

THE DENTON COUNTY VETERAN

Volume VIII
Issue 2
February 2005



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



First National Flag

Company I of the 7th Georgia Regiment carried this flag.



Confederate Flag

Records indicate that Joe E. Brown, Governor of Georgia during the Civil War, may have owned this flag.



Reverse side



First National Confederate Flag

The flag dates to first months of the war. The reverse is embroidered with a wreath and the words *Cherokee Dragoons*. The motto *Either with it or upon it* is also present. This early war militia unit became part of the 'Phillips Legion' that served in Virginia.

This Bit of History will continue in the February with Manassas National Battlefield Park



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

**Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations**

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

News Release

VA Distributes 2005 Insurance Dividends

WASHINGTON □ The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced its distribution of more than \$449 million in dividends to 1.4 million active policyholders of veterans' life insurance.

Over the next year, veterans will receive payments on the anniversary date of their policies, with the specific dividend amount varying according to age, type of insurance, and length of time the policy has been in force. Veterans will automatically receive their annual dividend through one of the nine payment options available to them.

Dividends cover only veterans with government life insurance policies who served between 1917 and 1956. Veterans of subsequent eras are covered by VA life insurance programs that do not pay dividends.

The dividends represent a return of trust fund earnings on the premiums paid by policyholders throughout the years. They reflect the fact that veterans are living longer than originally predicted. Dividends are also attributable to the higher than expected yields earned by the trust funds from investments in U.S. government securities.

Only those with policies that have been kept in force are eligible for the payout. Inaccurate notices periodically surface in the veterans community suggesting that those who have not maintained insurance are eligible for a special dividend if they contact VA, but this is false. Dividends are automatically sent to eligible policyholders.

The largest group receiving 2005 payments will be 1.1 million veterans of World War II with National Service Life Insurance ("V") policies. Total payments are expected to reach \$354.1 million.

Dividends totaling \$1.45 million will be paid to nearly 10,000 veterans holding U.S. Government Life Insurance ("K") policies.

More than 190,000 Korean War era veterans who maintained Veterans Special Life Insurance ("RS" and "W") policies can expect to receive dividends totaling \$80.7 million.

Veterans from the World War II era who hold Veterans Reopened Insurance ("J," "JR" and "JS") policies, currently numbering about 49,000, will share a \$12.9 million dividend.

Although VA administers a special life insurance program for disabled veterans and a program offering mortgage life insurance coverage, neither pays dividends.

For current active-duty service members and reservists, VA supervises a contract with a private carrier to underwrite Service members' Group Life Insurance. No dividends are paid on Service members' Group Life Insurance, or the version for veterans after military separation, Veterans' Group Life Insurance.

Veterans who have questions about their policy may call the VA Insurance toll-free number at

1-800-669-8477, may send an e-mail to VAinsurance@vba.va.gov, or may visit the web site at www.insurance.va.gov.



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

**Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations**

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

News Release

New Law Allows Higher Limits In VA Home Loan Program

WASHINGTON – Legislation recently signed by President Bush makes home ownership more affordable for many veterans.

Changes under the law mean veterans will be able to get no-down payment loans of up to \$359,700. The previous ceiling was \$240,000.

“Now, more than ever, veterans will be able to make their dreams of home ownership a reality,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi.

VA-guaranteed home loans are made by banks and mortgage companies to veterans, service members and reservists. With VA guaranteeing part of the loan, veterans can receive a good interest rate without having to make a down payment.

The changes took effect Dec. 10 when President Bush

signed into law the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004. The law also allows for loan limits to keep pace with rising home values.

The new law allows VA to guarantee one-year adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) and it extends, through 2008, VA’s “hybrid ARM program,” which allows veterans to lock in a favorable interest rate for at least three years.

More information about VA home loan benefits is available on the Web at

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

Military: Exemptions for Texas Veterans (Hazlewood Exemption) (Hazlewood Act) Program Purpose

To provide an education benefit to honorably discharged or separated Texas veterans.

Who can apply?

Individuals who:

- Are Texas residents
- Were Texas residents at the time they entered the U. S. Armed Forces
- Have served at least 181 days of active military duty, excluding basic training
- Have received an honorable discharge or separation or a general discharge under honorable conditions
- Have used up all his/her federal education benefits available for the semester for which he/she is enrolled (GI/Montgomery Bill and Federal Pell and SEOG Grants)
- Are not in default on a federal education loan or a student loan made or guaranteed by the State of Texas; and
- Enroll in classes for which the college receives tax support (i.e., a course that does not depend solely on student tuition and fees to cover its costs), unless the college’s governing board has ruled to let veterans receive the benefit while taking non-funded courses.

The benefit may not be used for correspondence courses unless the courses are part of the student's degree plan.

<http://www.collegefortexans.com/cfb/tofa2.cfm?ID=31> (continued on page 5)

For Local Help

Denton County Veterans Service Office
306 N. Loop 288, Suite 146
Denton, TX 76209
940-349-2950
Fax: 940-349-2951
Monday through Friday
8:00 am to noon
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Military: Exemptions for Texas Veterans (Hazlewood Exemption) (Hazlewood Act)

Program Purpose (continued from page 4)

To date, legislation has NOT been introduced to open the program to veterans from other states.

Where may the awards be used?

Available only for use at a Texas public college or university.

To access listings of Texas public colleges and universities, follow the links to [Texas Public Institutions](#).

How much can be awarded?

All dues, fees, and charges, including fees for correspondence courses but excluding property deposit fees, student service fees, and any fees or charges for lodging, board, or clothing. No funds may be used to pay tuition for continuing education classes for which the college receives no state tax support.

How large is the program?

8,556 awards were made in 2002-2003. (2003-2004 data not yet available)

How can I apply?

Provide the registrar of your college proof from the Department of Defense about your military service, nature of discharge and eligibility for GI/Montgomery benefits. Contact your college financial aid office regarding your eligibility for Pell or SEOG and your status on loans made or guaranteed by the State of Texas.

Where can I get additional information?

[Military: Exemptions for Texas Veterans \(Hazlewood Exemption\) FAQ](#)

Contact your college for additional information.

To read more about this program check out: [Texas Education Code §54.203](#)

[E-Mail Us!](#)

