



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 10804

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NEWSLETTER: DECEMBER 2018

HAVING PROBLEMS? NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE?...The “VETERANS CRISIS LINE” is open 24/7. Just call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1. It takes an average of 8 seconds for your call to be answered. You are NOT alone!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Tim Owens, Sherman Pet and Gerard Crepezzi. Thank you for joining Post 10804 and we hope to see you at our many functions during December and throughout the upcoming New Year.

COMMANDER’S CALL:

“Tis the season to be jolly”. And so I want to thank all of you for going out of your way to help keep our Post and our Canteen going. I am thankful for our House Committee, our “Meal Team Six” Sunday Brunch volunteers, and for all of our kitchen volunteers (cooks and servers) who give of their time to make sure we can keep offering evening meals. Thanks also to all of our Committee heads and Post Officers and volunteers who work all of our special projects like Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, Teacher of the Year, our annual Buddy Poppy campaign, and the Best of the Best luncheon. Thanks to those of you who helped sandbag and/or board up our comrades homes in preparation for storms and to those who go out and pick up donated furniture for veterans. I probably didn’t cover everyone but you know who you are and what you do for our Post is greatly appreciated.

*With that said, I am counting ON YOU to HELP US OUT IN THE COMING YEAR! **We are in urgent need of some help in our kitchen.** If you could just offer to cook for just one or two Wednesday or Thursday nights a month, it would be a tremendous contribution to your Post! We’re also planning a good old-fashioned GI Party to get our Post home in great shape for the New Year.*

Join us this week for Pasta Night on Monday, the Pearl Harbor Day ceremony at 11 am on Friday, and our monthly meeting on Saturday morning, Dec 8th. Also on Saturday, we're going to have a great afternoon watching the ARMY-NAVY game together and top off the evening with our annual Post Christmas Party at 6 pm.

I hope to see many of you at these and other functions of our Post and hope that you will make an effort to support your Post and join in our common goal of supporting our veteran and local community in the New Year!

*Nick Camera
Commander*



GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.... Many of you may remember that back in 2015 a “Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation” was started to provide a GWOT memorial in Washington that would honor all veterans who served/are serving since 1991. In order for this memorial to come to fruition, they need to raise over \$50 million dollars, find an approved memorial site and come up with an approved memorial design.

I did some recent looking into where this project stands and here's what I have found: The House passed a resolution recognizing the foundation and its purpose back in 2017. President Trump recognized the organization back before he was President. The latest financial statement I found was their 2016 Tax return documents. It showed they had received about \$97,000 in donations and spent over \$51,000 in operating expenses. In 2016, their whole executive staff worked only one (1) hour a week each doing foundation work. They need \$50 million to acquire the land, design, build and maintain the monument. Their web site shows nothing new for the last couple of years.

SCAMMERS.... One easy way telephone scammers get your money is that your phone will ring ONE (1) time and stop. Most people are curious as to who may have called, so they call back the number listed on the dropped call. BINGO...You just got taken for a good amount of money (phone bill charge) for calling back to a foreign country. **DO NOT** ever call back phone numbers that begin with area codes **268, 284, 809 and 876 or any area codes you don't recognize!!** (Most of these are Caribbean country numbers) These scam calls are most prevalent on Tuesday's and Friday's. If the call was meant for you, the caller will call you back.

Scamming is not just done on the phone. Anywhere products are offered with multiple sources there is a possibility of scamming extra money out of you. EXAMPLE – Medical products sold by a big name brand company and that same product sold by a discount company, lets say aspirin. The name brand costs \$7.00 for a bottle of 200. The discount store sells 200 aspirin for \$4.75. The content of a product (ingredients) are listed on everything from aspirins to soups to ??? The ingredients are listed in order of percentage of content in the product. Highest content item being listed first. In aspirin, its either black or brown iron oxide (mostly both listed) and

then another 8 to 10 sub-ingredients. If your discount aspirin (\$4.75) lists either of these oxides first, you are getting basically the same pain relief/necessary effect as the \$7.00 aspirin. Your choice on how much money you want to/can afford to spend. P.S. One of the nation's #1 selling pain relief pills is not 'Made in America', it's made in Spain.

DECEMBER 7th – You all know what day that is and YOUR post always participates in the annual reef laying ceremony on the aircraft carrier Yorktown at Patriots Point (just before Charleston). It is a very fitting tribute to a very special day in our history and you all are invited to come and witness or participate. **Admission to the USS Yorktown and Patriots Point parking is free for this ceremony and you're all invited. It starts at 11 a.m.**

KITCHEN HELP – YOUR post still needs volunteer help for the Wednesday and Thursday. If you can spare a couple of hours on one of these nights, please contact Leo at the Post or Margo Sheridan.

HEALTH CARE OPEN ENROLLMENT..... If you are a member of TRI-Care Prime or Tri-Care Select and you want to change your health-care coverage and you remain eligible for coverage. You need to hurry, because 'open season' enrollment ends on December 10th. Any changes you make to your coverage will become effective on January 1, 2019. If you are satisfied with your current coverage and don't want to make any changes, you don't need to do anything and your coverage will automatically roll into 2019.

VETERANS DAY.... YOUR post, working with American Legion Post 186 again put on a fitting tribute to all military veterans. We then returned to the Post for a luncheon. If you missed it, you missed one of the many good things YOUR post does for veterans and the civilian community. Download the monthly post calendar from our website and join us in some upcoming activities.



BLUE WATER NAVY AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE BILL (HB 299)....I don't know how many members were in the Navy or Coast Guard and of those, who served on/in Vietnam sometime from January 1962 to May 1975 and their ship operated inside of 12 miles from the Vietnam coastline. There is a Bill out there, H.R. 299 that passed the House and was sent to the Senate. There is currently no action in the Senate in regards to this bill.

There is considerable consternation from the VFW, VA, DAV, VVA and AL about the Senate's delay in acting on this bill. There is a tremendous price-tag associated with potential passage of this bill and a serious increase in personnel who would become eligible for VA benefits if passed. Because of the way it has been modified, it is experiencing concern in the Senate Committee that currently has the Bill. Thus, the delay in action.

I read most of this bill and here's some interesting facts about the bill:

Like with any Bill that goes through the House or Senate, this Bill had various amendments/riders attached and approved. The Bill covers seven distinct areas of consideration and is NOT restricted to the Navy's Blue Water Agent Orange claims. The seven parts of the bill are:

In regards to Blue Water Vietnam Navy claims. It only covers Navy/Coast Guard personnel who file/d a claim from September 1985 to 1 January 2019. The Navy's contention is that there is NO record of such a disease (Agent Orange) on their ships.

Even though the claims are coming from every Navy ship that operated/supposedly operated inside of 12 miles from the Vietnam and Cambodia coastline. The Navy defines 11 geographic locations as possible exposure points. Even though veteran claims show every port is considered as a point of exposure. The Navy has taken a few ports off the list because of no potential exposure to Agent Orange (three are Da Nang, Cam Rahn Bay and Qui Nhon). The Navy/Coast Guard has listed five (5) categories for their ships that possibly operated within the 12 mile limits. Of these Categories 1,2,3 allow for presumption of exposure (must be proven by the veteran). Categories 4 & 5 (ships never landed at a port) allow for a claim if a sailor/s was tendered ashore in a potential exposure area. Sailor must prove shore-time with supporting documentation from ship's captain or ship's log.

NOTE: The Navy/Coast Guard listed over 100 vessels, or categories of vessels that MIGHT HAVE operated in Vietnamese waters. Most ships are identified by their number/name. However; as an example, the Navy lists LST's as a category. There may be 50 in this category, but only one (1) was used in Vietnam.

There's a lot more to this area, but you see the point.

*****(Part 1):** The Bill allows for the extension of "Presumption of Exposure" to those Veterans who served in the Korean DMZ from September 1967 to April 1968.

*****(Part 2):** Allows for Blue Water Navy veterans to file new claims (for other than dates/reasons listed on original Bill).

*****(Part 3):** Allows for retroactive benefits for veterans or survivors who had previously filed for benefits for exposure to herbicides.

*** (Part 4): Allows for benefits for children of veterans who served in Thailand from Jan 1962 to May 1975 who are born with Spina-Bifida (conception after veterans return from Thailand). Veteran must prove exposure.

..This part also includes those veterans who served in Korea from September 1967 to August 1971 in regards to Agent Orange exposure and children born with Spina-Bifida.

..This part also includes veterans claiming Agent Orange exposure while in Thailand. U.S. Military must provide list of military installations where Agent Orange is presumed to have been used (veteran must prove exposure).

..This part also includes presumption of Agent Orange exposure to any US/foreign location where Agent Orange was/is tested or stored since 1944.

*** (Part 5): Expands the National Cohort of Gulf War and Gulf War Era veterans under the VA's Epidemiology program.

*** (Part 6): Improve the VA Home Loan Program

*** (Part 7): Extend the waiver of home loan funding fees to Active Duty Military who have earned the Purple Heart medal.

NOTE: Each of these Part's goes into detail. This is just so you can see how the Bill has changed since its original submission.

Once the Secretary of the VA has completed his/her investigation:

The VA Secretary must submit claim report data to the House and Senate committee's

On Veterans Affairs in January of 2020 and January of 2022. In regards to Agent Orange claims, these committees want to know;

---The number of AO claims filed up to these two reporting periods

---The number of AO claims granted

---The number of AO claims denied

*** Remember, the U.S. Navy/Coast Guard contend there is no proof of Agent Orange being on any of their vessels. The Secretary of the VA determines possible exposure to Agent Orange while on a ship and the claimant must show the symptoms of presumed exposure manifested itself in the allotted time-period (the claimant must prove exposure and subsequent illness/s).

Another year is about to be added to your personal history and your association with the VFW. The VFW cannot survive without members. In 2019, WHY NOT make a New Year's Resolution to sign up at least ONE new member. There are many veterans (including females and Gulf War) out there that could benefit from being a VFW member. You know at least one. PLEASE make an effort to sign them up!

...**On a Personal Note:** The Commander and I have strived to provide you with an informative monthly news-letter. YOUR Post is one of the very few in the state that provides you this service. I THANK those of you who have personally told me how much you enjoy the news-letter. We look forward to a productive 2019. THANKS!! ...Bill

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