

THE CENTURION

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CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

My Fellow Veterans,

I have been elected by the Commission as Chairman during the next 12 months, with the main purpose of representing them while we undergo a sunset review by the Joint Sunset Committee. We are grateful for the past support that we have received from the Legislature, and hopefully their final determination will not affect the Commission's ability to continue to coordinate any future services provided to Delaware veterans and their dependents. We continue to move forward on planning for the construction of a State Veterans Home in Delaware. A number of site possibilities are currently under consideration, and an in depth study of these sites will produce the necessary information for final site selection and further action by the State of Delaware. I will continue to keep you and your family members abreast of the results of each phase of the process and progress on our future State Veterans Home. On behalf of the Commission, I would like to thank Mr. Robert D. Marcinkowski, for his outstanding commitment to Delaware veterans during his tenure as Chairman over the past two years. The Commission wishes you and your family members a pleasant Veterans Day on November 11, 2003, and a very Happy Holiday Season!

Jim Thompson
Chairman

You served your country in war and/or the troubled years of peace and now you deserve the respect of your fellow citizens.

THOUGHT FOR THE QUARTER

"You have to be in perfect health to go through the red tape of medical care."

VETERANS DAY SERVICES

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs and Disabled American Veterans will host Veterans Day Services on **Tuesday, November 11, 2003**. The service will be at the Memorial Bridge Plaza, Delaware Memorial Bridge, New Castle, Delaware, and will begin at 10:30 AM. Following the service, a luncheon will be held at the Holiday Inn-Wilmington/Newark, 1203 Christiana Road, Newark, DE. For further information, call 1-800-344-9900 or (302) 739-2792.

DELAWARE VETERANS HOME

Veterans Home contributions can be made with a check payable to: Delaware Veterans Home Fund, and sent to the Department of State, 4001 Federal Street, Suite 3, Dover, DE 19901. Your donation is tax deductible.

FREE MEAL OFFERS A LESSON IN GENEROSITY

Generosity comes in all shapes and sizes. It comes in the form of financial support, donated time, and in some cases, a free meal. This Veterans Day weekend, Golden Corral Restaurants will once again prove it's generosity with the DAV/Golden Corral Military Appreciation Night on November 10, 2003, from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM. I encourage our chapters and members to support this one-of-a-kind salute to the brave men and women of our armed forces, past and present. Enjoy a free meal, take part in the fellowship, and experience this lesson of generosity. Come experience the seed of thanks that has blossomed into a bounty for our Nation's veterans, active duty, reserve and National Guard military at the Golden Corral on Military Appreciation Night. The DAV participates in the event, and its chapters pass out information about the organization and accept donations for our service programs in Delaware.

CELEBRATING VETERANS' DAY HOME FRONT STORYTELLING & WINE AND CHEESE

White Clay Creek State Park is hosting a WWII remembrance story telling with wine and cheese at the historic Judge Morris Estate, in celebration of Veteran's Day on Saturday, November 15th from 2-4 PM. We are looking for volunteers to tell their stories about World War II and life on the home front. Were you in combat, working for the war effort, managing a home and family, or maybe even still in school during that era? Would you like to share your story with others and join in the celebration? If so, please contact Janice Garda at (302) 368-6560. The Judge Morris Estate is located on Polly-Drummond Hill Road, in Newark Delaware. All stories will need to be reviewed prior to the program. (*White Clay Creek State Park Nature Center*)

MAIL – HOLIDAY POLICY 2003

The dates for mailing items to and from overseas locations in time for the holidays are fast approaching, and Military Postal Service Agency officials have suggestions for ensuring packages and letters arrive on time. Recommended deadlines for sending mail from the U.S. to all overseas military mailing addressees for the holidays are:

- Parcel post – November 13;
- Space-available mail - November 28;
- Parcel-airlift mail - December 4; and
- Priority and first-class letters or cards - December 11

These dates should also be observed when sending mail from overseas locations to the U.S. Because of security restrictions, mass-mailing operations such as Operation Dear Abby or the "Any Servicemember" mailing program are not being supported by the agency. (*Armed Forces News Issue, September 19, 2003*)

STATE DEPARTMENT OVERSEAS RECORDS

The State Department might be able to provide reports of birth, marriage and death that occurred overseas. Go to <http://www.travel.state.gov> and click on Birth, Death and Marriage Records. At the page titled Birth, Death and Marriage Records, click on "Apply" for a copy of a report issued by an American embassy or consulate showing the U.S. citizen was born, married or died while abroad. That link takes you to Consular Report of Birth, Death, and Marriage on file with the Department of State. There you will find the information you want, along with a form that can be copied and pasted, and the address where you can mail it. (*Armed Forces News, July 18, 2003*)

VA PRESUMPTIVE AGENT ORANGE CONDITIONS [VETS]

The following health conditions are presumptive recognized for service connection. Vietnam veterans with any of these conditions do not have to show that the illness is related to their military service to get disability compensation. A current medical diagnosis of the condition and a DD Form 214 showing Vietnam Service is normally all that is needed to accompany a completed Veterans Application for Compensation or Pension VA Form Number 21-526.

1. Chloracne (must occur within 1 year of the exposure to Agent Orange). Chloracne is a skin condition that looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. The first sign may be excessive oiliness of the skin. This is accompanied or followed by numerous blackheads. In mild cases, the blackheads may be limited to the areas around the eyes extending to the temples. In more severe cases, blackheads may appear in many places, especially over the cheekbone and other facial areas, behind the ears, and along the arms.
2. Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is a group of malignant tumors (cancers) that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue. These tumors are relatively rare compared to other types of cancer, and although survival rates have improved

during the past two decades, these diseases tend to be fatal.

3. Soft tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma). Soft tissue sarcoma is a group of different types of malignant tumors (cancers) that arise from body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues (not in hard tissue such as bone or cartilage). These cancers are in the soft tissue that occurs within and between organs.

4. Hodgkin's disease is a malignant lymphoma characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia.

5. Porphyria cutanea tarda (must occur within 1 year of exposure). Porphyria cutanea tarda is a disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas.

6. Multiple myeloma is a cancer of specific bone marrow cells that is characterized by bone marrow tumors in various bones of the body.

7. Respiratory cancer, including cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus.

8. Prostate cancer is a cancer of the prostate and one of the most common cancers among men.

9. Peripheral neuropathy (transient acute or subacute. It must appear within 1 year of exposure and resolve within 2-years of date of onset). A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and muscle weakness. This condition affects only the peripheral nervous system, that is, only the nervous system outside the brain and spinal cord. Only the transient acute (short-term) and subacute forms of this condition (not the chronic persistent form) have been associated with herbicide exposure.

10. Diabetes mellitus: Often referred to as Type 2 diabetes: a condition characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin.

11. Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (final rule and regulations pending).

VA health care providers occasionally see combat veterans with multiple unexplained symptoms or difficult-to-diagnose illnesses that can cause

significant disability. Two new VA centers offer specialized evaluations for combat veterans with disabilities related to these difficult-to-diagnose illnesses. The centers, called War Related Illness and Injury Study Centers – WRIISCs (pronounced “risks”) are at the VA Medical Centers in Washington, DC, and East Orange, NJ. Veterans who were deployed to combat zones, served in areas where hostilities occurred, or were exposed to environmental hazards while on duty may be eligible for services. (*NAUS Weekly Update, August 22, 2003*)

VA PRESUMPTIVE AGENT ORANGE CONDITIONS [CHILDREN]

The following health conditions are presumptively recognized in children of veterans for service connection. Vietnam veteran’s children with any of these conditions do not have to show that their illness is related to their parent’s military service to get disability compensation. A current medical diagnosis of the condition and a DD Form 214 showing the parent’s Vietnam Service is normally all that is needed to accompany a completed Veterans Application for Compensation or Pension VA Form Number 21-526.

· Spina bifida (except spina bifida occulta): A neural tube birth defect that results from the failure of the bony portion of the spine to close properly in the developing fetus during early pregnancy.

· Other (than spinal bifida) disabilities in the children of women Vietnam veterans. Covered birth defects “means any birth defect identified by VA as a birth defect associated with the service of women Vietnam veterans in Vietnam from February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975, and that has resulted, or may result, in permanent physical or mental disability.” However, the term does not include a condition due to a familial (this is, inherited) disorder; birth-related injury; or fetal or neonatal infirmity with other well-established causes. Covered birth defects include, but are not limited to, the following conditions:

- 1) achondroplasia,
- 2) cleft lip and cleft palate,
- 3) congenital heart disease,

- 4) congenital talipes equinovarus (clubfoot),
- 5) esophageal and intestinal atresia,
- 6) Hallerman-Streiff syndrome,
- 7) Hip dysplasia,
- 8) Hirschprung’s disease (congenital megacolon),
- 9) Hydrocephalus due to aqueductal stenosis,
- 10) Hypospadias,
- 11) Imperforate anus,
- 12) Neural tube defects,
- 13) Poland syndrome,
- 14) Pyloric stenosis,
- 15) Syndactyly (fused digits),
- 16) Tracheoesophageal fistula,
- 17) Undescended testicle, and
- 18) Williams’s syndrome.

*Not covered are conditions that are congenital malignant neoplasms, chromosomal disorders, or developmental disorders. In addition, conditions that do not result in permanent physical or mental disability are not covered birth defects. All birth defects that are excluded under the language above are covered birth defects. (*Agent Orange Review, Vol 19, No 2, July 2003*)

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION DEATH BENEFIT LUMP-SUM

When applying for the \$255 lump-sum death benefit, be prepared to answer the following questions and have as many of the needed documents as possible. You should not delay filing your claim just because you do not have all the documents. SSA will help you get them. You will be asked:

- Your name and social security number;
- The deceased worker’s name, gender, date of birth and social security number;
- Whether the deceased worker ever filed for Social Security benefits, Medicare or Supplemental Security Income (if so, SSA will also ask for information on whose Social Security record he or she applied);
- Whether the deceased worker was unable to work because of illnesses, injuries or conditions at any time during the 14 months before his or her

death (If “Yes,” they will also ask when he or she became unable to work);

- Whether the deceased worker was ever in the active military service (if “Yes,” they will also ask for the dates of his or her service);
- Whether the deceased worker worked for the railroad industry for 7 years or more;
- Whether the deceased worker earned social security credits under another country’s social security system;
- The names, dates of birth (or age) and social security numbers (if known) of the deceased worker’s former spouses and the dates of the marriages and how and when they ended;
- The names of any of the deceased worker’s unmarried children under 18, 18-19 and in secondary school or disabled prior to age 22;
- The amount of the deceased worker’s earning in the year of death and the preceding year;
- Whether the deceased worker had a parent who was dependent on the worker for ½ of his or her support at the time of the worker’s death; and
- Whether the deceased worker and surviving spouse were living together at the time of death.

If you are the surviving spouse, you will also be asked:

- Whether you have been unable to work because of illnesses, injuries or conditions at any time within the past 14 months (if “Yes,” they will also ask when you became unable to work);
- Whether you or anyone else ever filed for Social Security benefits, Medicare or Supplemental Security Income on your behalf (if so, we will also ask for information on whose Social Security record you applied); and
- The names, dates of birth (or age) and social security numbers (if known) of any of your former spouses and the dates of the marriages and how and when they ended.

If you are not the surviving spouse, they will also ask for the surviving spouse’s name and address.

You should bring certified copies as applicable of the death certificate, marriage contracts, birth certificates, and your checkbook or other papers that show your account number at a bank, credit union or other financial institution to sign up for

Direct Deposit. (www.ssa.gov/online/ssa-8.html, May 2003)

COMBAT RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION

Last November, instead of passing Concurrent Receipt, a last minute compromise (CRSC) was made. This allowed disabled retired vets with combat-related disabilities rated 60 percent or above or those who received a Purple Heart and have 10 percent or higher combat-related disability to keep both their full retirement pay and VA compensation. This only benefited about 35,000 of the total 800,000 disabled retired vets or five percent. Of the five percent who applied, DOD has only approved about five to eight percent. The program was effective June 1, 2003. The Defense Department has told the military services to award CRSC only for combat-related disabilities. This will speed up a backlog of applications awaiting a ruling about military retirees who the VA has determined to be unemployable or who are eligible for special military compensation. However, such individuals whose determinations are not combat-related may continue to forfeit part of their retired pay in order to receive VA disability compensation. Air Force officials have stated that the current wait-time for applications for CRSC is about three months from the date of submission to notification of approval or disapproval. This is due mainly to the large volume of applications received. Computer problems also have caused delays, although many of these have been resolved, causing officials to expect the flow of completed packages to improve. Regardless of delays, payments to approved applicants will be retroactive to June 1, 2003. Retirees who have not submitted their claim should include a copy of all VA paperwork regarding their disability rating and not just the initial notification from the VA. On September 23, 2003, the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee held a hearing during which Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi testified that the Combat Related Special Compensation provisions, implemented in June, could be changed to add Reservists. As it stands right now, a reservist needs 7200 points to

qualify for the special compensation. To put this in perspective, a member who spends 3 years on active duty and then switches to the reserves would have to spend 41% of each year on active duty for 27 years. This is in addition to the normal reserve time of one weekend per month and two weeks during the summer. It was indicated this is simply unattainable and is particularly outrageous that this includes reservists who have been awarded the Purple Heart. Army CRSC Processing: As of September 17, 2003, the Army has received 16,034 applications, approved 712, and denied 721. They are waiting for VA Records on 1,934 applications. Another 1,362 receiving SMC or IU formerly on hold awaiting a ruling on applicability are now moving to DFAS for payment. Naval CRSC Processing: As of September 10, 2003, the Naval section has received approximately 5,900 applications. Case builders have built 2,486 and Case Officers have started 1,635 in work pending additional records are approximately 1,098. To date 342 have been approved and 195 have been denied. These numbers do not reflect applications:

- Rejected for failure to meet the preliminary criteria (e.g. less than 20 years in service)
- Returned to applicants for completion (e.g. no signature or missing key pages)
- Reconsiderations

Air Force CRSC Processing: As of September 19, 2003, the USAF has received a total of 6,937 applications, approved a total of 584 cases and disapproved a total of 546 cases. The physical disability staff has started reviewing the 700 applications received during the week of June 16-20. Next month the Air Force plans to add a support contractor to the CRSC effort, which should speed up the application and approval process. According to division officials, all the special monthly compensation or unemployability cases being held pending further guidance have been released. More information is available by calling the Air Force Contact Center toll free at (866) 229-7074, commercial (210) 565-5000 or DSN 665-5000. For additional information and a copy of the application form, go to <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/crsc/>. (RAO Bulletin Update, September 28, 2003)

VA SEEKS FORMER POWS FOR POSSIBLE BENEFIT AWARDS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is asking former prisoners of war not currently using VA benefits, to contact VA to find out if they may be eligible for disability compensation and other services. More than 23,000 former prisoners of war (POWs) already receive compensation from VA. This year, the department mailed information about benefits to another 4,700 known ex-POWs not on its rolls. However, VA estimates there could be as many as 11,000 more POWs for whom it does not have an address. VA is asking former POWs not receiving benefits who did not receive a VA letter recently to call the department at 1-800-827-1000. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi said VA has expanded policies to cover increasing numbers of former POWs as new illnesses have been found related to captivity. The administration currently is pressing to get even more compensation and Medicare benefits for former POWs. Nine out of ten former POWs are veterans of World War II, and their service predates the use of Social Security numbers as a military "service number." That, coupled with the decades that have elapsed since their service, makes it difficult for VA to track down those who have not opened a file with VA in recent years. The most recent expansion of VA benefits for former POWs was a July regulation that added cirrhosis of the liver to the list of diseases, to which entitlement to disability compensation is presumed in former POWs. Similar policies making it easier for former POWs to obtain compensation have been enacted for POWs detained for 30 days or more who develop specific illnesses. Former POWs have a special eligibility for enrollment in VA medical care and are exempt from making co-payments for inpatient and outpatient medical care. They have the same co-pay rules as other veterans for medications and for extended care. Free dental treatment for any dental condition is available to former POWs held for more than 90 days. More information about VA Services for former POWs is available at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/32/Benefits/POW/>.

(Department of Veterans Affairs, September 19, 2003)

FEDERAL RETIREMENT FOR VETS

Active military service such as cadet or midshipman periods that are not creditable toward military retirement can be used toward federal retirement. To include military service in civilian pensions, veterans hired under the Federal Employee's Retirement System [FERS] after October 1, 1982, must deposit 3% of their total military earning into a federal retirement account. The payment is interest free during the first three years of employment, and thereafter any balance remaining will require interest to be included in the payments. Veterans hired before October 1, 1982, who have enough earnings under Social Security to qualify for SS benefits, have two federal retirement options: they can make the 3% deposit and get full credit for their military service throughout retirement or, they can waive the deposit and get full credit for their military service until they reach age 62 and become eligible for social security. At that point the military portion of their retirement credit is taken away. *(MOAA Magazine, August 2003)*

GRAHAM BILL ENDING MEAL CHARGES FOR MILITARY HEROES

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved Senator Bob Graham's bill to stop the Pentagon's practice of assessing meal charges against soldiers while they are hospitalized for illnesses or injuries suffered in combat. The text of Graham's bill (S.1622) was added to the Iraq-Afghanistan supplemental spending measure after it was offered as an amendment by Senators Harry Reid, D-Nevada, and Barbara Mikulski, D-Maryland. Reid and Mikulski are among 30 co-sponsors of Graham's bill, including both Democrats and Republicans. "This is a significant step toward ending the reprehensible practice of sending a bill for meals to a man or woman in uniform as soon as they leave the hospital – often on crutches or in a wheelchair," Graham said. When soldiers have made such a sacrifice, they shouldn't be asked to

pay for the meals they ate in the hospital. Graham's bill differs in two ways from a provision recently inserted in the fiscal 2004 Defense Department Appropriations Bill: The Graham bill is a permanent change, not just for one year. And the Graham bill specifically covers personnel who catch illnesses during deployment that require hospitalization, such as malaria, not just those who suffer war injuries. The bill would end the Pentagon's current practice of billing \$8.10 per day for hospital food to all officers and enlisted personnel who are wounded, injured or become ill as a result of their combat service. *(Jill-Grenbert @Graham.senate.gov, September 30, 2003)*

BENEFITS CHECKUP

If you are over 50 years of age it may be to your benefit to check out www.benefitscheckup.org to see if there are any benefits you are not availing yourself of. This site is a service of the National Council on the Aging that will provide you with a confidential personal report of public programs and benefits that you may qualify for. Areas such as housing, employment, prescription drug costs, utility bills are addressed. The site tells you how to apply for assistance programs, but you cannot actually apply for these at this site. For final program eligibility, you will need to apply to the agencies listed in the report. You are not required to identify your name, address, phone number, or Social Security number. You will be required to complete an online questionnaire necessary to identify programs applicable to you. It covers basic information on over 1,150 programs, including those covering more than 1,450 prescription medications. Programs generally are in the civilian sector and not military orientated. You can review online or print out a copy of those programs that are applicable to you for further follow up. *(SOHO Advisor Henry Bohne Input, August 29, 2003)*

JROTC TEACHING POSITIONS

The Air Force needs military retirees to take on teaching roles in high school classrooms as the service expands its Junior Reserve Officer Training

Corps program. The scope of the program, which currently includes 744 JROTC units in high schools worldwide, will expand with 201 units to be added by fiscal year 2007. The expansion provides increased opportunities for community service positions for retired Air Force members interested in becoming high school teachers. Applicants are encouraged to apply for numerous vacancies for the upcoming school year. The Air Force JROTC Web site, www.afoats.af.mil (select "AFJROTC") lists current vacancies and provides applications. Personnel from all career fields are needed and former Air Force position/profession is not a factor. Retirees with their attained leadership skills, customs and courtesies, academic background and professional military education make them well prepared for taking a role as a leader in the AFJROTC classroom. Air Force officer or enlisted members who retired from active duty within the past five years or less, and who served at least 20 years or retired under the Temporary Early Retirement Authority with at least 15 years of active duty service may apply. Active duty members may apply when they are within six months of their retirement date. In some instances, the five-year date of retirement can be waived for up to 10 years. Waiver consideration is based on the needs of the program and applicant qualifications. Instructors wear uniforms, meet current weight requirements and receive, as a minimum, a salary equal to the difference between their retired pay and their active-duty pay and allowances, excluding incentive pay that they would receive if on active duty. For more information, call the AFJROTC Division toll free at 1-866-235-7682 extension 35275-6106; or visit the Air Force JROTC Web site, www.afoats.af.mil. (*Air Force Retiree News, September 9, 2003*)

CREDIT REPORT CONTENT

While all credit reports contain some variations in format they all give basically the following information on the consumer:

1. Personal Information: Name, DOB, current and previous address reported by your creditors. Frequent moves and job changes might negatively

affect your credit score. Items that do not factor into your score are race, religion, gender, marital status, age, salary, employment history, where you live, or the interest charged on your accounts. Also, credit-reporting agencies do not share your SSN with companies that request your report.

2. Public Record Information: Items obtained from local, state, and federal courts such as bankruptcies, liens, judgments, garnishments, foreclosures and secured loans.

3. Collection Agency Account Information: Any account that has been turned over to collection agencies. Items listed here will affect your ability to get credit or get the best credit rate.

4. Credit Account Information: A listing of all open and closed accounts including:

a. Credit grantor reporting the information.

b. The last three digits of the account number reported by the grantor.

c. If the account is joint, shared etc.

d. The month and year the account was opened.

e. Last date of payment, change, or occurrence.

f. Highest amount charged or credit limit.

g. Number of installments or cost of monthly payment.

h. Amount owed as of the date reported.

i. Status. Type of account, approved, not used, too new to rate, how many days balance is past due, repossession, charged off to bad debt.

j. Date of last account update.

k. History of times late with payments.

5. Businesses that have received your report in the last 24 months. Inquiries from multiple creditors can be negative, but requesting your own report or being offered unsolicited credit cards does not affect your score.

6. Credit Score: Scores are computed using the FICO scoring model and range from 300 to 850. A score of 720 or higher is ideal.

Experts advise consumers to check credit reports at least once a year. You can request a report by phone or online. The fee is generally under \$20 with some variations between states. For additional cost, some bureaus supply monitoring services that alert you when someone requests your credit report or if your credit profile changes for the worse. Upon receipt, compare all sections of the report to

your financial statements to see if the data matches. False reports that you are using a credit card or that you have applied for a loan may signal a simple error or an attempt by someone else to misuse your credit. If discrepancies arise, report them immediately. The three major credit bureaus in the U.S. are:

- Equifax 1-800- 685-1111 or www.equifax.com
- Experian 1-888-Experian or www.experian.com
- TransUnion 1-800-916-8800 or www.transunion.com

Each can provide credit reports online if you have a credit card to charge the fee to. All bureaus have toll free numbers and online assistance available 7/24. Victims of identity theft can post alerts on their credit files. The alert urges the financial institutions to withhold credit without your verbal authorization. (*NFCU Homeport Newsletter, Summer 2003*)

NEW BOOK, DELAWARE'S COASTAL DEFENSE

The Delaware Heritage Commission announces the release of the 20th book in the Delaware Heritage Press collection, *Delaware's Coastal Defenses: Fort Saulsbury and a Mighty Fort called Miles*. Originally published as two separate books – *Fort Saulsbury* in 1991 and *A Mighty Fort...* in 1972 – The Heritage Commission reprinted the books together as one new volume. The books were reprinted in their entirety. The new volume incorporates up-to-date history and is prefaced by an introductory chapter detailing the evolution of coastal defenses in the United States and Delaware. Naval gunnery led the dance in coastal fortifications. As the firepower and defenses of ships improved, newer forts were constructed. Fort Delaware emerged, as Fort Mifflin was rendered obsolete. Fort Saulsbury, near Slaughter Beach (today, the only privately-owned fort in the country) was constructed when Fort Delaware proved inadequate. Fort Saulsbury was replaced with Fort Miles as it became necessary to be able to hit targets in the Atlantic before they could team headlong in to the Bay and River. A real fear existed in the early months of World War II with

the German pocket battleships having the capability to bomb Wilmington, Philadelphia and Baltimore if allowed to enter the Bay. Fort Saulsbury was also made obsolete by the fact that its four 12-inch guns were not casemated, therefore subject to aerial bombardment. Much of Fort Miles still exists inside Cape Henlopen State Park. The bunkers that once housed the big 16-inch guns are hidden at Cape Henlopen under tons of sand and 40,000 Japanese black pine trees planted by the Army in the early 1940s. The most obvious symbol of the Delaware's coastal defenses are the eleven fire control towers still standing guard along the ocean. The book tells of the use of these misunderstood towers – many people mistakenly thing they were used to spot German U-Boats. The Division of Sate Parks is currently redeveloping the fort and will have programs and displays that will interpret life at the fort during World War II in the near future. The book is available in hardcover (\$10) and soft cover (\$5). Editions can be ordered by calling the Commission at 302-577-5044. The book is 158 pages in length and includes artwork and photographs. (*Delaware Heritage Commission, July 11, 2003*)

NEW BOOK, DELAWARE'S ROLE IN WORLD WAR II

The Delaware Heritage Commission announces the released *Delaware's Role in World War II*. Originally published in two volumes and in a limited run of 500 copies in 1955, the book has been out-of-print for decades. The Heritage Commission reprinted the volumes together as one edition. The volumes were reprinted in their entirety. The two volumes of *Delaware's Role In World War II* are probably unrivaled in the detail in which the role of innumerable military men and women serving around the world, civilians on the home front, and local and state officials and organizations are portrayed. It is hard to imagine that any other state could have captured and reported on the effects of a higher percentage of its citizens as they worked in their varied ways to bring about the great victory that was achieved. It was somewhat by accident that only eleven days after

Pearl Harbor, the National Resources Planning Board in the White House asked the State Archivist to organize a committee to examine ways to conserve the cultural resources of the State. The Committee quickly recognized that one of its major tasks should be to preserve the role of Delaware in World War II. The work of the Committee would continue until publication of the two texts in 1955. Numerous volunteers were drawn to the project. Well-known historians, educators, and journalists served. Dr. John A. Munroe, John G. Leach, W. Emerson Wilson and Bill Frank were representatives of that group. Mr. Joseph A. Iannelli and scores of volunteers in all three counties cut and mounted thousands of newspaper clippings on 4" by 8" cards. These clippings contain the information that forms the heart of the book, the comings and goings of thousands of Delaware citizens as they made their contribution to the war effort. Brave deeds and supreme sacrifice on the battlefield, air raid wardens and war bond rallies, use of prisoners of war, shipbuilding and warplane delivery, USO entertainment and airplane spotting, submarine hunting and homeland defense, agricultural production and preparation of bandages and knitting of cold weather gear- all these stories and more are told. Information was gathered from a Veterans Clearing Bureau operated by the Red Cross. The selective Service Office provided copies of discharge papers of all Delawareans so that their awards and decorations could be reported. The State Adjutant General, Paul R. Rinard, provided data on the two major state units of the Delaware National Guard, the 198th Coast Artillery (A.A.) Regiment and the 261st Coast Artillery (Harbor Defense) Regiment. Col J. Paul Heinel provided information about the State Guard organized to provide military security in the State during the absence of the National Guard. Names of those involved in all of these activities are mentioned. The book chronicles the wartime efforts of over 10,000 Delawareans and honors the 778 First State soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice. All of the data was put into historical context by William H. Connor, a long time city editor of the *Sunday Star*. Mr. Leon DeValinger Jr., the one-time state archivist, oversaw the project.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO DELAWARE VETERANS

In January 1946, Walter W. Bacon, then elected Governor, authorized a state award to those who served in World War II. To honor this commitment to Delaware Veterans, Governor Ruth Ann Minner has announced that the State of Delaware will provide a "Certificate of Appreciation" to all Delaware residents who shall have served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States during time of peace, conflict or war. To request a "Certificate of Appreciation" the veteran/spouse or next of kin must submit the enclosed application (see page 19) along with a copy of a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, (DD Form 214). DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL.

WWII VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

In support of Lt. Governor John C. Carney, Jr.'s and Secretary of State Harriet Smith Windsor's WWII Veterans History Project, we are soliciting your participation and support in creating and preserving a permanent record of your personal wartime experiences for future generations of Delawareans and other Americans to share and consult. The effort also will be used in support of the National Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. Some questionnaires will be selected for a videotaped oral history, while all will be used to create a volume of written histories of WWII veterans from Delaware. Those selected for the videotaped portion of the project will be chosen based on the uniqueness of their questionnaire and the narrative they provide. If you are selected for the videotaped portion of this project, a Veterans History Project staff member will contact you to arrange for a personal interview. To participate in this preservation effort, please complete the attached questionnaire on pages 14/15 and return it to the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100, Dover, DE 19904. If you need assistance or further clarification on completing the questionnaire, please call 1-800-344-9900 or (302) 739-2792.

HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FISHING LICENSES

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs (DCVA) in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), Division of Fish & Wildlife is now issuing Hunting, Trapping and Fishing ID cards for those Delaware veterans and members of the Armed Forces who meet the exceptions to requirements for licensing under Title 7, Chapter 5, Section 502 of the Delaware Code.

- ❑ Any veteran having at least a 60% service-connected disability (certified by the Veterans Administration);
- ❑ Or 65 years or older;
- ❑ Or blind

For more information, please call (302) 739-2792 or (800) 344-9900.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 11:00 AM, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100, Dover, DE. The meeting schedule varies for June and December of each year. These meetings are open to the public. Any individual requiring special accommodations, shall contact this office one week prior to the meeting date. If you would like to attend, please call 1-800-344-9900 (in State) or (302) 739-2792.

MOBILE VETERANS SERVICE CENTER

Ms. White will be providing services for veterans from the mobile office at the following locations:

NOV 18	Seaford Service Center
NOV 19	Ocean View Town Hall
DEC 02	Seaford Service Center
DEC 03	Bethany Beach Town Hall
DEC 09	Laurel Town Hall
DEC 10	Georgetown Service Center
DEC 16	Bridgeville Town Hall
DEC 17	Fenwick Town Hall

For more information, contact Ms. White at the Pyle State Service Center, (302) 732-9560.

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs

(Kent County) – Ms. Melanie E. Bronov - Dover office - may be reached Monday –Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM, (302) 739-2792 or (800) 344-9900 (in State). Please call for an appointment.

(Sussex County) - Ms. Laurie A. White - Pyle State Service Center located in Roxanna, DE, may be reached Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, (302) 732-9560. Please call for an appointment.

American Legion

Robert McBride, Dept. Service Officer, (302) 633-5323, will visit the following posts between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM on the following dates:

NOV 14	Walter L Fox, Post 2	674-3922
NOV 21	Laurel, Post 19	875-9948

DEC 05	Oak Orchard/Riverdale, Post 28 (8:00-12:00)	945-1673
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DEC 12	Walter L Fox, Post 2	674-3922
DEC 19	David Harrison, Post 14	653-1711

DE/MD Paralyzed Veterans of America (DE/MD PVA)

Darrell Johnson, Sr., National Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 26, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 633-5325 or (302) 633-5392. Mr. Johnson will make home visits upon request for vets who do not have transportation to the VA. He will be in the Oak Orchard area the 1st Monday, Dover the 2nd Monday, Frederica the 3rd Monday and at the Home of the Brave on the 4th Monday of each month. In addition to our service officer at the Wilmington VA Regional Office, we also have representatives David Timberman and Mike Wynetar, National Liaison Service Officers, at the Home of the Brave on Tuesday from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. The Home of the Brave is located at 6632 Sharps Rd, Milford, DE (302) 424-1681 or 1682.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

Paul Lardizzone, Dept. Service Officer (DAV).
Every Tuesday: DAV Headquarters Building
& Wednesday 183 South Street
(Kent) 8:00-12:00 Camden, DE 19934
(302) 697-9061
Every Thursday: Department of Labor
(Sussex) 8:00-12:00 Div. of Emp & Trng
(302) 856-5230 600 N. DuPont Hwy.
Georgetown, DE 19947

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)

Richard Magner, National Service Officer, VA
Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington,
DE 19805, (302) 633-5508.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

Terry Baker, National Service Officer, VA
Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington,
DE 19805, (302) 633-5357

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

James Withrow, Dept. Service Officer, VA
Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 21,
Wilmington, DE 19805, (800) 461-8262 ext. 5326
or (302) 633-5326.

1ST Thursday

Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM
Milford VFW (422-4412) 1:30-4:00 PM

2nd Thursday

Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM
Milton VFW (684-4975) 1:30-4:00 PM

3rd Thursday

Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM
Rehoboth VFW (227-3469) 1:30-4:00 PM

4th Thursday

Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM
Seaford VFW (629-3092) 1:30-4:00 PM

5th Thursday

Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM

NOTE: All persons interested in Outreach Services
should first call our office so that some advance
information may be obtained to accelerate the
application process. Kent & Sussex County
residents may call 1-800-461-8262 ext 5326. New
Castle County residents may call 633-5326.

NOTE: persons desiring assistance at the Thursday-
downstate locations should be at the Delaware DOL
no later than 9:00 AM or at the afternoon locations
by 2:00 PM. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
provides services to veterans and their dependents
without respect to veteran service organization
affiliation; membership in the VFW is NOT
required for service.

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS POC

Military Order of the World Wars
LTC (Ret) Michael C Wilgen.....(302) 292-1964
E-Mail mwilgen@udel.edu
American Legion
Ed Phillips Jr.....(302) 628-5221
AMVETS
John Navitsky.....(302) 994-5657
DE/MD Paralyzed Veterans of America
Wayne Carter.....(302) 368-4898
Jewish War Veterans
Barry Newstadt.....(302) 475-2820
Korean War Veterans Association
Dave Gillan.....(302) 737-2242
Military Order Of The Purple Heart
Bill Carroll.....(302) 655-3820
American Ex-Prisoners Of War
Howard Melson.....(302) 539-1808
WAVES Int'l
Ruth Harden.....(302) 998-1373
Vietnam Veterans of America
Robert Corsa.....(302) 933-0119
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Paul Phillips Jr.....(302) 656-5022
The Reserve Officers Association
CWO John V. Hawkins, Sr. (Ret)...(302) 328-8115

**DELAWARE VETERANS
MEMORIAL CEMETERY**

New Castle Co. Section (Bear, DE).....834-8046
Sussex Co. Section (Georgetown, DE).....934-5653

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Claims, Benefits, Veterans Services
(Regional Office).....1-800-827-1000

VA Hospital Scheduling.....1-800-461-8262
302-994-2511
 Veterans Outreach Center
 (New Castle County).....302-633-5360
 (Kent and Sussex Counties).....302-422-8011

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Mike Wolanski (VA Regional Ofc)...302-633-5492
 Al Barclift (Wilmington).....302-761-8093
 Michael Companion (Wilmington).....302-761-8096
 Ron Bythwood (Newark).....302-739-5473
 Steve Flaherty (Dover).....302-739-5473
 Charley Roberson (Dover AFB).....302-677-6942
 Norris Townsend (Georgetown).....302-856-5230
 Cliff Rumph (Georgetown).....302-856-5230

RETIREE ACTIVITIES

Retired Activities Office

Lt. Col Ken Smith, (USAF RET), Bldg 520, Room
 105, Dover AFB, DE 19902, (302) 677-4612.

Retired Navy Activities Affairs Office

Leon Stajkowski, Naval & Marine Corps Reserve
 Center, 3920 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE
 19808, (302) 998-5194.

COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Commissioners may be reached by calling (800)
 344-9900.

Jim Thompson (Chairman).....MCL
 George K. Hastings (Vice Chair).....MOWW
 Cornelius "Bill" Carroll.....MOPH
 Richard Ennis.....KWVA
 Ruth B. Harden.....WAVES NAT'L
 Jesse Kitson.....VFW
 Paul Lardizzone.....DAV
 Richard M. Magner.....AMVETS
 Bob MarcinkowskiMOAA
 Gary "Mo" Morris.....AMERICAN LEGION
 Barry Newstadt.....JWV
 Reese Phillips.....40&8
 David W. Timberman.....DE/MD PVA
 Robert E. Wasson.....DELVETS
 George Webb.....VVA

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 the following information below: (Articles should be submitted to the Commission Office directly)

NAME/ORGANIZATION_____

STREET_____

CITY_____ **STATE**_____ **ZIP**_____ - _____

**MAIL TO: DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
 ROBBINS BUILDING
 802 SILVER LAKE BLVD, SUITE 100
 DOVER, DE 19904**

STATE OF DELAWARE

"Serving Delaware's Veterans"

**Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs
Robbins Building
802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, Delaware 19904**

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