

THE DENTON COUNTY VETERAN

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Denton County was established by the Texas legislature on April 11, 1846

County Judge Mary Horn, Commissioner Cynthia White, Precinct 1;
Commissioner Sandy Jacobs, Precinct 2; Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Precinct 3;
Commissioner Jim Carter, Precinct 4

Serving the Veterans of Denton County



The Portland, Oregon newspaper "The Oregonian", is generally credited with the first use of the phrase, "Remember Pearl Harbor" in its' December 9, 1941 afternoon edition. The phrase would later be used in countless books, pennants posters, buttons, music and other wartime progaganda.



Department of
Veterans Affairs

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 273-6000
www.va.gov

The Denton County Veteran—page 3

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 2005

VA Prescription Co-Pays to Increase by \$1

WASHINGTON – Co-payments for outpatient medicines prescribed through Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities will rise by \$1, according to an announcement today by VA. The \$1 increase for a 30-day supply of prescription drugs will take effect on January 1, 2006, the first change in VA prescription drug co-payments in four years.

"Through sound management practices, efficient pharmacy operations and price negotiations that put veterans first, VA has been able to contain prescription drug costs," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, noting that co-payments paid by veterans will still be lower than similar expenses in the private sector.

The increase to \$8 from \$7 for a 30-day supply of prescription drugs is required by federal law, which bases VA's co-payments for outpatient prescriptions on increases in the Medical Consumer Price Index.

The \$1 increase will not affect veterans who have an injury or illness connected with their military service resulting in a 50 percent or greater disability. Also known as "Priority Group 1" veterans, these patients will see no change in their current prescription drug benefit, Nicholson said.

Other veterans with less pronounced service-connected ailments – those classified as Priority Groups 2 through 6 – will see their prescription drug co-pays rise by \$1, but their annual out-of-pocket expenses for VA medicine will remain capped. The new cap will rise to \$960 per year, up \$120 from the previous level. This means veterans in Priority Groups 2 through 6 will pay no more than \$960 annually for VA outpatient medicine.

Veterans who have no injury or illness related in any way to their prior military service – referred to as Priority Groups 7 and 8 – will also see their co-payments increase, but there is no cap on annual payments for outpatient medicine.

Not all prescription drugs will be subject to the \$1 increase. Outpatient medications not subject to co-payments include:

- Medication for treatment of a service-connected disability;
- Medication for a veteran who has a service-connected disability of 50 percent or more;
- Medication for a veteran disabled by 50 percent or more for unemployability;
- Medication for a veteran whose annual income does not exceed the amount of VA pensions;
- Medications for health problems that may be linked to Agent Orange for Vietnam veterans, to radiation exposure, to undiagnosed illnesses of Persian War veterans, or for new veterans within two years of discharge after serving in a combat theater.

People wishing to receive e-mail from VA with the latest news releases and updated fact sheets can subscribe at the following Internet address:

http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/opalist_listserv.cfm



The Five Phases of Homecoming

<http://www.veteransandfamilies.org/home.html>

“HOPE” ALONE IS NOT AN EFFECTIVE HOMECOMING STRATEGY

Homecoming can be an arduous process. Knowing where you are currently and what phases lie ahead can provide the hope and motivation that is needed to meet the challenges you and your family may encounter. Hope alone without preparation and awareness is like speeding down a dark road with no headlights

The website <http://www.veteransandfamilies.org/home.html> will link you to a Veterans and Families Homecoming Preparedness Guide There are five phases that the guide will take the veteran and family through

The five phases are:

The Anticipation Phase

The Homecoming Reunion Phase

The Realization of Changes Phase

The Acceptance and Adaptation Phase

The “New Normal” Phase

The guide covers some normal reactions that a veteran will suffer after being in a war zone or combat. The reactions are normal reactions to an abnormal situation (war)

The guide introduces the veteran and his family members to several points concerning homecoming

There is a Weekly Acknowledgement of Hope and Progress Worksheet
This is a personal development private journaling document for the veteran

The guide also has a section covering
Homecoming Preparedness for Spouses
Problem Solving Steps For Families
Homecoming Preparedness For Parents and Grandparents

AND

VETERANS RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET



Department of
Veterans Affairs
America's Wars

Office of Public Affairs
Washington, DC 20420
(202) 273-6000

November 2005

American Revolution (1775-1783)

Total U.S. Servicemembers	217,000
Battle Deaths	4,435
Non-mortal Woundings	6,188

War of 1812 (1812-1815)

Total U.S. Servicemembers	286,730
Battle Deaths	2,260
Non-mortal Woundings	4,505

Indian Wars (approx. 1817-1898)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (VA estimate)	106,000
Battle Deaths (VA estimate)	1,000

Mexican War (1846-1848)

Total U.S. Servicemembers	78,718
Battle Deaths	1,733
Other Deaths in Service	11,550
Non-mortal Woundings	4,152

Civil War (1861-1865)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Union)	2,213,363
Battle Deaths (Union)	140,414
Other Deaths in Service (Union)	224,097
Non-mortal Woundings (Union)	281,881
Total Servicemembers (Conf.)	1,050,000
Battle Deaths (Confederate)	74,524
Other Deaths in Service (Confederate) ¹	59,297
Non-mortal Woundings (Confederate)	Unknown

Spanish-American War (1898-1902)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	306,760
Battle Deaths	385
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	2,061
Non-mortal Woundings	1,662

World War I (1917-1918)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	4,734,991
Battle Deaths	53,402
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	63,114
Non-mortal Woundings	204,002
Living Veterans	Less than 50

World War II (1941 –1945)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	16,112,566
Battle Deaths	291,557
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	113,842
Non-mortal Woundings	671,846
Living Veterans	3,525,769

Korean War (1950-1953)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	5,720,000
Battle Deaths	33,741
Other Deaths (In Theater)	2,833
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	17,672
Non-mortal Woundings	103,284
Living Veterans	3,256,925

Vietnam War (1964-1975)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	8,744,000
Deployed to Southeast Asia	3,403,000
Battle Deaths	47,424
Other Deaths (In Theater)	10,785
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	32,000
Non-mortal Woundings	153,303
Living Veterans	8,054,993

Desert Shield/Desert Storm (1990-1991)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	2,322,332
Deployed to Gulf	694,550
Battle Deaths	147
Other Deaths (In Theater)	235
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	1,590
Non-mortal Woundings	467
Living Veterans	2,015,235

War on Terrorism (2001 – Present)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	1,390,765
Deployed to Iraq & Afghanistan	185,329
Battle Deaths	1,674
Other Deaths (In Theater)	563
Non-mortal Woundings	15,991
Living Veterans ²	433,398

America's Wars Total

U.S. Military Service During Wartime	43,185,893
Battle Deaths	652,696
Other Deaths (In Theater)	14,416
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	525,223
Non-mortal Woundings	1,447,281
Living War Veterans	18,155,573
Living Veterans (Periods of War & Peace)	24,387,036

1. Does not include 26,000 to 31,000 who died in Union prisons.

2. VA estimate may include veterans who served both in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Source: Department of Defense (DoD), except living veterans, which are VA estimates. Estimates are as of September 30, 2005.

