

THE CENTURION

DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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Ruth Ann Minner, Governor

George K. Hastings, Chairman

Dr. Harriet Smith Windsor, Secretary of State

Antonio Davila, Executive Director

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SEEKING DESIGN CONCEPTS FOR A STATE OF DELAWARE WWII MEMORIAL

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs is seeking design concepts for a State of Delaware World War II Memorial. If you would like to submit a drawing or sketch for consideration, please forward to: Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100, Dover, DE 19904. Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number with your submission. All submissions will become property of the Commission unless otherwise specified. Possible locations for the memorial are currently under consideration and a report detailing designs, sites, and construction costs will be submitted to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Capital Improvement Program by May 1, 2005. **All submissions must be received in the Commission Office by December 15, 2004.**

VA HEALTH CLINIC – BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

According to the American Cancer Society, during 2004, there will be 215,900 women diagnosed with breast cancer and 40,110 women will die from the disease. The Wilmington VA Women's Health Clinic recommends women between the ages 35 to 39 years to have a baseline mammogram – especially when a woman is considered high risk (family history of breast cancer, or exhibiting symptoms such as nipple discoloration, nipple discharge, or a lump). Women between the ages of 40-70 years should have a mammogram once per year. Men are not exempt from having breast cancer. For information about the VA Women's Health Clinic, call (302) 633-5451 or Regina Lane, RN – Women Veteran Program Manager at (302) 633-5580.

THOUGHT FOR THE QUARTER

“The guy who never votes is the first to tell you what’s wrong with the government”

SEAFORD CHRISTMAS PARADE

“A Five Star Christmas,” a tribute to members of the armed forces and their families, will be held on December 4, 2004, 7:00 p.m. For more information call (302) 628-2828 weekdays.

FALSE RUMOR REGARDING DESTRUCTION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS AT NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER

There is a false rumor circulating on the Internet, in e-mail, and among veteran service organizations that Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), operated by the National Archives and Records Administration, will be digitized and then destroyed. This rumor is NOT TRUE. Neither the Department of Defense (DOD) nor the National Personnel Records Center intend to destroy any OMPFs stored at the Center. The purpose of any electronic scanning would be to help preserve the originals and increase efficiency in handling reference requests. The National Archives and Records Administration preserves and protects OMPFs that were transferred from the military service departments because they are permanently valuable records that document the essential evidence of military service for the veterans of our nation. NPRC generally stores and services OMPFs for retired, discharged, or deceased military personnel. The National Personnel Records Center responds to approximately 4,000 requests pertaining to military records each day, totaling more than one million requests each year. Many of those requests are for Separation Documents (usually DD Form 214) and the Center answers the majority of those inquiries in ten days or less. Requests resulting from this rumor will have a negative impact on NPRC’s ability to respond to requests from veterans with real immediate needs, such as medical treatment, employment, retirement, etc. Please pass this information on to those members of your

organization that interface with veterans. Your assistance with this information will allow us to better serve the needs of our veterans.

(National Personnel Records Center, September 28, 2004)

TREATMENT AVAILABLE TO TROOPS SUFFERING FROM COMBAT STRESS

The military member who goes to combat and the one who comes back are never the same person. The Defense Department’s director of mental health policy said. “No one comes back unchanged,” Col. (Dr.) Tom Burke said in an interview with the Pentagon Channel <http://pentagonchannel.mil> and American Forces Press Service <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/articles.html>. Burke and other DOD health <http://www.ha.osd.mil/> officials try to reach out to those returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan who may be suffering from combat-related mental health problems or post-traumatic stress disorder, he said. Last week, the Army released a first-of-its-kind medical report that showed front-line action had adversely affected the mental health of some servicemembers. Burke, who advises DOD leaders on mental health issues, said combat veterans and their families should watch for changes in behavior that can range from mild depressive and anxiety symptoms to trouble sleeping and nightmares. “In the majority of the cases, these symptoms are transient; they are common and diminish with time,” he said. The servicemember may have the occasional sleepless night or memories that come back out of nowhere for years, “and that’s normal,” he added. Other symptoms to look for, he said, are sad and withdrawn moods, tearfulness, problems sleeping – too much or too little – and problems with appetite, memory loss and concentration. Drug and alcohol abuse also are symptoms of a problem, he added. But the problems aren’t always mild, and the symptoms are not always subtle. “If a person starts talking about hurting themselves, killing themselves, it’s important to not panic but to take

that kind of talk very seriously and get them to help, Burke said, “even if it involves calling 911.” Burke said that mental problems can go on for years if not treated, and that symptoms of combat-related mental illness don’t always happen right away. “They develop over time,” he said. An Army study published in the July edition of the New England Journal of Medicine stated that only 6 percent of Soldiers and Marines returning from combat duty experience mental health problems. Burke said the low number didn’t amaze him, based on what the Army has learned from studying prisoners of war suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. “The number of 6 to 12 percent is not surprising,” he said. “The experience in the past among POWs,” he said, “is (that) about 50 percent have PTSD; among Vietnam veterans, over the years, about 30 percent; Gulf War I, 10-15 percent,” he said. He said that declining percentage of combat-related mental health concerns might be attributed to the military’s approach to getting better mental health services to Soldiers before, during and after deployment. “I would like to believe that part of that is because of the proactive care on the battlefield and the full range of services by the military healthcare system,” he said, “and the proactive preventive services that are provided by the combat stress control units that are assigned with the combat units.” Also, he said, screening now takes place before deployment, preventive service is provided during deployment, followed by more screening during redeployment and follow-up care at treatment facilities. Burke said the low percentage also indicates that the majority of servicemembers surveyed are faring well under combat conditions. That may be due to realistic training and having the “best equipment in the world,” he said. He said that tougher training and better equipment, along with a more stable rotation schedule “has contributed to the resilience of the servicemember and their ability to handle the stressed of combat.” Burke said the Defense Department doesn’t “want to see the Soldiers of today live through years of suffering when there’s help available now”. The military has a number of resources to help those seeking help, he noted, starting with the service member’s chain of command. He also encourages servicemembers to

talk with comrades or their chaplains. He added that DOD “really cares” very much about its servicemembers and their families, and he encouraged them to take advantage of the various programs that are available. “The help doesn’t work if you don’t come in to use it,” he said. “Mental health problems are problems that have solutions.” Servicemembers can get confidential counseling service through the military services’ “One Source” program. The 24-hour-a-day service is for servicemembers and their families, and provides quick, professional assistance with problems. (*American Forces Press Service, July 14, 2004*)

VA BENEFITS FOR SURVIVORS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN OPERATIONS IRAQI FREEDOM AND ENDURING FREEDOM

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a variety of programs to assist the survivors of military personnel who die on active duty.

Summary of Benefits

Survivors receive certain payments or benefits regardless of whether the in-service death is due to combat, accident or disease, including:

*Burial benefits for the deceased service member which include a gravesite in any VA national cemetery with available space, perpetual care of the grave at no cost to the family, a government headstone or marker, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate.

*Dependency and Indemnity Compensation at the monthly rate of \$967 for a surviving spouse or more if there are dependent children.

*Life insurance, which most military members carry at the highest level, \$250,000.

More information about how VA services apply in individual cases is available from veteran’s services representatives at 800-827-1000.

Casualty Assistance Program

VA has a Casualty Assistance Program to give personal attention to surviving family members after in-service deaths, and to help them with benefit information and applications. A casualty assistance officer is designated at each of VA’s 57

regional offices. These VA officers work closely with military casualty officers to ensure timely assistance is available to beneficiaries.

Reservists and National Guard Eligibility

When a member of the Reserves or National Guard dies while federally activated or on inactive duty for training, the death is considered service-connected for VA death benefits. Activation of a National Guard unit by a governor alone in support of current security operations does not qualify unit members for these VA benefits except life insurance.

Monthly Payment for Spouse and Children

When a service member dies while on active duty, the death is considered service-connected unless it was due to willful misconduct. VA pays at least \$967 a month in Dependency and Indemnity Compensation to surviving spouses. In most cases, survivors' claims are processed within 48 hours. In some cases VA can pay more than \$967 a month, such as a \$241 benefit for each dependent child who is unmarried and under age 18 or up to age 23 if studying at a VA-approved school. Payments are increased if the surviving spouse is housebound or needs a home aide. The basic rate for survivors is adjusted annually and payments continue generally until the death or remarriage of the spouse before age 57. Remarriage after age 57 does not affect benefits. Additional information about benefits for family members, to include low-income parents of the veteran, is available at www.vba.va.gov/bin/dependents/.

Life Insurance

Most service members and reservists take VA's life insurance coverage, Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, though a few decline coverage. Most choose coverage at the highest levels and their designated beneficiary receives a payment of \$250,000. VA has paid every claim related to Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom within 48 hours of receiving the necessary paperwork. VA also offers beneficiaries free, personalized financial planning through a financial services company. More information is available at www.insurance.va.gov.

Burial in a VA National Cemetery

Members of the armed forces and veterans, their spouses and dependent children may be buried in

any of VA's national cemeteries with available space. There currently are 120 national cemeteries across the nation and 83 have available grave space. More information is available at www.cem.va.gov.

Burial in a Non-VA Cemetery

Deaths of active-duty members are not covered by VA's financial burial allowance benefits, since the military services assist survivors with funeral expenses and the cost of burial in private cemeteries. If a family wishes to arrange burial in a non-VA cemetery, VA will provide a headstone or marker for the grave.

Burial in a State Veterans Cemetery

Although not a benefit provided by VA, burial in a state veteran's cemetery is an option available in many states for those who die on active duty. Some states have residency requirements and may impose additional limitations.

Military Funeral Honors

Upon request, the Department of Defense will provide military funeral honors. This arrangement typically is made by the funeral director. At least two uniformed service members fold and present the flag and play "Taps" by a recording or a bugler. Additional information about funeral honors is available at www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil.

Military Burial Flags

In the case of in-service deaths, the Defense Department provides a U.S. flag to drape the casket or to be presented at a memorial service. After the service, the flag is given to the next of kin.

Health Care

Health care benefits for the survivors of service members killed in action in Operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom are provided by the military. For more information, see <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>.

Educational Assistance

When an active-duty service member dies, VA's Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program generally provides up to 45 months of education benefits to the un-remarried surviving spouse for 10 years, or for children aged 18 to 26. Currently the rate is \$788 a month for full-time attendance, with lesser amounts for part-time education. This benefit may be used to pursue secondary school programs; associated, bachelor or

graduate degrees; technical or vocational training; apprenticeships; and other types of training, including work-study programs. More information is available at www.gibill.va.gov/education/c35pam.htm.

Refund of Service Member's Unused GI Bill Contribution If the deceased service member had contributed to the Montgomery GI Bill education program, the designated life insurance beneficiary or surviving spouse is entitled to a refund of the money that was collected through payroll deduction but was not awarded in education benefits during the service member's lifetime. Most active-duty military members participate in this educational benefit program, which deducts \$1,200 from their pay at \$100 monthly during their first year of service.

Home Loans

Surviving spouses of military members may be eligible for a VA-guaranteed home loan from a private lender. The loan may be used to purchase, construct or improve a home, to refinance an existing mortgage or for certain other purposes. As with the program for veterans, VA guarantees part of the total loan, permitting the purchaser to obtain a mortgage with a competitive interest rate. Except for manufactured homes and other select cases, the surviving spouse may obtain a no-downpayment loan if the lender agrees.

Presidential Memorial Certificate Program

The service member's next of kin receives a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Additional certificates are available for other loved ones upon request to VA. The gold embossed parchment-style paper is inscribed with the service member's name and bears the president's signature. It expresses the nation's gratitude for the deceased person's military service. (*VA News Releases, Aug 24, 2004*)

CRSC OFFERS ADDED BENEFITS TO ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Some military retirees have benefited from the Combat-Related Special Compensation Program that provides monthly payments for service-related health problems, but Air Force Personnel Center officials say many additional people may still profit

should they apply. Combat-related special compensation allows some disabled military retirees, who served at least 20 years, to collect monthly, tax-free payments for their service-related disabilities. "We highly encourage all military retirees with disabilities who served at least 20 years to apply for this compensation," said Maj. Lorianne Hodge, CRSC board chief. "The peace of mind these benefits offer should far out weigh any doubts of eligibility or concerns over the application process." Major Hodge cited a recent applicant, a Vietnam veteran, who developed diabetes that was determined to be caused by exposure to Agent Orange. "Although he has documentation for his 20-percent disability of diabetes, he did not know he could claim other secondary illnesses which stemmed from the onset of the diabetes," she said. "We were able to additionally approve him from those secondary disabilities for a total of 100 percent, which translates to about \$2,200 a month in CRSC compensation." Although CRSC specifically addresses "combat-related" disabilities, retirees who developed disabilities from non-combat duty may also apply. Injuries due to training, simulated war exercises, parachuting and munitions demolition are all examples that may be compensated. Applicants may apply at <http://www.dior.whs.mil/forms/DD2860T.pdf> on the Internet where they will also find lists of supporting documentation they may want to include in their packages. They can also visit their local military installation's military personnel site for assistance. Completed applications and supporting documentation can be mailed to: United States Air Force, Disability Division (CRSC), 550 C Street West Suite 6, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4708. To obtain copies of military records, contact the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis MO 63132-5100 or call (314) 801-0800. Approved applicants will receive compensation backdated to June, 2003 when the program began. Many veterans have confused CRSC with the Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments Program, a program which began in January. CRDP enables military retirees with disabilities to get Veterans Administration

benefits and still receive military retiree pay. If applicants qualify for both CRSC and CRDP, they can choose the program which offers them the most benefit. More information is available by call the Air Force Personnel Contact Center toll free at (866) 229-7074, commercial at (210) 565-5000 or DSN 665-1600. (*AFPC Public Affairs, September 22, 2004*)

VA DENTAL TREATMENT

Outpatient dental treatment provided by the VA includes examinations and the full spectrum of diagnostic, surgical, restorative and preventive procedures. Veterans eligible to receive dental care include the following:

1. Veterans having service connected and compensable dental disabilities or conditions.
2. Former prisoners of war.
3. Veterans with service connected non-compensable dental conditions as a result of combat wounds or service injuries.
4. Veterans with service connected non-compensable dental conditions determined by the VA to be aggravating a service connected medical problem.
5. Veterans having service connected rated as permanently and totally disabled or rated 100% by reason of individual unemployability.
6. Veterans participating in a vocational rehabilitation program under chapter 31 of title 38.
7. Certain enrolled homeless veterans participating in specific health care programs.
8. Veterans with non-service connected dental conditions for treatment which was begun while the veteran was an inpatient in a VA facility when it is necessary to complete such treatment on an out patient basis.
9. Veterans requiring treatment for dental conditions clinically determined complicating a medical condition currently under treatment.

Veterans may receive one-time dental treatment for service connected and non-compensable dental disabilities if the following conditions are met:

- The dental condition can be shown to have existed at the time of discharge.

- The veteran served on active duty for 180 days during the Gulf War era.
- The veteran applied for VA dental care within 90 days of discharge or release from active duty.
- The certificate of discharge does not include certification that all appropriate dental treatment had been rendered prior to discharge. (*VA Pamphlet 80-04-01 Edition 2004*)

DFAS MYPAY SYSTEM CHANGE

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service has informed retired military users of the myPay system that if they want to receive printed paper documents in the future, they will have to notify DFAS. Retired members can either call the customer contact center at (800) 321-1080 between 0900 & 1930 EST anytime during the year or log on to myPay by 31 October 04 at <https://mypay.dfas.mil> to select the hardcopy option associated with each document they prefer to have mailed. According to DFAS, the myPay service provides convenience, privacy, security, and the capability to view and print individual personal retirement account information 24 hours a day. In addition, myPay provides on-line availability of Tax Form 1099R and the annual retiree account statement. In the future DFAS will not print and mail these documents routinely. (*Armed Forces News, September 24, 2004*)

DFAS RESERVE/GUARD PAY CENTER

The Defense Financing and Accounting Service (DFAS) officially opened the Reserve/Guard Pay Center as a centralized location for DFAS services for reserve component personnel. A key feature of the Center, which is housed within the Cleveland-based DFAS Military and Civilian Pay Services operation, is "surge capability." The cross flow of expertise residing there will allow pay technicians to support more than one service without adversely affecting other customers. Pay and customer service operations went "live" for some services in May with other branches to be included soon. For additional information on the Reserve/Guard Pay

Center, visit www.dfas.mil (*FRA News Bytes*, July 1, 2004)

SOME RETIREES COULD GET MEDICARE-SURCHARGE REFUND

A collaborative effort between the Department of Defense, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Social Security Administration could prove beneficial to certain Medicare-eligible uniformed services beneficiaries. The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 provides a chance for Medicare-eligible uniformed services beneficiaries to enroll in Medicare Part B without having to pay higher premiums due to late enrollment. Beneficiaries who enrolled in Part B in 2001 through 2004 will get a refund of surcharges they have paid in 2004. By law, uniformed services beneficiaries who are entitled to Medicare Part A, by reason of disability, end stage renal disease or age, must also enroll in Medicare Part B in order to maintain their Tricare eligibility. Tricare, the military health benefit program, is secondary payer following Medicare for beneficiaries entitled to Medicare Parts A and B. The Part B premium is \$66.60 per month for 2004. The Part B premium will increase to \$78.20 per month for 2005. Beneficiaries are encouraged to take advantage of this limited, one-time opportunity. If beneficiaries decline enrollment in Part B, they will have to pay a premium surcharge of 10 percent for each 12-month period in which they were eligible to enroll but didn't. "This is an important announcement for uniformed services retirees who are entitled to Medicare Part A and don't have Part B," said Dr. Mark B. McClellan, CMS administrator, also, (for) those who enrolled in Medicare Part B between January 1, 2001, through 2004. Nearly 35,000 retirees have been identified as eligible for the special enrollment in Medicare Part B. SSA is mailing notification to eligible beneficiaries to inform them that they have been enrolled in Medicare Part B effective Sept 1. Those who are eligible for a refund will get a letter and a separate refund check. McClellan and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr. estimated that a total of 60,000

beneficiaries would be affected by the changes. This legislation does not provide relief for all categories of beneficiaries. "The new Medicare law protects thousands of military retirees from having to make higher payments to enroll in Medicare Part B" said McClellan. "This will allow eligible military retirees to use their Tricare benefits as a Medicare Supplement." "We welcome these new provisions and the assistance they provide for many of our military beneficiaries to retain their Tricare benefits as a supplement to Medicare coverage," Winkenwerder stated. (*American Forces Press Service*, September 17, 2004)

HOME LOAN INFORMATION

Service members, veterans, and surviving spouses that have not remarried, who decide to buy a house are eligible for a home loan guarantee offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. A surviving spouse who remarries will regain eligibility for the program if the subsequent marriage ends. This program does not apply to property located outside the United States. The VA does not make the loans. Rather, it guarantees the loans, which minimizes lender's risks and reduces their losses in the event of foreclosure. The money comes from private lenders who volunteer to participate in the VA program. Because of the guaranty, lenders are willing to offer mortgage loans larger than what service members might otherwise qualify. A VA loan can be used to buy a house, townhouse or condominium, or one under construction; a mobile home, with some restrictions; or a mobile home lot and a farm, but not farm-related items. Eligibility can be restored if the person buying the home is an eligible veteran who assumes the loan and substitutes his entitlement for that of the original veteran. Funding fees: Recipients of VA home loans pay a funding fee similar to user fees or origination fees paid by civilian borrowers. Funding fees offset losses that occur when borrowers default on loans. VA borrowers are not required to pay an up-front funding fee in order to secure a loan, but can include the fee as part of the loan amount. The funding fee for loans with a down payment of less than 5% is 2% or 2.75% for

those qualifying based on service in the reserve or National Guard. It is lower for veterans making down payments of 5% or more. The VA also charges a funding fee to second-time users of the loan program. The so-called multiple-use fee is 3% of the loan amount unless the veteran makes at least a 5% down payment. In this case, the fee drops. Veterans who have a service-connected disability for which they receive compensation are exempt from any funding fee. Under the laws of some states, disabled veterans also may qualify for a waiver of property taxes. There is an additional option for those who already hold VA-approved home loans, the Interest Rate Reduction Refinancing Loan. The funding is 0.5%. Maximum loan VA does not establish a maximum loan amount. However, lenders generally will lend to qualified veterans up to four times the basic maximum entitlement. This means a typical ceiling for a loan with no down payment is \$144,000 (4 x \$36,000). In certain cases for loans above \$144,000, the maximum entitlement can be increased to \$60,000. That would enable a person to borrow four times that amount, or \$240,000, without a down payment. Refinancing a VA loan can be used to refinance an existing mortgage or to improve, repair or alter a dwelling owned and occupied by a veteran. On loans to refinance an existing VA loan to lower the interest rate, closing costs including up to two discount points can be included in the loan. (*Military Times Handbook for Military Life, May 2002*)

VA HOME LOAN UPDATE

Normally, Guardsmen and Reservists have to serve six years before becoming eligible for a VA home loan. But, when they're called to active duty during wartime, they're subject to the same eligibility requirements as a regular active duty service member. During wartime, you only have to serve for 90 days to become eligible for a VA home loan. Those with less than 90 days who are discharged with a service-connected disability are also eligible. (*Armed Forces News, 23 Jul 04*)

VETERANS EDUCATION AND BENEFITS EXPANSION ACT OF 2001

VA's direct loan program for Native Americans assists those vets buying on trust land. VA issues the loan, not a private lender, so the program's different from regular guaranteed home loans. It's strictly for veterans living on reservations because it's difficult to get lenders to make loans in those areas. The 2001 Act extended the nine-year-old program for four years to December 31, 2005. The program's loan ceiling is \$80,000, except in certain high-cost areas where VA has approved up to \$120,000. Loan interest rates are competitive with the mortgage market. So far, VA has made about 30 loans on trust lands in the continental United States. The act also increases specialty-housing grants from \$43,000 to \$48,000 for severely disabled veterans who need homes built to accommodate wheelchairs. The grant pays for such things as wider hallways, lowered kitchen appliances and counter tops, and bigger bathrooms. Veterans can use both a grant and a regular VA guaranteed loan to cover the total cost of their home purchase. Another grant program for housing adaptations for less seriously disabled vets had its ceiling raised to \$9,250 – up from \$8,250. The money is for some blinded veterans and amputees who need extra help. The law also extended housing loans for National Guard and Reserve personnel with at least six years of service from September 2007 to September 30, 2009. Reserve component personnel are authorized the same home loan guarantees as active duty personnel. (*American Forces Press Service, January 10, 2004*)

HELP NEEDED IN NEW CASTLE, KENT AND SUSSEX COUNTIES

Volunteers are needed to drive veterans to the VA Medical Center, Elsmere, DE. The Disabled American Veterans are looking for driver volunteers, Monday thru Thursday 6 AM to 3 PM, schedules are flexible. Individuals will have to fill out an application and take a physical at the VA Medical Center. If interested, please call the DAV Headquarters and leave a message (302-697-9061)

for Mark Wischmann, or 1-800-461-8262 ext 5414 for Margot Brennan, or 302-629-6879 for Ruth McBride).

DELAWARE VETERANS HOME

Veterans Home contributions can be made with a check payable to: Delaware Veterans Home Fund, and sent to the Department of State, 401 Federal Street, Suite 3, Dover, DE 19901. Your donation is tax deductible.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO DELAWARE VETERANS

In January 1946, Walter W. Bacon, then elected Governor, authorized a state award to those who served in World War II. To honor this commitment to Delaware Veterans, Governor Ruth Ann Minner has announced that the State of Delaware will provide a "Certificate of Appreciation" to all Delaware residents who shall have served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States during time of peace, conflict or war. To request a "Certificate of Appreciation" the veteran/spouse or next of kin must submit the enclosed application (see page 15) along with a copy of a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, (DD Form 214). DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL.

WWII VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

In support of Lt. Governor John C. Carney, Jr.'s and Secretary of State Harriet Smith Windsor's WWII Veterans History Project, we are soliciting your participation and support in creating and preserving a permanent record of your personal wartime experiences for future generations of Delawareans and other Americans to share and consult. The effort also will be used in support of the National Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. Some questionnaires will be selected for a videotaped oral history, while all will be used to create a volume of written histories of WWII veterans from Delaware. Those selected for the

videotaped portion of the project will be chosen based on the uniqueness of their questionnaire and the narrative they provide. If you are selected for the videotaped portion of this project, a Veterans History Project staff member will contact you to arrange for a personal interview. To participate in this preservation effort, please complete the attached questionnaire on pages 13/14 and return it to the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100, Dover, DE 19904. If you need assistance or further clarification on completing the questionnaire, please call 1-800-344-9900 or (302) 739-2792.

HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FISHING LICENSES

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs (DCVA) in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), Division of Fish & Wildlife is now issuing Hunting, Trapping and Fishing ID cards for those Delaware veterans and members of the Armed Forces who meet the exceptions to requirements for licensing under Title 7, Chapter 5, Section 502 of the Delaware Code.

- Any veteran having at least a 60% service-connected disability (certified by the Veterans Administration);
- Or 65 years or older;
- Or blind

For more information, please call (302) 739-2792 or (800) 344-9900.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 11:00 AM, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100, Dover, DE. The meeting schedule varies for June and December of each year. These meetings are open to the public. Any individual requiring special accommodations, shall contact this office one week prior to the meeting date. If you would like to attend, please call 1-800-344-9900 (in State) or (302) 739-2792.

MOBILE VETERANS SERVICE CENTER

Ms. White will be providing services for veterans from the mobile Service Center at the following locations:

OCT 26	Laurel Town Hall
OCT 27	Georgetown Service Center
NOV 09	Georgetown Cheer Center
NOV 16	Seaford Service Center
NOV 17	Ocean View Town Hall
NOV 30	Bridgeville Town Hall
DEC 01	Bethany Beach Town Hall
DEC 07	Laurel Town Hall
DEC 08	Fenwick Island Town Hall
DEC 14	Seaford Service Center
DEC 15	Georgetown Cheer Center
DEC 21	Bridgeville Town Hall
DEC 22	Ocean View Town Hall

For more information, contact Ms. White at the Pyle State Service Center, (302) 732-9560.

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs

(Kent County) – Ms. Melanie E. Bronov - Dover office - may be reached Monday –Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM, (302) 739-2792 or (800) 344-9900 (in State). Please call for an appointment.

(Sussex County) - Ms. Laurie A. White - Pyle State Service Center located in Roxanna, DE, may be reached Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, (302) 732-9560. Please call for an appointment.

American Legion

Robert McBride, Dept. Service Officer, (302) 633-5323, will visit the following posts between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM on the following dates:

OCT 22	David Harrison, Post 14	653-1711
OCT 29	Nanticoke Post #6	629-9915
NOV 05	Oak Orchard/Riverdale, Post 28 (8:00-12:00)	945-1673
NOV 12	Walter L Fox, Post 2	674-3922

NOV 19	David Harrison, Post 14	653-1711
DEC 03	Oak Orchard/Riverdale, Post 28 (8:00-12:00)	945-1673
DEC 10	Walter L Fox, Post 2	674-3922
DEC 17	David Harrison, Post 14	653-1711

Paralyzed Veterans of America (DE/MD PVA)

Darrell Johnson, Sr., National Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 26, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 633-5325 or (302) 633-5392. Mr. Johnson will make home visits upon request for vets who do not have transportation to the VA. He will be in the Oak Orchard area the 1st Monday, Dover the 2nd Monday, Frederica the 3rd Monday and at the Home of the Brave on the 4th Monday of each month. In addition to our service officer at the Wilmington VA Regional Office, we also have a representative David Timberman, National Liaison Service Officer, at the Home of the Brave on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. The Home of the Brave is located at 6632 Sharps Rd, Milford, DE (302) 424-1681 or 1682.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

Paul Lardizzone, Dept. Service Officer (DAV).
Every Tuesday: DAV Headquarters Building
& Wednesday 183 South Street
(Kent) 8:00-12:00 Camden, DE 19934
(302) 697-9061
Every Thursday: Department of Labor
(Sussex) 8:00-12:00 Div. of Emp & Trng
(302) 856-5230 600 N. DuPont Hwy.
Georgetown, DE 19947

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)

Richard Magner, National Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 633-5508.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

Terry Baker, National Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 633-5357

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

James Withrow, Dept. Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 21, Wilmington, DE 19805, (800) 461-8262 ext. 5326 or (302) 633-5326.

1st Thursday

Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM
Milford VFW (422-4412) 1:30-4:00 PM

2nd Thursday

Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM
Milton VFW (684-4975) 1:30-4:00 PM

3rd Thursday

Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM
Rehoboth VFW (227-3469) 1:30-4:00 PM

4th Thursday

Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM
Seaford VFW (629-3092) 1:30-4:00 PM

5th Thursday

Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM

NOTE: All persons interested in Outreach Services should first call our office so that some advance information may be obtained to accelerate the application process. Kent & Sussex County residents may call 1-800-461-8262 ext 5326. New Castle County residents may call 633-5326.

NOTE: persons desiring assistance at the Thursday-downstate locations should be at the Delaware DOL no later than 9:00 AM or at the afternoon locations by 2:00 PM. The VFW provides services to veterans and their dependents without respect to veteran service organization affiliation; membership in the VFW is NOT required for service.

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS POC

American Ex-Prisoners Of War

Howard Melson.....(302) 539-1808

American Legion

Ed Phillips Jr.....(302) 628-5221

AMVETS

John Navitsky.....(302) 994-5657

DE/MD Paralyzed Veterans of America

Wayne Carter.....(302) 368-4898

Disabled American Veterans

Paul Lardizzone.....(302) 697-9061

Jewish War Veterans

Barry Newstadt.....(302) 475-2820

Korean War Veterans Association

Dave Gillan.....(302) 737-2242

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Bill Carroll.....(302) 655-3820

Military Order of the World Wars

COL (Ret) Eugene A. Hebert.....(302) 335-0110

E-Mail gene@hebert.net

The Reserve Officers Association

CWO John V. Hawkins, Sr. (Ret)...(302) 328-8115

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Paul Phillips Jr.....(302) 656-5022

Vietnam Veterans of America

Robert Corsa.....(302) 933-0119

WAVES Nat'l

Ruth Harden.....(302) 998-1373

**DELAWARE VETERANS
MEMORIAL CEMETERY**

New Castle Co. Section (Bear, DE).....834-8046

Sussex Co. Section (Georgetown, DE).....934-5653

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Claims, Benefits, Veterans Services

(Regional Office).....1-800-827-1000

VA Hospital Scheduling.....1-800-461-8262

.....302-994-2511

Veterans Outreach Center

(New Castle County).....302-633-5360

(Kent and Sussex Counties).....302-422-8011

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Mike Wolanski (VA Regional Ofc)...302-633-5492

Al Barclift (Wilmington).....302-761-8093

Michael Companion (Wilmington).....302-761-8096

Ron Bythwood (Newark).....302-739-5473

Steve Flaherty (Dover).....302-739-5473
 Charley Roberson (Dover AFB).....302-677-6942
 Norris Townsend (Georgetown).....302-856-5230
 Cliff Rumph (Georgetown).....302-856-5230

VETERANS UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM

Lt. Col. Reginald W. Glasby, (USAR) Counselor/
 Recruiter. Delaware State University, 1200 N
 DuPont Highway, Dover DE 19901, (302) 857-
 6135. E-mail rglasby@desu.edu

RETIREE ACTIVITIES

Retired Activities Office

Lt. Col Ken Smith, (USAF RET), Bldg 520, Room
 105, Dover AFB, DE 19902, (302) 677-4612.

Retired Navy Activities Affairs Office

Leon Stajkowski, Naval & Marine Corps Reserve
 Center, 3920 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE
 19808, (302) 998-5194.

COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Commissioners may be reached by calling (800)
 344-9900.

George K. Hastings (Chairman).....MOWW
 Jim Thompson (Vice Chairman).....MCL
 Cornelius “Bill” Carroll.....MOPH
 Richard Ennis.....KWVA
 Ruth B. Harden.....WAVES NAT’L
 Jesse Kitson.....VFW
 Paul Lardizzone.....DAV
 Richard M. Magner.....AMVETS
 Gary “Mo” Morris.....AMERICAN LEGION
 Barry Newstadt.....JWV
 Reese Phillips.....40&8
 David W. Timberman.....DE/MD PVA
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 George Webb.....VVA

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**MAIL TO: DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
 802 SILVER LAKE BLVD, SUITE 100
 DOVER, DE 19904**

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Robbins Building
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