

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)

Internet Address: <http://www.state.de.us>

Ruth Ann Minner, Governor
Dr. Harriet Smith Windsor, Secretary of State

Robert D. Marcinkowski, Chairman
Antonio Davila, Executive Director

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CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Our goal towards funding the design and construction of the Veteran's Home has started with the passage of House Bill 500, which will allow individuals to make a donation for the Home by using a check off box on the Delaware State income tax form. These check off donations, as well as individual donations for the Home, will be placed under the supervision of both the office of the Secretary of State and the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs. We are grateful for the enthusiastic support of our legislators, our veterans, and our veterans' organizations who continue to assist us in reaching our goal. The federal Department of Veterans Affairs has construction funds set aside for veterans homes, and they will fund 65% of the construction costs. They cannot provide funds to us without Delaware's commitment of the initial 35% of the funds. Members of the Commission continue their efforts to get this total financial commitment, but, I ask again that you as individuals also assist with this effort by **contacting your State Representative and Senator, by a visit, by a telephone call, or in writing by letter, postcard, or e-mail**, to let them know that we need their support and Delaware's financial commitment. Let's continue to make this project the forefront of every conversation we have, both within our veterans' organizations and with our legislators. Donations from individuals, veterans' organizations, and businesses are being accepted. You may contact the Commission office for information on where to send the donations.

HELP US WITH THIS FUNDING TASK AND WE WILL REACH OUR GOAL!!!

Sincerely,
Robert D. Marcinkowski, Chairman

THOUGHT FOR THE QUARTER

“You can judge your age by the amount of pain you feel when you come in contact with a new idea.”

**WAITING TIMES FOR
MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS
VETERANS INTEGRATED SERVICE
NETWORK (VISN) UPDATE**

Survey conducted July 1, 2002. Data was gathered from multiple clinics at all VA facilities. The data sources included excel spreadsheets and manual lists as well as the scheduling package for those waiting 6 months or greater for an appointment. Because the survey was derived primarily from manual data collection, patients waiting at more than one site may be counted more than once; the data could also reflect the same patient waiting for multiple clinics at one specific site. Therefore, the data should be viewed as an indicator of an overall problem. We are working on automating the wait list to ensure more accurate reporting.

VISN	*A	*B
1	9,891	12,130
2	460	1,844
3	82	2,448
4	18,535	8,061
5	0	217
6	0	29,124
7	4,662	3,299
8	31,469	22,474
9	11,093	7,887
10	13	1,239
11	1,172	2,562
12	8,922	9,424
15	1,283	6,616
16	5,490	8,126
17	1,874	17,444
18	0	4,741
19	8,230	9,342
20	8,891	15,702
21	1,013	5,015
22	0	3,810
23	19,198	6,471
TOTALS	132,278	177,976

***Column A: Number of New Enrollees waiting for first appointment where an appointment has not been scheduled.** Represents a manual count of Veterans who have enrolled and requested an appointment but the Veteran’s preferred site of care cannot schedule the appointment within six months. Therefore, the Veteran is placed on a wait list. An electronic wait list is being developed that will allow for more accurate data collection.

***Column B: Number of Established Patients on a wait list or new and established patients scheduled for appointments requiring a wait of 6 months or more.** Includes: 1) a manual count of established patients (patients have been seen at least once) who are on a wait list (cannot be scheduled within 6 months) for follow-up care for a Primary Care Clinic or Specialty Care Clinic visit. (Examples would include veterans waiting for reassignment to a new Primary Care Provider, or patients waiting for consults in Specialty Care clinics) also includes 2) a count of Veterans scheduled electronically for appointments, however the wait time meets or exceeds six months. (This also includes those patients who have either voluntarily canceled their appointments or had their appointment canceled by the VA. Note: This data includes approximately 80% of VHA’s workload. All Primary Care Clinics are included and 5 major Specialty Care clinics (eye care, urology, cardiology, orthopedics, audiology). The electronic wait list capability will allow for additional clinics to be included. *(Department of Veterans Affairs, July 12, 2002)*

**EVANS CALLS FOR HALT TO PREMATURE
AND FLAWED PLAN TO RESTRUCTURE
VETERANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

Reacting to a recent announcement by the Department of Veterans Affairs that it will begin phase two of the CARES planning process, Congressman Lane Evans, senior Democratic

Member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, has called on the Department of Veterans Affairs to immediately halt CARES II. Evans called CARES II “premature and basically flawed.” CARES is a VA acronym for Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services. Evans said if CARES II is to provide effective planning for meeting future medical care needs, VA must first have full and accurate information on inadequacies in VA delivery of health care that exist today and are being encountered by tens of thousands of veterans now across the system. “In response to repeated requests, VA officials and representatives have repeatedly reported they are unable to provide me accurate information on the state of VA health care today. When VA is either unwilling or unable to provide Congress accurate data on its ability to provide timely, quality medical care to veterans today, it’s ludicrous for VA to believe it’s ready to undertake a process that could lead to closing facilities and curtailing or eliminating medical services at facilities selected to remain open.” Evans said the basic veterans medical care information he has repeatedly requested and VA has consistently failed to provide includes:

- The number of veterans waiting for the opportunity to enroll in VA health care at each VA facility;
- The amount of time veterans are forced to wait to be able to enroll in VA health care at each facility;
- The number of enrolled veterans at each facility who are forced to wait for their initial VA health care appointment; and
- The amount of time enrolled veterans are forced to wait for their initial VA health care appointment at each VA facility.

“If VA has this information, it has denied it to me,” Evans said. “If VA doesn’t have this information, it’s simply folly to begin a process that intends to close facilities and reduce or eliminate health care services at facilities which remain open.” Evans said he agrees efficiencies in VA medical care are possible, even commendable – but the approach being used today by VA to achieve “efficiencies” is not in the best interest of veterans. Evans explained

that because the Administration failed to request adequate funding, VA medical care is seriously underfunded this year. This underfunding has forced VA to reduce veterans medical care spending by nearly \$400 million with “efficiencies” that reduce veterans access to care and the care available to veterans. Administration officials should remind themselves every day that VA is about serving veterans, “meeting the needs of those who have borne the battle and their widows and children.” (*Department of Veterans Affairs, June 7, 2002*)

LONG-TERM CARE OPEN SEASON

Military members, federal employees, and their spouses, have a six-month window starting July 1, 2002, to take advantage of a streamlined application process for the Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program. Federal personnel officials estimate that 20 million people may be eligible to enroll. The John Hancock and MetLife insurance companies offer the insurance through a contract with the Office of Personnel Management. Long-term care insurance helps people with chronic health conditions to pay for care givers and services that help them do such things as get out of bed, wash, dress, eat, go to the toilet, and other activities that the ill and frail find difficult. Long-term care may be provided at home, in a nursing home or in an assisted-living facility. Long-term care is not medical care and usually isn’t covered by medical insurance plans. Likewise, the long-term insurance program does not cover medical care expenses or medicines. During the program’s first “open season,” from July 1, 2002, through December 31, 2002, eligible military members, federal civilians, and their spouses need to answer a few health questions as part of the streamlined underwriting process. Underwriting is key: It determines an applicant’s level of risk, eligibility to participate, premiums and benefits. On the other hand, because premiums for long-term care insurance are based upon age and state of health, all federal civilian and military retirees must undergo full underwriting, which involves answering more health-related

questions and providing more information. The Long-Term Care Partners [<http://www.opm.gov/insurance/ltc>] Web site www.ltcfeds.com has open season information kits and application instructions. There may be additional FLTCI Open Season enrollment windows, but none are scheduled or promised at this time. Procedures and rules could change for future open seasons. To consult with a certified long-term care insurance specialist by phone, call 1-800-LTC-FEDS (1-800-582-3337) or TDD 1-800-843-3557. This service is available 8 AM – Midnight EST 7 days a week. (*American Forces Press Service, July 1, 2002*)

NEW SOFTWARE WILL SPEED CLAIMS PROCESSING

Computerized Patient Records System (CPRS)

To further reduce the time it takes to process veterans' claims for disability compensation, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) developed new software that will help veterans' service organizations (VSO) prepare claims on behalf of veterans. With the new software, a VSO representative who holds power of attorney for a veteran will be able to review medical information in the veteran's electronic record at VA health facilities, information that is needed to prepare claims for benefits based on medical conditions. "We understand how valuable VSO assistance can be to a veteran filing a claim," said Gary Christopherson, Chief Information Officer, Veterans Health Administration. "We also understand how important privacy and confidential information is to veterans and the new software also provides that security." VA has incorporated two features to safeguard veterans' medical records. First, the software provides read-only access to medical files, which are protected by federal law. Users will not be able to add, delete or modify any information in the veteran's medical record. Second, the software limits a user's access to the medical records of only those patients for whom he or she holds a valid power of attorney. Currently, VSO representatives with power of attorney can request medical records in paper form from VA. With the new system,

representatives will be able to review information electronically as well, speeding the claims process for veterans. Representatives will have access to information from all VA hospitals in which a veteran was treated. VA plans to release the new software in late summer 2002. (*Department of Veterans Affairs, July 2002*)

NEW VETERANS EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM PROPOSED

The White House has asked Congress to authorize a new, comprehensive employment program for veterans that would consolidate the federal government's job-search efforts for former service members within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). "The placement of the employment services program within VA will strengthen the focus on veterans' needs," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. "Over the last decade, veterans have received less-than-adequate job-search assistance." The unemployment rate for veterans between 20 and 24 years of age was 14.8 percent in the first quarter of 2002, compared to 5.1 percent unemployment for all veterans. We want to use competitive grants and performance-based outcomes-key elements that have improved service in other federal programs," Principi said. "We would also elevate employers to become equal partners in the program. They, after all, are the ones who have the jobs." If approved by Congress, the new program, called the "Veterans Employment, Business Opportunity and Training (VEBOT) Program," would take effect in 2003. It would cost about \$197 million the first year and entail the transfer to VA of 199 civil service jobs from the Department of Labor. "Employment is the only major program in the continuum of service for which VA does not have responsibility," Principi said. "Just as education, home loans, insurance and health care for veterans are entrusted to VA, so should employment." Highlights of the proposal include:

- Establishing a system for state governors or public or private organizations to receive

grants to provide employment programs for veterans;

- Transferring to VA the current functions of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training; and
- Transferring to VA from the Labor Department responsibility for both the transition assistance program and the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project.

“In light of VA’s mission of service to veterans, VA would be in a stronger position to objectively evaluate veteran’s employment needs, while adapting to the needs of future generations of veterans,” Principi said. (*Department of Veterans Affairs, May 29, 2002*)

VA MARKS KOREAN WAR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

On July 25, 2002, Vice President Richard Cheney joined Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi in a special presentation as part of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War. Twenty-five Korean War veterans received the Republic of Korea Korean War Service Medal. The veterans were relatives or friends of VA Central Office employees. “In Korea were written some of the most notable moments in military history,” Vice President Cheney said. “The medals presented recognize the virtues of duty, honor and service in the care of freedom.” The service medal was originally offered by the Republic of Korea in 1951 to United Nations forces serving in Korea and adjacent waters. At the time U.S. law prohibited the U.S. military from wearing medals issued by foreign governments. Congress changed that in 1954, but by then most U.S. service members eligible for the medal had returned home. “I am pleased to recognize American soldiers who stepped forward to defend democracy no matter the personal cost,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. “The Korean government reissued the service medal to bestow gratitude and recognition on American service men and women who so richly deserve it.” Other officials present included retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Nels Running, director of the

Department of Defense 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, and Maj. Gen. Young Han Moon, defense attaché of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. To wear this medal on U.S. military uniforms, U.S. military personnel must have served between the outbreak of hostilities, June 25, 1950, and the date the armistice was signed, July 27, 1953; been on permanent assignment or on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days; and performed their duty within the territorial limits of Korea, in the waters immediately adjacent to or in aerial flight over Korea participating in actual combat operations or in support of combat operations. To apply for the service medal, veterans must provide a copy of their discharge paper, commonly known as a “DD-214,” or a corrected version of that document, a “DD-215.” National Guard members must provide their statement of service equivalent, “NGB Form 22.” For more information on the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War, go to <http://korea50.mil>. (*Department of Veterans Affairs, July 25, 2002*)

MILITARY HISTORY INSTITUTE SURVEY

The U.S. Army Military History Institute is updating its Veteran Survey Program by including Vietnam Era veterans. This survey program documents the recollections and experiences of Army veterans for all wars, from the Spanish-American War through the Korean War. As the Vietnam War continues to gain the attention of historians and scholars, veterans of that conflict can help to correct or complete the record by participating in the survey. As the Army’s official repository for historical source material, USAMHI has more than 10 million books, periodicals, personal papers, and photographs and continues to accept donations of historical items from veterans, so that their memories and experiences may be preserved. Veterans wishing to participate in the survey may request a questionnaire by calling (717) 245-3971. An on-line version may be downloaded by going to the USAMHI Website at <http://www.Carlisle.army.mil/usamhi/>. (*Department of Veterans Affairs, June 13, 2002*)

MEDICARE PART B PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

More than 16 million people with low incomes who may need help paying their Medicare Part B (medical insurance) premiums and other medical costs can expect a letter in the mail telling them how to qualify for the Medicare Savings Programs. People with income and assets below certain limits can save as much as \$600 a year as explained in the letter to be sent jointly by Social Security and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The letter gives the phone numbers of the state agencies people can contact to see if they qualify. The mailings are staggered, and will be completed by December 21, 2002. For more information about the Medicare Savings Programs, visit the Medicare site www.cms.hhs.gov. (NAUS Update, June 21, 2002)

VA CONTACTS “PROJECT SHAD” VETERANS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has begun to contact veterans who participated in certain military tests involving biological and chemical warfare materials during the 1960s about medical care and benefits to which they may be entitled. “We are committed to helping every veteran who took part in these tests,” said Anthony J. Principi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. “If we find any medical problems or disabilities we can attribute to Project SHAD, we’ll ensure these veterans receive the benefits they deserve.” The initial VA notifications involved 622 of about 4,300 veterans already identified as participants in Project SHAD. This is the first of a continuing series of letters that will be mailed until all identified participants have been notified. From 1963 through 1970, the Department of Defense (DoD) conducted tests to determine the effectiveness of shipboard detection and protective measures against chemical and biological threats and to determine the potential risk to American forces. The tests were conducted under the broad heading of Shipboard Hazard and

Defense (SHAD). While much about the tests is still classified, DoD has begun to declassify the information VA would need to evaluate a veteran’s application for benefits. Medically significant information from twelve tests with 4,300 participants – “Autumn Gold,” “Copper Head,” “Shady Grove,” “Eager Belle” (phases I and II), and “Scarlet Sage,” “Fearless Johnny,” “Flower Drum” (phases I and II), “DTC Test 68-50,” “DTC Test 69-32,” and “Purple Sage,” – has been declassified and released to VA. The Defense Department has given VA information for each of these tests identifying the ships and units involved, dates of the tests, test locations, information about the materials used and possible health effects associated with the materials tested. The tests involved mostly members of the Navy. DoD’s investigation is continuing and Secretary Principi has asked that information be shared with VA as it is declassified. Current information indicates any medical problems associated with exposure to the substances used in the tests, or during clean-up operations, would have been apparent shortly after the exposure. VA will review the medical condition of Project SHAD veterans for unusual patterns of illness. Any eligible veteran’s medical problem linked to Project SHAD can be treated at VA medical facilities and, potentially, qualify the veteran for VA disability compensation. Veterans who believe their health may have been affected by these tests should contact the SHAD helpline at 1-800-749-8387 or contact VA by e-mail at shadhelpline@vba.va.gov. (Department of Veterans Affairs, May 23, 2002)

VA APPROVES GRANT TO EXPAND DELAWARE STATE CEMETERY

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi announced the award of a \$218,484 grant to the state of Delaware to expand the columbarium at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Sussex County. This grant will add 384 columbarium niches and complete the columbarium wall behind the cemetery’s assembly area. “This award and an increasing number like it for state veterans cemeteries, recognize the contribution of America’s

veterans,” said Principi. “I appreciate President Bush’s leadership in supporting a 28-percent increase in next year’s VA budget for state veterans cemeteries.” The facility, established with the assistance of a VA grant in 1999, is adjacent to the state’s Stockley Center, just off State Route 113 about three miles north of Millsboro. As a complement to VA’s system of national cemeteries, the state cemetery grants program has helped establish, expand or improve 48 operational state veterans cemeteries. Seven additional cemeteries are under construction. The state veterans cemeteries provided 15,40+ burials in fiscal year 2001. Since the program began in 1980, VA has awarded 118 grants for more than \$134 million to 28 states, plus Guam. Information about the grants program is available by contacting VA’s State Cemetery Grants Service at (202) 565-6801. Eligibility requirements for burial in the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Sussex County are the same as eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery at (302) 934-5653. Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from VA web sites on the internet at <http://www.va.gov> or <http://www.cem.va.gov> or by calling VA regional offices toll-free on 1-800-827-1000. (*Department of Veterans Affairs, May 16, 2002*)

VA REEVALUATES GULF WAR DEATH RATES

A mortality study by scientists of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) concerning veterans who served near the Iraqi munitions dump at Khamisiyah during the Gulf War demonstrated no substantial increase in deaths nor any unusual causes of death. The study began after another VA report in February suggested a dramatic increase in deaths among a group of about 35,000 veterans serving in the Gulf area during the war. “I regret if that earlier report caused alarm,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. “We’re in the business of providing information to veterans as soon as we can. In this instance, some information was released before being properly scrutinized and

scientifically validated.” On February 21, 2002, VA employees held a briefing for veterans service organizations in Washington. The briefing included information that suggested a ten-fold increase in the death rate among one group of veterans who were identified as being near the Khamisiyah munitions depot, which contained chemical weapons, when U.S. forces destroyed it on March 10, 1991. However, the most recent in-depth VA study, based upon more current data, matched death records with the Social Security numbers of 134,379 veterans whom the Department of Defense said may have been exposed to chemical weapons at Khamisiyah. The latest study found 368 deaths that weren’t included in the February report, plus, 650 deaths that were attributed earlier to the wrong group of veterans. When the two errors were combined, they dramatically distorted the mortality pattern among Khamisiyah veterans. “The bottom line is that Khamisiyah veterans have death rates similar to their non-exposed counterparts and less than half the rate of their civilian counterparts,” Principi said. The latest study was based upon current information and a larger, more comprehensive pool of data from the National Death Index, compiled by the National Center for Health Statistics. The February report involved matching VA records and DOD rosters of service members notified that they were exposed to two different models of the chemical “plume” from Khamisiyah. To view the complete text of the recent VA study on the Internet, go to: http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/docs/KhamisiyahReport_1_1.pdf (*Department of Veterans Affairs, May 3, 2002*)

VA ACKNOWLEDGES CLAIMS BACKLOG REDUCTION REPORT GROSSLY INACCURATE

Congressman Lane Evans, the senior Democratic member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, who had criticized the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for releasing inaccurate numbers concerning the extent of the VA’s reduction in the backlog of pending claims welcomed VA’s acknowledgement that the widely

reported numbers are incorrect. Although VA appears to have turned the corner in slowly reducing the pending backlog, the widely reported “200,000” claims reduction was grossly overstated. As VA officials testifying before the Subcommittee on Benefits of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs acknowledged, the reduction is closer to 12,000 than the previously reported 200,000. The Subcommittee also heard testimony from a number of witnesses who raised concerns that VA regional offices may be paying more attention to meeting office quotas than providing quality services to veterans. Evans, a Vietnam era veteran has consistently urged VA to “get it right the first time.” He was particularly disturbed to hear reports that remanded claims which are required by law to receive “expedited treatment” are being ignored or neglected in order to meet production quotas. Evans had previously written to Secretary Principi concerning the 13,805 claims which had been in remand status for over 17 months as of February 27, 2002. Admiral Cooper, VA’s Under Secretary for Benefits has been quoted as saying, “you get what you inspect, not what you expect.” Evans urged the Secretary to start inspecting regional offices’ handling of remanded claims. (*Congressman Lane Evans, Committee on Veterans Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, June 7, 2002*)

VSO ADVISORY

The Air Force Surgeon General’s Office released two reports today containing the reevaluations of radiation exposure for personnel who participated in the clean up of a 1966 nuclear weapons accident in Palomares, Spain, and a 1968 accident near Thule Airbase, Greenland. The reevaluations, using modern modeling methods, confirmed original conclusions that the exposures were not significant. The re-evaluation process for both accidents involved efforts to identify, locate and review the records of the incident, radiation exposure assessments, and other information pertinent of the studies. Urine samples, nasal swabs, and air sampling information taken at the time of the clean-ups were evaluated for scientific soundness and

possible use in updating the radiation records of the response personnel. Methods and models used in the 1960s were evaluated for their effectiveness in estimating radiation doses and risks from the intake of the radioactive materials dispersed in the accidents. Air sampling collected at the time of the incident proved the most valuable and was utilized for radiation exposure assessment. The reports have been made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs. They can be accessed at <http://airforcemedicine.afms.mil>. Appendix C to the Palomares report has been omitted because of Privacy Act considerations. Those who are unable to access the web site may contact the Air Force Surgeon General’s Office at (202) 767-4797 for assistance. (*Headquarters, US Air Force, May 22, 2002*)

THE VA HYPERFAQ

The VA HyperFAQ <http://www.va.gov/hyperfaq> is an easy, simplified way to navigate through the top 200 sites on <http://www.va.gov/>. You’ll answer no more than seven questions about the information you want, and the HyperFAQ will recommend web sites based on your answers. You can quit, return to the beginning, or send a message to the VA at any location in the HyperFAQ.

EYEGLASSES / HEARING AID SERVICES

VA Centers provide eyeglasses and hearing aids to veterans who are rated 10% or more service connected, or if you need these items to understand and participate in your health care. (*VA Stars & Stripes Healthcare Network, August 2001*)

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

NO ADMISSION FEE TO DELAWARE STATE PARKS FOR THE DISABLED

- Delaware residents, who are disabled and hold a valid and current "Golden Access Passport" card, as issued by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior, shall be exempted from the annual or daily entrance fees at Delaware State Parks (Title 7, Chapter 47, Section 4701 (a) (5) (C) of the Delaware code).

The law does not include exemption of camping rates, but the State Division of Parks and Recreation has extended the passport program to include a reduction in rates for use of family camping facilities. These camping rates vary depending on the park (Cape Henlopen, Delaware Seashore,

- Killens Pond, Lums Pond, Trap Pond).
- There is no fee for these passes and they must be applied for in person with appropriate documentation at any of the following locations within the state:

Bellevue State Park – New Castle County
(302) 577-3390

Killens Pond State Park – Felton
(302)284-4526

Cape Henlopen State Park – Lewes
(302)645-8983

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge - Smyrna
(302)653-6872

The lifetime "Golden Access Passport" card extends other benefits at National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management sites.

DOCUMENTATION: Acceptable documentation for the issuance of the "Golden Access Passport" can include any of the following means:

1. A document issued by an office of a Federal agency providing Federal benefits (VA, SSA) which attests to the fact that the individual has been medically determined to be eligible to receive Federal benefits as a result of blindness or permanent disability.
2. A statement, signed by a licensed physician, attesting to the fact that the individual does have permanent physical, mental or sensory impairment that severely limits one or more life activities and stating the nature of the permanent disability.
3. An official identification card or certificate issued by a state government identifying the individual as being a permanently disabled person.
4. An identification card issued by a National or State organization of, by or for disabled persons identifying the individual as a permanently disabled person.

(Information provided by Commissioner Bill Carroll, MOPH)

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 will be 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 December and June 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.

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER REPRESENTATION

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs Service Officers, Ms. Melanie E. Bronov and Ms. Laurie A. White, provide information and assistance in submitting claims concerning education, disability compensation, hospitalization, rehabilitation and pensions. You may contact Ms. Bronov at our Dover office, Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, (302) 739-7447 or (800) 344-9900 (in State). *Please call for an appointment.* You may contact Ms. White at the Pyle State Service Center located in Roxanna, DE, Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, (302) 732-9560. *Please call for an appointment.* DCVA also represents members of the following veterans organizations: The Retired Enlisted Association, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Marine Corps League.

MOBILE VETERANS SERVICE CENTER

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

AUG 13	Laurel Town Hall
AUG 14	Fenwick Town Hall
AUG 27	Seaford Service Center
AUG 28	Bethany Beach Town Hall
SEP 10	Georgetown Service Center
SEP 11	Laurel Town Hall
SEP 17	Fenwick Town Hall
SEP 18	Bridgeville Town Hall
SEP 24	Ocean View Town Hall
SEP 25	Seaford Service Center

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

VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS OUTREACH

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:

AUG 16	Laurel, Post 19	875-9948
AUG 23	Seaford, Post 6	875-9948
AUG 30	Smyrna, Post 14	378-6329
SEP 6	Oak Orchard/Riverdale, Post 28 (8:00-12:00)	945-1673
SEP 13	Dover, Post 2	674-3922
SEP 20	Laurel, Post 19	875-9948
SEP 27	Smyrna, Post 14	378-6329

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

Charles Kashner and Paul Lardizzone, Department Service Officers (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.

Paralyzed Veterans of America (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.

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

Dover Armory (741-7516) 8:00-11:00 AM
Milford VFW (422-4412) 1:30-4:00 PM

2ND Thursday

Dover Armory (741-7516) 8:00-11:00 AM
Milton VFW (684-4975) 1:30-4:00 PM

3RD Thursday

Dover Armory (741-7516) 8:00-11:00 AM
Rehoboth VFW (227-3469) 1:30-4:00 PM

4TH Thursday

Dover Armory (741-7516) 8:00-11:00 AM
Seaford VFW (629-3092) 1:30-4:00 PM

5TH Thursday

Dover Armory (741-7516) 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 application process.

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

Desiree Young (Newark).....302-453-4350 ext. 218

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

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

Charley Roberson (Dover AFB).....302-677-6942

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

Norris Townsend (Georgetown).....302-856-5230

RETIREE ACTIVITIES

Retired Activities Office

Bldg 520, Room 105, Dover AFB, DE 19902,
(302) 677-4612.

Retired Navy Activities Affairs Office

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

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion.....302-633-5323

Disabled American Veterans.....302-633-5324

Military Order of the Purple Heart.....302-633-5508

Paralyzed Veterans of America.....302-633-5325

Veterans of Foreign Wars..... 302-633-5326

Vietnam Veterans of America.....302-633-5357

COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

Bob Marcinkowski (Chairman).....TROA

Jim Thompson (Vice Chair)...Marine Corps League

Bob Barnett.....Jewish War Veterans

Cornelius "Bill" Carroll.....MOPH

Charles Farrell.....Korean War Veterans

Ruth B. Harden.....WAVES National

George K. Hastings.....MOWW

Charles Kashner.....Disabled American Veterans

Richard M. Magner.....AMVETS

Gary "Mo" Morris.....American Legion

Ben Pernol.....Veterans of Foreign Wars

Reese Phillips.....La Societe 40&8

David W. Timberman.....DE/MD PVA

Robert E. Wasson.....Delaware Veterans

George Webb.....Vietnam Veterans of America

**DELAWARE VETERANS
MEMORIAL CEMETERY**

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

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

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NAME/ORGANIZATION_____

STREET_____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____ - _____

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

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