



CHAPTER 10 ARLINGTON- FAIRFAX, VA

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CHAPTER 10 WEB SITE

The Chapter 10 Arlington-Fairfax, VA web site has information for members and non-members alike.

There are links to the National Headquarters, Department of Virginia, and other chapters' web sites. The site also contains information on news and events of interest.

Visit the Chapter 10 web site at www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/va/10/

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT PAYMENT

On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This law provides for a one-time economic recovery payment of \$250 to people who get certain types of Federal benefits.

The law provides for a one-time payment for certain individuals who receive Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Railroad Retirement and Veterans benefits. Persons who were eligible for one of these benefits at any time between November 2008 and January 2009, may be eligible for the one-time payment. To receive the payment, the address of record must be in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, or the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will spend more than \$1.4 billion as part of ARRA to improve services to America's Veterans. VA's Internet site provides current information about VA's work to deliver its portion of Recovery Act funds into the economy to benefit veterans. VA plans include improving medical facilities and national cemeteries, providing grants to assist states in acquiring or constructing state nursing homes and extended care facilities, and to modify or alter existing facilities to care for Veterans.

VA will dedicate ARRA funds to hire and train 1,500 temporary claims processors to speed benefits delivery to Veterans and pursue needed infor- **continued on page 3**

OVERVIEW OF VETERANS BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

Following are some of the statutory changes in the Act concerning VA disability benefits. Sections of the Act either amend current parts of Title 38, or will require VA to amend existing regulations. Some of the changes include:

- Adding osteoporosis as a presumptive disability in former prisoners of war, if it is determined the veteran has post-traumatic stress disorder.

- Creation of a new statute, 38 U.S.C. § 1156, Temporary disability ratings, that provides for a temporary disability rating for certain veterans with severe disabilities who submit a claim within one year from discharge or release from active duty.

- Creation of a new statute, 38 U.S.C. § 5121A, Substitution in case of death of claimant. It provides that if a claimant dies while a claim or **continued on page 2**

NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS

New Chapter 10 officers were elected at the April meeting and will be installed at the May meeting. The new officers are: Commander - Steven Deines; Senior Vice Commander - Russ Dority; 1st Junior Vice Commander - Robert Hughes; 2nd Junior Vice Commander - Jim Proconier; Treasurer - John Capriotti; Chaplain - John Murray; Adjutant - John Maki; Department Executive Committee - John Maki; Department Executive Committee Alternate - S. Kenneth Booker. ★

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Home page: <http://www.davmember-portal.org/chapters/va/10/>

Newsletter Editor: David L. Barrette

CHAPTER 10 COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I was elected to serve as Commander of Arlington-Fairfax Chapter 10, April 8, 2009. It's an honor for me to be the Commander of Chapter 10 and I promise to do the best job I can. I will continue to advance all of the good things that have been done from the previous Commanders before me, John Maki, Jim Hopkins, and June Springer. I believe very strongly in the team concept and that together we can continue to positively advance the interests of disabled veterans and their families.

We have a real nice location for our meetings, with good parking, easy access, and comfortable meeting rooms for both the Chapter and Auxiliary Unit. We have also been warmly welcomed by the Mason District Government Center and co-located police station personnel.

The annual Forget-Me-Not fund drive will be conducted from May 29-30 at the Fair Lakes Wal-mart Store, just north of I-66 in the Fair Lakes Shopping Center (13059 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22033). Wal-mart is very enthused about having us, and it is a busy store with lots of customer traffic. To make the fund drive a success we need members of the Chapter, the Auxiliary, and other volunteers to help staff our table. All funds raised by this drive are used exclusively for service programs benefitting disabled veterans. Please consider volunteering for the Forget-Me-Not drive, even if only for a few hours on one of the scheduled days by contacting myself or Adjutant John Maki. Working as a team, we can make the drive a huge success.

Thank you in advance for your help. Please join us May 13 for our monthly meeting and installation of new officers, and at our meeting June 9 to hear our guest speaker.

Steve Deines
Commander

SEVERAL CHAPTER MEMBERS ILL

Several Chapter 10 members are very ill. Please send them your prayers and well wishes. Our ailing members are: June Springer, John Capriotti and Jack Stephenson. John Capriotti is in the Washington Hospital Center, Main Building, NE Wing 22A. June Springer and Jack Stephenson are in the VA Nursing Home in Washington D.C. We hope they get well and continue to serve our Chapter with distinction. ★

continued from page 1 appeal for any benefit under a law administered by the Secretary is pending, a living person who would be eligible to receive accrued benefits due to the claimant under section 5121(a) may, not later than one year after the date of death of the claimant (on or after October 10, 2008), request to be substituted as the claimant for the purposes of processing the claim to completion.

■ Amends 38 U.S.C. § 3512 to change the delimiting date to 20 years for the eligibility period for survivors' and dependents' educational assistance for certain spouses of individuals with service-connected disabilities that become total and permanent in nature no later than three years after discharge.

■ Amends 38 U.S.C. § 3105 by providing for a waiver of the 24-month limitation on program of independent living services and assistance for veterans with a severe disability incurred in the post-9/11 global operations period. ★

COME TO A CHAPTER MEETING

The next Chapter 10 meeting will be at our new meeting place Wednesday, May 13. We meet at the Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA. If you need assistance finding the meeting location, please contact one of the Chapter Officers and they will assist you with directions.

Please bring another DAV or potential member. Bring your wife and friends.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 7** Bingo at Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center Nursing Home.
- May 13** Regular business meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Mason District, Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA.
- May 25** Memorial Day ceremonies at Arlington and Quantico National Cemeteries.
- May 29-31** Annual Chapter Forget-Me-Not fund drive at the Fair Lakes Shopping Center. Contact the Cdr or Adjutant to volunteer for this event.
- June 4** Bingo at Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center Nursing Home.
- June 4-7** Department of Virginia Annual Convention at the Hilton Garden Inn Suffolk, VA.
- June 9** Regular business meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Mason District, Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA. The speaker at the June meeting will be Jim Thur. A short bio about Mr. Thur is the next item on this page. ★

GUEST SPEAKER FOR JUNE MEETING

Jim Thur is Chapter 10's guest speaker at the June 9 Chapter meeting. Mr. Thur has over 35 years experience in the field of human services. He has worked for the Veterans Administration, two Area Agencies on Aging, and a federally funded human service integration project in Pennsylvania. Last November, he retired after serving for 27 years as the Executive Director of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board which serves persons with mental illness, substance use disorders, and intellectual disabilities. He is currently the Regional Director for the Northern Region of the Wounded Warrior Program of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. Jim is also a retired Captain in the US Navy Reserve and a Vietnam veteran. ★

continued from page 1 mation technology initiatives for improved benefits and services. Funds will also be used to oversee and audit programs, grants, and projects funded under ARRA.

As part of the President's Recovery plan, VA will also make one-time payments of \$250 to eligible veterans and survivors to mitigate the effects of the current economy. These payments will be issued as early as June 2009. To be eligible for the \$250 payment, VA beneficiaries must have received compensation, pension, dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), or spina bifida benefits at any time between November 2008 and January 2009. No application is necessary. VA will use its existing payment records to determine eligibility for the \$250 payment.

Beneficiaries will receive their payments the same way they receive their monthly VA benefits (either by direct deposit or mail). VA will inform beneficiaries and the public when releasing the payments. This payment is not countable in determining eligibility for VA pension or Parents' DIC. The law allows one \$250 payment per individual. The payment is tax-free. VA beneficiaries who also receive benefits from the Social Security Administration or Railroad Retirement Board will be paid through those agencies, and will therefore not receive the payment from VA. ★

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE (Washington, D.C.): 202-530-9260
DAV NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE (Roanoke, VA): 1-540-857-2373
VA MEDICAL CENTER: 202-745-8000
VA CENTER FOR POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER: 1-802-296-5132
WOMEN'S COORDINATOR (DC VA MED CTR): Fran Johnson: 202-745-8469
ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC: 703-313-0694
ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME - WASHINGTON, D.C.: 800-422-9988
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY: 703-607-8585
QUANTICO NATIONAL CEMETERY: 703-221-2183

SUICIDE PREVENTION

LIFELINE

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline has been enhanced to provide a new service for veterans in crisis. Veterans will be connected immediately to VA suicide prevention and mental health service professional by calling 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and pressing 1. ★

METRO CARDS

John Capriotti is still collecting cards for hospitalized and adjusting veterans at the DC VAMC.

If you have extra cards you can donate, please send them c/o DAV Chapter 10 or bring them to a meeting. ★

VAN DRIVERS NEEDED

The DAV transportation is in need of volunteer drivers to support the DAV Trans van in Virginia.

The DAV Trans van provides rides for veterans who have no means of getting to and from the Washington DC VA Medical Center for the care they need and earned.

We desperately need drivers to assist Monday through Friday from morning till early afternoon. We may no longer serve in uniform, but we can still serve those who served and also keep serving our country.

For details on how you can join our mission, contact Peter Ahearn, DAV Hospital Service Coordinator at (202) 745-8177. ★

NEWSLETTER

To receive your Chapter 10 newsletter by e-mail as a pdf file, send an e-mail to: webmaster@DAV10.org. This will save us the postage. Past copies, as well as additional information are also available on our website at www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/va/10/ THANKS! ★



The Virginia Department of Veterans Services

1601 Broad Rock Blvd., Richmond, VA 23224
www.VirginiaforVeterans.com



Virginia Wounded Warrior Program

In response to the growing need to improve and expand services to our nation's veterans and service members, the Commonwealth of Virginia established the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) in 2008. It is operated by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services in cooperation with the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services and the Department of Rehabilitative Services.

The VWWP supports the following persons on their road to recovery from the effects of stress-related injuries (such as post traumatic stress disorder) or traumatic brain injuries:

- Veterans of any era who are Virginia residents
- Members of the Virginia National Guard not in active federal service
- Virginia residents in the Armed Forces Reserves not in active federal service
- Family members of veterans and service members.

The main office of VWWP is located at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center in Richmond. Regional offices have been established in the northern, southern and western regions of Virginia. Grants are being made available to regional coalitions of Community Services Boards, brain injury services providers, and other public and private service providers. These grants will ensure that assessments, treatment, and support services are available on a timely basis.

Through these networks of public and private providers, the following services may be available:

- Comprehensive and timely assessment
- Case management
- Outpatient treatment
- Rehabilitative services
- Family support
- Linkage to benefits services, housing, employment and educational programs

The VWWP seeks additional partners who can assist veterans and their families. Persons interested in volunteering their time or services should contact the program office at (804) 371-4675. Monetary donations to this program can be made through the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation with a specific notation that the donation be targeted for the VWWP. All donations will go to the direct support of Virginia veterans and their family members, not to administrative or personnel costs.

Visit us on the web at www.dvs.virginia.gov/woundedwarrior or call 804-371-4675.

Did you know?

- Virginia has **813,977** veterans as of September 30, 2008 and the number is increasing (Source U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs)
- **20%** of service members returning from Iraq or Afghanistan report symptoms of PTSD or depression; only half have sought treatment (Rand Corp. Study, 2008)
- **19%** of returning service members experienced possible traumatic brain injury (Rand Corp. Study, 2008)
- **7%** of returning service members report both probable brain injury and PTSD or depression (Rand Corp. Study, 2008)

Serving those who served.



Currently DAV Chapter 10 has 3,183 members.
Help recruit a fellow disabled veteran to Chapter 10.



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