

THE DENTON COUNTY VETERAN

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

VOL. V, NO. 1

DENTON, TEXAS

JANUARY 2002

County Judge Scott Arme, Commissioner Cynthia White Pct #1, Commissioner Sandy Jacobs Pct#2,
Commissioner Bobbie J Mitchell Pct#3, Commissioner Jim Carter Pct#4



Flag Flown at “Ground Zero” Sent to USS Theodore Roosevelt

TVC Journal – November/December 2001,
Vol.24, No. 6

The Sailors and Marines aboard
USS Theodore Roosevelt are about

to receive a very special symbol of America as the ship heads overseas following the events of September 11th 2001: The flag flown at ‘ground zero’ in New York City.

This is the same flag that was raised by three New York City firefighters in a recent photograph that some media have compared to the historic image of the U.S. Marines raising the American flag at Iwo Jima.

On September 23rd, 2001, New York Governor George Pataki and New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani signed the flag and gave it to Admiral Robert J. Natter, Commander in Chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, with the intent that it be flown over naval forces deployed overseas in response to the attacks of September 11th, 2001. Admiral Natter accepted the flag and directed that it be sent to the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

“This flag represents the spirit and courage of all Americans,” said Admiral Natter. “It has incredible meaning for all our Sailors and Marines, and we’re proud to fly it aboard our most powerful warships. It will serve as both a remembrance and as a motivator for our forward-deployed naval forces.”

The Navy will return the flag to the New York City Fire Department upon the USS Theodore Roosevelt Battle Group’s return from deployment. On September 11th, 2001, New York City Firefighters Dan McWilliams, George Johnson and Billy Eisengrein anchored a single flagpole in about 20 feet of rubble and raised the U.S Flag; an image that was captured by the Bergen County New Jersey Record newspaper photographer Tom Franklin.

For more information on USS Theodore Roosevelt go to:

<http://www.spear.navy.mil/tr/>

Flag at Pentagon Attack Site Lowered, Preserved

TVC Journal – November/December
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By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

The huge American flag that hung to the right of the damaged area of the Pentagon was lowered October 11th, 2001 and folded with full military honors. Soldier of A Company, 3rd Infantry lowered the colors and folded them on the helipad just in front of where hijacked airliner hit the Pentagon September 11th, 2001.

Before September 11th the flag belonged to the U.S. Army Band and nearby Ft. Myers, VA. It is a garrison flag, the largest authorized for the military.

After the attack on the Pentagon, bandsmen sent the flag to the Pentagon. During President Bush’s visit to the impact site, 3rd Infantry soldier and fire fighters unveiled the flag and draped it over the side of the building.

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Flag at Pentagon Attack Site Lowered, Preserved

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The flag had hung in place ever since. Each night, workers illuminated it with floodlights. Today the flag is soot-stained and ripped at one spot where it rubbed up against the building. "This flag will never be flown again," Major General Jim Jackson, Commander of the Army Military District of Washington, said following the ceremony. Major General Jackson will present the flag to the Army leadership at a later date. They will decide its ultimate destination.

Non-VA Emergency Care Policy

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) now has the authority to pay for emergency care in non-VA facilities for eligible veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system. The program is retroactive for eligible veterans who have been treated since May 29, 2000.

Eligibility

This new benefit does not apply to all veterans. To qualify, veterans must be able to answer "yes" to the following:

Are you enrolled in VA health care?

Have you been seen by a VA health care professional within the preceding 24 months?

And "no" to the following:

Do you carry any form of health insurance or coverage, including Medicare, Medicaid or workers compensation?

The new benefit applies to situations in which a delay in getting immediate medical attention would be hazardous to health or life. Also, the veteran must be unable to reach either a VA health care facility or a facility that routinely cares for VA patients under contract.

Benefit

This provision was established as a safety net for veterans who have no other health insurance. Eligible veterans will not be required to pay any fees to the private facility. Once the veteran can be stabilized and safely transported, VA will arrange for treatment at an appropriate VA facility, if necessary.

The non-VA facility will file for reimbursement from the VA. If the non-VA facility bills the veteran directly, the veteran should contact his local VA health care facility and a representative will assist in resolving the issue. If anyone else (such as, Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance) pays all or a portion of the bill, VA cannot pay anything.

The new rule does not affect veterans who are already covered for non-VA emergency services, for example, veterans receiving care for a service-connected disability.

Insurance Coverage

VA strongly encourages veterans to retain any current health care coverage for a number of reasons. Not all care provided in an emergency room may be considered emergency care.

Furthermore, spouses generally do not qualify for VA health care and if insurance is cancelled, the spouse may lose coverage, too.

Veterans could be personally liable for medical bills if they decide to drop their Medicare Part B coverage or their personal health-insurance coverage. Veterans who have already dropped their Medicare Part B can get it back, but it may take time and extra expense. According to Social Security, people can only apply for Medicare Part B between January 1 through March 31 of each year, and coverage will not begin until July. Furthermore, the Part B premium will go up 10 percent for each 12-month period that a person drops out of the program.

It also is important to remember that VA health care depends primarily on congressional funding, which may affect VA's ability to care for non-service-connected veterans.

Reimbursement

VA will pay 70 percent of the rates that Medicare considers "allowable" and the non-VA facility will accept VA payment as payment in full. The veteran does not have to make co-payments to the private facility.

Veterans who receive a bill for emergency services, or have any questions concerning eligibility, should contact their local VA medical center, or call VA's Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

VA Homeless Programs and Initiatives

<http://www.va.gov/homeless/>

HUD-VASH

This joint Supported Housing Program with the Department of Housing and Urban Development provides permanent housing and ongoing treatment services to the harder-to-serve homeless mentally ill veterans and those suffering from substance abuse disorders. HUD's Section 8 Voucher Program has designated 1,780 vouchers worth \$44.5 million for homeless chronically mentally ill veterans. VA staff at 35 sites provide outreach, clinical care and ongoing case management services. Rigorous evaluation of this program indicates that this approach significantly reduces days of homelessness for veterans plagued by serious mental illness and substance abuse disorders.

Supported Housing

Like the HUD-VASH program identified above, staff in VA's Supported Housing Program provides ongoing case management services to homeless veterans. Emphasis is placed on helping veterans find permanent housing and providing clinical support needed to keep veterans in permanent housing. Staff in these programs operate without benefit of the specially dedicated Section 8 housing vouchers available in the HUD-VASH program but are often successful in locating transitional or permanent housing through local means, especially by collaborating with Veterans Service Organizations.

Drop-In Centers

These programs provide a daytime sanctuary where homeless veterans can clean up, wash their clothes, and participate in a variety of therapeutic and rehabilitative activities. Linkages with longer-term assistance are also available.

SSA-VA Outreach

In this pilot project with the Social Security Administration, HCMI and Homeless Domiciliary staff coordinate outreach and benefits certification with SSA staff to increase the number of veterans receiving SSA benefits and otherwise assist in their rehabilitation. In this demonstration project, both applications and benefits awards have increased significantly and the time to process applications has decreased dramatically.

Comprehensive Homeless Centers

VA's Comprehensive Homeless Centers (CHCs) place the full range of VA homeless efforts in a single medical center's catchment area and coordinate administration within a centralized framework. With extensive collaboration among non-VA service providers, VA's CHCs in Anchorage, AK; Brooklyn, NY; Cleveland, OH; Dallas, TX; Little Rock, AR; Pittsburgh, PA; San Francisco, CA; and West Los Angeles, CA, provide a comprehensive continuum of care that reaches out to homeless veterans and helps them escape homelessness.

(continued in February issue)

Go to the following website to download a flag for your desktop

<http://www.deskflag.com>

FOR LOCAL HELP CONTACT

DENTON COUNTY

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

306 N. LOOP 288, SUITE 146

DENTON, TX 76209

(940) 349-2950

MONDAY - FRIDAY

8:00 PM TO NOON

1:00 PM TO 5:00 PM

hank.scheible@dentoncountv.com

james.wheeler@dentoncountv.com

harbara.nance@dentoncountv.com

Forfeited Land Tracts

Texas Veterans Land Board • David Dewhurst, Chairman

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/vlb/traxii/index.html>

Forfeited Land Sale Tracts

The Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB) has forfeited tracts available for sale throughout the state of Texas through the Type I Forfeited Land Sales, for veterans only, and the Tex-Trax II Program, which is open to the general public.

TYPE I Tracts

The next Type I Forfeited Land Sale will be held in April 2002. To participate in a Type I Forfeited Land Sale, you must be a Texas veteran who does not currently have a land loan at the VLB or has successfully paid off any previous VLB land loans.

TYPE II Tracts (Tex-Trax II Program)

Tracts that are not sold at semi-annual forfeited land sales in April and October are available to veterans and the general public. These tracts are sold on a first-come, first-served basis through licensed Texas realtors and brokers who are chosen by the buyer.

[Search Tracts by County or Tract Number](#)

[Display a Summary of Type II Tracts by County](#)

To find where a specific county is located within the state, you can [SEARCH A STATE MAP](#).

There is no Type II tract information on these maps.

Department of Veterans Affairs

Center for Veterans Enterprise

VETBiz - *The Veteran Business Portal for the Federal Government*

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan ..."

- Abraham Lincoln

<http://205.128.215.96/library/faq.htm>

3. What is the minimum disability rating I need to declare myself as a service-disabled veteran?
Public Law 106-50, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999, does not require any minimum rating. A veteran with a zero percent-rating letter is eligible to self-represent as a service-disabled veteran for Federal contracting purposes.
4. What type of documentation do I need?
Federal solicitations contain a provision for veterans to self-represent their status. For prime contract actions with Federal agencies, an owner self-represents his or her status by action on the "Small Business Program Representation, FAR 52.219-1," or the "Offeror Representations and Certifications - Commercial Items, FAR 52.213-3." Your signature on the offer is all you need to be eligible for Federal contracting.

(TVLB and VETBiz continued in February issue)