

OUR VETERANS

Veteran's News and Notes

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION YOU MAY CONTACT
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BY FRED LANGSTON,
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CAMPO VFW POST 2080

Those of you that are Vietnam Vets should take notice that the VA Compensation & Pension Service has initiated a program to collect data on Vietnam naval operations for the purpose of providing information to assist in development of disability claims based on

herbicide exposure from Navy veterans. To date, they have verified that a number of offshore "blue water" vessels conducted operations on the inland "brown water" rivers and deltas of Vietnam. They have also identified certain vessel types that operated primarily on the inland waterways. If a veteran's service aboard one of these ships can be confirmed through military records during the time frames specified then exposure to herbicide agents can be presumed without further development. The ships and dates of waterway service are all vessels.

If you served on any of the vessels during the required times, you will be granted, without further development and delay, a presumptive exposure to

herbicides for the purpose of health care and monetary compensation. For a detailed list of vessels contact <fclangston@yahoo.com> or call 619-766-9109 and leave a message. Note: The list is not complete. If you served on a ship that entered the inland waterways of Vietnam, please contact <navy@bluewaternavy.org> with as much detail as possible so they can provide this information to the DVA for processing and inclusion in their data base. (Source: USDA Sentinel Newsletter, Volume 27, Issue 1, Spring 2010).

VA Announces Plan To Create "Fast Track" For New Agent Orange Claims

Last year the Department of Veterans Affairs accepted 3 additional diseases as "presumptive" service

connected when there was exposure to Agent Orange. They are Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart disease and B-cell leukemia. This means that if a veteran who served in Vietnam has one of these diseases there will be a presumption of service connection and the veteran does not need to prove additional connection between the medical condition and military service. It is expected that over 200,000 veterans will file new claims under this new ruling. This spring the VA's proposed regulations on how these claims will be handled as well as a private sector contract to proposed methods that would speed up the adjudication process. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Erik K. Shinseki said: "This will be a new way of doing business and a major step forward in how

we process the presumptive claims we expect to receive over the next two years. With the latest, fastest, and most reliable technology VA hopes to migrate the manual processing of these claims to an automated process that meets the needs of today's Veterans in a more timely manner." For more info: www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange

Senate Passes Stop Gap Bill To Stop 21% Medicare Doctor Payment Cut

The Senate passed an "extender" bill and sent it back to the House of Representatives for their consideration. The bill is a collection of limited extension of programs and tax cuts. The Senate version of the HR4213 blocks the cut in physicians

Medicare reimbursement rates through September 2010 (the beginning of the new fiscal year). It has financial aid for states to pay for Medicaid costs and 1 year extensions of tax breaks that lapsed last year, including those for research and development (R&D). It is not clear what the House will do with this bill.

Although it may be temporary (and the emphasis is on temporary) this is good news for all senior citizens and military retirees. A key consideration at this time is whether the bill can be signed into law before the current Medicare rate freeze ends on March 31st. Lawmakers missed the last deadline by a few days, forcing them to apply the moratorium retroactively.

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Call the post at (619) 478-9212 for more detailed information.

VFW EASTER EGG HUNT

The Campo VFW is holding their annual Bicycle Rodeo and Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 27th at the Post, 301 Sheridan Rd. The fun starts at NOON. For more information call 478-9212.

Fred Langston Source of Veteran's Information

BY TONY NEFF

Fred Langston writes a column for the Messenger among other publications, and is a tremendous source of valuable information about our Government. Much of this information is too lengthy to be published in the Messenger. However, this information is vital to understanding

the complexities our Government deals with daily. Health care reform, Veterans Bills and benefits working their way through Congress, Military issues within the ranks and deployment outcomes are also discussed. Mr. Langston has far more to say than the Messenger can reach, and I suggest you email him to put you on

his update list of important Government actions undertaken in the Congress and Senate. Mr. Langston is a retired USAF Master Sgt. dedicated to Veterans causes and oversight of those who make the laws. You can email Mr. Langston at: fclangston@yahoo.com

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By Mary "Shannon" Reed

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Volunteers are needed for the San Diego visit of the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall

BY TONY NEFF

A traveling, three quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., is coming to San Diego April 9th through the 11th, 2010. The Veterans Museum and

Memorial Center located at 2115 Park Boulevard in Balboa Park is preparing for the arrival! A tribute to all U.S. Veterans and dedicated to Vietnam Veterans, the Wall is a powerful and emotional experience. You can show your

support and patriotism by volunteering for this three day event, please call 619 239-2300 and visit www.dignitymemorial/vietnamwall.com and www.veteranmuseum.org to understand how you can help.

Mary Rose - Justice for all

BY TONY NEFF

I had lunch with local activist Mary Rose and found her interests to be varied. We spoke of our Government, border issues, the school system, child abuse, employment, and oil politics in Asia and Europe to name a few subjects.

I have been receiving emails and updates about various subjects that touch all of our lives, and since the Messenger only deals with local issues many of the stories and information might be helpful to you.

To gain an insight about these worldly issues I suggest

you email to the following addresses; maryrose333@att.net and FixGov@yahoo.com also discussion@globaljusticemovement.net these sources offer viewpoints from many perspectives.