

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



Manassas National Battlefield Park



First National Flag

The 10th Virginia Infantry Regiment carried this flag into the first battle of Manassas July 21, 1861. The Virginia State seal is painted on the reverse of the canton. The flag is marked with "Horstmanns Phil" indicating that the flag was made in Philadelphia and then shipped south. The missing stars in the canton are the result of battle damage.



US Flag

This flag was reported to have been carried into the field by Brigadier General Daniel Butterfield's brigade during the second battle of Manassas, August 30, 1862, and given by him to Private William W. Ryder, Co. F., 17th N.Y. Volunteers after the war.

The 5-pointed star pattern of stars is unusual. The arrangement of the stars in the canton was not standardized until later.

Richmond



Army of Northern Virginia Infantry Battle Flag, 3rd issue

This flag belonged to the Staunton artillery (Garber's battery), Virginia. It is unclear why the artillery battery used an infantry flag, and didn't have a regulation artillery flag measuring 3 feet square. It's possible that since the flag is a late war model, that the artillery model wasn't available.

Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990

http://www.tvc.state.tx.us/TVC_Publications.htm

Contributed by Gary Land, TVC Staff

I have recently run across a veteran who had been offered a one time payment of \$75,000 from the Department of Justice for a claim filed under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990 (RECA). This payment was for a radiation related illness based upon exposure to radiation as a result of onsite participation in a test involving the atmospheric detonation of a nuclear device.

There were many tests involving atmospheric or underwater nuclear testing in the 1950's, many with code names such as Operations Crossroads, Hardtack, Tumbler Snapper, just to name a few. You can also find radiation exposure claimants who were involved in the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki after WWII, Japanese Prisoners of War near those two cities, personnel on Eniwetok Island at the time of testing in the 1950's, and personnel involved in the decontamination of ships and equipment that participated in radiation tests. Conditions related to this exposure can be found in 38CFR 3.311 and 3.309.

What is interesting about this one time payment is that if a veteran accepts a RECA payment, that payment represents full satisfaction of all claims of or on behalf of that individual against the United States based upon a condition that arises out of the exposure to radiation. IN 38cfr 3.715, it states that a payment to any individual under the provisions of the RECA of 1990 based on disability of death resulting from a specific disease shall bar payment, or further payment of compensation or DIC compensation to or on behalf of that individual based upon disability or death resulting from the same disease.

The veteran I spoke of earlier has accepted this \$75,000 payment for his service-connected lung cancer. His VA compensation for this condition was terminated effective the date he became entitled under the act. Therefore, he will no longer be entitled to any compensation associated with the radiation exposure, not the lung cancer nor any other condition which is determined to be associated with that exposure. His widow will have no entitlement to DIC benefits associated with conditions related to radiation exposure. He will continue to have entitlement to treatment for this condition.

It's important that we are aware of the consequences of acceptance of this RECA payment, and help the veteran to make an informed decision when faced with this choice. In the long run, VA compensation could be the greater benefit for the veteran and his spouse.



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Military Funeral Honors

The Department of Defense (DoD) provides military funeral honors at the burials of veterans. When requested, funeral honors can be given at any cemetery – private or government-operated. Most funeral directors make those arrangements with DoD on behalf of family members. While military funeral honors are a long-standing tradition, it wasn't until 1999 that the rights of veterans and the responsibilities of the federal government were written into law.

**Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations**

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

News Release

That law, which took effect Jan. 1, 2000, was the National Defense Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-65).

Under the new law, at a family's request, every eligible veteran will receive military funeral honors, to include the presence of a military funeral honors detail, which will oversee folding and presenting the U.S. flag and playing "Taps," either by a high-quality recording or by a bugler. (continued page 5)

A Bit of March History

The Star-Spangled Banner

This is the flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to write “The Star-Spangled Banner.” The flag, which flew over

Fort McHenry in Baltimore during the 1814 battle at the fort, is a 15-star, 15-stripe garrison flag made in 1813 and loosely woven so that it could fly on a 90-foot flagpole.

This patriotic song, whose words were written by Francis Scott Key on Sept. 14, 1814, during the War of 1812 with Great Britain, was adopted by Congress as the U.S. national anthem in 1931. For many years before Congress made this choice, the song was popular and regulations for military bands required that it be played for ceremonies.

Though Key wrote the words during the British bombardment of Fort McHenry at Baltimore, the melody was an English tune well known in America by the 1790s. It was the music for a poem, “To Anacreon in Heaven,” written about 1780 as the official song of a British social and musical organization, the Anacreontic Society. In fact, Key had used the music in 1805 to accompany another poem he wrote to honor Commodore Stephen Decatur.

Key was a well known 34-year-old Washington, D.C., lawyer-poet. The British had captured Washington and taken William Beanes, a physician, prisoner. They were holding him aboard ship in their fleet off the Baltimore shore.

Friends of Beanes persuaded Key to negotiate his release. Key went out to the British fleet and succeeded in gaining Beanes’ release but, because the British planned to attack Baltimore at that time, both were detained.

During the night of Sept. 13-14, Key watched the bombardment of Baltimore from the deck of a British ship. Although rain obscured the fort dur-



ing the night, at daybreak he could see the American flag still flying from Fort McHenry. The fort still stood after the British had fired some 1,800 bombs, rockets and shells at it, about 400 of them landing inside. Four defenders were killed and 24 wounded. Key drafted the words of a poem on an envelope. The American detainees were sent ashore, the British fleet withdrew, and Key finished the poem and made a good copy of it in a Baltimore hotel the next day.

According to some accounts, Key showed the poem to relatives of his wife in Baltimore who had it printed immediately and distributed throughout the city on a handbill, entitled “The Defense of Fort McHenry.” Within a couple of weeks, Baltimore newspapers published the poem. It gained instant popularity and was renamed “The Star-Spangled Banner.” An actor sang it to the popular British tune at a public performance in Baltimore.

Only with the start of the Civil War did “The Star-Spangled Banner” become a nationally popular song. During World War I, a drive began in Congress to make it the official anthem of America’s armed forces. There were other contenders for the title, including “America the Beautiful” and “Yankee Doodle.” Maryland legislators and citizens were among the most active groups and individuals who pressed to get Francis Scott Key’s words and accompanying English tune ratified into law as the country’s first national anthem. That finally happened when President Herbert Hoover signed legislation on **March 3, 1931.**

The anthem has four verses, each ending with the line, “O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

<http://www1.va.gov/OPA/feature/celebrate/ssbanner.htm>

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 Funeral Honors

(continued from page 3)

The law defines a military funeral honors detail as consisting of two or more uniformed military persons, with at least one being a member of the veteran's branch of military service.

Funeral home directors must request military funeral honors from DoD, whether burial is in a national cemetery or another cemetery. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) staff at national cemeteries will help, when necessary, to facilitate a request to DoD for funeral honors at VA national cemeteries.

Veterans organizations may provide military funeral honors or may assist the military members rendering the honors. When honors are desired at a national cemetery, they are arranged by the funeral home in advance of the committal service. A few VA national cemeteries are served by veterans groups that regularly provide funeral honors.

DoD maintains a military funeral honors web site at

<http://www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil/>

Questions or comments concerning the program may be sent to this DoD address:

Department of Defense
Directorate of Public Inquiry and Analysis
Room 3A750, The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

<http://www1.va.gov/opa/fact/milhonor.html>

