

DENTON COUNTY VETERAN
DEDICATED TO INFORMING THE VETERANS OF DENTON COUNTY
OF ISSUES WHICH CONCERN THEM

*County Judge Mary Horn, Commissioner Cynthia White Pct. 1, Commissioner Sandy Jacobs Pct. 2,
Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell Pct. 3, Commissioner Jim Carter Pct. 4*

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Denton, Texas

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Enrollment in VA's Health Care System

<http://www.va.gov/elig/page.cfm?pg=21>

Financial

How do I file a claim?

That depends on the claim you wish to file:

If the claim is for reimbursement of medical care provided through the private sector, the claim must be submitted to your preferred treatment facility

Claims for VA adjudicated disability or pension, or any other monetary benefits should be submitted to your nearest VA regional office. You may contact them at 1-800-827-1000

For any other medical benefit related claims, please contact your nearest VA health care facility

How come VA does not bill Medicare?

Law prohibits VA from billing Medicare for care

Will the VA bill my insurance carrier?

The law requires VA to bill insurance carriers for covered veterans. Some veterans may have health insurance coverage under a spouse's policy. If you are receiving care for a non-service-connected disability and have health insurance, your insurance carrier will be billed. VA does not bill your health insurance carrier for VA-adjudicated service-connected disabilities. (An adjudicated service-connected disability is one for which you have filed a claim and VA has determined that you are service-connected)

I can't afford to make co-payments. What do I do?

The first option is to request a waiver for paying your current debt. If you request a waiver, you must submit sufficient proof that you can not financially afford to make payment to VA. This process could take several months; please contact the Revenue Coordinator at the VA health care facility where you receive care.

The second option is to request a hardship determination to avoid future debts. You will need to submit specific financial information about your current year income. A decision will be made based on information you provide.

What are my specific co-payments?

For more information on the current co-payment rates, go to: <http://www.va.gov/revenue>.

Do all of my co-payments have to be paid at one time?

You have several options. If this becomes a hardship for you, the Revenue Coordinator at your local VA may establish a payment plan for you.

Can VA bill my insurance company for treatment of a service-connected disability?

No, they cannot.

Why should I provide my insurance information to VA?

If you are a Priority 7 veteran, providing us your insurance information will allow us to bill your insurance carrier, which will offset part or all of your co-payment. The law requires VA to bill private health insurance companies for all non-service-connected care a veteran receives. VA's budget and your future care could depend on the amount VA is able to collect from private health insurance carriers. By not giving us insurance information you may be limiting your future care and that of many other veterans.

U. S. Office of Personnel Management
Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program
(FLTCIP)

<http://www.opm.gov/insure/ltc/>

The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program is an important new benefit for over 20 million members of the Federal Family, including Federal and Postal employees and annuitants, members and retired members of the uniformed services and qualified relatives.

Q. Can I apply now?

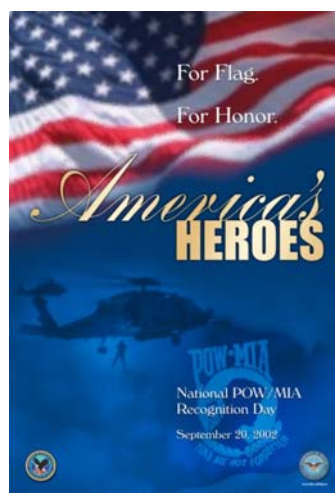
YES, if you are in one of the groups [eligible to apply for coverage!](#) Go to www.ltcfeds.com to view or order an Open Season Information Kit with application, or call 1-800-LTC-FEDS (1-800-582-3337) (TDD for the hearing impaired: 1-800-843-3557).

Q. How do I get an open season application?

You can ask for an Open Season Information Kit with application by calling 1-800-LTC-FEDS (1-800-582-3337) or TDD 1-800-843-3557, or you can go to www.ltcfeds.com.

REMEMBER TO FLAG YOUR FLAG
Labor Day -- First Monday in September
Day of Remembrance – September 11
Citizenship Day - September 17
Air Force Day - September 17
Constitution Day -- September 17

POW/MIA Recognition Day - September 20, 2002 (3rd Friday of September)



DEWHURST ANNOUNCES VLB PROGRAMS NOW OPEN TO VETERANS RESIDING IN TEXAS FOR ONE YEAR

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/news/news2002/docs/06-26-02-ResReqmtOneYr.doc>

AUSTIN—Texas Land Commissioner David Dewhurst today announced the Texas residency requirement for participation in Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB) loan programs has been reduced to one year.

“I’m pleased we’ve continued to make veterans programs better,” said Dewhurst, “and we’ll continue looking for better ways to serve Texas veterans as long as I’m in office.”

Dewhurst, who chairs the VLB, said he was pleased that eligible veterans will be able to participate in VLB loan programs within a year of moving to Texas, as opposed to the previous two-year residency requirement.

“What a great way to welcome veterans to Texas,” Dewhurst said. “U.S. veterans, regardless of where they come from, have served all Americans and should be treated with honor and respect.”

Dewhurst said the VLB already had a one-year residency requirement for admission to Texas State Veterans Homes, and lowering the residency requirement for VLB loan participation provides more consistency among the various programs.

“If a veteran has lived here a year, then he or she is a Texan as far as most state laws are concerned,” Dewhurst said. “Once we were sure a shorter residency requirement wouldn’t adversely affect our programs, I saw no reason to make a newcomer wait two years to participate in VLB home and land loan programs. The more participation we have from our veterans, the stronger these programs become.”

Dewhurst said additional information on VLB loans for homes, land and home improvements, as well as Texas State Veterans Homes for veterans and their spouses who need long-term, skilled nursing home care, is available on the VLB Web site at www.glo.state.tx.us/vlb, or by calling (800) 252-VETS.

**FOR LOCAL HELP CONTACT
DENTON COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
306 N LOOP 288, SUITE 146
DENTON, TX 76209
940-349-2950
OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
8 AM TO NOON
1 PM TO 5 PM
hank.scheible@dentoncounty.com
james.wheeler@dentoncounty.com
barbara.nance@dentoncounty.com**



Do Something Good for Your Neighborhood

<http://www.nsc.org/firstaid/index.htm>

National Safety Council to Recognize September 11

Help us promote the [Do Something Good](#) campaign

Itasca, IL - To commemorate the first anniversary of the tragedies of September 11, the National Safety Council (NSC) will offer everyone an opportunity to better prepare themselves for emergencies. NSC will offer its online Basic First Aid & CPR training program free of charge from September 11-18.

"Over the past year, we have all experienced a heightened concern about our preparedness for emergencies," said NSC President Alan McMillan. "The actions people take in the first few minutes of an emergency can make the difference between life and death. However, knowing what to do does not come naturally. Effective training is the only way to make the appropriate action feel like a natural response. One of the lessons of September 11 is that we must be prepared for emergencies. The National Safety Council believes that taking First Aid and CPR training are good starting points to prepare adults and children alike."

The interactive Basic First Aid and CPR course, developed in partnership with Jones and Bartlett Publishers, uses clearly-presented learning points, advanced graphics, interactive animations, realistic sound effects, video clips and a variety of exercises. Participants obtain comprehensive knowledge, while experiencing the sights and sounds of real emergency situations. The course usually takes about two hours to complete, but the course can be taken at one's own pace. Interested in this free offering? You do not need to sign up in advance. On September 11-18, the free program will be available through a link from the National Safety Council home page at: <http://www.nsc.org>.

The National Safety Council, America's safety and health leader for 90 years, is a nongovernmental public service organization with 50 local chapters around the country and members representing 37,500 business and labor organizations, schools, public agencies and private groups.

NOTE: Certification is not provided with the *Basic First Aid and CPR* program. Professionals requiring certification must take other courses (either *Adult CPR*, *First Aid and CPR Standard*, *Professional Rescuer CPR* or *Adult and Pediatric CPR*) that include hands-on skill training (see [online course listing](#)).

Back to School Safety Tips

Whether your child walks or rides to school this fall, remind kids of these important do's and don'ts:

Do cross only in crosswalks.

Do listen to the crossing guard (if there is one).

Don't dart into traffic.

Do obey all traffic lights, signs and signals.

Take a trial walk before the first day of school to choose the safest route.

If your children bike to school be sure they wear a helmet. Our NSC fact sheet, [Protect Yourself ... Wear a Helmet](#), offers information on picking the right one.

And for school bus safety tips, see [School Bus Safety Rules](#), also from our NSC [fact sheet library](#).

KOREAN WAR SERVICE MEDAL AVAILABLE TO VETERANS

[http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards/Korean%20War%20Service%20Medal%20News%20Release%20\(Final\).htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards/Korean%20War%20Service%20Medal%20News%20Release%20(Final).htm)

U.S. veterans of the Korean War are now eligible to wear a medal initially offered to them more than 50 years ago, but never issued.

In a May 13, 2000 letter to Defense Secretary William S. Cohen, Republic of Korea Defense Minister Seong Tae Cho formally announced that his government would provide the Republic of Korea Korean War Service Medal (ROKWSM) to eligible U.S. veterans of that conflict, or to their surviving next of kin. The medal will be provided at no cost to veterans. The U.S. Air Force has been designated the lead agency to receive and distribute the medals.

“On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War,” Cho wrote, “the ROK government decided to issue the ROKWSM to pay tribute to the Korean War veterans for their historic endeavors to preserve freedom of the ROK and the free world.” The two governments will conduct fiftieth anniversary ceremonies throughout 2000-2003 and medals may be applied for at any time during this period. The war began on June 25, 1950 when North Korean forces invaded ROK territory. The armistice on July 27, 1953 ended the fighting, although a formal peace treaty has never been completed.

The medal was originally offered by the ROK 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.

In 1998 the government of the Republic of Korea renewed its original offer of the ROKWSM to U.S. military personnel. On Aug. 20, 1999, the Defense Department approved the acceptance and wear of the medal. Approximately 1.8 million U.S. veterans of the Korean War are eligible to receive it. Next of kin to eligible deceased veterans can also apply for the medal.

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 thereto or in aerial flight over Korea participating in actual combat operations or in support of combat operations.

The ROK specifies the eligibility period and criteria. Only the ROK-provided medal is approved by the U.S. Government to meet the U.S. criteria for wear on the military uniform.

To apply, 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.”

Additional information on how to apply for or request the medal can be found by contacting the Air Force Personnel Center, Monday - Friday, 0730-1630 (CST) at (866) 229-7074, or the Awards and Decorations Section (210) 565-2432/2520/2516, or by writing to HQ AFPC/DPPRA, 550 C Street West, Suite 12, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas 78150-4714 or by visiting our web site: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards/>. The organization’s fax number is (210) 565-3118.

General information on the medal can also be found by writing the DoD 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, 1213 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal Gateway 4, Arlington, VA 22202, by calling (703) 604-0831 or by visiting its web site: <http://korea50.army.mil>.

Because the order of precedence for non-U.S. service medals and ribbons is determined by date of approval, the ROKWSM should be worn after the Kuwait Liberation Medal, which was the last foreign medal approved for wear by U.S. military personnel. For the majority of Korean War veterans the medal will be worn after the United Nations Medal or the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal if they served during that conflict.

JULY 27, 2003 WILL BE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMISTICE SIGNING ENDING THE KOREAN WAR. WATCH THIS NEWSLETTER FOR UPCOMING EVENTS TO RECOGNIZE THIS ANNIVERSARY AND THE VETERANS THAT SERVED.

RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION – September 17, 1787

<http://www.nationalhistoryday.org/>

The ratification, or adoption, of the Constitution took place between September of 1787 and July of 1788. The Federal Convention, which had drafted the Constitution between May and September 1787, had no authority to impose it on the American people. Article VII of the Constitution and resolutions adopted by the convention on September 17, 1787, detailed a four-stage ratification process: (1) submission of the Constitution to the Confederation Congress, (2) transmission of the Constitution by Congress to the state legislatures, (3) election of delegates to conventions in each state to consider the Constitution, and (4) ratification by the conventions of at least nine of the thirteen states.

FACINATING FACTS ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION

<http://www.constitutionfacts.com/cbody2.shtml>

- The U.S. Constitution has 4,400 words. It is the oldest and the shortest written constitution of any government in the world.
- Of the typographical errors in the Constitution, the misspelling of the word "Pensylvania" above the signers' names is probably the most glaring.
- Jacob Shallus, a Pennsylvania General Assembly clerk, "penned" the Constitution for a fee of \$30 (\$261.45 today). Governor Morris was responsible for the wording of the Constitution. It was stored in various cities until 1952, when it was placed in the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C. During the daytime, pages one and four of the document are displayed in a bullet-proof case. The case contains helium and water vapor to preserve the paper's quality. At night, the pages are lowered into a vault, behind five-ton doors that are designed to withstand a nuclear explosion. The entire Constitution is displayed only one day a year, September 17, the anniversary of the day the framers signed the document.
- Thirty-nine men signed the Constitution.
- Because of his poor health, Benjamin Franklin needed help to sign the Constitution. As he did so, tears streamed down his face.
- The oldest person to sign the Constitution was Benjamin Franklin (81). The youngest was Jonathan Dayton of New Jersey (26).
- When the Constitution was signed, the United States population was 4 million. It is now more than 250 million. Philadelphia was the nation's largest city, with 40,000 inhabitants.
- To amend the Constitution, a proposal must gain the support of two-thirds of the House and Senate, and three-fourths of the states. As a result, of the thousands of proposed amendments, only 27 have passed. Amendments must be proposed either by a two-thirds vote in Congress, or by a Constitutional Convention. Such a convention can only be held if two-thirds of the states' legislatures support it.

SEPTEMBER 2, 2002 - HAVE A SAFE AND RESTFUL LABOR DAY

Labor Day: How it Came About; What it Means

<http://www.dol.gov/opa/aboutdol/laborday.htm>

"Labor Day differs in every essential way from the other holidays of the year in any country," said Samuel Gompers, founder and longtime president of the American Federation of Labor. "All other holidays are in a more or less degree connected with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day...is devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race, or nation."

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.