



THE CENTURION

DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

25 The Green - Old State House, Dover, Delaware 19901
Telephone (302) 739-2792 or
Toll Free 1-800-344-9900 (in state)
Internet Address: <http://www.state.de.us>

Thomas R. Carper
Governor

Edward J. Freel
Secretary of State

Charles A. Kashner
Commission Chairman

Antonio Davila
Executive Director

Volume 5, Number 4

Oct-Dec 1998

THE WALL THAT HEALS



THE TRAVELING VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

“The Wall That Heals,” a half-scale traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., will bring the messages of the Wall home to Dover, Delaware, from October 1-4, 1998. Located in front of Legislative Hall, the exhibition will feature the dramatic replica – stretching nearly 246 feet in total length – as well as a display of memorabilia left at the Wall in Washington. The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs will conduct an Opening Ceremony on Friday, October 2, 1998, 10:00 a.m. “The Wall That Heals” will be displayed on a 24-hour basis. For more information or if you would like to volunteer, please contact the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs at (800) 344-9900 (in State) or (302) 739-2792.

(For transportation and parking see pages 17-18)

THOUGHT FOR THE QUARTER

"The door to wisdom swings on hinges of common sense and uncommon thoughts."

VA REACHES DECISION ON VIAGRA

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced it would not add Viagra to its formulary, the drugs that must be available at all VA medical treatment facilities. VA long has offered veterans a broad range of treatments for erectile dysfunction, and it will continue to offer these therapies while assessing any new approaches. However, the cost of Viagra would have a crippling effect on VA's pharmaceutical budget at anticipated levels of use. "VA must weigh all factors when considering its benefits package," VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. Kenneth W. Kizer said. "VA projects that the cost of providing Viagra could exceed \$280 million annually, which would represent more than a fifth of VA's total pharmaceutical budget." In addition, a VA pharmacy committee recently reviewed safety issues pertinent to VA's patient population and recommended against adding Viagra to VA's formulary because of safety concerns about the product in VA's patient population. Viagra may interact with numerous medications, and its safety in patients with the kind of complex medical problems commonly experienced by the patients VA treats, has not been demonstrated, the pharmacy committee advised Dr. Kizer. Omitting Viagra from the national formulary limits its availability but does not ban its use in VA. Where a physician at a medical center feels that there is an overwhelming therapeutic rationale to use Viagra, network officials may decide to provide the drug "off formulary," following locally established criteria. (Department of Veterans Affairs, July 23, 1998)

UNIFORM RETIREMENT BENEFIT

Delegates at The Retired Enlisted Association's National Convention overwhelmingly passed a resolution calling upon Congress to correct the inequality which exists in today's Armed Forces regarding the military retirement pay system. Presently, three retirement systems are in effect for service members. Those who entered prior to September 8, 1980 receive 2.5 times the years of service times basic pay. Those who entered after September 8, 1980 through July 31, 1986 receive 2.5 times the years of service times the average of the highest three years of base pay (High-3). Those who have entered after July 31, 1986 receive 2.5 times the years of service minus one percentage point for each year under 30 years times the highest three years of base pay. Also, the COLA, based on the Consumer Price Index, is set at CPI minus 1%. At age 62, both percentage point reductions are eliminated (MRRRA). It is a documented fact that this inequity

is a key factor in the retention difficulties experienced by the military today. The further effect this has on morale and readiness jeopardizes our national security. Therefore, TREA is actively pursuing members of Congress who are willing to sponsor legislation which would eliminate the High-3 and MRRRA retirement systems and return to the Final Basic Pay system. This issue must be addressed today as all three retirement systems are still in affect for active service members. Now, for the first time, we have the funding to effect this change. A fraction of the funds from the projected Budget surplus, which are being considered for use in ensuring benefits for retirees, could be used to protect not only one class of retirees, but also our national security as well. (The Retired Enlisted Association, September 4, 1998)

SOME LIFE INSURANCE AVAILABLE BEFORE DYING

Terminally ill service members and veterans could receive a portion of their government-sponsored life insurance before they die, under a Clinton administration proposal now pending in Congress. If the so-called accelerated death benefit proposal is adopted, holders of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) policies who are expected to live no longer than one year could request a lump-sum payment of as much as half their death benefits. The idea was presented to both the House and Senate by Veterans Affairs Secretary Togo D. West Jr. in February. Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, introduced the proposal as S 2108 May 21. The House has yet to act on an identical bill. VA administers both life insurance programs, which provide cash benefits to spouses and other survivors of service members and veterans.

Paying bills The change would allow seriously ill SGLI and VGLI policy holders more flexibility in planning their estates and paying bills that confront them while they are still alive. Last fall, President Clinton signed into law a less sweeping provision that allows terminally ill SGLI and VGLI holders to sell their policies to commercial carriers, who in turn help them procure cash settlements for a portion of the policies' face value. The change, in effect, gave holders of the government insurance the same flexibility commercial insurance underwriters have provided for customers since 1989. The practice, called viatical settlement, has become increasingly popular since it was introduced. If the new bill is adopted, veterans and service members could avoid paying the fees commercial operations charge for viatical settlements,

which range from 25 percent to 80 percent of a policy's face value, depending upon how long its holder is expected to live. People who wish to take advantage of the new proposal would get one chance to request a settlement. While they could request no more than half of their policy's value, they could ask for a smaller percentage. SGLI and VGLI premiums would be reduced accordingly, once the benefit is paid out.

Survivors still included Survivors would still receive the remainder of the policy's value, once the veteran or service member dies. Veterans' advocated hail the proposal. "It brings to the terminally ill service member or veteran the same prerogatives and options as civilians get today," said Bob Manhan, a legislative affairs specialist for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. "It offers a degree of compassion and flexibility that had been heretofore denied." The measure was probably introduced too late in Congress' current term to pass this year. But both the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees likely will look upon the proposal favorably in the future. The cost to the government of the proposal is expected to be small. (Army Times, 6/22/98)

UP TO 20% OF FEMALE VETS REPORT ASSAULTS

Reports of sexual assaults against military women have been increasing steadily, and 15 to 20 percent of female veterans seeking Veterans Affairs Department services complain of them, the VA said Thursday. Testifying before a House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee, VA Deputy Undersecretary Thomas Garthwaite also said that between 35 and 50 percent of women veterans report at least one incident of sexual harassment in their military careers. Reports of sexual assault, a more serious category than harassment, increased 20 percent in the last year, he said. "These findings indicate that sexual harassment and assault of women service members remains a serious problem for the active duty military," Garthwaite said. "VA research indicates sexual trauma is more prevalent among women veterans seeking services at VA health-care facilities than we had previously thought, and the negative impact of sexual-trauma experiences on the physical and mental health of affected veterans is significant." The Defense Department has been implementing a zero-tolerance policy on sexual misconduct and the Army has dealt severely with suspected offenders. Concerns have been raised about the long-term effect of assaults and harassment on service women. The Veterans' Affairs Committee is considering legislation sponsored by Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.) that would require VA hospitals to provide counseling and sexual-trauma care to any woman veteran who requests it, instead of leaving such care to the discretion of the hospital administrator. The measure also would require that this care be provided female veterans who leave the military before completing 24 months of service. Under current law, they are disqualified. When the VA Department began sexual-trauma counseling five years ago, it had 2,090 cases of assault. The caseload was 4,707 in 1996 and 6,738 in 1997. (Chicago Tribune, 4/24/98)

SEXUAL HARASSMENT LINKED TO STRESS DISORDER

Female military veterans are more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) because of sexual harassment experienced during their military career than through the rigors of armed combat, researchers report. A study published in the current issue of the journal *Psychiatric Services* has found that "sexual stress was nearly four times as influential as duty-related stress in the development of PTSD." PTSD is defined as a constellation of symptoms, including "re-experiencing" phenomena such as nightmares or flashbacks, avoidance of traumatic locales or objects, emotional detachment from others, and jumpy, panicky or suspicious behavior. While PTSD symptoms in some patients will disappear within 6 to 12 months, in other patients the condition can persist for years. The disorder was first brought to public attention as psychologically traumatized veterans returned home from the Vietnam War. While there are many studies on the role of battlefield stressors in PTSD, the recent acceptance of women in active duty roles has focused research on PTSD risk factors peculiar to female soldiers. Psychiatric researchers Drs. Alan Fontana and Robert Rosenheck of the Yale University School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut, conducted interviews with 327 female veterans treated for PTSD at a Veterans Affairs - run stress disorders clinic. Nearly two thirds of the women had served in either the Vietnam or Persian Gulf War, while 12% had been directly exposed to enemy fire. "A total of 63% (of the women) reported experiences of physical sexual harassment during military service, and 43% reported rape or attempted rape," according to the study. Based on a theoretical modeling of patient experiences and later psychiatric outcomes, the researchers determined that those experiences were more than four times likely to trigger PTSD than stressors linked to military service (such as extreme overwork, witnessing wartime death and injury, aiding dying comrades, or being placed under enemy fire). Furthermore, Fontana and Rosenheck point out that many of women felt the sexual harassment they experienced was part of an institutionalized, military "norm." They say this conviction left most of these women with "a heightened feeling of betrayal and disillusionment" long after military discharge. Finally, they report that a veteran's reception by family and friends upon homecoming after discharge greatly affects how she will deal with the psychological impact of any sexual harassment encountered during her service career. The authors found that women who returned home to a supportive, loving community had much lower PTSD rates compared with those returning veterans who encountered hostility and isolation. "A common experience reported by (sexually harassed) women veterans on homecoming is being stigmatized in stereotypic fashion as either 'whores or lesbians,'" the authors say. They point out that this experience is similar to that encountered by rape victims, in that "other

people view them as unchaste or 'bad' women." (Reuters Health-Psychiatric Services, 5/5/98)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Following the death of my husband, who died in Vietnam, I remarried and my Dependency Indemnity Compensation payments were terminated. I am now divorced from my second husband. Can I have my benefits restored?

A. Yes, one of the provisions of the Veterans Benefits Act of 1998 provides for restored entitlement following the termination of a subsequent marriage.

Q. I understand that now that I am divorced from my second husband, I can have my DIC benefits restored. My divorce was final in January 1995. Am I entitled to benefits retroactive to that date?

A. No, the law stipulates that no benefits may be paid under this new provision for any month before October 1998.

Q. Will my benefits be restored automatically?

A. No, you must re-apply and advise the Department of Veterans Affairs of the termination of the remarriage.

Q. How much will I receive per month under this new amendment to the law?

A. Rates payable will conform to the payment provisions associated with the veteran's date of death, i.e., "veteran died prior to 1/1/93," or "veteran died on or after 1/1/93." If the veteran died after 1/1/93, you will be paid the current basic rate of \$850 per month. If the veteran died prior to 1/1/93 and you were receiving a rate higher than the basic flat rate, your benefits will be restored at the higher rate. (Department of Veterans Affairs, August 19, 1998)

GOVERNOR SIGNS EDUCATION ASSISTANCE BILL FOR GUARD MEMBERS

On July 16, 1998, Governor Thomas R. Carper signed a bill providing education assistance to Delaware National Guard members. House Supplement 1 to House Bill 312 provides 100% tuition at state-supported public institutions. In addition, it also allows attendance at Delaware private institutions at a capped rate. In return, students must serve six years in the Delaware National Guard. As a member of the Guard, they are required to serve one weekend a month and attend 15 days annual training, for which they get paid. This new legislation allows Delaware to join 16 other states from across the nation in offering 100% tuition assistance to National Guard personnel. None of our surrounding states (PA, MD or NJ) currently offers as complete a tuition package. This legislation should boost unit strength figures by improving both their recruiting and retention programs. In addition, this legislation helps to revitalize the National Guard's ability to compete in the non-prior service market by providing an incentive that most families have come to find more and more difficult to finance – college education. In summary, this legislation provides education assistance to

many Delaware families who would not be able to afford it; creates the opportunities for our local youth to serve their state and nation and to receive a quality college education; and will ensure the overall readiness and capability of the Delaware National Guard to protect and serve the citizens of the State of Delaware. (Delaware National Guard Press Release, July 14, 1998)

VA's HEALTH CARE CHANGES MIGHT MEAN ENROLLMENT LIMITATIONS

The VA could have to limit enrollment among lower-income veterans if the agency cannot meet the economic and management challenges caused by its ongoing transformation from a hospital-based health care system to an inpatient-based system, a federal investigation for recently told Congress. Veterans excluded from the program "could include those with the greatest need, because they have no other health care alternatives," Stephen P. Backhus, director of Veterans' Affairs and Military Health Care Issues for the U.S. General Accounting Office, told members of the House Veterans Affairs subcommittee on health June 17, 1998. What's more, said Backhus, there is no certainty the VA has the expertise to handle such reforms. "Our evaluations...suggest that a significant amount of the planning, implementation, management, and evaluation tasks that VA still faces will need to be contracted out," he said.

Investigations Backhus said his testimony was based on several agency investigations into VA health care system after the decision was made three years ago to make the health care system more competitive with other health care providers. Overall, the VA has made progress, according to the GAO. "VA has created 22 service delivery networks, which have made hundreds of restructuring decisions, including consolidating administrative and clinical services, shifting care from inpatient to outpatient or residential settings, and purchasing care from other providers," said Backhus. In the process, he said, the VA saved more than \$1 billion in operating costs, which were plowed back into the agency, helping to pay for some 200 new community-based clinics and about 1,000 primary care teams.

80,000 More Overall, the VA served 80,000 more veterans last year, according to the GAO. Backhus also spoke promisingly of VA "efficiency initiatives" scheduled to be implemented over the next five years. But Backhus said the VA faces a number of crucial decisions that will determine the long-range success of its efforts to be competitive with other health care programs. Perhaps the most important of these is the problem of what to do about the VA's existing medical centers. Over the past decade, the VA has spent hundreds of millions constructing new hospitals or renovating old ones, he said. Yet government statistics show that fewer veterans are using VA's inpatient services: Over the past four years, the VA reduced its hospital admissions by 23 percent, eliminated

almost 18,000 operating beds and reduced staffing by more than 16,000 employees system-wide.

Disability Medicine The reductions in inpatient care are occurring even in areas like disability medicine, in which the VA is an acknowledged leader. Of the 2.2 million veterans who currently have service-connected disabilities, only about 1 million-less than half-use the VA's health care system. "Meanwhile, VA continues to serve veterans in [hospitals], using aged and deteriorating buildings that will require billions of additional dollars to renovate or replace," Backhus said. One way the VA has tried to solve this problem is to consolidate regional groupings of hospitals, medical centers and clinics under a single management structure. Another is to close and lease or sell the least-used hospitals in the area. In Chicago, for example, the GAO said the VA could save \$20 million a year by closing one of its three hospitals and sending patients to fill empty beds at the others.

Opposition The VA has been reluctant, however, to make such changes in cities like Chicago and Boston in the face of opposition by local veterans groups. Local medical schools which train internists, teach and conduct research at VA hospitals have also opposed such changes, the GAO said. Currently, 130 VA facilities are affiliated with 105 medical schools to provide educational opportunities for 55,000 individuals and research or employment opportunities for some 3,000 faculty and others. "It seems inevitable that [under the new system] a medical school will need to share inpatient educational and research opportunities with other schools at a single VA facility," Backhus said. "Medical schools, however, seem reluctant to share at this time, which constrains VA's ability to effectively address its infrastructure dilemma." The VA's transformation is also straining its relationship with the Defense Department and other federal agencies like the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Disaster Medical System, according to Backhus. The VA is a principal health care provider for wartime casualties or victims of natural disasters.

Beds, Management Currently, for example, the VA is obligated to make 28 percent of its inpatient bed space available to the Defense Department on 72 hours' notice. Such "bed-based" agreements will be increasingly difficult for the VA to meet as it continues to shift to outpatient care. Backhus said the VA also faces a series of complicated management decisions. Many of the ways the VA sets up contracts, bills insurance companies or reimburses health care providers are old-fashioned and out-of-sync with the private health care industry. Finally, said Backhus, the VA will need to set up a comprehensive plan for selling its new health care system to veterans, for enrolling them and for linking VA-provided care with health care being provided by private clinics under VA contract. "In many respects, VA's management and oversight role will be transformed just as its provision of health care is being transformed," he said. "It remains to be seen whether VA has the resident technical

expertise necessary to design, build, and manage such sweeping reforms," said Backhus.

Challenges Ahead

If the VA's transformation is to serve veterans adequately, it must meet the following challenges, according to the GAO:

- ◆ Design a system for enrolling veterans into the new health care program;
- ◆ Establish a network of VA and private health care providers;
- ◆ Market the new system to veterans;
- ◆ Develop and award potentially complex health care service contracts;
- ◆ Improve collections from other health insurance that veterans and their dependents have;
- ◆ Establish better systems for analyzing costs, access, and quality of care information so that the agency can evaluate and manage the health care system's overall performance.

If the VA's role is expanded to include veterans' spouses and dependents, it will also have to either provide or arrange care for populations and medical conditions that it has little experience dealing with, such as pediatric or maternity care. (Source: GAO.)

(The Stars and Stripes, August 3-16, 1998)

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES MEDICARE SUBVENTION PROJECT

The Concept known as Medicare subvention cleared another legislative hurdle recently. On May 14, the House Ways and Means Committee approved a bill, H.R. 3828, that would test the viability of allowing eligible veterans to use their Medicare benefits to pay for treatment at VA facilities. If the bill is approved, the pilot project would be tested at sites in three as-yet-undetermined VA regions. The legislation stipulates that at least one of the test sites must be in an area in which a military base was closed. Military retirees and veterans over the age of 65 who don't currently qualify for getting care at VA hospitals – those whose incomes are above the minimum level set by VA or who don't have a service-connected disability – would be eligible. They must be enrolled in Medicare Part B, which covers lab and physicians fees, and will be required to make copayments for treatment. Eligible vets also will be required to pay an annual fee, which has not been determined yet. It will be based on their income levels. A provision in the bill also would provide access to care for Medicare-eligible, low-income and service-connected veterans who do not live near VA facilities. The legislation would authorize VA to establish networks of civilian medical clinics that would treat these veterans and allow them to bill Medicare. The legislation would require Medicare to cover 95% of treatment costs for veterans. Total cost to Medicare is capped at \$50 million over the three-year test period. (VFW Checkpoint, July/August 1998)

EXACTLY WHAT IS THE YEAR 2000 PROBLEM?

The Year 2000 problem is one of the most complex and far-reaching issues the computer industry has faced. Some answers to commonly asked questions:

Q: What is the Year 2000 problem?

A: It's a glitch in computer hardware and software that prevents computers from accurately calculating dates with years beyond 1999 or before 1900. Many systems were designed to store the year in just two digits – with 97 representing 1997. These systems assume that the first two digits of every year are 19. Trouble arises when the systems have to handle dates outside the 1900s. In 2000, for example, a program that tries to figure the age of a person born in 1955 will subtract 55 from 00 and get –55.

Q: Are all computer systems at risk?

A: The problem is most acute in mainframe systems, which tend to hold older data and programs than do PCs. But that doesn't mean PCs are exempt. Any computer system that relies on date calculations must be tested. That includes any device with a computer chip, from telephones to VCRs, and even sophisticated monitoring devices that watch over smokestacks, security systems and power plants.

Q: How could this happen?

A: The problem has its roots in the 1960s and 1970s, when a megabyte of system memory could cost tens of thousands of dollars. To save on resources, early programmers decided to use only two digits to designate the year. Few of the programmers expected their systems would last into the 1990s. And largely, they haven't. But as new systems came in, there was a need to make them compatible with the old systems. So the convention of two-digit years perpetuated.

Q: Why is this so hard to fix?

A: Mostly because of the size and complexity of the computer programs. According to analyst Peter de Jager, it is not uncommon for a company to have more than 100 million lines of computer code in its systems. Each line must be examined. The industry has developed tools to automate the process, but there still are months of testing afterward. And once systems are made Year 2000-compliant, programmers must ensure that any outside systems they connect to also are complaint. Bad data could contaminate a system that has been fixed. (USA Today, 12/17/97)

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF OPERATION NICKEL GRASS

On October 13-14, 1998, there will be a 25th Anniversary celebration of Operation NICKEL GRASS, the massive airlift to Israel during the Yom Kippur War. The event, which will be hosted by the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce, the Air Force Association, and the Air Mobility Command Museum, will include a reception, briefings, and dinner. Anyone interested may contact Ken Robertson at 734-4439 (early evening) or Ron Love at 697-7393.

VOITURE LOCAL 1320 SUSSEX COUNTY

The old 40 and 8 Locomotive, The "Blue Hen Special" once traveled all over the Eastern United States. It has logged hundreds of thousands of miles since it was built in 1952. But, now it needs help so it can run again. The Locomotive which brought much joy and happiness to the children of Sussex County is a "cripple", and sad that he cannot run. We now store it in the Georgetown area. The man in charge, Les Stickels is ready to make it run again. It's a tired old Warrior; it needs many repairs to be well again. The Engine is tired; the steering needs replacements and hopefully power. Also, the seats where the children sit must be re-habilitated. The Blue Hen Special has given many, many children the joy of a train ride. At schools, parades in Seaford and other towns, including the Milford Hospital Fair, plus many towns in and beyond the Sussex County area, were all blessed with joy to the children when they rode the Locomotive. The 40 et 8, the Fun and Honorable organization composed of members of the American Legion, draws it heritage from the French Railroad, which pulled Box Cars all over FRANCE during World War I. Not many cars and trucks in those days, so the Locomotive and the Box Cars (there is one parked at American Legion Post 6, in Seaford) were responsible for most all of the Troop Movements in WWI, in France. Each Box Car, though small, carried either 40 Men or Eight Horses. Our Fathers, the heroes of World War I, rode in these Box Cars on their way to battle. This particular Locomotive is important because it is a copy of the Original Locomotives used in World War I. In 1952, Delaware's Governor and later U.S. Senator J. Caleb Boggs, wrote and got a copy of authentic plans for the Locomotive from the French Government. Voiture Locale 1320 of Sussex County, began the chore of having it made and assembled. The members of Voiture 1320, some old and some younger, want to see it rolling again. It's a big job. But, we can do it with the support of the people and businesses in Sussex County. We need funds. Those willing to help, may send their donations to Les Stickels, 96 N. DuPont Hwy, Georgetown, DE 19947 or to our Treasurer Carl H. Platner, P.O. Box 507, Dagsboro, DE 19939. WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR THIS WORTHY CAUSE, WITH MANY THANKS!

MAURICE BARNES, Chef de Gare (Commander), 700 Pecan Ave, Milford, DE 19963

REESE E. PHILLIPS, Correspondant, 10 Salevan Place, Milford, DE 19963

VETERANS SOUGHT FOR LUPUS SURVEY

Vietnam veterans who have been diagnosed with lupus, have any symptoms of the disease or have been misdiagnosed because of Agent Orange exposure are being asked to participate in a survey on lupus. Contact Al DaPanfilis, 1607 Benner St., Philadelphia, PA 19149, #(215) 537-8748. (The Stars and Stripes, August 3-16, 1998)

NORTH CAROLINA SETTLES STATE AND FEDERAL RETIREE LAWSUITS

Representatives of federal, state and local government retirees have reached a Settlement with the State of North Carolina. As a result, qualified retirees will no longer be taxed on their government retirement benefits. North Carolina also will pay \$799 Million in partial refunds. The Settlement successfully concludes nearly a decade of litigation between government retirees and the State of North Carolina. The Settlement benefits taxpayers who, before August 12, 1989; had five years or more of creditable service with federal, North Carolina state or local governments, or who were otherwise vested in certain government retirement plans. The settling class actions started because of North Carolina's response to the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Davis v. Michigan*. This decision held that federal and state retirees must be taxed the same. North Carolina then enacted legislation which eliminated longstanding full tax exemptions on state and local government retirement benefits. In *Bailey v. State of North Carolina*, state and local retirees challenged the legislation as an unconstitutional breach of promise by the State. The State claimed that increased retirement benefits formulas made up for the lost tax exemptions. Yet, state and local retirees proved at trial in 1995 that the increased benefits were not equivalent to the tax exemptions and did not even keep up with inflation. The North Carolina Supreme Court recently ruled in favor of the *Bailey* retirees. Federal retirees, in *Patton v. State of North Carolina*, sought to eliminate the tax on their retirement benefits so that federal and state retirees are taxed the same. The Settlement resolves all of these class actions. Class member retirees will receive full tax exemptions. State and local class members will also receive initial refunds of approximately 95% of the taxes paid on their government retirement benefits for the last nine years plus interest. Federal class members will receive approximately 70% of the tax refunds potentially recoverable through further litigation. Administration and litigation costs and attorneys fees will be subtracted from these refund amounts. Initial payments to federal retirees are lower because some aspects of their claims are less certain and final resolution of the federal retirees lawsuit promised to take much longer. Class Counsel, under the direction of the Court, will handle the administration of refunds. It is therefore of no value to contact the State Department of Revenue. All identified class members will be contacted when claims procedures are known. Meanwhile potential refund claimants should see that their tax records, going back to 1989, are preserved, and reevaluate the payment of estimated tax to the state since future government benefits will not be subject to state taxation. More information and background details about the Settlement can be found at the class settlement website (<http://www.baileypatton.wcsr.com>) or by calling 1-877-TAX-CASE (1-877-829-2273). (North Carolina Veterans Affairs, Undated)

INCREASE IN VA EDUCATION PAYMENTS APPROVED

Legislation signed by the President June 9, 1998, increases by 20 percent Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) monthly education payments to veterans who enrolled in the active duty or reserve components of the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB). Effective Oct. 1, 1998, the full-time rate for MGIB-Active Duty enrollees with three years' service increases to \$528 from \$439.85. For a full 36 months, the total amount goes from \$15,834.60 to \$19,008. The rate for those with two years' service increases to \$429 from \$357.38, or a total of \$15,444 from \$12,865.68. Also, Vietnam Era GI Bill enrollees who converted to the MGIB-Active Duty program will see their monthly rates increase to \$716 from \$627.85, or a total of \$25,776 from \$22,602.60. MGIB-Selected Reserve trainees will get a monthly rate increase to \$251 from \$208.93, or a total of \$9,036 from \$7,521.48. Other veterans' benefits improved under the law and taking effect Oct. 1 include:

- ◆ The one-time allowance for disabled veterans needing modified controls or wheelchair lifts for an automobile increases to a maximum \$8,000 from \$5,500.
- ◆ The one-time specially adapted housing grant for disabled veterans who have lost, or lost the use of, both lower extremities increases to \$43,000 from \$38,000.
- ◆ The special housing adaptation grant for veterans who are blind or have lost, or lost the use of, both hands increases to \$8,250 from \$6,500.
- ◆ A \$50-a-month increase in pensions paid to low-income veterans in need of regular aid and attendance was also approved.

The law also repeals a 1990 law that permanently terminated eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation for a veteran's survivor who remarried. The pre-1990 policy that takes effect Oct. 1, 1998, allows benefits to be restored if the marriage is terminated. (Department of Veterans Affairs, June 12, 1998)

VA ASSISTS FRENCH EFFORT TO BESTOW LEGION OF HONOR ON WWI VETS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is assisting France in its effort to bestow the National Order of the Legion of Honor – that country's highest honor – to surviving members of the U.S. armed forces who fought on French soil during World War I. "We will use all our available means to assist French President Jacques Chirac in identifying and notifying those American World War I veterans eligible for this honor," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Togo D. West, Jr. Secretary West recently sent a letter and an application for the medal to each of the approximately 900 World War I veterans receiving VA benefits. There are an estimated 3,200 living U.S. World War I veterans, half of whom are believed to have served in

France during the war. The Legion of Honor will not be given posthumously to U.S. veterans. President Chirac instituted the campaign to honor the remaining survivors of the allied forces who served in France in conjunction with the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the World War I armistice on November 11, 1998. Applications must be sent by veterans or their representatives directly to the French Embassy in Washington. While VA will assist the French Embassy in verifying and authenticating veterans' records of service, the French government will make final determinations on the awarding of the Legion of Honor. (Department of Veterans Affairs, August 20, 1998)

ONLY 38% OF MILITARY VETERANS USING THEIR GI BILL SCHOOL BENEFITS

After seeing nearly two decades' worth of advertisements selling the military's generous college benefits, you might conclude today's young veteran is one educated Joe. Unfortunately, you'd be wrong. Nearly two-thirds of those who qualified for the Montgomery GI Bill have not used the money since the program was last renewed in 1985, according to figures provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. VA officials and others say they are puzzled by the low rate of participation for a program that has long been considered a cornerstone of military recruiting efforts. "Not using your GI Bill educational benefits is like not eating mom's apple pie. I think a lot of people would be surprised by this," said David Segal, a military sociologist and director of the Center for Research on Military Organization at the University of Maryland. First established during World War II, the GI Bill program has helped several generations of veterans go to college or get job training. The program has been re-established several times since World War II. Since its last renewal 13 years ago, VA statistics show, only 38 percent of the 1.25 million veterans eligible have used the benefit, which pays them \$15,800 for college or educational training. That's quite a break from the past. Almost 80 percent of World War II veterans took advantage of the GI Bill, either for education or loans, according to government figures. About half of the nation's 16 million World War II veterans went to college or got job training paid for by the government. In his book, *The GI Bill, the Law That Changed America*, author Milton Greenberg noted that large numbers of Korean War and Vietnam veterans also used government education money. While only 45 percent of Korean War vets used the GI Bill, more than 66 percent of Vietnam-era veterans took advantage of its educational benefits to go to college or get trained. Wrote Greenberg of the bill's historic importance: "No one could have forecast the positive and durable impact the GI Bill of Rights would have upon the social fabric of the nation. ...It is still looked upon with appreciation, reverence and respect." Government and military officials suggest several possible explanations for today's low participation. Among them are the GI Bill's eroding buying power, its hard-to-use payment

schedules and changing demographics among service members. The low numbers are especially puzzling because the 1.25 million veterans the VA has identified already have set aside part of their military pay in order to receive GI Bill Funding. By paying \$1,200 during their first year of service, they are entitled to nearly \$16,000 for college or other training. "We have done some focus groups, and part of the problem when we talk to people who use the benefit, they say the GI Bill has lost some of its oomph," says Dennis Douglass, who tracks education statistics for the VA in Washington. "It's not as large a benefit in relation to the costs of education today." Douglass cites a personal example. The GI Bill today will pay veterans about \$440 a month toward college costs. That would cover about half of his son's expenses during his first year of college at Radford University in Virginia, Douglass said. Douglass compares today's benefit to earlier generations of veterans who schooled themselves at prestigious universities using the GI Bill alone. After World War II, he said, it was not uncommon for ex-servicemen to complete four years at Ivy League colleges at government expense. In addition, the GI Bill is difficult to apply toward college expenses. Instead of lump sums, the \$440 payments are distributed monthly, making it difficult to apply them toward tuition or other expenses. Steve Kime, director of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges in Washington, D.C., describes today's GI Bill as underfunded and old-fashioned. Noting the average cost of a four-year state university is about \$2,000 more a year than the GI Bill pays, Kime advocates larger and more flexible payments. "It doesn't provide a viable educational opportunity for those who need it most," Kime said. "It doesn't cut the mustard." One other factor might explain the lower-than-expected use of the benefit. With the success of high-profile ad campaigns such as "Be All You Can Be," the public might conclude that the military is attracting upwardly mobile teenagers whose primary goal is education and careerism. In fact, many young adults who join the service today tell recruiters and friends they enlisted to earn college money. And the Army's own surveys of young adults consistently show education money as the top inducement to military service, far above all other categories. Military sociologist Segal said that although he does not yet have data to support it, he believes far more recruits join the military out of patriotism or national service than most people might imagine. Those same kids, Segal said, are unlikely to tell friends or relatives that's why they joined. "You won't find high school kids talking like that among peers or among soldiers. It's not cool," he said. John Grisillo, a former Army officer who runs a Charleston, S.C., company that places veterans in corporate jobs, thinks Segal could be right. In his job, Grisillo interviews about 2,000 veterans a year. Far more young people join the military out of a sense of duty, he said, than the public might imagine. At the same time, he is not surprised that many choose not to use GI Bill money they've already paid for. "Look at the participation rates for 401k plans," he said. "That's a no-brainer, but only about 40

percent of people who are eligible use them.” (Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (Little Rock), 4/1/98)

GLITCH IN VA HOME LOAN BENEFIT FOR RESERVISTS

Reservists who joined after November 1993 might not get a chance to qualify for a VA home loan. That’s because the VA home loan benefit for reservists who haven’t served on extended active duty expires Oct. 28, 1999. The VA home loan, administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, allows veterans to buy a home with little or no down payment. Although many reservists qualify by serving on active duty – at least 90 days during Desert Shield/Desert Storm or more than 181 days during peacetime – in 1992 a pilot program allowed Reserve and Guard members to qualify for the benefit by drilling for six years. So reservists who joined after Oct. 28, 1993, and who haven’t done extended active-duty time won’t have fulfilled the six-year drilling requirement before the program expires. Since 1994, about 10,000 reservists have qualified for the VA loan guarantee, according to the agency’s figures. In 1997, reservists accounted for almost 4 percent of all VA loan guarantees. **Who’s eligible?** Just being a reservist for six years isn’t enough, said William White, loan specialist at VA’s central office in Washington, D.C. “We see situations where applicants come in and part of their six-year service was spent in a control group,” White said, like the Individual Ready Reserve or Inactive National Guard. That doesn’t count toward eligibility. Not that drill attendance has to be perfect. “We look at the record,” White said, “and if the person was a member of a reserve unit that year,” he or she is probably going to get the certificate of eligibility, the paperwork that guarantees the loan. “But if you haven’t been to drill all year, you may not get it,” White said. Unlike active-duty service members, reservists who qualify after completing the minimum service must remain qualified one of three ways:

- ◆ **Keep drilling.** If you keep drilling after you qualify for the certificate of eligibility, the VA will double check to make sure you remain eligible before guaranteeing your loan.
- ◆ **Transfer.** After their initial enlistment, reservists may transfer to the Individual Ready Reserve or Inactive National Guard.
- ◆ **Retirement.** That is, your name must be on the retired list.

Additionally, reservists who were discharged in less than six years due to a service-related disability may still be eligible. But, since the Defense Department is just gearing up for fiscal year 1999 defense budget battles, Reserve and Guard members shouldn’t give up on the loan program, said Danny Devine, spokesman for the House Committee on Veteran’s Affairs. He said that before the program expires, lawmakers will review the information – how many reservists have used it and how or

if that use affected other veterans – and decide whether the program should be extended. Devine’s advice: “Let your own (congressional) representative know that this program works.” For more information, visit the Veterans Administration web site: www.va.gov/vas/loan. (Army Times, 1/26/98)

DENIED SPY ROLE, SHE STILL SERVED COUNTRY

Journalist Sarah McClendon very much wanted to be a spy during World War II, but “they said I couldn’t be one unless I was a lawyer or in a uniform.” “So I decided to get a uniform.” In 1942, McClendon, a Texas reporter enlisted in the Women’s Army Corps – WAC – as a private, earning \$21 a month, and was shipped off to Iowa for training. Once in the unprepared and rapidly expanding Army, she discovered “there were no uniforms. I drilled for two weeks in a pair of high-heeled shoes. “That Iowa mud really sticks.” McClendon spoke to about 100 people – including a number of her fellow female veterans of military service – at a program recognizing their service at the McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center yesterday. McClendon has covered the White House as a one-woman news service for more than 50 years. She is an analyst, lecturer and author. Eighty-eight years old now, the small woman – famed in the White House press corps for being tough to the point of rudeness – is physically fragile and gets around with a wheelchair and a walker. “There’s nothing wrong with my health, except I can’t walk,” she said as she was helped to the dais. President Clinton “kissed me and hugged me at the White House the other day. But there were 60 other people there.” Yesterday’s program at McGuire focused on the U.S. women veterans of World War II, a watershed period for servicewomen in America. More than 350,000 females did duty in the armed forces during that war, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. “We don’t get a lot of recognition,” McClendon said. With the five armed forces’ anthems ringing in the meeting room, groups of women veterans – some holding flags, others wearing T-shirts saying “WAC World War II,” some in wheelchairs – received some of the acknowledgment due their sacrifice. The women vets were recognized, service by service, for volunteering in the nations’ crises. Many had not received the World War II Victory Ribbon they had earned, but Veterans Affairs officials presented the military award to the women at McGuire yesterday. “I was so glad I was there,” said Ida Schreiber, who was an Army captain as a hospital dietitian during World War II, “and I could serve the country in the very small way I did.” Schreiber is still serving, now as an honored volunteer at McGuire Medical Center. Eventually McClendon was sent to officer training school and commissioned a lieutenant. “I don’t understand how I graduated,” she said. “I can’t read a map to this day.” She was assigned as a public affairs officer with the WAC headquarters in Washington, where she and other WAC spokeswomen worked to encourage other women to join the Army so that men could be freed for combat, she said. “I had to explain, deman, correct for the Women’s Army

Corps," she said, at a time when not every one in the essentially all-male Army's leadership was happy about the WACs and misapprehensions about the women's role were rife. "There were rumors we were camp followers," McClendon said. "Many men in the Pentagon were fighting to keep women out." Women served as nurses, pilots and gunnery instructors in the military forces, as well as administrative personnel. "It was a thrill and an honor to serve," she said, "but it was also very dangerous." For instance, more than 200 members of the Women's Army Corps and the Women Air Force Service Pilots died in combat or while ferrying aircraft, and 88 women became prisoners of war. Women like McClendon suffered a certain culture shock in the armed forces. "It was very difficult to be military," she said. "They gave us ...khaki underwear. We almost went home when we saw that. Khaki underwear is the ugliest thing in the world." The women who answered the call to the colors during World War II "established the fact that women could hold responsibility," she said. "It did a great deal for the women's movement. She also noted of the WACs: "We were all volunteers. The men were largely drafted. (Richmond (VA) Times - Dispatch, 3/26/98)

U.S. RESEARCHERS TEST NEW PROSTATE CANCER THERAPY

A new approach that combines the strategy of a vaccine with strong cancer drugs may show promise against prostate cancer, U.S. researchers said on Thursday. The method allows researchers to target prostate tumors in mice and they said they hoped it would work in humans, too. Akhouri Sinha of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Minneapolis and colleagues used a two-part compound. One part zeros in on tumor cells that produce prostate-specific antigen (PSA) - a molecule produced only by prostate cells and which is produced in large amounts by prostate cancer cells. The other half is a strong anti-tumor drug. They used mice specially bred for cancer trials. The mice were first infected with human prostate cancer cells. A few weeks later, they were injected with the new drug. The drug homed in on the tumor cells and killed them, while leaving other organs in the body unharmed, Sinha said. "I think we can kill most of the cancer cells in two or three doses, at least in the mouse experimental model," he said in a statement. "But to be sure it works in humans, we need clinical trials." Most cancer drugs make the patient very sick because they kill any cell that is growing - including hair cells, those lining the intestinal tract and those in the lungs and kidneys. But targeting PSA avoids such damage, as it is specific to the cancerous prostate. Like a vaccine, the drug is attracted to the antigen - the molecule designed to flag an invader such as bacteria, or a bad cell like a cancer, for the immune system to destroy. "We believe this treatment will greatly decrease damaging effects of the therapy to unrelated organs while decreasing morbidity (sickness) and mortality in prostate cancer patients," Sinha said. (Reuters, 3/26/98)

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bear, DE, is looking for volunteers to assist in maintaining the veterans' Cemetery. If interested, please call (302) 834-8046.

ATTENTION ALL SUSSEX COUNTY VETERANS

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs located in Dover will provide information and assistance in submitting all types of claims for veterans and their families residing in Sussex County, DE. Mr. Harry J. Sanchez, an accredited State Veterans Service Officer, will be available at the Pyle State Service Center located in Roxanna, DE. You may visit with Harry on the last Monday of each month between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00pm. For further information, and/or an appointment you may call toll free at 1-800-344-9900 anytime.

TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ONLINE

Transition Assistance is available Online. The site contains several valuable services including the posting of resumes on the world wide web, job search databases, relocation assistance, and featured employers, as well as information on starting your own business and continuing education opportunities. Links on this web-site include; Army, Navy and Air Force Times, Small Business Administration, university career centers, government resources and veterans' organizations. See for yourself at [www.taonline.com!](http://www.taonline.com) (VETS NET, Veterans' Employment and Training Services, US Department of Labor, Summer 1998)

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 Thomas R. Carper 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 veterans Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, (DD Form 214). **DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL.** If you are a member of a veterans organization we recommend that you send your requests through them so they may be consolidated. The 8 1/2 X 11 inch certificate, suitable for framing, is printed in black lettering on parchment paper, has a gold border and the Delaware State Seal is depicted in the background. The

embossed gold seal of the Commission of Veterans Affairs is attached in the lower right hand corner.

MERCHANT MARINE BONUS

If you served between December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945, you could be eligible for a Merchant Marine Bonus approved by the Delaware legislature (Application is on page 15). Contact the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs at (800) 344-9900 or (302) 739-2792 for more information.

OUTREACH SERVICES

American Legion

Darrell Johnson, Sr., Dept. Service Officer, (302) 633-5323, will visit the following posts between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM on the following dates.

OCT 2	Dover, Post 2	674-3922
OCT 9	Laurel, Post 19	875-9948
OCT 16	Oak Orchard/Riverdale, Post 28	945-1673
OCT 23	Seaford, Post 6	629-9915
OCT 30	Dover, Post 2	674-3922

American Veterans (AMVETS)

Michael Companion, National Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington, DE 19805 (302) 994-2511 ext.4366.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

Charles Kashner and Justus (Joe) Kehne, Department Service Officers (DAV), Kent County (302) 697-9061 or (302) 697-3335, Sussex County (302) 644-2477 or Fax (302) 644-9445.

Every Wednesday: (Kent)	DAV Headquarters Building 183 South Street Camden, DE 19934
Every Thursday: (Sussex)	Dept. of Labor Div. of Emp & Trng Georgetown Professional Park 600 N. DuPont Hwy. Georgetown, DE 19947
Thursday afternoon (By appointment only)	Lewes Senior Center
Monday thru Fridays	(302) 644-2477 by appointment FAX (302) 644-9445

Retired Navy Activities Affairs Office

Naval & Marine Corps Reserve Center, 3920 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE 19808-5194, (302) 998-8767.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

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

1ST Thursday Dover Armory (741-7516) 8:00-11:00 AM

	Milford VFW (422-4412)	1:30-4:00 PM
2 nd Thursday	Dover Armory (741-7516)	8:00-11:00 AM
	Milton VFW (684-4975)	1:30-4:00 PM
3 rd Thursday	Dover Armory (741-7516)	8:00-11:00 AM
	Rehoboth VFW (227-3469)	1:30-4:00 PM
4 th Thursday	Dover Armory (741-7516)	8:00-11:00 AM
	Seaford VFW (629-3092)	1:30-4:00 PM
5 th Thursday	Dover Armory (741-7516)	8:00-11:00 AM
	Georgetown VFW (856-6098)	1:30-4:00 PM

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Claims, Benefits, Veterans Services (Regional Office).....	1-800-827-1000
General purpose, Hospital Scheduling, Transportation, etc.....	1-800-461-8262 / 944-2511
Veterans Outreach Center (New Castle County).....	633-5360
(Kent and Sussex County).....	422-8011

DELAWARE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

Wesley R. Jones, Cemetery Administrator.....834-8046

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion.....	633-5323
AMVETS.....	1-800-344-9900 (#123)
Disabled American Veterans.....	633-5324
Paralyzed Veterans of America.....	633-5325
Veterans of Foreign Wars.....	633-5326
Veterans of World War I.....	998-9744
Vietnam Veterans of America.....	633-5357

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

James A. Platt (Wilmington).....	302-761-8096
Desiree Young (Wilmington).....	302-761-8093
Mitchel Vance (Newark).....	302-453-4350 ext. 218
Mike Wolanski (VA Regional Office, Elsmere).302-633-5492	
Jim Wilson (Dover).....	302-739-5473
David White (Dover AFB).....	302-677-6942
Scottie Williams (Dover).....	302-739-5473
John Lapps (Georgetown).....	302-856-5230

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS SERVICES**

Individuals can be reached by calling toll free 1-800-344-9900, and entering their voice mail box number at the prompt:

	<u>BOX</u>
Veterans Cemetery.....	115
Veterans Service Officer.....	129

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mr. Charles A. Kashner, Chairman.....	114
Disabled American Veterans	

Mr. Leon S. Stajkowski, Vice-Chairman.....106
The Fleet Reserve Association

Mr. Charles E. Farrell.....102
Korean War Veterans Association

Mr. James Thompson.....119
Marine Corps League

Mr. Benjamin Pernol, Jr.....110
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Mr. Reese E. Phillips.....104
40&8

Mr. Garry G. Greenstein.....113
Jewish War Veterans

Mr. Alfred Antonelli.....107
Delaware/Maryland Paralyzed Veterans

Mr. Tom Schranck.....105
Delaware Veterans, Incorporated

Mr. Howard E. Melson.....126
American EX-Prisoners of War

Mr. Robert D. Marcinkowski.....103
The Retired Officers Association

Mr. Edwin L. Meeds.....128
The Military Order of the Purple Heart

Mr. Roy Newlin.....108
Representing WWI

Mr. Walter W. Smock.....117
American Veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam

The Centurion is published for informational purposes only, and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs or the State of Delaware.

Paid for with State Funds

If you are not already on our mailing list and wish to receive this newsletter on continual basis, please provide the following information below: (Articles should be submitted to the Commission Office directly)

*****NOTE: Due to the implementation of the 911 Emergency Response Number, your address may have changed. To ensure uninterrupted delivery of future issues, please submit any address changes.**

NAME/ORGANIZATION _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ - _____

MAIL TO:

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
25 THE GREEN – OLD STATE HOUSE
DOVER, DE 19901**

VETERANS' HOMECOMING *1998*



OCTOBER 28, 1998

9am - 4pm

NUR SHRINE

**198 S. DuPont Highway RT 13
NEW CASTLE, DE**

“WHAT ARE MY BENEFITS?”

“WHAT AM I ENTITLED TO?”

**More Than 40 Organizations Will Be
Available To Answer Your Questions**

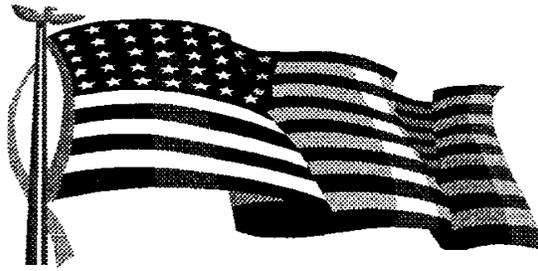
FEDERAL AGENCIES STATE AGENCIES COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS VA HEALTH SCREENINGS

**SPONSORED BY
VA Medical and Regional Office Center
Wilmington, DE
1-800-461-8262 ext 5331**

Free Admission

13



YOUR INVITED
TO THE

CONCERT
NOV. 14, 1998
8:00 P.M.
Smyrna H.S.

25th Anniversary
ending of
the Vietnam War

Performed
by the
SMYRNA FIRE CO. BAND

&
CO-HOSTED BY

American Legion Post 14
&
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3792

.....

DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 P.M.
(Ticket required for admission)

For Ticket Information – (302) 653-6868

VIETNAM TRAVELING WALL
LEGISLATIVE MALL, DOVER, DELAWARE
OCTOBER 1 – 4, 1998

PARKING & TRANSPORTATION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1998

Downtown Parking

Bradford Street lot
City parking, Post Office
Museum, Bank & New Sts.
County Bldg, Water & Federal Sts.
Water Street lot
2 hour on street parking
Governors Avenue lot

Remote Parking

Blue Hen Corporate Mall (in front of old Acme Bldg.)
DART Transportation available to Legislative Mall

Public Transportation

* DART Rte 301 (from Wilmington)
* DART Rte 303 (from Harrington & Milford)

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3-4, 1998

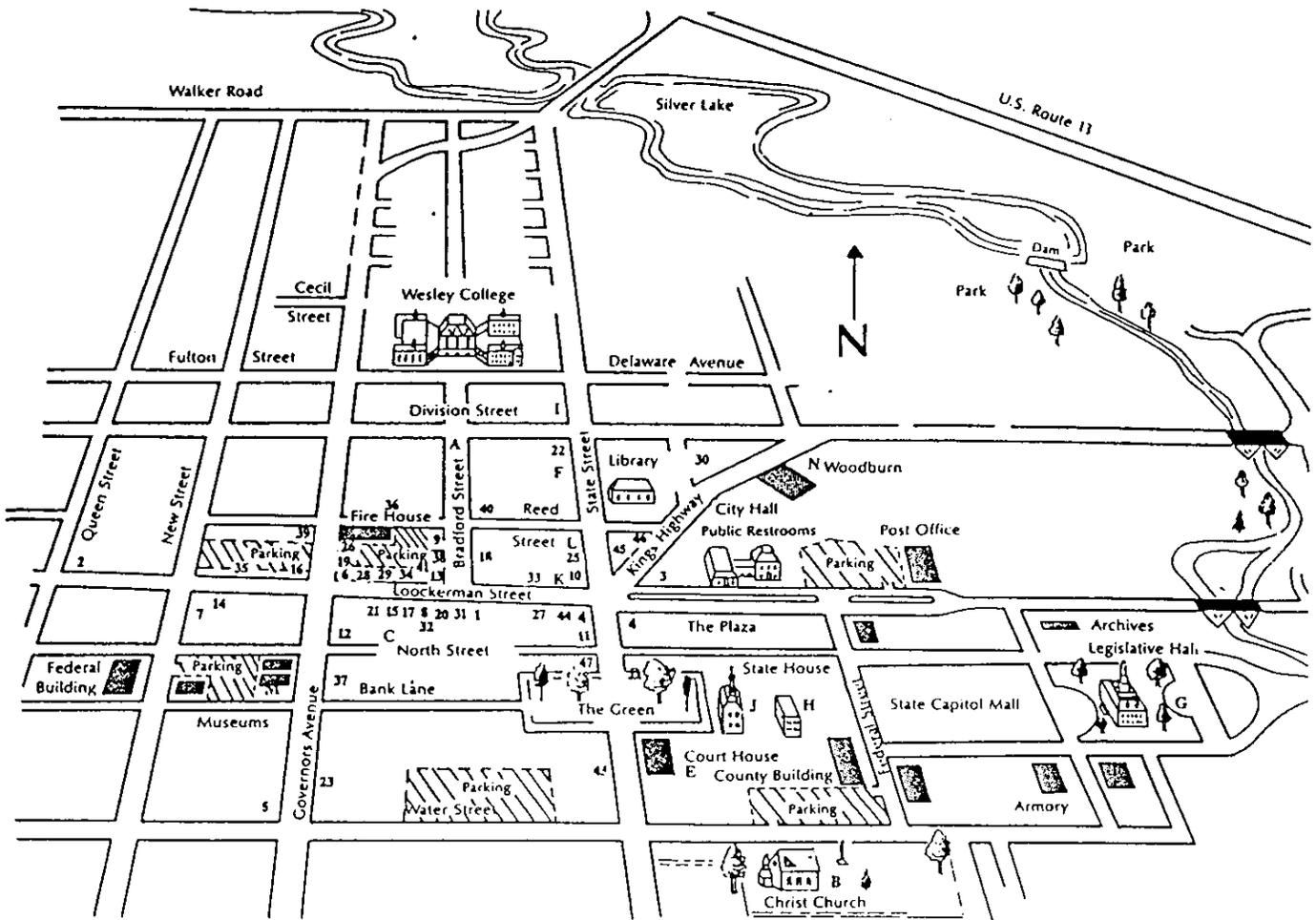
Downtown Parking

Bradford Street lot
City parking, Post Office
Museum, Bank & New Sts.
County Bldg, Water & Federal Sts.
Water Street lot
Open on street parking
Governors Avenue lot

No Transportation Provided by DART

DART Schedules and Information - (800) 652-DART

• **DOWNTOWN DOVER** •
 Kent County • Delaware



Map not drawn to scale.

STATE OF DELAWARE

"Serving Delaware's Veterans"

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs

25 The Green - Old State House
Dover, Delaware 19901

**BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 120
DOVER, DE**

Address Correction Requested

DCVA 20-01-98-10-01