



THE CENTURION

DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Robbins Bldg. – 802 Silver Lake Blvd., Suite 100, Dover, Delaware 19904

(302) 739-2792 or (800) 344-9900 (in State)

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Ruth Ann Minner, Governor

Dr. Harriet Smith-Windsor, Secretary of State

Volume 15, Number 2

Richard "Dick" E. Ennis, Chairman

Antonio Davila, Executive Director

Apr-Jun 2008

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

My Fellow Veterans,

The Commission has had a very busy and eventful first quarter of the year. In addition to its regularly scheduled Commission meetings, it has participated in the Operational Advisory Committee meetings held at the Veterans Home in Milford, Delaware, and numerous veterans functions held throughout the State. The Commission accepted an invitation to attend a meeting of the Joint House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee primarily held to hear testimony from our Executive Director and the Veterans Home Administrator. I, as well as Mr. Jim Thompson, Chairman of our Legislative Committee, was given an opportunity to make a well received presentation. In addition, Senator Tom Carper invited Commission members to his annual congressional meeting held at the VA Medical Center in Elsmere, Delaware. It was an open and very informative session that included an overview by the acting medical center director Mr. Charles "Chuck" Dorman. Also, the new Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) in Dover and Georgetown are expected to hold grand opening ceremonies sometime during the May through June 2008 timeframe. Further information regarding these ceremonies will be forthcoming.

The Commission looks forward to a very productive second quarter and will keep all of you advised as to our progress.

Sincerely,

Richard (Dick) E. Ennis
Chairman

FIVE YEARS OF VA HEALTH CARE FOR COMBAT VETERANS

Peake: Honoring Commitment to Newest Combat Veterans

Military veterans who served in combat since Nov. 11, 1998, including veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, are now eligible for five years of free medical care for most conditions from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This measure increases a two-year limit that has been in effect nearly a decade. “By their service and their sacrifice, America’s newest combat veterans have earned this special eligibility period for VA’s world-class health care,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. The five-year deadline has no effect upon veterans with medical conditions related to their military service. Veterans may apply at any time after their discharge from the military -- even decades later -- for medical care for service-connected health problems. The new provision, part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 signed by President Bush on Jan. 28, 2008, applies to care in a VA hospital, outpatient clinic or nursing home. It also extends VA dental benefits -- previously limited to 90 days after discharge for most veterans -- to 180 days. Combat veterans who were discharged between Nov. 11, 1998 and Jan. 16, 2003, and who never took advantage of VA’s health care system, have until Jan. 27, 2011 to qualify for free VA health care. The five-year window is also open to activated Reservists and members of the National Guard, if they served in a theater of combat operations after Nov. 11, 1998 and were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

Veterans who take advantage of this five-year window to receive VA health care can continue to receive care after five years, although they may have to pay copayments for medical problems unrelated to their military service. Copayments range from \$8 for a 30-day supply of prescription medicine to \$1,024 for the first 90 days of inpatient care each year. (*VA News Release, February 26, 2008*).

FALCON LOAN PROGRAM

Airmen in a financial pinch soon will be able to obtain an interest-free loan for up to \$500. The Air Force Aid Society’s new Falcon Loan program begins March 3 at U.S. Air Force installations worldwide. The money is to be used for emergency needs such as basic living expenses, including rent, utilities, phone, gasoline and food; car repairs; emergency travel; or medical and dental expenses, according to Air Force officials. The Air Force is following the lead of the other services. The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society began offering a \$300 quick loan last month. And about 18 months ago, Army Emergency Relief began testing an express loan process called the Commander Referral Loan. It’s since been implemented worldwide, allowing soldiers to apply for a loan of \$1,000 or less. The streamlined application for the Falcon Loan requires no budget planning, supporting documentation or first sergeant or commander approval, according to an Air Force news release. Applicants can download an application form at <http://www.afas.org/docs/AFAS-Application-March2008.pdf> and take it along with an identification card and leave and earnings statement to a family readiness center for processing. Air Force officials say the loans, which must be repaid in 10 months, are not free money. They hope that by relaxing the loan process, they can encourage airmen to seek financial help through family readiness centers and steer airmen away from predatory lenders and high-interest credit card fees. Active-duty officers and enlisted are eligible for Falcon Loans, and spouses with a service member’s power of attorney can obtain the loan when a service member is deployed. Some Air Force Reserve and National Guard members also are eligible. The Falcon Loan complements other assistance programs available through Air Force Aid Society and family readiness centers. The Air Force Aid Society is the official charity of the U.S. Air Force. The society relies on individual donations to fund its activities, as well as repayments of existing loans and investment fund

income. For more information about the Falcon Loan, contact a family readiness center or visit the Air Force Aid Society Web site www.afas.org. (*Stars and Stripes*, February 21, 2008)

VA TRAVEL NURSE PROGRAM

To deal with a nationwide shortage of nurses and to improve the quality of care for veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has created a "Travel Nurse Corps" to enable VA nurses to travel and work throughout the Department's medical system. The Travel Nurse Corps, headquartered at the Phoenix VA Health Care System, is beginning as a three-year pilot program. Initially, it will place as many as 75 nurses at VA medical centers across the country. The goals of the program are to improve recruitment, decrease turnover of experienced nurses and maintain high standards of patient care. Under the program, participating nurses may be temporarily assigned to distant medical centers and clinics to help nursing staffs that have vacancies, to reduce wait times or the reliance upon contractors, or to maintain high-skill services and procedures. On 20 FEB the Department announced plans to create a Rural Health Care Advisory Committee to enhance VA services to veterans in rural areas. The Travel Nurse Corps will work with this national VA panel to support VA health care in rural areas. Those who become VA travel nurses are compensated for their time on duty and their travel. They also receive standard government per diem allowances, which include lodging, meals and incidentals. "This program is competitive with the private sector. VA has state-of-the-art facilities, high-tech computer systems and professional colleagues second to none," said Jacqueline Jackson, Travel Nurse Corps director at the Phoenix VA Health Care System. The program is also designed to establish a potential pool for national emergencies, serve as a model for an expanded VA travel corps with nurses who have varying specialties, and to reduce the use of contracted nurses, thus preserving resources that can be used elsewhere to care for veterans. For additional info on VA's Travel Nurse Corps refer to www.travelnurse.va.gov, email travelnurse@va.gov

or call (602) 200-2398. Or (866) 664-1030 (VA News Release, March 11, 2008)

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS REJECT TWO-TIERED DISABILITY SYSTEM

VSOs urge caution before implementing Dole-Shalala commission recommendation

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, heard veterans service organizations (VSOs) at three separate hearings [during the months of February and March] at which they expressed concerns about recommendations from the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors. Specifically, the VSOs raised objections to the Commission's recommendation for a two-tiered disability benefits system that would treat veterans differently based on their periods of service. The hearing was the last of three joint House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearings to review the legislative proposals of various VSOs. "A two-tiered compensation system could pit veterans of our recent conflicts against those of different eras, which is clearly unacceptable," said Chairman Akaka. "The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee has held three hearings to review veterans' disability compensation this Session, with more planned in the months to come, and we will keep the VSOs' concerns in mind as we move forward on this issue." The Non-Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S.A (NCOA) testified regarding their strong opposition to any system giving "different disability rating awards to classes of veterans from different combat eras." Similarly, the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) recommended against any legislation to simply implement the recommendations of the President's Commission. Testifying before the joint committees, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) urged caution regarding the President's Commission's recommendations, noting that the Commission had only four short months to report on a wide-range of veterans' issues. VFW specifically expressed their opposition to the Commission's recommendation to create a two-tiered disability compensation system. ((News from

Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Kawika Riley (Veterans Affairs) March 07, 2008))

SENIORS BENEFIT CHECKUP

As a whole, Americans are blessed compared to people in many other countries. We are wealthy and have access to education and quality health care. Unfortunately, many older Americans have difficulty making ends meet. Some may be unable to pay for prescriptions or heating. For these seniors there is help. Programs at the federal, state and local level can provide assistance. So if you need help, visit [BenefitsCheckUp](http://www.benefitscheckup.org) at www.benefitscheckup.org. First, you can apply for prescription drug coverage through Medicare if you have not already done so. Then, find more benefits programs that will help with utility bills, food, healthcare and other needs. You can also apply for these programs from the site. You will need to fill out a short form indicating in broad terms your current situation. You will not need to identify yourself or provide any location info other than your zip code and state of residence. Upon completion you will be provided a list of benefits you are eligible for that you are not already receiving. (*Tips-n-Topics, February 21, 2008*)

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

The House recently passed H.R.3099: National Guard and Reserve Higher Education Fairness Act, which included an amendment to help service members on active duty with student loans. The amendment would prevent interest on student loans from accruing while a service member or National Guard member is on active duty up to 60 months. An existing law already allows service members on active duty to defer their student loan payments, but interest still accrues on the loan. According to Representative Susan Davis (D-CA) sponsor of the amendment, a service member could save between \$1,183 and \$1,479 over the course of a 12-15 month activation period. (*NGAUS Legislative, February 15, 2008*)

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 11) along with a copy of a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, (DD Form 214). DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL.

COMBAT VETERANS COUNSELING SERVICES AVAILABLE IN KENT & SUSSEX COUNTY

Angela Hoag, MSW, LCSW, Clinical Social Worker is presently conducting a *War Veteran's Support Group* every Thursday afternoon at 2:00 PM. This group is for combat veterans struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Ms. Hoag also facilitates a *Significant Other Support Group* every Friday morning at 9:00 AM for wives, significant others, and family members of a veteran diagnosed with PTSD. This group is a Psycho-Educational program to assist family members in understanding the symptoms of PTSD, and teaches effective coping techniques. In addition, Ms. Hoag & Eric Young (302) 354-8653 (The Vet Center Iraqi Outreach Counselor) facilitate an Iraqi/Afghanistan OEF-OIF PTSD support group which meets every Friday morning at 10AM. Ms. Hoag also facilitates a *Military Sexual Trauma Group* every Friday morning at 12:00 PM for female veterans who have experienced military sexual trauma during their active duty service. All groups are held at the Dover Vet Center Outreach Office located at the Delaware Commission of Veteran's Affairs Office, 802 Silver Lake Blvd., Suite 100, Dover, DE 19904. Similar services are held at the Vet Center Outreach Office in Georgetown, Sussex County, and the Vet Center in Elsmere, Wilmington, DE. For additional information or to request individual therapy, please

contact Ms. Hoag, MSW, LCSW, at (302) 739-2792 x. 1003 or (800) 344-9900 x. 1003.

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs

(New Castle County) - Mr. John K. Williams - located in Bear, DE, may be reached Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, (302) 834-8046. Please call for an appointment.

(Kent County) - Mrs. 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.

**DELAWARE VETERANS
MEMORIAL CEMETERY**

New Castle Co. Section (Bear, DE).....834-8046
Sussex Co. Section (Georgetown, DE).....934-5653

MOBILE VETERANS SERVICE CENTER

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

- APR 09 Milford Vets Home
- APR 11 Home of the Brave
- APR 16 Milford Vets Home
- APR 18 Seaford Senior Center
- APR 23 Milford Vets Home
- APR 30 Milford Vets Home
- MAY 06 Georgetown Senior Center
- MAY 07 Milford Vets Home
- MAY 09 Home of the Brave
- MAY 14 Milford Vets Home
- MAY 16 Seaford Senior Center
- MAY 21 Milford Vets Home
- MAY 28 Milford Vets Home
- JUN 03 Georgetown Cheer Center

- JUN 04 Milford Vets Home
- JUN 11 Milford Vets Home
- JUN 13 Home of the Brave
- JUN 18 Milford Vets Home
- JUN 20 Seaford Senior Center
- JUN 25 Home of the Brave

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

American Legion

Robert McBride, Dept. Service Officer, (302) 993-7254 or (302) 993-7256, will visit the following posts between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM on the following dates:

- APR 11 Walter L Fox, Post 2 674-3922
- APR 18 Laurel Post #19 875-9948
- APR 25 David Harrison, Post 14 633-1711
- MAY 02 Oak Orchard/Riverdale, 945-1673
Post 28 (8:00-12:00)
- MAY 09 Walter L Fox, Post 2 674-3922
- MAY 16 Laurel Post #19 875-9948
- MAY 23 David Harrison, Post 14 633-1711
- MAY 30 Nanticoke Post #6 629-9915
- JUN 06 Oak Orchard/Riverdale, 945-1673
Post 28 (8:00-12:00)
- JUN 13 Walter L Fox, Post 2 674-3922
- JUN 20 Laurel Post #19 875-9948
- JUN 27 David Harrison, Post 14 633-1711

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

Dept. Service Officers (DAV) 302-382-3448
Paul Lardizzone 302-697-9061
H. Mark Wischman 302 697-9061

Schedule: (Kent Co)

Mondays - 8:00- 3:00 PM by Appointments only
Tuesday/ Wednesday- 8:00-12:00 PM Walk-Ins
DAV Headquarters Building
183 South Street
Camden, DE 19934
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM by Appointments only

Schedule: (Sussex Co)

Thursday- 8:00-1:00 PM Walk-Ins (302) 856-5230

Department of Labor
Div. of Emp & Trng
600 N. DuPont Hwy.
Georgetown, DE 19947

Evening Appointments for Kent & Sussex by appointment only.

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) 993-7252 or (302) 993-7253. 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 Tuesday, Dover the 2nd Tuesday, Frederica the 3rd Tuesday and at the Home of the Brave on the 4th Tuesday 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 Tuesdays 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.

USN Veterans Association

CDR Jim Anderson.....(302) 295-7051

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

James Withrow, Dept. Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 21, Wilmington, DE 19805, (800) 993-7260 or (302) 993-7261.

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.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

Terry Baker, National Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 993-7250 or (302) 993-7251

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS POC

Air Force Sergeants Association

Bill McMullen.....(302) 697-9750

American Legion

Richard "Ric" Santos.....(302) 628-5221

AMVETS

Ray Landon.....(302) 875-1338

Colonial Paralyzed Veterans of America

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

DELVETS

Robert Wasson.....(302) 798-2951

Disabled American Veterans

Paul Lardizzone.....(302) 697-9061
40 & 8

Eugene "Chip" Rosan.....(302) 678-8077

Jewish War Veterans

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

Korean War Veterans Association

Richard Ennis.....(302) 653-6765

Marine Corps League

James Thompson.....(302) 284-2708

Military Officers Association of America

Tom Kelly (New Castle Co.).....(302) 834-9659

Ron Sarg (Kent Co.).....(302) 678-1603

Dick Cecil (Sussex Co.).....(302) 645-0432

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Cornelius "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

U.S. Navy Veterans Association

Jim Anderson.....(302) 295-7051

Veterans of Foreign Wars

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

Vietnam Veterans of America

Tom Daws.....(302) 738-8875

WAVES Nat'l

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

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

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

Allen Jones (Wilmington).....302-761-8141

James Williams (Newark).....302-368-6622

Steve Flaherty (Dover).....302-739-5473

Joann Johnson (Dover).....302-739-5473

Cliff Rumph (Georgetown).....302-856-5230

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.

Richard Ennis (Chairman).....KWVA

Paul Lardizzone (Vice-

Chairman).....DAV

Cornelius "Bill"

Carroll.....MOPH

Robert P. Corsa.....VVA

John Endres.....40 & 8

Maurice Evans.....American

Legion

Ruth B. Harden.....WAVES NAT'L

Jesse Kitson.....VFW

Joseph "Joe" Lank.....MOWW

Barry Newstadt.....JWV

Lou Spitzfaden.....MOAA

Henry L. Smith.....AMVETS

David W. Timberman.....PVA

Jim Thompson.....MCL

Robert E. Wasson.....DELVETS

The Centurion is published for informational purposes only and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission of Veterans Affairs or the State of Delaware. Paid for with State Funds.

If you are not already on our mailing list and wish to receive this newsletter on a continual basis, please provide the following information below: (Articles should be submitted to the Commission Office directly)

NAME/ORGANIZATION _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

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

If you have a name or address change, please contact our office at (302) 739-2792 or (800) 344-9900.



DELAWARE TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TERRY CAMPUS – CORPORATE TRAINING CENTER
(SCARBOROUGH RD ENTRANCE)
DOVER, DELAWARE
APRIL 26, 2008
8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME

ADDRESS

CITY **STATE** **P**

PHONE (DAY)

EMAIL

BRANCH OF SERVICE **Years**

DATES OF SERVICE: FROM YEAR **R**

Please circle four (4) workshops you would like to attend from those listed below:

- 1. Women Veterans Benefits & Beyond** - *Ever wonder about what Federal and State benefits you may be entitled to, but aren't receiving? Find out more about: disability compensation, veterans pension, vocational rehabilitation, medical care, survivors benefits, and much more. This workshop also includes State medical and financial benefits.*
- 2. Mental Wellness – Strategies for Reducing Stress** - *This workshop will introduce holistic approaches to reducing stress of everyday living: experience the calmness and well being you will learn from Tai Chi movements for centering the body's energy fields. Also learn how to use your senses to tap into your mind-body healing connection.*

- 3. Women Veterans Health Services & Related Issues** - *Primary health care, gender specific health care, reproductive health services, cancer, and behavioral health services. Includes benefits unique to OIF/OEF veterans.*
- 4. Strategic Ways to Get Out of Debt** - *Getting out of debt and ways to accelerate debt reduction. Budgeting to get out of debt as well as creating an overall plan to get out of debt.*
- 5. Finding the Secrets in the 5X Mirror “Knowing Yourself”** - *A look into that 5X mirror to learn about your behavioral style and how the good and not so good affect others! By understanding ourselves we can improve our effectiveness in dealing with others. The workshop goal is to learn to understand, respect, appreciate, and value individual differences!*
- 6. Building Relationships & Empowerment** - *Basic steps to becoming more assertive, 10 signs of a healthy relationship, setting goals, and ABC’s of Daily Motivation.*
- 7. Wills & Estate Planning** - *The workshop will explain the importance of wills, tips on what should be included in a will and criteria for making a valid will. This class will inspire you to plan for the future and will assist you in exploring the creation of a will and an estate plan.*
- 8. Domestic Violence Shouldn’t Happen to Anyone, Ever...Period!**
- A panel of experts will provide information and resources everyone should know about domestic violence and sexual assault. Learn how to take care of yourself. Transition your thinking about being embarrassed and or feeling it could never happen to you. Recognize the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault and understand the laws that protect you.

SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION FEE - \$15.00
(INCLUDES CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH)

Please mail this form and registration fee to:
Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs
802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE 19904
Attn: Sherri Taylor

REGISTRATION FEE MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 11, 2008.

NOTE: RECEIPT OF YOUR REGISTRATION FEE, CONFIRMS ATTENDANCE AND WORKSHOP SELECTION.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT THE COMMISSION OFFICE AT 302-739-2792 OR 1-800-344-9900 (IN STATE).

▶ **Did you receive**

DISABILITY COMPENSATION, PENSION OR SURVIVORS' BENEFITS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS LAST YEAR?

Even if you are not otherwise required to file a tax return, you may still be entitled to an economic stimulus payment from the federal government.

WHAT YOU COULD GET: You could receive a payment of \$300 for individuals or \$600 if you are married and file a joint tax return with your spouse. Eligible taxpayers who qualify for a payment may receive an additional \$300 for each qualifying child. To qualify a child must be under age 17 as of December 31, 2007.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO: All you have to do to get the stimulus payment is file a 2007 IRS Form 1040 or Form 1040A and report at least \$3,000 in qualifying income on the form. You can include the amount of your VA benefits to qualify for the stimulus payment.

QUALIFYING INCOME: Add the amount of your VA disability compensation, pension, or survivors' benefits to any other qualifying income you have to reach the \$3,000 requirement. Other qualifying income would include wage earnings or Social Security benefits.

WHAT YOU FILL OUT: Enter your name, address, Social Security Number, and filing status on the form. Then just enter the amount of VA and Social Security benefits you received on line 14a of the Form 1040A or line 20a of Form 1040. You can estimate the benefits you receive from VA or the Social Security Administration by taking the monthly amount you received last year and multiplying it by the number of months you received payments. If you need to include wage earnings to reach the \$3,000 qualifying level, enter that amount on Line 7 of Form 1040A or 1040. In addition, you should write the words "Stimulus Payment" at the top of the 1040A or 1040.

IS THE STIMULUS PAYMENT TAXABLE NEXT YEAR? No!

WILL THIS PAYMENT AFFECT THE AMOUNT OF VA BENEFITS YOU RECEIVE? No!

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY PAYMENT? For those who file a 2007 tax return, IRS will begin mailing checks in May.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: In late March 2008, the IRS will mail a packet of information to recipients of VA benefits who did not file a tax return last year. The packet will contain guidance to help you claim the stimulus payment. If you need information in the interim, you can visit the IRS web site at www.irs.gov.



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

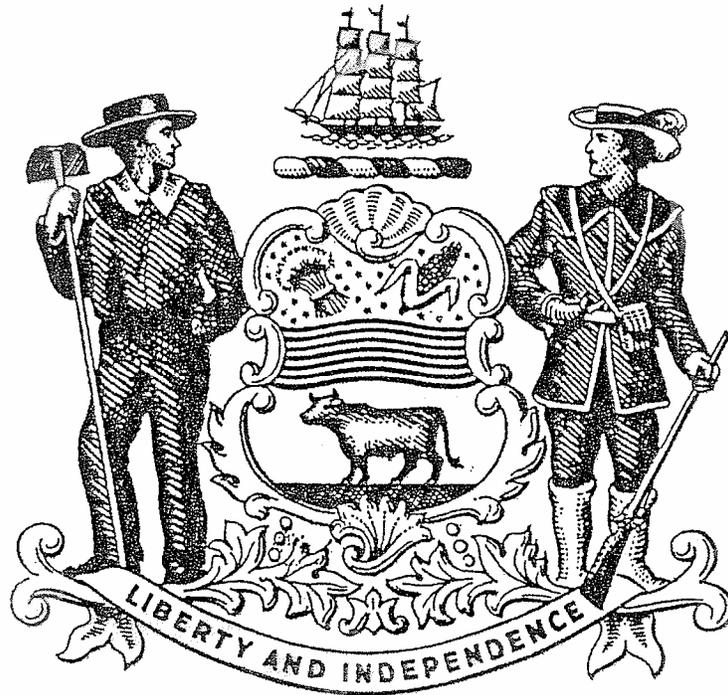
www.irs.gov

Publication 5964, 12-08-07
Subject Number 070107

STIMULUS ←
PAYMENT

STATE OF DELAWARE

"Serving Delaware's Veterans"



Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs
Robbins Building
802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, Delaware 19904

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