson, National Adjutant

Many of you are aware of the recent proposal by Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota that blatantly attacks disability compensation and Department of Veterans Affairs health care spending.

As the needs of our veterans—especially the men and women returning from Afghanistan and Iraq—rise, the proposed \$4.5 billion in cuts to health care and benefits casts a black cloud on our community's future.

Our stand on this matter is resolute. Cutting benefits for veterans or funding for our care at this time in our history would be disastrous for those who've served and sacrificed—especially for those who will need our care in the future and those disproportionately impacted by the sluggish economy.

The more suggestion of cuts to the veterans budget, with so many people in such desperate need, makes one wonder if some in Washington really understand what's at stake.

Independent studies have shown the VA system provides safe, high quality health care at an average cost that is less than Medicare, Medicaid or the private sector. This ill-conceived and misguided proposal would actually increase the budget deficit while lowering the quality of health care to our nation's veterans.

I would like to thank the hundreds of our members who have taken the time to register their disgust at this proposal on Facebook and by contacting their lawmakers to remind them of how we feel about this.

I would suggest all who share our outrage at this legislation to contact their lawmakers, if you haven't already, and tell them how you feel about this attack.

Further, I'd like to take this time to remind one another that this type of selfish logic is the reason why our nation needs your Disabled American Veterans. This is the reason why we joined the DAV. We need each other now more than ever.

Sadly, this may be just the first volley of a protracted battle ahead for our cause. As our men and women put their lives on the line, their futures are under fire at home.

Perhaps the parades are over. Perhaps the young generation of disabled veterans—whose population grows daily—is going to have to relearn the sad lessons and face the same trials and tribulations we've suffered for generations to avert.

I encourage each of you to use this as though it were an alarm sounding in your soul. I'd ask you to redouble your involvement in our cause and stay even more vigilant about your elected leaders' actions and how they will impact our community.

The nation and all of our veterans and future veterans need the DAV today to hold the ground we've taken and look out for one another.

I thank you for your membership and for all you're doing to ensure the health and vitality of your DAV. Let's continue to hold fast and ensure our nation lives up to the obligation it owes those who've sacrificed and served.

MEMBER BENEFIT: FORD MOTOR COMPANY

DAV JOINED THE Ford Motor Company Partner Recognition Program many years ago. The program offers members the opportunity to purchase or lease eligible vehicles at Ford Motor Company's X-Plan pricing.

Eligible Vehicles include virtually all Ford and Lincoln products (Certain vehicles may be excluded). This can mean savings of hundreds, even thousands of dollars for our members.

Please visit <http://www.fordpartner.com> and login using our Partner Code (DAVET). Through this website you can:

- Research vehicle specific X-Plan pricing and incentives
- Review the latest vehicle product information
- View the complete Partner Recognition Program and process, rules and helpful FAQs
- Generate Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) for exclusive X-Plan pricing

Please contact Ford Partner Recognition to receive the DAV's X-Plan Partner Code by emailing xplan@ford.com.

Forget Me Not Fundraiser

The first time the DAV members ever sold the little, blue Forget-Me-Nots to the public was on February 24, 1926. The first Forget-Me-Not drive was held to raise funds to support DAV services and assistance desperately needed by veterans disabled in World War I.

The idea of selling the little blue flowers came from an image carried home in the memories of soldiers from the First World War who had seen spring flowers growing on the graves of comrades and allied killed in the fighting.

After World War I, the flower became the accepted symbol for commemorating those who had fallen in the war. Many felt the best way to honor the dead was to assist those who came home bearing the scars of war.

For more than 80 years, this small blue flower of remembrance has been the staple of Chapter-level fundraising to support DAV assistance to local disabled veterans

We will be at Hendersonville's Wal-mart on March 6 and March 7 to take donations to help our chapter help disabled veterans. We can use the help and if you can assist, we would greatly appreciate it.

Food assistance

Liberty Baptist Church and College Heights Church offers assistance with food. If you need assistance with food, these two churches in Gallatin does have food programs.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at davchapter95@upgradenrepair.com