



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
Building Better Lives for America's Disabled Veterans



Chapter 95

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August 2009

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Mission

Since its founding more than 80 years ago, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) has been dedicated to a single purpose: building better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families. Fidelity to that mission has required DAV to respond creatively and flexibly to changing and sometimes unpredictable challenges faced by its constituency. Whether disabled veterans have needed a voice on Capitol Hill, a nationwide service program, a transportation network or unique rehabilitation opportunities, DAV has focused its attention and resources to meet those needs.

Calendar

Aug 22 – 28 National Convention
Denver Ohio
Oct 3 Forget-Me-not drive
Krogers in Gallatin

News to Use

Grandparent's scam

A new scam targeting military families is a good reminder to us all to review the personal information we put on social networking sites. It's a sordid twist on a longtime scam that targets grandparents. This one specifically targets grandparents of troops deployed to Iraq, most often those who have posted online that their grandson or granddaughter is deployed in the war zone. Here's how it works: Scam artists gather enough information from social networking sites to contact these grandparents and pose as their grandchildren. They say they're coming home on leave from Iraq, hoping to surprise their parents, and they ask the grandparents to keep the impending visit a secret. A short time later, the imposter again contacts the grandparents to say the visit's been sidetracked by a broken-down car. The imposter asks the grandparents to wire a large sum of money for car repairs.

Jesse Hutton will be distributing the newsletter for the chapter. We will be sending a newsletter quarterly to save on the cost of mailing. However if you would like to receive the newsletter monthly and have an email address, we can send the newsletter electronically to your email address. We can include more information electronically that would benefit you. We can do that monthly. Also if you want something included in the newsletter, email

Jesse at the email contact listed to the left. Please include your contact information in case we have questions. By doing the newsletter via emails, we can also provide more information than what we put on the newsletter that we mail. This would benefit you and save the organization money that we can use to assist our members instead. We will respect your privacy. We will not give your email address to anyone and will not send you anything but the newsletter.

VA SAH Update 05

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on 15 JUL 09 the Congressional Budget Office provided their cost estimate for the Disabled Veterans Home Improvement and Structural Alteration Grant Increase Act of 2009 (H.R.1293). The legislation (if approved) would increase the maximum grant amounts awarded to certain disabled veterans for Special Adaptive Housing (SAH). Those grants are used to improve access to homes and to essential sanitary facilities. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$20 million over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues. Under current law, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) may award a maximum of \$4,100 to veterans with service-connected disabilities and \$1,200 to veterans with nonservice-connected disabilities. The bill would increase those maximum allowable amounts to \$6,800 and \$2,000, respectively. Based on data from VA on the number and dollar amounts of grants awarded over the 2003-2008 period, CBO estimates that under the bill almost 2,000 veterans with service-connected disabilities would receive an additional \$1,900 each year and almost 700 veterans with nonservice-connected disabilities would receive an additional \$760 each year, for an annual cost of \$4 million. H.R.1293 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments. [Source: CBO Cost estimate 22 Jul 09 ++]

Chapter 61 Disability Pay

This information is based on the H.R.2990 proposed legislation at this point. Everything is subject to change until the draft is signed into law. Based on conversations with potentially affected military members, it helps to start with a few ground rules to make this program easier to understand:

- 1.) First, forget all you know about your Service pay and concurrent receipt AKA Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP). If you start with a clean slate it's easier to comprehend. The barracks lawyers are putting out misinformation.
- 2.) Next, you have to understand the definition of CRDP. This is critical. CRDP only restores Service pay based on your service time. That's all it has ever restored. It does not restore Service disability pay. The law prohibiting two disability checks is still in force.
- 3.) Third. Your Chapter 61 Service pay, for CRDP purposes, has two components. Part disability pay and part Service longevity pay; the part based on your years of service. The part based on your service time is figured like any retiree's retired pay; 2.5% times years of service.
- 4.) Fourth. Depending on your personal situation under this proposal you may already be getting what CRDP would provide you (in other words, you get nothing extra, no CRDP) or you may get something extra.

For more information on this, check our website at

[http:// tinyurl.com/n5dl8n](http://tinyurl.com/n5dl8n)