

## **1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT SERVICE OFFICER VA & R REPORT FOR JULY 24**



**By Richard Strehlow 262-641-0977**

### **VA NEWS & INFORMATION:**

Did you know wounded military service members can receive quicker processing of their Social Security (SSN) disability claims? If you are a veteran with a 100% Permanent & Total compensation rating from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), they will expedite your disability claim.

Did you know the Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282) fights for disabled military retirees with fewer than 20 years of service in order for these veterans to concurrently receive, without reduction, veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special compensation?

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is urging veterans to submit their benefits claims before the upcoming summer deadline. As per the announcement made by the VA, all veterans who are eligible for burn pits and other toxic substances benefits must submit their claims by the deadline to ensure timely processing and avoid any delays. The VA has emphasized the importance of submitting claims as soon as possible to avoid the last-minute rush and potential delays. Veterans who have questions or need assistance with submitting their claims can contact their local VA office for more information.

Did you know families have two years from the date of passing of a veteran to apply for burial benefits? The VA will review the application and, if the veteran was honorably discharged, reimburse up to \$948 for a cremation and up to \$231 for an urn. Veterans who die from a service-connected disability are eligible for higher death benefits, up to \$2,000.

Opisthorchis verrini, a parasitic fluke, has increasingly become a concern for U.S. veterans, particularly those who have served in regions where the parasite is endemic. This parasitic infection, known as opisthorchiasis, primarily targets the liver, gallbladder, and bile ducts, leading to a range of health complications that can severely impact quality of life.

Did you know a veteran can receive both regular disability compensation and special monthly compensation (SMC)? Regular disability compensation is based on the severity of the veteran's service-connected disability, while SMC provides additional compensation for specific circumstances, such as the need for aid and attendance, loss of use of limbs, or other severe disabilities.

Did you know the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that veteran trust in VA has reached an all-time high of 80.4%? Up from 55% when the survey began in 2016. This is based on a survey of 38,293 veterans who used a wide range of VA services between January 1 – March 31, including health care, disability compensation benefits, memorial affairs, the GI Bill, home loans, and more.

Those veterans were asked whether they “trust VA to fulfill our country’s commitment to veterans.”

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is collaborating with Tribal Veteran Service Officers and other advocates to provide comprehensive support for veterans in completing VA claim paperwork. This initiative is part of the PACT Act process, where veterans can also undergo toxic health screenings facilitated by VA clinicians. Additionally, staff from the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) will be available to review

claims immediately, aiming for same-day approval for eligible veterans. This streamlined process aims to expedite support and benefits access for veterans.

Did you know veterans will no longer need to pay copays for their first three outpatient mental health care and substance use disorder visits each calendar year through 2027? This new benefit is intended to reduce out-of-pocket costs and expand access to essential mental health services.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has made a significant update by including three new presumptive service-connected conditions, which will undoubtedly expand and improve benefits for veterans. This decision reflects a deeper commitment to supporting those who have served our country and acknowledges the importance of addressing the evolving healthcare needs of our veterans. It is heartening to see such proactive measures being taken to ensure that those who have sacrificed so much receive the care and support they deserve.

Did you know Neuromod USA Inc. has been awarded a Federal Supply Schedule 65 II Medical Equipment and Supply Contract from the US Government, making the Lenire tinnitus device a treatment option for the 2.9 million U.S. Veterans living with tinnitus through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)? Lenire is the first bimodal neuromodulation device to receive a Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) Contract. It can be prescribed when appropriate by a trained healthcare clinician for the treatment of tinnitus.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers a Vocational Rehabilitation Program to help veterans with service-connected disabilities achieve success in the workforce. This program provides a range of services, including career counseling, job training, and employment assistance. Veterans who are eligible for this program can receive financial assistance for tuition, books, and other supplies needed for their education or training. Through the VA Vocational Rehabilitation Program, veterans can gain the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their chosen career path and achieve their goals. The VA is committed to helping veterans thrive in their post-military lives, and the Vocational Rehabilitation Program is just one way it is fulfilling that mission.



***Remember..... That all gave some, but many gave all!***