

1ST DISTRICT SERVICE OFFICER VA & R REPORT FOR AUGUST 2022



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Did you know an update to Army regulations makes active duty service members and veterans who suffered a perforated eardrum during combat service eligible to receive a Purple Heart medal? Previously, a perforated eardrum was not a qualifying injury for the military's oldest award, which is given to those who suffer a combat-related injury in service to their nation.

A half a century after serving in Vietnam, thousands of veterans have a new reason to believe they may be dying from a silent killer, a time-bomb of a disease that shows no signs of surrender. Latest test results from multiple studies show some veterans may have been infected by a slow-killing parasite while fighting in the jungles of Southeast Asia. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is aware of this deadly disease, and may soon make it a presumptive service-connected condition for the veterans who served in Vietnam.

Did you know the Green Alert Act, a new bipartisan Bill, will help find missing veterans? The Bill would help states implement a "Green Alert" system to locate veterans when they go missing so that they can receive appropriate care, similar to the Silver Alert system for older Americans and AMBER Alert system for children.

Did you know some veterans and family members don't know is that all non-reimbursed medical costs are deductible in calculating income? For example, for veterans who served during wartime and later became disabled and require aid either at home or in an institution, the VA can provide a pension supplement to bring net annual income up to \$20,795 for a single veteran or \$24,652 for a veteran and spouse. A veteran with a retirement pension of \$50,000 might appear ineligible, but with the fully deductible cost of a doctor-ordered live-in home caregiver running at more than that, the person would be eligible for the full VA pension.

Did you know mesothelioma is a cancer often linked to military service? Veterans develop this deadly disease after repeated exposure to asbestos – on ships, in aircraft, in barracks, or overseas in third-world countries with buildings containing asbestos. Exposure to asbestos is the only cause of mesothelioma. Nothing else is proven to cause mesothelioma cancer.

Did you know any disability or disease that manifested while you were on active duty is automatically service-connected? You don't need to convince the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that it was caused by your service.

Did you know a recent Military Medicine study found that U.S. veterans are at higher risk for several physical and mental health issues, including erectile dysfunction? According to researchers, 14% of veterans reported symptoms of erectile dysfunction. The national average is 10%, according to the Boston University School of Medicine Center for Sexual Medicine. Five comorbid physical conditions were most common among those who have erectile dysfunction: high cholesterol, high blood pressure, obesity, arthritis, and sleep disorder. As for mental health conditions, depression, probable PTSD, and generalized anxiety disorder were most common among sufferers of erectile dysfunction.

If you served during the Vietnam War, including veterans who served on Blue Water Navy vessels or Coast Guard ships, you may be at risk of certain health conditions. Understanding these needs will allow you to receive better care. Learn about these conditions and what to do next to take care of your health. Diseases related to Agent Orange: A toxic chemical used to clear trees and plants that can cause long-term health effects; Hepatitis C: A disease that can harm your liver. Hearing problems caused by noise: Harmful sounds from guns, explosives, rockets, heavy weapons, jets and aircraft, and machinery that can cause or add to hearing loss and ringing in the ears. Illnesses or injuries caused by job-related hazards: Chemicals, paints, radiation, and other hazards you may have come across.



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