

## **WA CHAPTER 1069 BENEFITS PRESENTATION, 3/8/2017** (PAGE 1 of 4)

### **1. CONTACTS:** To help you obtain information about claims or other needs:

- **VETERANS CRISIS LINE:** Veterans and loved ones can call (800) 273-8255, 24/7, and then press 1 with total anonymity to speak to a professional counselor. A Houston Vet Center counselor, James Bailey, is available in Don Montoya's office on Thursdays for veterans and their families. Call Don's office at (979) 532-1311 for an appointment to see James Bailey. See forms on my desk for more information.
- **Dwight Winkler**, 2254 CR 291, East Bernard, TX 77435; (979) 335-4464, Email: [lerwinkdd@aol.com](mailto:lerwinkdd@aol.com).  
Veterans Benefits Webpage: <http://www.vva1069.org/wcvso/wcvso.html>
- **Don Montoya**, Wharton County Veterans Service Officer, 1017 N. Alabama Road, Wharton, TX 77488; (979) 532-1311, [don.montoya@co.wharton.tx.us](mailto:don.montoya@co.wharton.tx.us) ;  
**NEW OFFICE HOURS:** M, TUES, THUR (Wharton), 8:00a.m.-12:00 noon & 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.; FRI (Wharton), 8:00a.m.-12:00 noon by appointment only & 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (Administrative time); On WED (El Campo library), 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Webpage: <http://www.vva1069.org/wcvso/wcvso.html>
- **Vanessa Hicks-Callaway**, (Congressman Blake Farenthold's Veteran Advocate), (361) 894-6446, [Vanessa.Hicks-Callaway@mail.house.gov](mailto:Vanessa.Hicks-Callaway@mail.house.gov)
- **Matt Minor**, (Texas State Representative Phil Stephenson's Veteran Advocate), (281) 232-7900, [Matt.Minor@house.state.tx.us](mailto:Matt.Minor@house.state.tx.us)
- **VA INQUIRY ROUTING & INFORMATION SYSTEM (IRIS):**  
<https://iris.custhelp.com>
- **NEW VA PHONE NUMBER TO CALL 1-844-698-2311:** This new national toll-free number is a go to source for Veterans and their families who do not know what number to call at the VA. It is identified at the VA as **myVA311**. (Note: I sent this to Bob Supak and he posted it on our WA 1069 web site on 12/10/2016)

### **2. NEW VA SECRETARY SWORN IN:**

On February 14, 2017, Dr. David J. Shulkin was sworn in as the new secretary of the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Prior to his unanimous (the only unanimous confirmation so far) confirmation as secretary, Shulkin served as the VA's under secretary for Health for 18 months, leading the VA Health Care System, the nation's largest healthcare system. (Note: Bob Supak posted an article about Shulkin on 2/6/2017 to our WA 1069 web site)

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### **3. YOUR VOICE DOES COUNT & THE TOXIC EXPOSURE ACT OF 2015:**

The Chapter members signed a resolution at the 6/10/2015 meeting endorsing the Toxic Exposure Research Act Of 2015. The bill was passed by both houses of Congress and was signed by President Obama on 12/16/2016. It will establish the groundwork for research on the health issues of children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans and, other veterans who were exposed to toxic substances. If you feel your child or grandchild suffers from birth defects related to a veteran's exposure to Agent Orange or any other toxin, YOU SHOULD DO THE FOLLOWING:

- File a claim with your VSO and expect it to be denied but get your children and grandchildren in the VA system.
- Educate your physicians of your exposure to toxic substances (Agent Orange) and request this military exposure be included in your medical records.
- As With ALL your military records, you need to protect them!
- Register with Birth Defect Research for Children at ***birthdefects.org***. This independent nonprofit registry, tracks the health of the children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans. Call (407) 895-0802 for more information about the registry.

### **4. PRESUMPTION ESTABLISHED FOR MARINES AT CAMP LEJEUNE:**

Presumption of service connection of 8 diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at camp Lejeune, N.C. for active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served for a minimum of 30 days (cumulative) between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987 has been established. The eight conditions are:

- adult leukemia
- aplastic anemia (and other myelodysplastic syndromes)
- bladder cancer
- kidney cancer
- liver cancer
- multiple myeloma
- non-Hodgin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease. (Note: Bob .Supak posted this on our VVA web site on 1/15/2017)

**5. MORE BUSINESSES OFFERING VETERAN'S DISCOUNT:** Note: If anyone discovers or knows of some other business that offers veteran discounts, please let Dwight know, and we'll pass it on to our membership!

- **NAPA Auto Parts**, 1739 N. Richmond Road, Wharton, is offering a 10% discount every day. Call (979) 532-4510 for more information.
- **SPEC's Liquor Stores** (similar discount as when buying bulk liquor by the case)

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**EXPLANATION OF DISTRIBUTION OF VA BENEFITS AND SERVICES**

CATEGORIES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2005-2015 FOR WHARTON COUNTY

**COMPENSATION & PENSION (\$8,322,000 for FY 2015)**

- Disability compensation for a veteran for a service-connected disease or injury can vary from \$133.57 to over \$5,616 a month.
- Non service-connected pension for a veteran can vary, from \$1,075 to \$2,127 a month.
- A survivor's pension for a surviving family member of a deceased veteran can vary from \$721 to \$1,417 a month.
- A surviving family member of a deceased veteran can receive Dependency Indemnity Compensation That amounts up to \$1,257.95 a month.

**EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL EMPLOYMENT (\$442,000 for FY 2015)**

- There are seven Educational and Vocational Employment Programs that provide direct compensation to veterans: One of these is the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill that provides veterans a monthly allowance of \$1,110 a month, a stipend of \$1,000 for books and supplies per year and all tuition and fees paid for an in-state student (\$3,000 a year at WCJC).
- A grant of \$20,174.68 toward the purchase of a vehicle is available for eligible veterans. This an "Automobile and Adaptive Equipment" grant.

**INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES (\$205,000 .for FY 2015)**

- A disabled veteran can purchase up to \$10,000 from 9 different VA term life insurance policies and under certain circumstances purchase up to an additional \$30,000.

**MEDICAL CARE (\$9,232,000 for FY 2015)** Medical Care includes dollars for medical services, medical administration, facility maintenance, educational support, research support, and overhead items. Medical Care is allocated to the patient's home location, not site of care.

- Medicine is provided with co-pays ranging from zero to \$11 for a 30 day supply; travel reimbursement@ \$0.415/mile; lodging and per diem is payable in some cases.
- Medical services, include medical exams, Immunizations; counseling services, eyeglasses, hearing aids, dental services, Home improvement Grants (\$6,800), Clothing allowances (\$777.29/yr), Home Health Services, prosthetic equipment, hospice services, burial benefits, adult day care, and state veterans homes.

**DISTRIBUTION OF VA BENEFITS AND SERVICES FOR 2005-2015 FISCAL YEARS  
AS OF JUNE 8, 2016 FOR WHARTON COUNTY**

<b>Time Span</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Veteran Population</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>Compensation &amp; Pension</b>	<b>Education And Vocational Employment</b>	<b>Insurance And Indemnities</b>	<b>Medical Care</b>
10/1/14 9/30/15	2015	2566	\$18,201,000	8,322,000	442,000	205,000	9,232,000
10/1/13 9/30/14	2014	2628	\$15,599,000	7,470,000	387,000	57,000	7,645,000
10/1/12 9/30/13	2013	2567	\$13,347,000	6,171,000	349,000	111,000	6,716,000
10/1/11 9/30/12	2012	2626	\$11,370,000	5,548,000	441,000	82,000	5,300,000
10/1/10 9/30/11	2011	2760	\$12,099,000	6,168,000	470,000	60,000	5,401,000
10/1/9 9/30/10	2010	2802	\$9,772,000	5,100,000	399,000	53,000	4,219,000
10/1/8 9/30/9	2009	2841	\$8,980,000	4,872,000	272,000	102,000	3,733,000
10/1/7 9/30/8	2008	2872	\$7,685,000	4,505,000	189,000	165,000	2,827,000
10/1/6 9/30/7	2007	2903	\$7,381,000	3,969,000	275,000	296,000	2,842,000
10/1/5 9/30/6	2006	2824	\$6,938,000	3,703,000	252,000	180,000	2,802,000
10/1/4 9/30/5	2005	2887	\$3,892,000	3,484,000	226,000	182,000	Not Recorded

www.va.gov/vetdata/expenditures - National Center for Veterans Analysis & Statistics Expenditure Tables