



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



Chapter 95

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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.

Stimulus bill Provisions

Calendar

May 9 Wal-mart Forget-Me-Not drive in Hendersonville
June 17 to 21 Convention Double-Tree Hotel Murfreesboro
October 3 Wal-mart & Kroger Forget-Me-Not drive in Gallatin

News to Use

The CompTIA Educational Foundation's Creating Futures program provides training, mentoring, courseware, practice exams, and certification vouchers at no cost to veterans. Program participants train toward CompTIA certifications -- which are known throughout the IT industry as reliable predictors of employee success and are therefore some of the best ways to break into the IT field and build a solid career. For more information go to either <http://www.military.com/news/article/veterans-free-it-training-program.html#> website or <http://www.comptiaeducationalfoundation.org/> website

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.

H.R. 1, the American Recover and Reinvestment Act of 2009, contains provisions important to elderly, sick and disabled veterans. The stimulus bill approved an "Economic Recover Payment" to certain individual veterans – primarily those in receipt of disability compensation or nonservice-connected VA pension – of \$250. The U.S. Treasury and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs are directed by the Act to identify recipients and make payments directly to them within 120 days of approval of the Act by the President. Application by individual veterans is not necessary for disabled veterans to receive this one-time payment.

H.R. 1 also provides over \$1.4 billion in new funding for a variety of VA programs, especially VA health care-related facilities, as follows:

- \$1 billion for maintenance improvements and upgrades to VA health care facilities.
- \$150 million in VA grant funds for State Veterans Home construction and restoration needs
- \$200 million to improve disability claims processing and information technology in the VBA; and
- \$50 million to restore and provide better upkeep for VA's closed national cemeteries.

VETERAN'S PENSIONS

If you are a wartime veteran with a limited income and you are no longer able to work, you may qualify for a Veterans Disability Pension or the Veterans Pension for Veterans 65 or older. Many veterans of wartime service are completely unaware of the fact that if they are 65 or older and on a limited income they may qualify for a VA Pension without being disabled. An estimated 2 million impoverished veterans and their widows are not receiving the VA pension they deserve because they do not know about it. The VA has had limited success in getting the information to them.

Generally, you may be eligible if:

- You were discharged from service under conditions other than dishonorable, and
- You served at least 90 days of active military service 1 day of which was during a war time period. If you entered active duty after September 7, 1980, generally you must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty (There are exceptions to this rule), and
- Your countable family income is below a yearly limit set by law (The yearly limit on income is set by Congress), and
- You are age 65 or older, or, you are permanently and totally disabled, not due to your own willful misconduct.

You can also apply on line through the VONAPP website

<http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>.

For More Information Call 1(800) 827-1000.

[Source:

www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/pension/index.htm

YMCA MEMBERSHIPS:

Families of deployed members of the National Guard and Reserve, active duty service members on independent duty and their families, and active duty service members and their families assigned to selected bases would be eligible for fully funded family memberships at participating YMCAs in their local community. The YMCA memberships for Guard and Reserve families will be available while the service member is deployed for a minimum of six months. The deploying service member will also be eligible for three months pre- and post-deployment membership to help promote family participation. Single service members are eligible for fitness center memberships up to \$50 a month. Active duty families at selected bases will also be eligible for YMCA memberships as part of a pilot program.

Memberships will be issued on a first come, first served basis with 300 to 450 family memberships available per joint base location.