



The Denton County Veteran

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DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS

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County Judge Mary Horn, Commissioner Cynthia White, Precinct 1; Commissioner Sandy Jacobs, Precinct 2;

Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Precinct 3; Commissioner Jim Carter, Precinct 4

The History Of Flag Day June 14th

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.

On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

Following the suggestion of Colonel J Granville Leach (at the time historian of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution), the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America on April 25, 1893 adopted a resolution requesting the mayor of Philadelphia and all others in authority and all private citizens to display the Flag on June 14th. Leach went on to recommend that thereafter the day be known as 'Flag Day', and on that day, school children be assembled for appropriate exercises, with each child being given a small Flag.

Two weeks later on May 8th, the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution unanimously endorsed the action of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames. As a result of

the resolution, Dr. Edward Brooks, then Superintendent of Public Schools of Philadelphia, directed that Flag Day exercises be held on June 14, 1893 in Independence Square. School children were assembled, each carrying a small Flag, and patriotic songs were sung and addresses delivered.

In 1894, the governor of New York directed that on June 14 the Flag be displayed on all public buildings. With BJ Cigrand and Leroy Van Horn as the moving spirits, the Illinois organization, known as the American Flag Day Association, was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises. On June 14th, 1894, under the auspices of this association, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln, and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating.

Adults, too, participated in patriotic programs. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, delivered a 1914 Flag Day address in which he repeated words he said the flag had spoken to him that morning: "I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself."

Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day



was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it

was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating **June 14th** of each year as **National Flag Day**

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Office of Public Affairs
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News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 25, 2003

Certain Veterans May Be Eligible for Co-payment Refunds

WASHINGTON – Veterans insured by the Hartford Life Insurance Company or the USAA Life Insurance Company may be eligible for a refund of their VA co-payments.

In a recent settlement with the Department of Veterans Affairs and a coalition of insurance industry groups, Hartford and USAA paid VA approximately \$11.1 million. The settlement involves payments for care provided by VA to insured veterans with Medicare or Tricare supplemental coverage from Jan. 1, 1995 through Dec. 31, 2001.

“This settlement clarifies the claims reimbursement process,” said Secre-

tary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. “It not only resolves the litigation but also reimburses those veterans whose co-payments to VA should have been covered by their insurance.”

Veterans insured by Hartford or USAA who paid VA co-payments for VA medical care they received from Jan. 1, 1995 through Dec. 31, 2001 may ask VA for a refund of their co-payments on a first-come, first-served basis. All requests for refunds must be postmarked by April 1, 2004.

VA will notify by mail those veterans who may be eligible for refunds according to records on file. Other veterans who believe they may be eligible for a refund may obtain a claims application form by calling a special toll-free number (1-866-258-2772) between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., EST, Monday through Friday. They also may download the application from the VA website at www.va.gov/hottopic/.

Purchase a U.S. Flag that has flown over the Capitol

Anyone can purchase a U.S. Flag that has flown over the United States Capitol building in Washington D.C. This can be accomplished writing a letter to your Senator with your request. Their address can be obtained by calling your local Public Library and asking for it or use the Senators of the 107th Congress web site to locate contact information for your Senator.

You may request that your flag be flown on a certain date such as a birthday or anniversary. Be sure to mail in your request at least 4 weeks prior to the date you have selected. Your flag will be mailed to you and arrive 3-4 weeks after the date you have specified (**Since September 11th, 2001 it may take longer to receive your flag**). Enclosed with your flag will be a Certificate from The Architect Of The Capitol certifying that your flag was flown as requested. If you mention in your letter that this flag is for *any* specific occasion, that information will be included on the certificate.



Remarried Widows and Widowers After Age 55

On December 5, 2002, President Bush signed the Veterans Benefits Act of 2002 that provides CHAMPVA benefits to widows or widowers whose veteran spouse was permanently and totally disabled or died from a service connected condition and who remarried after turning age 55. Of special note is that it does not matter if the veteran was retired from the military or not, so long as the veteran was either permanently and totally disabled or died from a service connected condition.

This legislation became effective on February 4, 2003. Under the law, individuals who met the criteria above before February 4th 2003 have 12 months to apply for benefits --- the Health Administration Center must receive your application by February 4th 2004 for you to be enrolled.

Current CHAMPVA enrollees who meet the above criteria after February 4th 2003 will have their benefits extended automatically when they notify the Health Administration Center that they have remarried.

You can obtain more information on this change in CHAMPVA or request an application by calling 800-733-8387 or emailing hac.inq@med.va.gov. Remember, if you remarried before February 4th 2003, you only have until February 4, 2004 to apply for benefits under this provision of the law.

Blind Rehabilitation Service

Department of Veterans Affairs

Mission

The mission of Blind Rehabilitation Service is to coordinate a health-care service delivery system that provides a continuum of care for blinded veterans extending from their home environment to the local V A facility and to the appropriate rehabilitation setting. These services include adjustment to blindness counseling, patient and family education, benefits analysis, comprehensive residential inpatient training, outpatient rehabilitation services, the provision of assistive technology, and research.

Vision

Blind Rehabilitation Service will provide high quality care in a timely and appropriate manner enabling blinded veterans to acquire the skills and capabilities necessary for the development of personal independence and emotional stability.

Blind Rehabilitation Services

Overview

Loss of sight affects each person differently and is capable of hindering overall functioning, including employment, recreation, social and family life, and communications. The VA's many years of experience have shown that a program of comprehensive rehabilitation is usually the best course to follow. Here an experienced professional staff guides the individ-

ual through a process that eventually leads to maximum adjustment to the disability, reorganization of the person's life, and return to a contributing place in the family and community. To achieve comprehensive rehabilitation, the Blind Rehabilitation Centers offer a variety of skill courses to the veteran designed to help achieve a realistic level of independence. The veteran is also assisted in developing a healthy attitude toward themselves, blindness, and the future.

Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST)

VIST Coordinator

The VIST Coordinator is a case manager who has major responsibility for the coordination of all services for legally blind veterans and their families. Duties include providing and/or arranging for the provision of appropriate treatment modalities (e.g., referrals to BRC's and/or BROS) in order to enhance a blinded veteran's functioning level. Other duties include identifying new cases of blindness, providing professional counseling, resolving problems, arranging annual healthcare reviews and conducting education pro-

grams relating to blindness.

Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialists (BROS)

An outpatient training program that employs a multi-skilled and experienced blind rehabilitation instructor who teaches skills in the veterans home environment and/or local Veterans Affairs facility. The BROS instructor has advanced technical knowledge and competencies in least two of the following disciplines at the journeyman level: orientation and mobility; living skills; manual skills and

visual skills. The BROS has been cross-trained to acquire broadly based knowledge in each of these BRC disciplines including computer access training. BROS are located in the following areas:

Albuquerque, NM; Ann Arbor, MI; Bay Pines/St. Petersburg, FL; Baltimore, MD; Boston, MA; Cleveland, OH; Dallas, TX; Gainesville, FL; Los Angeles, CA; Phoenix, AZ; Portland, OR; San Antonio, TX; San Juan, PR; Seattle, WA; West Haven, CT; West Palm Beach, Florida. To access BROS Handbook go to: www.va.gov/publdirec/health/handbook/1174-1.html

(continued in June issue)

"A Blind Center is where faith is strongest that blind people deserve hope, respect and freedom. These are accorded first, followed by the means of achieving them. Our civilization permits wholesome living when blind and here one learns how."



Texas Veterans Online

Welcome to the Texas Veterans Online website! As a military veteran, you and your family are entitled to benefits earned by virtue of your military service. The purpose of this site is to bring together veteran's benefit and assistance resource information for you as a Texas veteran and your family. Veteran's benefit information has been collected from Federal and State agencies to bring together a comprehensive collection of links to provide you with the latest veteran's benefit information. The website contains information to assist you and your family in buying a home or land, receiving education benefits, finding a job, finding health care resources and much more. If you or your family need assistance in applying for benefits or locating information concerning benefits, assistance is available from Federal, State and County governments. Contact Information is available on the website to reach these government offices for assistance. Thank you for visiting the Texas Online e-Veterans website.

Texas eVeterans Newsletter

The Texas eVeterans newsletter is a monthly publication with information about programs and issues of interest to Texas Veterans.

What is the Texas Veterans Portal

Texas E-Vets was developed to bring together veterans benefit and assistance resource information for you as a Texas Veteran and your family. Veterans benefit information has been collected from Federal and State agencies to bring together a comprehensive collection of links to provide you with the latest veterans benefit information.

AGENT ORANGE OUTSIDE OF VIETNAM (April 2003)

The Veterans Administration (VA) received a listing from the Defense Department (DoD) of locations outside of Vietnam where Agent Orange was used or tested over a number of years. The DoD supplied information currently have gives periods of time, locations and chemicals used. It does not contain units involved or individual identifying information. VA is requesting this information from DoD. The listings are almost exclusively Army records although there are an extremely limited number of Navy and Air Force records. These listings relate only to chemical efficacy testing and/or operational testing. The records do not refer to the use of Agent Orange or other chemicals in routine base maintenance activities such as spraying along railroad tracks, weed control on rifle ranges etc. DoD says that information on such use does not exist. The VA does have significant information regarding Agent Orange use in Korea along the DMZ. DoD has confirmed that Agent Orange was used from April 1968 up through July 1969 along the DMZ. DoD defoliated the fields of fire between the front line defensive positions and the south barrier fence. The size of the treated area was a strip of lane 151 miles long and up to 350 yards wide from the fence to north of the "civilian control line". There is no indication that herbicide was sprayed in the DMZ itself. Herbicides were applied through hand spraying and by hand distribution of peletized herbicides. Although restrictions were put in place to limit potential for spray drift, runoff, and damage to food crops, records indicate that effects of spraying were sometimes observed as far as 200 meters down wind.

DoD reports that units in the area during the period of use of herbicide were as follows: The four combat brigades of the 2nd Infantry Division. This includes the following units: 1-38 Infantry, 2-38 Infantry, 1-23 Infantry, 2-23 Infantry, 3-23 Infantry, 3-32 Infantry, 109th Infantry, 209th Infantry, 1-72 Armory, 2-72 Armory, 4-7th Cavalry

3rd Brigade of the 7th Infantry Division. This includes the following units:

1-17th Infantry, 2-17th Infantry, 1-73 Armor, 2-10th Cavalry, Field Artillery, Signal and Engineer troops were supplied as support personnel as required. The estimated number of exposed personnel is 12,056. Claims from veterans who served in Korea during this period should be developed by the VA for exposure. If the veteran was exposed the presumptions found in 38 CFR 3.309(e) (the same as for Vietnam veterans) apply.

<http://www.nvlsp.org/nvlsp/spina.htm>

Unlike Viet Nam, exposure to Agent Orange is not presumed for veterans who served in Korea. Claims for compensation for disabilities resulting from Agent Orange exposure from veterans who served in Korea during this period will be developed for evidence of exposure. If the veteran was exposed the presumptive conditions found for Agent Orange exposure apply.

<http://www.vba.va.gov/ro/south/spete/news/notes/0304/2.htm>

For Local Help

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306 N. Loop 288, Suite 146
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Monday through Friday
8:00 am to Noon and 1:00 pm to 5:00

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KOREAN WAR TIDBITS

(R) - US Army Rangers—To obtain potential Rangers, a request for volunteers was sent out to those willing to accept extremely hazardous duty in the combat zone of the Far East. Volunteers came from a variety of sources, but many had previously served in the original Ranger battalions, the Canadian—US First Special Service Force, or in the Office of Strategic Services during World War II. The 82nd Airborne Division was particularly responsive to the call.

(S) - Seoul—The capital of the Republic of Korea, Seoul was occupied four times during the Korean War (1950-1953). Seoul is the largest city in Korea, and served as a capital of the Korean peninsula since ancient times. Chosen by General Yi Song gye as his capital in 1392 when he moved the Yi Dynasty to the city.

*If you ♥ freedom
Thank a veteran*



The United States Coast Guard in the Korean War

(continued from May issue)

The United States Coast Guard also supported the United Nations during the Korean War by manning and operating Long Range Aids to Navigation stations (LORAN stations) throughout the Pacific. Nine such stations provided direct navigation support to U.N. ships and aircraft engaged in the Korean War. One of these stations was based on the Korean Peninsula itself in the port city of Pusan. Two Coast Guard Cutters serviced the LORAN stations throughout the war. Additionally, the headquarters of the Coast Guard's Far Eastern Section and a Merchant Marine detachment, headquartered in Japan, provided logistical support to the U.N. supply efforts.

On the home front, Coast Guard expertise in port security and cargo handling, including the loading of ammunition and sabotage prevention, insured the uninterrupted flow of supplies to the U.N. forces serving in Korea. All of these missions served to support the

United Nations' effort to preserve an independent and free South Korea. During the Korean War the Coast Guard was always ready to serve with the other armed services of the United States to support the country's efforts anywhere around the globe. During the Korean War, the Coast Guard nearly doubled in size from its 1947 low until June 1952 when 35,082 officers and enlisted men served on active duty. This figure included some 1,600 Coast Guard Reservists. United States Coast Guard Cutters Eligible for the Korean Service Medal.

USCGC Bering Strait	WAVP 382
USCGC Chautauqua	WPG 41
USCGC Durant	WDE 489
USCGC Escanaba	WPG 64
USCGC Falgout	WDE 424
USCGC Finch	WDE 428
USCGC Forster	WDE 434
USCGC Gresham	WAVP 387

USCGC Ironwood	WAGL 297
USCGC Iroquois	WPG 43
USCGC Klamath	WPG 66
USCGC Koiner	WDE 431
USCGC Kukui	WAK 186
USCGC Lowe	WDE 425
USCGC Minnetonka	WPG 67
USCGC Newell	WDE 442
USCGC Planetree	WAGL 307
USCGC Pontchartrain	WPG 70
USCGC Ramsden	WDE 482
USCGC Richey	WDE 485
USCGC Taney	WPG 37
USCGC Wachusett	WPG 44
USCGC Winnebago	WPG 40
USCGC Winona	WPG 64

For additional information contact:
U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office
2100 2nd Street, S.W.
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