

THE CENTURION

DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Robbins Bldg – 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100, Dover, Delaware 19904

(302) 739-2792 or (800) 344-9900 (in state)

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*Thomas R. Carper, Governor
Edward J. Freel, Secretary of State*

*James L. Thompson, Chairman
Antonio Davila, Executive Director*

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CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

My Fellow Veterans,

I had the opportunity to visit the VA Hospital on Kirkwood Highway twice during May and concentrated on cleanliness and medical care provided our veterans. I spoke to several veterans, including two from the Marine Corps League, to obtain their opinions concerning VA care and treatment. I found that floors were clean, rooms clean, and the bedding fresh. I did not use a white glove, but it appears that the hospital runs a pretty tight ship. I'm not a corpsman or medic, but I was impressed with the personal care given patients, including the drawing of blood. I spoke to veterans that were receiving treatment or had received treatment recently. All were satisfied with the caliber of care received and with the professional attitude of the hospital staff.

I understand that some of you are having difficulty in getting appointments for the hospital or getting referrals to the VA clinic in Sussex County. If you are experiencing problems, please contact one of the 15 Commission representatives or the Commission Office and we will do our best for you.

A primary interest of ours is that of improving the status of Delaware veterans. Through this effort, we hope to establish Delaware's first veteran's home. I will keep all of you posted as developments occur. In the meantime, we need your help and the support of all 73,000 Delaware veterans to keep us informed of any and all issues affecting veterans and their dependents. Remember the old saying, "The squeaky wheel gets the oil", so keep this in mind and don't hesitate to let us know how you feel. You can call us toll-free at 1-800-344-9900 (In State only) or (302) 739-2792.

Sincerely,

Jim Thompson
Chairman

 **THOUGHT FOR THE QUARTER** 

Judging from the way some people behave these days, they must think that hell is air-conditioned!

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR

The Historical Society of Delaware will commemorate the memory of the Korean War with a Community Window exhibit and five-part lecture series at the Delaware History Museum. The lecture series features panel sessions led by Korean War veterans from different military branches that served in different capacities. The sessions are held on successive Wednesdays. Each session begins at noon.

June 28 – *Overview of the War in Korea and Task Force Smith* (Ret. Gen. William H. Duncan and 1st Lt. Carl Bernard, a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross)

July 5 – *A Combat Soldier's View* (Speakers include Do-Won Kim, who served in the South Korean Army, and veterans of the U.S. Cavalry, Infantry, and Marine divisions)

July 12 – *Other Actions in the War* (A panel discussion with veterans from Combat Battalion, a U.S. Navy Destroyer, and 49th Fighter/Bomber Wing)

July 19 – *Support Activity* (MASH Hospital veterans and Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron)

July 26 – *How to Remember the Korean War* (Stanley Weintraub, author of "MacArthur's War: Korea and the Undoing of an American Hero")

A Community Window, "50th Anniversary of the War in Korea," will feature artifacts from the war such as uniforms, photographs, and field equipment. Community Windows at the Delaware History Museum is an outreach program where street-front windows are used as an open exhibition space so any passerby can experience an exhibit regardless of whether the museum is open. The Korean War lasted from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953. It stemmed from Communist aggression by the North Koreans. Technically the war continues today since no peace agreement was reached. An armistice was signed to stop the fighting, which had left more than 54,000 Americans dead, 103,000 wounded, 8,177 missing in action, and 7,000 as prisoners of war. The Delaware History Museum is at 504 Market Street, Wilmington. Reservations are suggested for the lecture series. Admission is free. Call (302) 655-7161. (*Historical Society of Delaware, April 18, 2000*)

LOCAL BOY'S ESSAY SPARKS NATIONAL LEGISLATION

In early March, Samuel Cashdollar, a seventh grader at Lewes Middle School, came up with a good idea. Cashdollar, 13, recently won the Delaware VFW's Youth Essay contest with a presentation entitled "How Should We Honor America's Veterans?" (see page 9) In the essay, Samuel points out that many of the contributions of those in the military have been overlooked, forgotten or not relayed to his generation. In

order to rectify this, he suggested that Congress establish a National Veterans Week. Senator Biden has since introduced a resolution in the Senate that would set aside the week of Veterans Day to encourage students to learn more about those who've served in the Armed Forces, both during periods of peace and times of conflict.

VETERANS DAY NATIONAL COMMITTEE POSTER CONTEST

Congratulations to Ms. Eva M. Berry, Polytech High School, for being selected as a finalist in the Veterans Day 2000 National High School Poster Contest. The Commission of Veterans Affairs would like to thank all participants who submitted artwork. Thank you for honoring America's veterans.

HEPATITIS C SCREENING

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs will sponsor a Hepatitis C Health Screening on July 27, 2000, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM at 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100. Please bring a copy of your DD 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge. For more information call 1-800-344-9900 (in state) or 302 739-2792)

THE AMERICAN FLAG

The flag of the United States is the universal symbol of our country. It provides instant expression of joy or sorrow, raised aloft or lowered to half-staff. Flag Day, June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress authorized a new flag symbolizing a new nation: "Resolved that the Flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, while in a blue field, representing a new constellation." The Stars and Stripes have changed twenty-six times. The second flag, the Star-Spangled Banner, created by the Second Flag Act of 1794 had fifteen stars and fifteen stripes. An 1818 mandate for the twenty star flag restored the thirteen stripes and added a star for each state. President Taft prescribed dimensions and proportions of fly to hoist and field to fly in 1912. The Attorney General rendered an opinion in 1926 that early flag patterns "appear to have been regulated originally by custom." In 1942 the 77th Congress enacted a code of flag laws, a highly unusual piece of legislation. With a possessive air, Americans speak of Our Flag. It is folded in its own cockade shape. Queens we have not, presidents come and go with a degree of regularity, but the Flag transmits a sense of permanence with its own mystique. The history of fifty stars welded into one badge of honor cannot be spun swiftly. The story is that of a country so free it

allows freedom. In the first sea trials of the nuclear submarine, the USS Francis Scott Key, Admiral Rickover said: "Key caught the mystique the flag has for us, who are a nation not by consanguinity, not by a long common history but by devotion to the concept of liberty under law." Flag Day recognizes this flag appeal. No expression of the reawakening of patriotism appears more obvious than the return to the act of hanging out a flag – the desire to stand and be counted in the Pledge to the Flag. Flag Day – June 14 – is a day of reverence for Old Glory. Our hearts are cheered to see her flying in lonely corners of this world, a symbol which bridges all generations and so perfectly reminds us of our one nation under God. The Star-Spangled Banner Flag House invites America to share in this happy celebration of history and heritage. (Written by Commissioner Reese Phillips, 1986)

DELAWARE'S MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

There is a "Pyramid of Honors" that can be conferred upon Americans for heroic actions during time of war such as the Silver Star, Distinguished Service Medal and the Navy Cross. Atop this "Pyramid of Honors" is the Medal of Honor, the highest award bestowed upon Americans for heroics during combat. This "Medal of Honor" was instituted in 1862 during the Civil War. Since that time 3,412 Americans have received this highest honor of their country. Of those, only 14 were awarded to Delawareans: nine during the Civil War, one during the Indian Wars out west, one for the insurrection that followed in the Philippines after the war with Spain, and two during World War II. The four veterans listed below are the first in a series honoring Delaware's Medal of Honor Recipients:

CIVIL WAR

HAND, Alexander

Rank and organization: Quartermaster, U.S. Navy. *Born:* 1836, Delaware. *G.O. No.* 11, 3 April 1863. *Citation:* Served on board the U.S.S. Ceres in the fight near Hamilton, Roanoke River, 9 July 1862. Fired on by the enemy with small arms, Hand courageously returned the raking enemy fire and was spoken of for "good conduct and cool bravery under enemy fire," by the commanding officer.

TANNER, Charles B.

Rank and organization: Second Lieutenant, Company H, 1st Delaware Infantry. *Place and date:* At Sharpsburg, MD, 17 September 1862. *Entered service at:* Wilmington, DE, *Birth:* Pennsylvania. *Date of issue:* 13 December 1889. *Citation:* Carried off the regimental colors, which had fallen within 20 yards of the enemy's lines, the color guard of 9 men having all been killed or wounded; was himself 3 times wounded.

POSTLES, James Parke

Rank and organization: Captain, Company A, 1st Delaware Infantry. *Place and date:* At Gettysburg, PA, 2 July 1863. *Entered service at:* Wilmington, DE. *Born:* 28 September 1840, Camden, DE. *Date of issue:* 22 July 1892. *Citation:*

Voluntarily delivered an order in the face of heavy fire of the enemy.

MAYBERRY, John B.

Rank and organization: Private, Company F, 1st Delaware Infantry. *Place and date:* At Gettysburg, PA, 3 July 1863. *Entered service at:* Kent County, DE. *Birth:* Smyrna, DE. *Date of issue:* 1 December 1864. *Citation:* Capture of flag.

'ABC 20/20' SEGMENT VINDICATES LEGION'S LAWSUIT AGAINST VA

Determined to stop the sometimes-shoddy treatment of America's veterans shown in an "ABC 20/20" segment, the nation's largest veterans organization will resurrect its legal battle against the Department of Veterans Affairs. The ABC piece, "Fighting A New Battle," told the story of a veteran whose claim for service-connected disability benefits was denied because his military health records were not available. An American Legion lawsuit filed Oct. 12 in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit would have forced the VA to continue helping veterans to develop their claims for benefits. However, the court denied the 2.8-million member Legion's motion to "stay" a VA directive ending long-standing veterans-friendly practices, such as giving the veteran a physical to determine whether a condition is related to military service. This change in the VA's treatment of veterans stemmed from Morton vs. West, the July 1999 case in which the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims ruled that the VA cannot help veterans develop a claim until the VA deems the claim "well-grounded." The plaintiff, Jack Morton, died in May while his case was on appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Lawyers for The American Legion are trying to reactivate the case. "ABC News showed the nation what The American Legion has been fighting for: A VA that helps rather than harms veterans who may be worthy of compensation and free medical treatment for conditions related to their military service," American Legion National Commander Al Lance said. "On behalf of our nation's veterans, The American Legion will continue to fight. We are determined to win this battle either through Congress or the courts." The nation's largest veterans organization is lobbying for bipartisan support, and a Senate companion, for H.R. 3193, introduced by Rep. Lane Evans of Illinois, ranking member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. The measure would re-establish the VAs duty to assist claimants for veterans benefits. To expedite the claims process, The American Legion continues to fight for adequate funding for VA claims personnel. (U.S. Newswire, June 3, 2000)

VA EXTENDS BENEFITS THROUGH 2003

There's still time for family members of Gulf War veterans to participate in the Veterans Affairs' Persian Gulf Registry medical evaluation program. The VA-funded health examination program established in 1994 for the spouses and

children of Gulf War veterans has been extended to Dec. 31, 2003. The law authorizes the VA to continue to provide examinations to the spouse or child of a Gulf War veteran who is experiencing illness and is registered in the VA Persian Gulf Registry medical evaluation program. The provision to extend the program was included in the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, Public Law 106-117, signed by President Clinton Nov. 30, 1999. The law ensures the continuation of vital healthcare services for the nation's veterans into the next century as well as the timeliness and quality of the Veterans Administration health care system. Authority for the program was established by Public Law 103-446. It was first extended by Public Law 104-262 in 1996, and again in 1998 by Public Law 105-368. To be eligible for participation in the program, an individual must be the spouse or child of a veteran who is listed in the VA's Persian Gulf War Veterans Registry and has – or previously had – an illness or disorder, including a birth defect, miscarriage or stillbirth, that can't be disassociated from the veteran's service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations. Participants must also grant the VA permission to include relevant medical data from the evaluation in the Registry. As of February, more than 4,000 family members of Gulf War veterans have requested a Persian Gulf Registry exam. To facilitate access to the benefit, the program now allows for individuals to receive the exam through their private physician, after a request has been submitted to the VA's helpline. Individuals interested in registering for the program should call the VA's toll-free Registry at (800) 749-8387.

CHANGE IN THE ELIGIBILITY FOR CARE OF VETERANS AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART

PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) directive implements new eligibility and enrollment requirements for veterans awarded the Purple Heart.

POLICY: Public Law 106-117, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, which amended the law to place veterans awarded the Purple Heart in enrollment priority group 3, and to exempt those veterans from co-payment requirements associated with provision of hospital care and outpatient medical services.

ACTION:

- a. Veterans awarded the Purple Heart may submit appropriate documentation (i.e., DD 214, service records, orders of award, certificate, etc.) for inclusion into the veteran's Consolidated Health Record (CHR) folder. Field stations are also to fax these documents to the Health Eligibility Center at (404) 235-1355.
- b. As an interim measure, the Health Eligibility Center will provide each Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care facility with a partial listing of Purple Heart recipients to assist facilities in manually exempting these veterans from co-payment requirement associated with hospital care and outpatient medical services. The Office

of Information (19) will develop software to capture data on veterans awarded a Purple Heart and effect other changes in the VHA information systems necessary to accommodate provisions to Public Law 106-117 relating to Purple Heart Award recipients.

c. Field stations must ensure that those veterans awarded a Purple Heart who were previously, or would be, classified in enrollment priority groups 4 through 7 are placed in enrollment priority group 3 and not charged co-payments.

d. Manual tracking is necessitated until Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) software modifications are implemented to ensure these veterans are not inappropriately billed medical care co-payment charges.

e. Veterans awarded the Purple Heart are to be reimbursed for any medical care co-payments paid for VHA care provided on or after November 30, 1999.

f. VHA officials must have verifiable evidence that veterans received the Purple Heart before reimbursing any co-payments or changing veterans' enrollment status.

REFERENCE: Public Law 106-117, dated November 30, 1999.

FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY: Health Administration Services (10C3) is responsible for the content of this directive.

RESCISSION: This VHA Directive will expire March 1, 2005. (*Department of Veteran Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, February 2000*)

VETERANS' STORIES WANTED

Do you have a true military story about yourself or someone you knew during wartime...or in the years that followed? A story that would uplift or inspire people all over the world? If so, we invite you to share your story with us! The *New York Times* best selling book series, **Chicken Soup for the Soul**, is now collecting stories for an exciting new book, **Chicken Soup for the Veteran's Soul!** Veterans have many stories to tell. It is important to capture this time in the lives of the many men and women that served to defend our freedom. We welcome stories from all wars, all eras, and all branches of service. Please send us your story and be a part of recognizing and honoring veterans everywhere! Sample topics may include: Heroism, Comradery, Laughter, Sense of Duty, Closeness in Combat, Leadership, Reunions, and Patriotism. If you have a topic not listed here, we are happy to receive it. A good CHICKEN SOUP story will give you goosebumps, bring a tear to your eye, inspire you, or make you laugh out loud. Your submission should be an actual story that has a "moment" or an "event" which happened in one's life that can bring joy and awareness to our Chicken Soup readers. It is not an essay, reminiscence, timeline, or a tribute. We value the special talents of our contributors and welcome new contributors to our Chicken Soup family. If you have questions or doubts about your story, send it anyway and we'll

be the judge! Submissions up to 1200 words accepted. Compensation offered for selected stories. We will also be contributing a percentage of all profits to associations benefiting veterans. Deadline for submissions is **August 1, 2000** (*stories are welcome after this date for a possible second book, so please do not hesitate to send them in!*) For submission guidelines or to view sample stories, visit our website at <http://www.vetstories.com> or call us toll free at **888-387-6373** (toll free in U.S. only). Outside the U.S. call **1-515-472-0279**. Options for sending stories: Email: remember@vetstories.com; Mail: Chicken Soup for the Veteran's Soul, 607 West Broadway, Fairfield, IA 52556; Fax 1-515-472-0719. (*Chicken Soup for the Veteran's Soul*)

VALLEY FORGE MILITARY ACADEMY CLASS OF 1942

Attention Valley Forge Military Academy Class of 1942 (War Years), we are compiling a history of the Cadets who served in WWII. If you are part of "The Line of Gray", please contact Dr. Walter Smock at the Commission or (302) 475-1401.

FOOD STAMP ARMY

On a vote of 99-0, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed an amendment sponsored by Senator John McCain (R-AZ) that adds \$28 million to the defense budget over the next six years to end the "Food Stamp Army" once and for all. Recent studies by the General Accounting Office and the Congressional Research Service suggest that the number of military families on food stamps may be as high as 13,500, with thousands more eligible, but not receiving assistance. "I'm extremely pleased that the Senate unanimously voted to increase the pay of these thousands of military families who rely on food stamps to make ends meet," said McCain. "It is my hope that the House will drop their unfounded objections and act expeditiously to right this unconscionable wrong to the servicemen and women in our all-volunteer force." McCain has repeatedly stressed his commitment to ensuring that military personnel and their families need not rely on food stamps to make ends meet. He sponsored legislation – that passed the Senate twice last year – that would have given an additional \$180 a month subsistence allowance to any service member eligible for food stamps. The Senate approved his plan in two separate pieces of legislation, but objections from the House prevented its inclusion in the defense authorization conference last year. McCain re-introduced the bill, S. 2322, on Wednesday, March 29, 2000. "I am ashamed that the Congress has shirked its responsibility to the men and women who are willing to risk their lives for our country and our freedom," said McCain. McCain's amendment provides the additional funding needed to pay for the subsistence allowance provided in S. 2322. (*John McCain Press Release, April 6, 2000*)

NUMBER OF INCARCERATED

VETERANS DECLINES

A new Department of Justice special report shows that the rate of incarceration of veterans has declined by nearly 3 million since 1985, or an average decline of 1 percent per year. The report titled, "Veterans in Prison or Jail," shows that although the number of incarcerated veterans rose from 154,600 in 1985 to 225,834 in 1998, male veterans were incarcerated at less than half the rate of adult male nonveterans. This translates into an increase of 46 percent compared to the nonveteran rate of 172 percent. The data was based on interviews with national samples of inmates in which they provided information on their military service, as well as their criminal history and personal backgrounds.

Report Highlights

- 1 in every 6 incarcerated veterans were not honorably discharged from the military.
- About 20 percent of veterans in prison or jail reported seeing combat duty during their military service. Combat veterans had less serious criminal histories, as well as lower reported levels of alcohol and drug abuse compared to other veterans in prison. They were no more likely to be violent offenders than other veterans.
- About 70 percent of veterans were employed before their arrests, compared with 54 percent of non-veterans.
- Veterans in state prisons reported higher levels of alcohol abuse, lower levels of drug abuse, than other prisoners.
- Incarcerated veterans were as likely as nonveterans to have been homeless when arrested.
- Minorities who served in the military were less likely to end up in prison than their nonveteran peers.
- In 1998 there were 56,500 Vietnam War-era veterans and 18,500 Persian Gulf War-era veterans in state and federal prisons.

(*VETSNET, US Department of Labor, Vol. 9, No. 1*)

ONLINE COMMUNITY FOR VETERANS

In association with The History Channel, HistoryChannel.com is proud to announce the launch of www.Veterans.com, an online community for veterans, family members, military buffs, and students. Veterans.com was created to compliment the existing veterans' publications and web sites. Our goal is to connect veterans with other veterans and younger generations to keep history alive. Among the features found on the site, Veterans.com includes:

- The Veteran Locator will help veterans locate comrades from their past, even if they only search by a nickname or hometown.

- Eyewitness Accounts invites veterans to share and preserve their experiences for future generations.
- The Discussion Forum provides a place to discuss past and current issues, or ask veterans about their experiences.

(The History Channel, May 19, 2000)

VETERANS' WEBSITE LISTS CERTIFICATION, LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Occupational credentials, such as a license or certification, are increasingly common requirements for many civilian jobs. Now, thanks to a website developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, current and former military personnel can easily learn about licenses and certifications they need to enter a wide variety of employment fields. "Civilian credentialing requirements are typically based on education, training, and experience in the civilian sector," said ASVET Espiridion "Al" Borrego. "This website helps link military experience to the civilian workplace. It can help veterans avoid unemployment or underemployment because they don't know what credentials are needed for specific occupations." Known as the Military and Veterans Credentialing Network (MVCNet), the website has two key components; a section designed for service members and veterans seeking information about civilian licensure and certification and a section intended for employers seeking access to a qualified pool of skilled employees who may have learned their skills while in the military. The section on transitioning to civilian careers answers frequently asked questions about civilian licensing and certification, the requirements for 25 civilian occupations most relevant to transitioning military personnel, and links to other information sources on licensing and certification. The section for employers gives an overview on major military occupational specialties, examples of the comparability of military and civilian training, types of documentation available to certify military training, and some examples of joint initiatives between the VETS and employers to help veterans move into civilian jobs requiring certification or licensing. Over the years, the military has increasingly modeled its education and training programs after comparable civilian programs. In healthcare, for example, most of the training programs offered by the armed forces have been adapted to meet the accreditation standards of civilian accrediting agencies. Many have actually attained accreditation status. MVCNet can be accessed at www.dol.gov/dol/vets and clicking on the headline Comparability of Military and Civilian Training.
(VETSNET, US Department of Labor, Vol. 9, No. 1)

MILITARY-BRATS REGISTRY

Prior to the advent of the World Wide Web, military brats had no sense of home and little hope of tracking down their long-lost friends and classmates. Now 40,000 have found a home

on the web and are connecting with people they had no hope of locating in the past. Moving every few years, unable to attend class reunions at schools that have either been torn down or are half way around the world, the "Nowhere Kids" as military brats have come to be known, resigned themselves to the idea of not having a home or a past. Two years ago, Marc Curtis, himself a military brat, launched the "Military-Brats Registry" (<http://www.military-brats.com>) to provide a vehicle for others to find their long-lost friends. The Registry, as it has come to be known among brats, recently reached 40,000 registrants out of an estimated 12 million brats. Unacknowledged participants in the major events of the past half-century, military brats moved frequently from one assignment to another, disrupting both their studies and friendships. Unlike even their parents, brats had little sense of home. Even worse, there was nowhere to go to find old friends and classmates until the Registry provided them with a virtual hometown. The "Military-Brats Registry" sprang from Marc Curtis' 30-year search to find his friends from the fourth grade at Ft. Bliss in El Paso, Texas. After spending hundreds of dollars and countless hours online searching various Internet databases in vain, Marc finally decided to create a virtual "home" where military brats could connect with their childhood friends and classmates. "The emails I receive on an almost daily basis from people who have connected with their friends through the registry are tremendously rewarding," said Curtis. "The stories often bring tears to my eyes and give me a real insight into what it is like not having a place you can call home." "Unlike our civilian counterparts, there has never been a place we could go to look up old friends until now," said Curtis. The registry is free to all Military Brats from any of the armed services whether they lived on base or off base, stateside or overseas. *(Marc Curtis, March 27, 2000)*

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

DELAWARE VETERANS HALL OF HEROES

The Delaware Veterans Hall of Heroes Association has been formed to pay homage to Delaware Veterans, who have received medals of valor (i.e., Medal of Honor, the Service Crosses, Air Medals, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and other Medals of Valor) in the service of their country. The veteran must have been a Delaware resident at the time of award; be honorably discharged; have

proof of the award; copy of Certificate of Discharge (DD 214). Veterans or family and friends of inductees living or posthumous, please call Wilson K. Smith (302) 655-4642, Thomas H. Brown (302) 658-2580, or Paul L. Cathell, Jr. (302) 994-2061. We would also appreciate hearing from relatives of the Delaware Medal of Honor Recipients (12) from the earlier conflicts to the Civil War.

**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 10) 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 veteran's 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.

COLD WAR CERTIFICATE: HOW TO OBTAIN

As of April 5, 1999, the long-awaited Cold War Certificate is available by sending a copy of your discharge document to: *Cold War Recognition, 4035 Ridge Top Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22030. FAX (703) 275-6749. Help line: (703) 275-6279.* Anyone who served on active duty – including stateside – between September 1945 and December 1991 is eligible for the certificate. (VFW, May 1999)

**CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN DELAWARE
HEALTH SCREENINGS**

Health screenings will be conducted at the following locations from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM in Kent and Sussex Counties:

JUL 5	Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs	739-2792
JUL 6	Riverdale American Legion Post 28	945-7314
JUL 18	Smyrna American Legion Post 14	378-6329
JUL 20	Ocean View VFW Post 7234	539-9981
AUG 2	Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs	739-2792
AUG 3	Riverdale American Legion Post 28	945-7314
AUG 22	Smyrna American Legion Post 14	378-6329
AUG 24	Ocean View VFW Post 7234 (12-8 PM)	539-9981
SEP 6	Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs	739-2792
SEP 7	Riverdale American Legion Post 28	945-7314
SEP 12	Smyrna American Legion Post 14	378-6329

For more information contact:
Clyde Bragg, RN Outreach Health Screening Nurse
 (302) 633-5332 – Outreach Screening Clinic
 (302) 994-2511 – BEEPER 197 – RN
 (302) 633-5500 – Primary Care/Women's Health Clinic
 (302) 633-5212 – Eligibility/Registration
 (302) 633-5519 – Health Care Hotline

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER REPRESENTATION

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs Service Officers, Mr. Harry J. Sanchez and Ms. Melanie E. Bronov provide information and assistance in submitting claims concerning education, disability compensation, hospitalization, rehabilitation and pensions. In addition, Mr. Sanchez and Ms. Bronov are also available at the Pyle State Service Center located in Roxanna, DE, the last Monday of each month between the hours of 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. *For further information, and/or an appointment you may call (302) 739-7447 or toll free at 1-800-344-9900 anytime. When you are prompted, enter 129 to leave a message.* DCVA also represents veterans throughout the State with The Retired Enlisted Association, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Marine Corps League.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Roger Pleus (Wilmington).....	302-761-8096
Al Barclift (Wilmington).....	302-761-8093
Desiree Young (Newark).....	302-453-4350 ext. 218
Mike Wolanski (VA Regional Ofc, Elsmere)...	302-633-5492
Steve Flaherty (Dover).....	302-739-5473
Charlene Robinson (Dover AFB).....	302-677-6942
Allan Hopkins (Dover).....	302-739-5473
John Lapps (Georgetown).....	302-856-5230
Bob Dotterer (Georgetown).....	302-856-5230

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:

JUL 5	Laurel, Post 19	875-9948
	Seaford, Post 6	
JUL 12	Dover, Post 2	674-3922
JUL 20	Oak Orchard/Riverdale	945-1673
	Post 28	
AUG 2	Laurel, Post 19	875-9948
	Seaford, Post 6	
AUG 9	Dover, Post 2	674-3922
AUG 17	Oak Orchard/Riverdale	945-1673
	Post 28	
SEP 6	Laurel, Post 19	875-9948
	Seaford, Post 6	

SEP 13 Dover, Post 2 674-3922
 SEP 21 Oak Orchard/Riverdale 945-1673
 Post 28

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 (302) 644-9445.

Every Wednesday: DAV Headquarters Building
 (Kent) 183 South Street
 Camden, DE 19934

Every Thursday: Department of Labor
 (Sussex) Div. Of Emp & Trng
 Georgetown Professional Park
 600 N. DuPont Hwy.
 Georgetown, DE 19947

American Veterans (AMVETS)

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

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)

Dante Profili, National Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 26, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 633-5325 or (302) 633-5392.

Retired Navy Activities Affairs Office

Naval & Marine Corps Reserve Center, 3920 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE 19808-5194, (302) 998-3328.

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. (302) 633-5326.

1 ST 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

5th Thursday Dover Armory (741-7516) 8:00-11:00 AM
 Georgetown VFW (856-6098) 1:30-4:00 PM

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion.....302-633-5323
 AMVETS.....302-994-2511 ext. 4366
 Disabled American Veterans.....302-633-5324
 Paralyzed Veterans of America.....302-633-5325
 Veterans of Foreign Wars.....302-633-5326
 Vietnam Veterans of America.....302-633-5357

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Claims, Benefits, Veterans Services
 (Regional Office).....1-800-827-1000
 VA Hospital Scheduling.....1-800-461-8262/302-944-2511
 Veterans Outreach Center
 (New Castle County).....302-633-5360
 (Kent and Sussex Counties).....302-422-8011

DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

Jim Thompson (Chairman).....Marine Corps League
 Walter Smock (Vice Chairman).....American Veterans
 Bob Barnett.....Jewish War Veterans
 Lee Davis.....DE/MD PVA
 Charles Farrell.....Korean War Veterans
 Charles Kashner.....Disabled American Veterans
 Bob Marcinkowski.....The Retired Officers Association
 Ed Meeds.....Military Order of the Purple Heart
 Gary "Mo" Morris.....American Legion
 Roy Newlin.....Representing WWI
 Ben Pernol.....Veterans of Foreign Wars
 Reese Phillips.....La Societe 40&8
 Leon Stajkowski.....Fleet Reserve Association
 John W. Thomas.....Delaware Veterans
 George Webb.....Vietnam Veterans of America

DELAWARE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

New Castle County Section (Bear, DE).....302-834-8046
 Sussex County Section (Georgetown, DE).....302-934-5653

HOW SHOULD WE HONOR AMERICA'S VETERANS

By Samuel I. Cashdollar

The 11th of November each year is designated as Veterans Day and is a Federal holiday. Employees of the U.S. Government get the day off and post offices and most banks are closed. The President visits Arlington National Cemetery and lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Parades are held in some places. This isn't adequate recognition of the contribution veterans have made to America.

Each State is free to decide which Federal Holidays it wants to recognize. In many states, government offices, schools, and businesses remain open on Veterans Day. Even where it's officially observed, Veterans Day comes and goes with most people not

Date Entered Service _____ Date Separated _____ Branch of Service _____

Date of Birth _____ Type of Discharge _____ Highest Rank Achieved _____

(only required if requesting rank on certificate)

LEGAL RESIDENT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

To meet the legal residency requirement (in addition to honorable military service) the veteran must have been:

- a. A legal resident of Delaware when he or she entered the Armed Forces of the United States; or
- b. A legal resident of Delaware at time of death

Please submit this application and a copy of Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, (DD-214) to:

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs
Robbins Building
802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE 19904
Phone: (302) 739-2792 or 1-800 344-9900 (In state only)

Signature of Veteran/spouse or next of kin _____ Date _____

Relationship if not veteran _____

NOTE: Please anticipate 4 to 6 weeks in receiving your Certificate

TO BE COMPLETED BY DCVA

___ Approved ___ Pending ___ Disapproved

Name _____ Date _____

Title _____

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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DCVA 20-01-00-07-01