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June 28, 1983

Once again I am very pleased to send warm greetings to the members and guests of the American Veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam as you assemble for your 39th Annual Convention.

I know that uppermost in your minds is the increasing need of all Americans to be constantly alert to the dangers facing this land of ours -- a land you have defended so steadfastly in the past. The United States has no more staunch champions than the members of the great AMVETS organization, and I am indeed proud to applaud your patriotism and your outstanding citizenship.

You have my best wishes as you continue in the cause for freedom and justice for all Americans.

RONALD REAGAN

SENT TO:

Mr. Robert L. Ashworth
National Programs Director
AMVETS
4647 Forbes Boulevard
Lanham, Maryland 20706

Enclosure: 8x10 glossy photo

RR:Livingston: - 2livin
cc: K.Osborne/D.Livingston/M.Blackwell/CF
DUE: ASAP (printing)
Draft information provided by VA



AMVETS

American Veterans of World War II Korea-Vietnam
National Headquarters
4647 Forbes Boulevard Lanham, Maryland 20706 (301) 459-9600



May 18, 1983

Mrs. Maiselle Shortley
Office of Public Liaison
Old Executive Office Building
Room 191
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Maiselle:

This is to request a message and photograph from President Ronald Reagan for use in AMVETS 39th National Convention Journal.

In the past we have forwarded to you a draft of suggested remarks. I thought that this year I would forward a copy of the page devoted to the President's message in our last journal. This copy is enclosed.

I have a deadline of July 1, 1983. As always, we will appreciate any assistance you can provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Bob Ashworth".

Robert L. Ashworth
National Programs Director

*Sent to
message office
5/30*

RLA:mlo



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 30, 1982

It is a great pleasure for me to send greetings to members and guests of the American Veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam as you meet in your 38th Annual Convention.

I welcome this opportunity to thank you and the entire AMVETS organization for your service to our country and for your efforts to help build and preserve this nation.

Through your distinguished organization, you have worked for a strong and just America, good communities, opportunity for all people, and fair, workable, and meaningful programs of assistance for veterans, their dependents, and survivors.

In the years ahead, I know you will continue to support the needs of veterans through claims and benefits assistance and the volunteer activities you sponsor. Your willingness to work actively in behalf of American ideals and principles is an inspiring example of involved and productive citizenship.

You have my best wishes for a most enjoyable and productive convention.

Ronald Reagan



AMVETS

American Veterans of World War II Korea-Vietnam
National Headquarters
4647 Forbes Boulevard, Lanham, Maryland 20706 (301) 459-9600



April 12, 1983

Mrs. Maiselle Shortley
Office of Public Liaison
Old Executive Office Building
Room 191
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Maiselle:

Thanks for your quick action on the AMVETS request of last week. President Reagan's letter proved to be one of the highlights of our annual Silver Helmet Banquet.

I just want you to know that we do appreciate your cooperation with us, and if you should need any assistance, please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Ashworth" with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Robert L. Ashworth
National Programs Director

RLA:mlo

AMVETS

April 6, 1983

Dear Howard:

I am delighted to send my greetings and congratulations as AMVETS honors you with the Silver Helmet Congressional Award.

This event provides a fine opportunity to further recognize and show appreciation for your outstanding leadership in dealing with affairs concerning veterans and our nation's security. Throughout your career you have repeatedly demonstrated your deep concern for the welfare of those who have served in our country's armed forces. You have played an instrumental role in strengthening our commitment to those who so courageously fought in World War II.

Nancy joins me in sending our very best wishes and again, congratulations on this well-deserved tribute.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

SENT TO: MAISELLE SHORTLEY FOR DISPATCH

The Honorable Howard H. Baker, Jr.
c/o National Commander Robert Martin
The Baltimore Hilton Hotel
101 West Fayette Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
RR:HODGE:vs
cc: K.Osborne/M.Shortley/P.Turner/D.Livingston/CF
EVENT: APRIL 9



AMVETS

AMERICAN VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II — KOREA — VIET NAM

4647 Forbes Boulevard, Lanham, Maryland 20706

Morgan S. Ruph

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 30, 1983

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Office of Public Liaison
Old Executive Office Building
Room 191
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Morton:

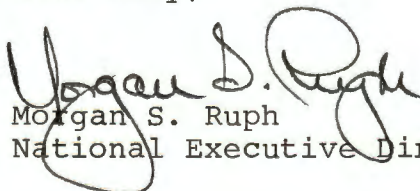
This will provide the support of the 200,000 members of the American Veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam (AMVETS) for a National Association of Atomic Veterans request that the President of the United States sign a proclamation designating July 16, 1983 as National Atomic Veterans Day.

It is our understanding that the National Association of Atomic Veterans has requested that the President sign the proclamation in a special White House ceremony on Monday, July 16, to be attended by veterans organizations and members of Congress who sponsored a recently passed Joint Resolution on National Atomic Veterans Day. AMVETS also supports this request.

AMVETS has taken the legislative position that the concerns of veterans who were exposed to ionizing radiation in the course of military service have for too long been ignored by the country they served. We feel that the President proclaiming National Atomic Veterans Day in a special White House ceremony will provide at minimum a first step towards the national recognition of their unique problems.

I will thank you in advance for your consideration of this AMVETS request.

Sincerely,


Morgan S. Ruph
National Executive Director

MSR:mlo

*get him
on phone
for me.
This is Leg. Affairs
call.
MR*



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATOMIC VETERANS

WASHINGTON OFFICE • SUITE 606, 236 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.E., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002 • (202) 543-7711

June 28, 1983

President Ronald Reagan
c/o Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Rm. 191
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: National Atomic Veterans Day
July 16, 1983

Dear President Reagan:

Congress, through passage of S.J.Res.68 in the Senate and H.J.Res.210 in the House, has recognized the patriotic service rendered to their country by 250,000 "Atomic Veterans." These veterans answered the call of their Country during a critical period in American history by serving in U.S. atmospheric nuclear weapons tests or in the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki immediately following WW II.

With SJR 68/HJR 210, Congress has authorized the setting aside of July 16, 1983 as "National Atomic Veterans Day." It is our sincere hope that you will endorse this National day of commemoration. Moreover, we respectfully request an official signing ceremony in the White House to which representatives of the National Association of Atomic Veterans and the veterans service organizations who have supported passage of this resolution would be invited.

Assuming a signing ceremony is possible, we would hope that it could be arranged, at your convenience, during the week of July 11th, and preferably Wednesday, Thursday or Friday.

Many distinguished officials, groups and individuals have joined in making this National day of recognition for Atomic Veterans possible. Consequently, we would ask that they be among those invited to attend this signing ceremony. They include:

Mr. Harry Walters, Administrator, Veterans Administration
Senator Arlen Specter
Senator Roger Jepsen
Congressman Bob Edgar

Representing the National Association of Atomic Veterans:

Mr. John Smitherman, NAAV President

Mrs. Wanda Kelly, NAAV Co-founder and Executive Director

Mr. O.T. Weeks, NAAV Legislative Director

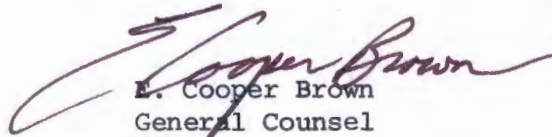
Mr. E. Cooper Brown, NAAV General Counsel

Mr. Glenn Alcalay, NAAV Medical/Scientific Coordinator

Last, but certainly not least, for without their united support, passage of this resolution would not have been possible, we ask that representatives of the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and AMVETS also be invited to join in this ceremony.

On behalf of all Atomic Veterans, we thank you for your consideration. We look forward, with anticipation, to personally meeting with you to express our deep felt gratitude for the setting aside of July 16th of this year as "National Atomic Veterans Day."

Sincerely,



E. Cooper Brown
General Counsel

enc.

cc. American Legion
DAV
VFW
AmVets
Mr. Walters, VA

To Maisselle
Date 7/1/83 Time 3:32

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M. Cooper Brown
of Atomic Veterans
Phone 543-7711
Area Code Number Extension

TELEPHONED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE CALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CALLED TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	WILL CALL AGAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>
WANTS TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	URGENT	<input type="checkbox"/>

RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message _____

Operator Jay



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 1, 1983

Hon. Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On June 30, 1983, the Congress completed action on a resolution to proclaim July 16, 1983, "Atomic Veterans Day".

It is our intent to honor the some 250,000 veterans who served their country by participating in atmospheric nuclear weapons tests or the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki immediately following the Second World War.

We respectfully request that you join us in endorsing the resolution proclaiming this national day of recognition for a group of patriotic Americans. We would hope that an official signing ceremony for this proclamation could be arranged with Members of Congress, as well as representatives of the National Association of Atomic Veterans, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the AMVETS.

Should you look with favor on this, and if your schedule permits we would hope that such a signing ceremony could be arranged during the period from July 13 through July 15.

On behalf of Members of Congress who have supported this resolution, we thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Allen Specter *Roger W. Jepsen*
Chuck Grassley *Larry Pressler*
Gene Heinz *Jim Boser*
David Byrd

Letter to President Reagan

John Tower

Rudolph W. Rife

Orin Hatch

Atomic Veterans Day

Jack Larson

Paul H. Hensley

Pete Wilson

Preservation Copy



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF ATOMIC VETERANS**



1109 Franklin Street • Burlington, Iowa 52601 • (319) 753-6112
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE • Suite 606 • Washington, D.C. 20002 • (202) 543-7711

98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 210

Authorizing and requesting the President to designate July 16, 1983, as
"National Atomic Veterans' Day".

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 1983

Mr. EDGAR (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. LEACH of Iowa, Mr. COELHO, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WHITEHURST, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. SUNIA, Mr. DWYER of New Jersey, Mr. ADDABBO, Mr. AP-
PLEGATE, Mr. FRANK, Mr. STARK, Mr. MINETA, Mr. FAUNTROY, Mr.
BOLAND, Mr. EVANS of Illinois, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. BONIOR of Michigan,
Mr. COURTER, Mr. DOWDY of Mississippi, Mr. PETRI, Mr. DICKINSON, Mr.
MARKEY, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. KEAMER, Mr. ACKERMAN,
Mr. GORE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RICHARDSON, Mr. FROST, Mr. BRYANT, Mr.
WON PAT, Mr. PRITCHARD, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. ROWLAND, Mr. STAGGERS,
Mr. GEKAS, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. FEIGHAN, Mr. PENNY, Mr. OWENS, Mr.
FAZIO, Mr. RATCHFORD, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. SNYDER, Mr.
EDWARDS of California, Ms. OAKAR, and Mr. LEVINE of California) intro-
duced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on
Post Office and Civil Service

JOINT RESOLUTION

Authorizing and requesting the President to designate July 16,
1983, as "National Atomic Veterans' Day".

Whereas approximately two hundred and fifty thousand veterans
of the United States Armed Forces, while in active military
service between 1945 and 1962, witnessed and participated
in at least two hundred and thirty-five atmospheric nuclear
weapons tests conducted in the Pacific and the American
Southwest or served as part of the United States occupation

forces in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, following World War II;

Whereas these "Atomic Veterans" patriotically served their country and the national defense during this critical period in history;

Whereas the health of many of these veterans and their natural children may have been adversely affected by exposure to radiation from nuclear weapons detonation; and

Whereas July 16, 1983, is the thirty-eighth anniversary of "Trinity", the first detonation of an atomic weapon which took place at Alamogordo Air Force Base in New Mexico on July 16, 1945: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the President is authorized and requested to issue a
4 proclamation (1) designating July 16, 1983, as "National
5 Atomic Veterans' Day" in recognition of the patriotism and
6 dedication to their country exhibited by these veterans and in
7 recognition of the importance of resolving issues related to
8 exposure of Atomic Veterans to ionizing radiation, and (2)
9 calling upon all Government agencies at the Federal, State,
10 and local level and the people of the United States to observe
11 this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activ-
12 ities.

○

all to join me as a cosponsor of the measure.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the joint resolution designating "National Respiratory Therapy Week" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the joint resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S.J. Res. 67

Whereas respiratory therapy is recognized as a highly technological and progressive segment of the health care delivery system in the United States;

Whereas there are over eighty thousand respiratory therapy practitioners in the Nation who are making an important contribution to the delivery of quality health care;

Whereas respiratory therapy is an integral part of critical care and general medicine;

Whereas respiratory therapists are involved with therapeutic and life-sustaining cardiopulmonary care to patients suffering from lung and associated heart disorders; and

Whereas in recent years the field of respiratory therapy has expanded to include postoperative pulmonary care, education, research, pulmonary testing, pulmonary rehabilitation, and neonatal-pediatric specialties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the week of September 25, 1983, through October 1, 1983, is designated as "National Respiratory Therapy Week" and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. CRANSTON, Mr. JEPSEN, Mr. DECONCINI, Mr. PELL, Mr. SASSER, Mr. CHILES, Mr. BOSCHWITZ, Mr. MATSUNAGA, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. TSONGAS, Mr. RANDOLPH, Mr. RIEGLE, Mr. MELCHER, Mr. HEFLIN, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. BUMFERS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. HEINZ, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. PRYOR):

S.J. Res. 68. Joint resolution to authorize and request the President to designate July 16, 1983, as "National Atomic Veterans' Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

NATIONAL ATOMIC VETERANS' DAY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce with Senator CRANSTON, Senator JEPSEN, Senator DECONCINI, and others a joint resolution to designate July 16, 1983, as "National Atomic Veterans' Day." This joint resolution enjoys the bipartisan cosponsorship of 22 of my distinguished Senate colleagues.

Beginning in 1945, and continuing until 1963, the United States detonated some 235 nuclear weapons in atmospheric tests conducted in the Pacific and the American Southwest. The Department of Defense has estimated that approximately 250,000 American servicemen and women witnessed and participated in these tests, or served in

the occupation forces in Hiroshima and Nagasaki immediately following World War II.

Nuclear weapons testing was heaviest during the mid-1950's. At many tests, 3,000 to 4,000 troops were positioned near detonation sites. At other tests, units were marched or helicoptered to ground zero soon after the explosion and run through simulated combat maneuvers to test their psychological and military response to the blast. In some instances, volunteer service personnel were placed in open trenches as close as 2,000 yards from ground zero and, at one test, six volunteers stood at ground zero under an airburst some 20,000 feet above them.

There is no question that many patriotic individuals were exposed to radiation resulting from nuclear weapon detonations. Having served their country, these veterans returned to civilian life not realizing the potential gravity of the consequences of exposure. Now, 20 and 30 years later, we are beginning to see unusually high incidences of cancer and other radiation-related degenerative diseases among these veterans. A study of approximately 3,000 veterans of one 1957 test in Nevada, "Shot Smoky," conducted by the Center for Disease Control, identified 11 cases of leukemia. This finding was about three times the expected normal rate. Additionally, a very rare form of bone marrow disease, polycythemia vera (PV), was discovered at an alarmingly high incidence rate of 10 times the expected normal rate among the "Smoky" participants.

Over the past 2 years, more attention and concern for the plight of these men has surfaced. One very positive result has been the announcement by both the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees that hearings for these atomic veterans and their offspring will be held on April 6 in the Senate and May 24 in the House of Representatives. Recognizing the patriotism and dedication demonstrated by the atomic veterans, it is imperative that the U.S. Government make every effort to resolve the issues arising from the problems caused by the exposure of the atomic veterans to ionizing radiation.

The dilemma faced by the atomic veteran arises from the nature of radiation injury. The illnesses induced by radiation often take years, even decades, to become apparent. When they do arise they are often indistinguishable from the same diseases induced by other causes. Moreover, there is no scientific consensus as to the relationship between the level of radiation exposure and subsequent health problems.

Many veterans of nuclear weapons testing have asserted a causal connection between their cancer or other illness and inservice exposure to radiation. Many of the atomic veterans have sought medical care and compensation from the Veterans' Administration, but have found it difficult to

demonstrate a causal relationship between radiation exposure and injury. Aside from the problems arising from the nature of radiation illness, Government action has resulted in the absence of some needed evidence.

The Government did not take precise measurements of the radiation doses received by test participants. Many were not given film badges for measuring radiation exposures. For those few who were issued badges, the badges only recorded gamma-ray exposure. No measurements were taken of exposure to radiation from neutrons, alpha, and beta rays.

Until a limited study of leukemia among one test group, begun by the Center for Disease Control in 1977, the Government made no effort to conduct medical follow-up to test participants and their offspring.

The Government did not maintain systematic records of those exposed. Of the personnel records that were maintained, many were destroyed as a result of a 1977 fire in a military warehouse in St. Louis.

In addition, the Feres doctrine dictates that the military is exempt from liability to servicemen for injuries that occur in the course of their service. Also, the Veterans' Administration is virtually unique among Federal agencies in that its decisions are not subject to judicial review.

For the reasons I have just cited, atomic veterans have encountered difficulty in resolving issues related to their exposure to ionizing radiation. Were we merely debating the analytical question of possible adverse health effects associated with ionizing radiation in a purely academic forum, we could perhaps afford to wait. But this problem is not theoretical. Atomic veterans are today the living embodiment of a technology which may be sapping them of their vitality and longevity, and further, a technology which may have tampered with the gene pool of future generations.

By issuing a proclamation for "National Atomic Veterans Day," we will not be able to reverse the possible ill-effects associated with exposure to ionizing radiation during atmospheric nuclear testing. Instead, this proclamation will enable more Americans to hear the story of these patriotic men and women who fought the Cold War for the security of the country they loved so dearly. A proclamation for "National Atomic Veterans Day" will remind our atomic veterans that our Nation has not forgotten their contribution toward the security and freedom we too easily take for granted. Many still carry a bitter reminder of their service.

Mr. President, July 16, 1983, marks the 38th anniversary of "Trinity," the first detonation of an atomic weapon. My colleagues and I therefore believe that it is appropriate to have that day declared "National Atomic Veterans Day" in recognition of the importance

of resolving issues related to the exposure of these veterans to ionizing radiation. I urge my fellow Senators to join us in honoring these courageous men and women.

IN SUPPORT OF ATOMIC VETERANS DAY

● Mr. JEPSEN. Mr. President, July 16 will mark the 38th anniversary of the first atomic bomb in 1945. That act has irrevocably changed the character of war, as well as the course of international relations. The terrible effects of nuclear weapons are a shadow that now hangs over us all.

In 1945, the effects of nuclear explosions were much less clearly understood than is the case now. As a result many of our service people on occupation duty in Hiroshima and Nagasaki may have been exposed to higher levels of background radiation than would be considered safe today. Moreover, from 1945 through 1963, hundreds of atmospheric tests were conducted during which members of our Armed Forces were located in very close proximity to the explosions.

Mr. President, we should reflect for a moment on the experiences that these service people had to endure in performing their duties. Nothing could prepare one for witnessing an atomic explosion at close range. We can only imagine the fear and anxiety that these veterans must have felt in confronting this unknown.

The contribution of this patriotic group of veterans has gone unrecognized for much too long. If only by virtue of the unique sacrifices they made in the service of their country, they should have been honored by a special day long ago. But our failure to address the more serious question of the effects of exposure to ionizing radiation represents an even greater breach of faith. There is a very real possibility that these veterans and their children may have been adversely affected by exposure to radiation in the course of their duties in the Armed Forces.

The information that is available is incomplete. We cannot prejudice the issue. But the fact is that only recently have the Veterans' Administration and the Defense Nuclear Agency begun to study the issue in a systematic manner. A great deal of controversy remains over the accuracy of the Department of Defense records and the methodology to be used to judge compensation claims under current Veterans' Administration rules.

Mr. President, this is an aging group of veterans. In fact there are cases of veterans suffering from radiation exposure 20 or 30 years in the past, the side effects are affecting their lives now. We cannot delay the resolution of this issue any longer.

It is my understanding that the Veterans' Affairs Committee will be holding hearings soon on this pressing issue. Further efforts are needed to develop an equitable methodology for paying affected veterans some small

compensation for their enormous sacrifice for their country.

Finally, we must make a greater effort to locate veterans who may have participated in the occupation of Nagasaki and Hiroshima and the atmospheric tests after the war. The National Association of Atomic Veterans, headquartered in Burlington, Iowa, has devoted a great deal of effort to search for these participants. They should be assisted by Federal agencies wherever possible.

As chairman of the Senate Armed Services Manpower and Personnel Subcommittee, I am concerned with adequate manning of our All-Volunteer Force. Our success in recruiting and retaining the numbers and quality of people we need is directly related to how well we keep our commitments to those who have served before them.

Although resolution of the issue of radiation exposure will not be easy, we must begin the effort with all deliberate speed. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor and support the resolution offered by my distinguished colleague from Pennsylvania. ●

By Mr. PRESSLER:

S.J. Res. 69. A joint resolution to provide for the establishment of a cooperative effort between the U.S. Government and the U.S. Soccer Federation in bringing the World Cup to the United States in 1986; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

WORLD CUP SOCCER IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I am today introducing a joint resolution expressing congressional support for the efforts of the U.S. Soccer Federation to host the 1980 Soccer World Cup. In addition, it calls on the President to designate the Secretary of Commerce as the administration's official representative to assist the USSF in its bid to bring one of the world's greatest sporting events to America.

As a result of the unexpected withdrawal in October 1982, of Colombia, the previously designated host country, the Federation Internationale de Football Associations (FIFA) has reopened the bidding to host the 1986 World Cup games. Four national soccer federations responded immediately—Brazil, Mexico, Canada, and the United States. By all press accounts, it appeared that Brazil was the front runner—until early March of this year when it withdrew its bid.

That brings us to today, Mr. President, with the United States one of the three remaining applicants. The U.S. Soccer Federation's proposal was filed with FIFA on March 11. It is an excellent presentation, complete with proposed sites. Its most important point, and one that needs to be emphasized, is that given the unusually short time for preparations, the United States is the only country that can stage the 1986 Soccer World Cup without major capital expenditures

and building programs. Communications, transportation, hotels, and stadia are already in place.

Mr. President, the World Cup games are not just important sporting events—they are a major tourist attraction for the host country. Bringing the games to the United States will not only serve as a tremendous impetus to the continued growth of soccer here, but it will also bring millions of dollars in tourist trade. As chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Business, Trade and Tourism, I am well aware of how important this event is in creating jobs and stimulating our economy. Because of the many foreign tourists this event will attract, it will be helpful in narrowing our trade deficit and will generate millions of tax dollars from foreign sources.

The 1982 games in Spain, for example, generated \$20 million in gate receipts, \$20 million in TV receipts, and \$18 million in ancillary rights. The USSF's conservative estimate of gate receipts for 1986 is \$33 million, with a high figure of \$45 million.

Both the Mexican and Canadian Governments are actively supporting their soccer federations' bids. Mexican officials continue to proclaim that their financial distress will not adversely affect their ability to host World Cup. The Canadian Federal Government, meanwhile, recently announced its official support for efforts to bring the Cup to Canada—and authorized a \$50 million budget to back it up.

The USSF is not seeking Federal funds to sustain its efforts. It does, however, need the active cooperation and support of the government—to meet FIFA requirements regarding visas, customs regulations, and international exchange rates, to mention a few of the items that require a Federal role. The President has already expressed his support for this event. I commend him for his foresight in this matter. A letter from President Reagan to Mr. Gene Edwards, president of the U.S. Soccer Federation, is being appended to the USSF's formal application.

Mr. President, FIFA officials are planning a trip to the United States sometime in mid-April. They will be visiting a number of the proposed sites and meeting with those officials and businessmen who are spearheading the U.S. bid. All of this is preparatory to a final FIFA decision on May 20. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to join me now in a strong expression of congressional support to bring the World Cup games here—and to express our willingness to assist the USSF in its efforts. In fact, Mr. President, I am hopeful that, together with the Secretary of Commerce, we can meet with FIFA officials while they are here in Washington to tell them firsthand of our commitment as embodied in this resolution.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATOMIC VETERANS

1109 FRANKLIN STREET • BURLINGTON, IOWA 52601 • TEL: 319-753-6112

Biography

WANDA S. KELLY

Co-Founder, National Association of Atomic Veterans

In February 1979, Wanda Kelly and her husband, Orville (now deceased), founded National Association of Atomic Veterans (NAAV) to help Atomic Veterans and their families gain medical treatment and service connected Veterans Administration benefits for their radiation-caused illnesses.

Begun with 150 Atomic Veterans and their families, NAAV has grown to a national organization with over 10,000 persons on their mailing list. NAAV is a nonprofit organization whose mandate is:

- * to identify up to 250,000 military men exposed to ionizing radiation;
- * to assist Atomic Veterans in gaining medical coverage from the Veterans Administration and to file for service connected disability;
- * to gain Congressional recognition of Atomic Veterans as radiation victims, and to amend laws to aid them in gaining medical treatment and service connected benefits.

-- MORE --

This organization grew out of the personal frustration and tragedy of Orville Kelly. While in the U.S. Army (1948-60), he participated in the Atmospheric Nuclear Weapons Program and witnessed 22 nuclear weapons detonations while Commander of Japtan Island in the Pacific in 1957-58. In 1973, Orville Kelly was diagnosed as having a form of terminal cancer, lymphocytic lymphoma, as a result of extensive exposure to ionizing radiation. For five years, Orville Kelly filed claims with the Veterans Administration for medical treatment and disability compensation. Out of frustration of fighting the V.A. and constantly being denied relief, and also to help other Atomic Veterans and their families, he and his wife Wanda formed the National Association of Atomic Veterans. Shortly thereafter, Orville Kelly won his V.A. claim and died seven months later at the age of 49.

Wanda Kelly, aged 41, is the widow of Orville Kelly and mother of their four children, ranging in age from 23 to 13. Since Orville's death in 1979, she has assumed Executive Directorship of NAAV.

Further, in 1974 after learning of his diagnosis, Orville and Wanda Kelly founded "Make Today Count", an organization offering education and support to persons with life threatening illnesses, which now has 300 chapters throughout the world.

She has made several hundred radio, television and personal appearances all across the country on behalf of NAAV and Make Today Count.

January 1982



The official voice of the Disabled American Veterans and DAV Auxiliary



... the cloud still hangs
over the lives of veterans
exposed to atomic radiation ...

see pages 12 & 13



in this issue...



The official voice of the Disabled American Veterans and DAV Auxiliary



□ Sherman E. Roodzant, National Commander □ Denvel D. Adams, National Adjutant, Publisher □ Richard M. Wilson, Assistant National Adjutant, Executive Editor □ Frank R. Norberg, Managing Editor □ Tom Keller, National News Editor □ Mark Brackney, Associate News Editor

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Hats Off to Newsweek, CBS

Some of the finest, most sensitive reporting on the veterans of the Vietnam War to date was seen by millions of Americans last month with publication of *Newsweek* magazine's Dec. 14 cover story, "What Vietnam Did to Us," and the Dec. 12 broadcast of the *CBS Reports* special, "Bittersweet Memories: A Vietnam Reunion."

Both reports involved "Charlie Company," a combat unit that saw action in the late 1960s. CBS and *Newsweek* reporters tracked down approximately 50 of the unit's veterans during the past six months, interviewed them, retraced their wartime experiences, and documented what has happened to them since the war.

The resulting coverage, said DAV Assistant National Adjutant Richard M. Wilson in a letter to *Newsweek*, "represents a long-overdue assessment of the horrible trauma inflicted on young men by the enemy in Vietnam and by their fellow Americans back home."

Wilson, who directs the DAV's public relations efforts, said the coverage would "contribute substantially" to the process of gaining Vietnam veterans the same respect and honor Americans have accorded veterans of the nation's other wars.

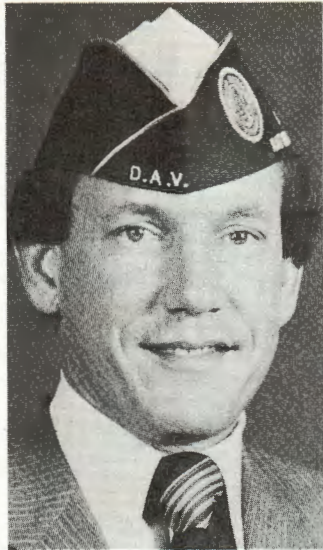
DAV Assistant National Adjutant Robert H. Lenham, who directs the DAV Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program, said it was refreshing to see positive coverage of the lives of veterans. "CBS and *Newsweek* showed the veterans as they really are—most of them people with jobs, families, and responsibilities in their communities.

"Too often," said the combat-disabled Vietnam veteran, "other media coverage has concentrated only on the serious problems of those veterans who have had a really tough time

(Continued on page 7)

About our cover: The 1955 explosion pictured on our cover is one of 183 atmospheric tests of atomic weapons conducted by the United States between 1945 and 1962. An estimated quarter million veterans participated in these tests, and many today claim the radiation to which they were exposed is causing severe disabilities. See story on pages 12, 13 and 14. (Defense Nuclear Agency photo.)

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Protect yourself

Sherman E. Roodzant, National Commander

You've read about it in *DAV Magazine* every month for the past several years. Your benefits—the rights and services you earned for yourself and your family—face a stiff, persistent attack!

The DAV is not kidding when it tells you that some in government view your service-connected disability compensation check as a welfare voucher. It's true . . . unfortunate, but true.

Last year, for example, the chairman of the Budget Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives made a proposal to cut thousands of service-connected disabled veterans off the compensation rolls on the basis of their family incomes.

Fast action by the DAV, working with friends of veterans in Congress, made mincemeat of this proposal. But, the fact that such a recommendation could even come up for consideration on Capitol Hill shows the extent of the peril threatening your benefits.

It also shows that many in our nation's government just don't understand that you *earned* your compensation check, your right to treatment and hospital care at VA medical facilities, your employment entitlements, including veterans' preference, and more.

It's time to act . . . now . . . to protect your rights and benefits by signing on as a life member of the Disabled American Veterans. There's no better way to insure that you'll be able to enjoy those benefits and services as long as you and your family need them.

If you aren't already a DAV life member, I urge you to fill out the form below, mailing it with your check or money order today. A down payment of \$25 will get your life membership started. You'll have until June 30, 1984, to pay the balance.

By signing on as a life member, you'll strengthen the DAV in its battle to save the veterans' benefits for which you paid with your blood, your health, or your mental well-being.

Only the DAV is set up and Congressionally chartered to work exclusively for all disabled veterans.

Some veterans' groups concentrate on a narrow range of benefits that are important to veterans of a particular war or who suffer certain disabilities. Other groups attempt to cover the entire gamut of veterans' interests.

While these other groups serve an important function in veterans' affairs, none of

them is set up to zero in strictly on the full range of benefits for disabled veterans and their families. *Only the DAV serves you and your family in this way.*

And no other organization fields a finer force of veterans' benefits experts than the DAV's national service officers (NSOs). DAV NSOs specialize in the veterans' benefits and programs that affect you as a disabled veteran and your family. Their services are free, and they leave no stone unturned

(Continued on page 3)



Yes . . . I Accept the Invitation to Become A Life Member!

- \$125 (age 40 and under)
- \$100 (between ages 41 and 60)
- \$ 75 (between 61 and 70)
- \$ 50 (age 71 and over)
- ENCLOSED PAYMENT IN FULL

IMPORTANT: To qualify for the luggage tag, payment must be completed by June 30, 1982.

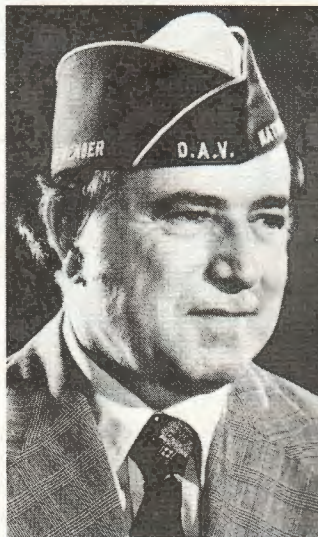
ENCLOSED PARTIAL PAYMENT (\$25 MINIMUM)

Please Send Check or Money Order Only!

Name _____ Birth Date _____ DAV Annual Member Code Number _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

DAV's 1982 goals

Norman B. Hartnett, National Director of Services
807 Maine Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024
Phone 202-554-3501



There is no doubt that 1982 will be one of the toughest years we've ever faced in our efforts to protect and improve programs designed to benefit you, as a disabled veteran, and your family.

Shortly after the House and Senate convene for the second session of the 97th Congress this month, President Reagan will submit his budget requests for fiscal year 1983, which begins Oct. 1. We don't yet know what that budget will hold for veterans' programs, but everything we've heard indicates that cuts—quite possibly, heavy cuts—will be proposed.

Public statements by a number of important government leaders during recent months seem to be preparing us for a blow.

Speaking of FY 1983 budget reductions in a recent interview in *U.S. Medicine*, Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Alan K. Simpson (R-Wyo.) said, "No agency will escape these cuts—nor should." In a statement with which the DAV thoroughly disagrees, the senator also said the current VA budget contains "a lot of fat," which could be trimmed in FY 1983.

VA Administrator Robert P. Nimmo began talking about possible reductions in the VA budget as early as his confirmation hearings in the Senate last summer. In a more recent letter to DAV National Commander Sherman E. Roodzant, he said, "We are faced with a challenge, understanding the necessity of fiscal restraint and at the same time realizing our moral obligation to veterans."

Deputy VA Administrator Charles T. Hagel conveyed a similar message when he spoke to the American Legion's national executive committee a couple of months ago. "We're not ready to turn our backs on health care and other important veterans' programs," Hagel said. "But I ask you individually and collectively to give us a chance to sort some things out.

"I caution you to look at this country and its problems totally, not just as veterans," he continued. "If we are to change things, make

this country stronger, we've all got to give a little more."

You don't have to be skilled at reading between the lines to get the message that Senator Simpson and the VA's top two officials were trying to convey with these statements. Though they've assured us that important benefits and services will remain intact, one point comes through loud and clear: We're probably not going to like what we see later this month in the Reagan administration's FY 1983 budget requests for veterans' programs.

I don't want to set up Senator Simpson, VA Administrator Nimmo, or Deputy VA Administrator Hagel as targets just because they're the bearers of bad news. By contrast, I appreciate the fact that these individuals have been considerably more open than was the Carter administration in keeping us informed of administration intentions.

However, the DAV can go only so far in granting the patience that these officials and other government leaders have asked for. The DAV is in the business of defending the rights and benefits that you and all of America's disabled veterans have earned. When programs designed to assist you and your family come under attack, we will fight to protect them.

It would be unrealistic to believe that gratitude for your sacrifices will exempt veterans' programs from reductions in today's political climate. Demands for cuts across-the-board in federal spending are coming on hot and heavy. But, it's the DAV's job to minimize—and, with a good battle, to avoid—damage to programs for disabled veterans and their families.

That's what we're going to do in 1982. That will be our number-one goal this year.

A half century ago, in 1932, Congress chartered the DAV to perform this function in American society. And, we're not going to throw in the towel now, when things are tough. The tough times are when America's

2½ million disabled veterans and their families need the DAV the most. And, we're going to come

through.

The specific goals that the DAV seeks in its dealings with Congress and the White House are established by the organization's membership. At the DAV's national convention in Miami, Fla., last summer, the delegates spelled out exactly what they want their national organization to seek from Congress during 1982.

These goals are detailed in 97 legislative resolutions adopted by the delegates. The following are many of the major objectives the DAV will pursue during the second session of the 97th Congress:

Disability Benefits

- An increase in service-connected disability and death compensation benefits that will keep benefit payments from losing ground to the constantly rising cost of living.
- Authority for the VA to presume service-connection of disabilities that may be related to Agent Orange for the purposes of disability compensation and VA medical treatment.
- Rejection of any proposal to close or reduce the staffing of VA regional and contact offices in order to consolidate the VA claims processing system.
- Consideration of age as a factor in rating service-connected disabilities.
- Protection of service-connected disability evaluations after they are in effect for ten years.
- One standard rate for all dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) payments.
- Compensation for psychosis that appears within two years following military service.
- Extension of equal VA benefits to Philippine veterans who now live in the United States as naturalized citizens.

Health Care

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

- An adequate budget for VA medical programs, which suffered severe cutbacks under the Carter administration.

- Continuation of the VA's "Operation Outreach" psychological readjustment counseling program for Vietnam era veterans.

- Opposition to including the VA medical system in any national health insurance program.

- Acquisition of additional federal funds for state veterans' nursing home facilities.

- Continuation of matching federal funds for state veterans' homes.

- Extension of VA outpatient dental care to all service-connected veterans rated 60-percent or more disabled.

- An increase in VA beneficiary travel allowance to reflect rising transportation costs.

- Requiring the federal government to reimburse 50 percent of the cost of care of veterans in state homes.

- An increase in the VA's home health services program.

- Extension of VA outpatient treatment for any condition to veterans whose service-connected conditions are rated at 30-percent or more disabling by the VA.

- Opposition to hiring private businesses to do work now performed by government employees at VA medical facilities because such "contracting out" will cause a decline in the quality of care the VA delivers to veterans.

Employment Programs

- Adequate funding of the Labor Department's Veterans Employment Service.

- Opposition to any weakening or elimination of veterans' preference in federal employment.

- More personnel to work with veterans in state employment service offices.

- Prohibition of any offset of unemployment compensation with respect to VA disability compensation or military disability retirement benefits.

- Authorization of purchase of federal retirement credits for time spent in training under the VA's vocational rehabilitation program for disabled veterans.

- Preference for veterans under federal/state block grant programs.

- Elimination of deductions from Railroad Retirement Annuities based on receipt of military pensions, VA disability compensation, or other benefits earned through military service.

Housing, Insurance, Cemeteries

- Extension of low-interest home loans to veterans eligible for the VA specially adapted housing program.

- Provision of low-interest energy loans to service-connected disabled veterans.

- Extension of eligibility for veterans' mortgage protection life insurance to service-connected veterans rated permanently and totally disabled.

- A national cemetery in every state to

make sure every veteran can be buried in a place reasonably near his or her home.

Education

- Elimination of the delimiting date for eligibility for benefits under the VA vocational rehabilitation program for service-connected disabled veterans.

- Elimination of the delimiting date for eligible spouses and surviving spouses for VA survivors' and dependents' educational benefits.

- Payment of survivors' and dependents' educational benefits on a pro-rata basis to dependents of veterans rated 80-percent or more disabled by service-connected conditions.

Other Benefits, Programs

- Legislation that would ensure the tax-exempt status of Social Security benefits.

- Allowing the concurrent receipt of Social Security benefits and benefits under the military's Survivors' Benefits Plan.

- The right to judicial review of veterans' claims.

- Opposition to any proposal that would offset payments of VA disability compensation and Social Security disability insurance benefits with respect to other federal benefits.

- Elevation of the Veterans Administration to cabinet-level status.

- Exclusion of military disability severance pay from federal income tax.

- Calling upon the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to release all information and return all Americans missing in Indochina and to return the remains of any Americans in its possession or subsequently found.

- Restoration of the national observance of Memorial Day to May 30.

Commander to Present DAV's Goals to Vets' Committees Next Month

DAV National Commander Sherman E. Roodzant will present the organization's National Legislative Program for 1982 to the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs on the morning of Feb. 23. He will appear before the House Committee at 9 a.m. and the Senate Committee at 11 a.m. Further details on the commander's presentation will be carried in next month's *DAV Magazine*.

The DAV's National Executive and Finance Committees will meet at DAV National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C., on Monday, Feb. 22, the day before Commander Roodzant's presentation to the Congressional Veterans' Affairs Committees.

No other events or meetings are planned in conjunction with the annual legislative presentation.

viewpoint . . .

(Continued from page 1)

when they counsel, assist and represent you and your family, as individuals, before the VA and other government agencies.

You need the DAV, and the DAV needs you as a life member.

And, if you pay up your life membership dues before June 30 this year, you'll receive a handsome DAV Life Member luggage tag. Easily attached to your suitcase or briefcase, this classically designed tag will identify you as one of the elite—one of those who have made the commitment to the cause of America's wartime disabled veterans.

You have every right to take pride in the sacrifices you made when your country called you to arms, whether you served in World War I or the Vietnam War, World War II or the Korean War. You're part of a 206-year-old heritage of men and women who have done more than their share to keep America strong and free.

You can show your pride in a quiet yet effective way by signing on as a DAV life member, paying up your dues by June 30, and displaying your DAV Life Member tag on your luggage or briefcase.

You may think your life membership won't matter much in the DAV's battle to protect your benefits. But, I guarantee you that your DAV life membership will make a big difference.

And, life membership holds other benefits for you. Once your life membership dues are paid up, you'll never get another annual dues notice from the DAV again. This can save you a lot of money over the years.

And, there will never be any disruption in your subscription to *DAV Magazine*, the finest journal of veterans' affairs available in America. You'll be kept up-to-the-minute on developments affecting your benefits for the rest of your life.

Finally, when you sign up for DAV life membership, you'll be doing your part for your country once again by further serving those who served and, like you, came home with disabilities from wartime service.

DAV life membership will be one of the most important steps you take. For the sake of yourself, your family, and your fellow disabled veterans, become a DAV life member today!

Memberama Winners

The following DAV members are the winners in the Memberama Contest drawing for the month of November 1981:

Category A—First, Golden E. McLeod, 406 Sherman, Hopewell, Va. 23860; second, Louie H. Lopez, Jr., 4008 W. Willetta, Phoenix, Ariz. 85009.

Category B—First, Darrel E. Babcock, 5007 Shadyway Dr., San Antonio, Tex. 78244; second, Ronald L. Witte, 1538 Alton, Aurora, Colo. 80010.

DAV Hotline!

*a summary of late news
and announcements just
at press deadline*

VA ESCAPES MOST OF PROPOSED \$451.7-MILLION BUDGET SLASH

A continuing resolution funding a number of government programs, including the VA, until March 31 has been passed by Congress. The news allayed fears that some VA programs might be forced to shut down temporarily until the President and Congress could reach agreement on fiscal year 1982 budget matters.

More importantly, however, a House-Senate compromise on an appropriations measure that will fund VA programs in FY 1982 has cleared Congress. The measure, H.R. 4034, was awaiting President Reagan's signature as this issue of DAV Magazine went to press. At that time, there was every indication that the President would sign the bill soon.

Back in September, when President Reagan asked for an additional 12-percent slash in federal spending across the board, a \$451.7-million cut loomed over VA programs. Thanks to efforts by DAV and Auxiliary members across the country, those massive cuts were pared back to \$118.7 million in the conference report adopted by the House and Senate. DAV National Commander Sherman E. Roodzant extended the national organization's appreciation to all members, chapters, units and departments who contacted their Congressmen and Senators on this vital issue.

While VA budget reductions achieved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) last spring concentrated on certain VA benefit payments, the new slashes hit the agency's health care system. Particularly painful to the DAV were the \$22.4 million in cuts for medical and prosthetic research, coming at a time when the organization says more needs to be done in prosthetics research.

Other reductions amounted to \$63.4 million in deferred construction of medical facilities; \$26 million from general operating expenses; \$4.7 million from medical administrations; and \$2.2 million from grants for state veterans' homes.

While the DAV is not pleased with these cuts, Commander Roodzant noted that they look much better than the reductions OMB originally proposed. He also pointed out that the VA did not come out on the short end of the stick in an era when nearly all federal programs are being subjected to hefty curtailments.

However, Roodzant and other DAV leaders are cautious about the meaning of construction deferrals and continued research cuts to the future of the VA health care system. They are also very concerned about what the White House's FY 1982 budget request, to be submitted to Congress this month, will hold for veterans' programs.

PLAN NOW . . .

1982 National Convention Las Vegas, Nevada July 18-22



It's not too early for DAV and Auxiliary members to start making their plans for the 1982 National Convention, July 18-22, in Las Vegas, Nev.

Convention headquarters will be the luxury Las Vegas Hilton, one of the best known vacation complexes in the Western Hemisphere. Since the DAV's last convention visit to Las Vegas in 1977, new construction has increased the Las Vegas Hilton room count to 3,174.

Eleven international restaurants, a plush 2,000-seat showroom featuring many of the entertainment world's top stars, a casino lounge, a 10-acre rooftop recreation deck, 3,200 skilled employees, and numerous other attractions make the Las Vegas Hilton one of the world's most advanced convention facilities.

Delegates are urged to bring the whole family, because the Las Vegas Hilton also features a unique Youth Hotel, which is operated much like a summer camp for children ages 3 through 18.

Complete details on the 1982 DAV National Convention in Las Vegas, including the convention schedule, will appear in forthcoming issues of *DAV Magazine*. However, delegates are urged to make their reservations immediately, using the reservation form included at the bottom of the page.

The reservation form should be sent directly to the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel, not to DAV National Headquarters.

Reservation Form
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
National Convention
July 18-22, 1982
Las Vegas Hilton — Las Vegas, Nevada

Mail to:

Las Vegas Hilton
Room Reservations
P.O. Box 15087
Las Vegas, Nevada 89114

King or Double/Double; Single or Double Occupancy: \$50

Wheelchair Leg Amputee

Lanai Suites: \$93

One-Bedroom Parlor Suites:

\$145 \$155 \$160 \$170 \$175 \$190

Two-Bedroom Parlor Suites:

\$201 \$216 \$221 \$231 \$248 \$268

Specialty Suite Rates will be Provided Upon Request

JANUARY 1982

Arrival Date _____ Hour _____ AM/PM
Departure Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NOTE: All rates quoted above are subject to 6-percent Clark County Room Tax. *Please return prior to July 4, 1982, to insure confirmed reservations.* If rate requested is unavailable, next available rate will be assigned. All reservations are guaranteed until 6 p.m., unless a later arrival time is confirmed.

Accessibility Regulation Saved!

A federal regulation, which sets minimum guidelines and requirements for making federal buildings accessible to handicapped people, has been saved from the threat of extinction.

In addition, the tiny federal agency responsible for enforcing this regulation seemed likely to survive an attempt by the White House Office of Management and Budget to refuse its funding for fiscal year 1982. As this issue of *DAV Magazine* went to press, Congress was discussing an FY 1982 funding level of \$2 million for the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (A&TBCB).

The effort to kill the accessibility regulation, which A&TBCB issued only last January, was mounted by several bureaucrats who represent federal agencies on the A&TBCB. Rescission—that is, complete elimination—of the regulation was proposed at a July meeting of the A&TBCB by Assistant Postmaster General Roger Craig, who represents the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) on the board.

The rescission question split the 22-member board into two warring factions for several months. The board is composed of 11 members who represent federal departments or agencies and 11 members chosen from the general public to represent handicapped people.

Until the Dec. 1 meeting of the A&TBCB, Craig had all 11 "federal members" of the board in his hip pocket. Because he held the proxy vote of one of the "public members," he controlled a voting majority on the board. Combat over rescission of the accessibility

regulation pitted Craig against public member and Board Chairman Mason Rose, whose verbal duels with Craig have become a hallmark of A&TBCB meetings.

Rose, an attorney from California, uses a wheelchair as a result of injuries sustained during the Vietnam era military service. The former Marine Corps pilot is a life member of DAV Chapter 73 in California.

Rose thanked members of the DAV and Auxiliary for their heavy contribution to the 3,364 public comments received by A&TBCB on the question of rescission of the accessibility regulation. Nearly 500 of these comments came from DAV and Auxiliary members, chapters, and units. In addition, well over half of the DAV's state departments submitted public comments, opposing rescission.

Of the 3,364 comments the board received, an overwhelming majority of 93.4 percent opposed rescission, while fewer than 3 percent favored elimination of the regulation. About 3.6 percent recommended modification of specific sections of the minimum guidelines and requirements.

Typical of comments from DAV members were those of Department of Ohio Commander John Tablac, Jr., who wrote, "We feel it is shameful that representatives of the government for which we fought are now attempting to take an action that would rob handicapped people of the rights in defense of which we became disabled."

William Howard, commander of DAV Chapter 22 in Alhambra, Calif., struck a similar note, when he wrote, "In this, the



Disabled advocate and DAV life member Mason Rose calls to order his last meeting as A&TBCB chairman. Observing the meeting from behind Rose are DAV National Commander Sherman E. Roodzant, left, and DAV National Service Director Arthur H. Wilson.

International Year of Disabled Persons, it is inconceivable that our great nation would ever consider perpetuating denial of access to government services for a large group of its citizens, the disabled persons of America."

Jim Thompson, commander of DAV Chapter 6 in Atlanta, Ga., urged the board not to "embarrass the American people as a whole by allowing federal agencies to discriminate against disabled individuals and deny them the opportunities they deserve."

DAV National Service Officer Robert L. Poole wrote from Portland, Ore., that "it is inconceivable that the advances that have been made because of (the accessibility) regulation should now be terminated. Because of this regulation, not only have government buildings instituted revisions . . . but this has led to private companies and corporations placing greater emphasis on revising and building the accommodations into their buildings."

To save the regulation, public members of the A&TBCB had to accept some modification of the minimum guidelines and requirements. However, said DAV National Commander Sherman E. Roodzant, "The regulation remains a good 95-percent intact."

"That's a far better situation than we faced



"We need to make the 1980s years in which disabled individuals achieve the greatest possible access to our society, maximum independence, and full opportunity to develop and use their capabilities."

While federal agencies were attempting to strip the A&TBCB regulation from the books, President Reagan made the statement above in announcing National Employ the Handicapped Week. At first, this seemed ironic to DAV officials. But, in the end, White House intervention became the essential ingredient in saving the accessibility regulation. C. Boyden Grey, counsel to Vice President George Bush, helped Mason Rose orchestrate a compromise between A&TBCB's federal and public members, which left the regulation 95-percent intact.

a few months ago, when it seemed very likely that the USPS-led faction on the board would win the day and kill the regulation altogether," added the commander, who attended the Dec. 1 A&TBCB meeting at DAV National Service & Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Though some compromises were necessary to keep the accessibility regulation on the books, Roodzant called the board's Dec. 1 decision a major victory for the DAV and all of America's disabled citizens. The proposed revisions of the regulation have been published in the *Federal Register*, and are subject to public comment.

DAV leaders remain concerned about the implications of the concessions the board's public members were forced to make to save the regulation as a whole. Of particular concern to the DAV was board action that removed from the regulation references to buildings leased by the federal government.

This was a concession to Assistant Postmaster Craig, who held the proxy votes of four federal agencies, including that of the VA, in addition to his own vote. USPS leases more than 28,000 buildings—some 70 percent of its facilities. The DAV, which has persistently accused USPS of hiring discrimination against disabled veterans and other handicapped people, wants to see those facilities made accessible.

"As long as USPS has some 15,000 buildings that handicapped people can't use," explained DAV National Employment Director Ron Drach, "they'll use them as excuses to continue their persistent discrimination against our people."

Rose, whose term on the A&TBCB ended Dec. 4, told the DAV he is now exploring the possibility of a class action suit aimed at forcing the federal government to include federally leased buildings among those covered by the regulation. Most observers believe the matter of leased buildings can only be settled in the courts through the type of suit Rose is looking into.

A second compromise was made to appease the Department of Transportation, which was concerned about a provision in the regulation that requires installation of elevators in subway stations whenever certain renovations are made. The matter was settled by placing a cost ceiling on such construction; elevators would not be required if costs exceed that ceiling.

The third concession was made for the benefit of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The board decided to defer action on HUD's responsibilities in making new, low-income housing accessible to handicapped people, but there seemed to be agreement among board members that this issue would be addressed in the future.

Some who favored adoption of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard on accessibility rather than the board regulation, which remains in force following the A&TBCB's meeting last month, were

VA Outreach Program Experiencing Shakeup

The VA's Operation Outreach psychological readjustment program for Vietnam era veterans is being reorganized by agency administrator Robert P. Nimmo.

Don Crawford, Ph.D., resigned as the program's director last month, and the program has been removed from the jurisdiction



Appreciation . . .

Senator Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), ranking minority member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, receives a special DAV Citation from DAV National Commander Sherman E. Roodzant. Senator Cranston was honored for his support of the DAV Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program. During his visit to the senator's office, Commander Roodzant also reviewed the DAV's priority legislative goals for 1982.

unhappy with the context of the rescission debate. While the board was developing its original regulation in 1979, the DAV was one of several organizations that supported adoption of the ANSI standard.

In explaining the position the DAV adopted during the rescission debate, however, the DAV's Drach pointed out that:

- The board's regulation does not differ greatly from the ANSI standard, actually improving on the ANSI standard in some areas while permitting less expensive accessibility measures in some areas;

- The rescission debate did not pit the board's regulation against the ANSI standard; rather, it pitted the board's regulation against no accessibility standards whatsoever for federal buildings; and

- ANSI officials have been in contact with Rose and the A&TBCB staff, talking about a possible coordination of the ANSI standard and the board's regulation.

of Jack Ewalt, M.D., head of mental health and behavioral sciences at VA Central Office.

New Deputy VA Administrator Charles T. Hagel, a Vietnam veteran, has taken over the reins of Operation Outreach until a new program director is found. The VA was looking seriously at several candidates at presstime.

DAV leaders are optimistic that the shakeup signals a positive change in the management of the program. The realignment is due, at least in large part, to Congressional hearings in October, when the program's management came under fire.

At those hearings, DAV Deputy National Legislative Director Charles E. Joeckel, Jr., told the House Government Operations Committee, "It would be a tragedy if the program ended after five years in failure for the lack of good management, adequate funding, and necessary training."

The combat-disabled Vietnam veteran complained that the program was plagued by unclear lines of authority and lack of specific direction in its administration. He added that outreach coordinators at the local level were not being given needed training in implementation of the program and coordination of services offered by the community and the government.

Hats Off to . . .

(Continued from Inside Cover)

with readjustment. This gives the impression that all Vietnam veterans have had serious problems when the vast majority are functioning well as solid citizens in the mainstream of American life today.

"We shouldn't ignore these guys—the sacrifices they made in Vietnam and the contributions they're making today—as we attempt to address the needs of the vets who still lead troubled lives."

DAV Assistant National Director of Communications Tom Keller added that the "stories of individual veterans avoided the usual traps of viewing Vietnam veterans as either victims or villains. It portrayed these vets as people—individuals, not stereotypes . . .

"During the past decade and a half," the Vietnam era veteran said in letters to *Newsweek* and CBS, "American society's rejection of the Vietnam War has resulted in a silent and unintentional but pernicious rejection of the war's veterans. Perhaps as pernicious has been the rejection by the American people of their own feelings about the war . . . It's time to look at those feelings. It's time to reassess the war and its meaning for all Americans." CBS and *Newsweek's* coverage in December will help that process along, he said.

Agent Orange Answers Still Four Years Away

Complete answers to questions about the health effects of Agent Orange and other toxic defoliants used during the Vietnam War may still be four years away, the DAV has learned.

While much has been written about these chemical defoliants, which contain trace amounts of a highly toxic material called dioxin, the VA says current knowledge is not sufficient to grant service-connection of certain disabilities that many believe are caused by exposure to Agent Orange and other dioxin-bearing herbicides.

While DAV leaders acknowledge that scientific research takes time, they were distressed to learn that many thousands of veterans who were exposed to these chemicals will have to wait four more years for answers to the questions that hang over their lives.

"I think people in Washington now understand that the issue is not going to go away," said DAV Assistant National Adjutant Robert H. Lenham. "Veterans who came into contact with Agent Orange during the Vietnam War are worried, and they're demanding answers."

Research Design Being Studied

DAV Administrative Assistant Charles A. Thompson, Jr., added that "Anxieties about Agent Orange are likely to increase, rather than decrease, as more time goes by without answers." Lenham and Thompson, both combat-disabled veterans of the Vietnam War, represent the DAV on the VA's Advisory Committee on the Health Related Effects of Herbicides.

News about the Agent Orange controversy has developed on three fronts in recent weeks. First, the VA advisory committee sent the draft protocol—or research design—of an important epidemiological study on the effects of Agent Orange back to the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) for a major overhaul.

In addition, the VA has issued proposed regulatory guidelines on how it will provide legally mandated health care to veterans for disabilities that may be related to dioxin-bearing defoliants. Also, the agency has published and distributed a compilation of reviews of literature from around the world on these herbicides.

Epidemiological Study

The protocol of the epidemiological study being designed at UCLA has been the subject of controversy since July, when Dr. Gary Spivey, lead scientist of the design project, publicly speculated on the outcome of this research.

He told a committee of the California state legislature that there is "little evidence" that Agent Orange threatens human health, adding that "The fear which is generated by the current publicity is very likely to be the most serious consequence of the use of Agent Orange."

Because of the comments, many veterans' groups fear that Spivey's views will bias the results of the epidemiological study he and his associates at UCLA are designing. Such fears were mentioned in the criticisms of Spivey's draft research protocol by members of the VA advisory committee.

"It's fair to say the scientists on the committee are determined to make sure that this research is objective, that it adheres strictly to scientific method," said the DAV's Thompson, who attended the committee meeting at which Spivey's draft design was discussed.

"The criticisms raised by these committee members, when they sent the protocol back to Dr. Spivey, indicate that they won't accept anything less than complete objectivity," said Thompson. "This attitude is reassuring to the DAV, which is solely concerned about the welfare of the veterans who were exposed to dioxin."

Lenham pointed out that three other scientific bodies will review Spivey's final design before the research, itself, actually begins. These are the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, and the federal government's interagency Agent Orange Working Group.

Of all research being done on the effects of Agent Orange, this single study will probably have more to do with settling claims for service-connection of disabilities than any other research project. Therefore, the DAV and other representatives of veterans are deeply concerned over the question of objectivity in this investigation.

VA Treatment Guidelines Set

As Lenham stated, "If veterans exposed to dioxin-bearing chemicals while fighting for their country don't trust the results of this research, immense problems will result. There will be a large public outcry, and there will be demands for a resolution of the Agent Orange question on the basis of political expediency rather than scientific evidence. Every safeguard must be taken."

Health Care Guidelines

As noted in last month's *DAV Magazine*, Congress has passed and the President has signed legislation (Public Law 97-72), which

directs the VA to provide health care for disabilities that may be related to exposure to dioxin-bearing chemicals and ionizing radiation during military service.

Since then, the VA has issued guidelines to all of its medical facilities, outlining how this health care will be provided. These guidelines were furnished on an interim basis so the agency can provide care to eligible veterans while it receives public comments in response to publication of the guidelines in the *Federal Register*.

World Literature Review Compiled

The question now is whether the VA will become overly restrictive in providing this care. The DAV has been concerned about this possibility since Nov. 3, when President Reagan signed this legislation.

At that time, the White House issued a statement attributed to the President (but probably written under the direction of the Office of Management and Budget), which indicated weak administration support for this provision. Therefore, the DAV is combing through the new VA guidelines to determine if the administration's negative attitude toward the provision has filtered down to policy level in the VA medical system.

DAV leaders are also watching implementation of the guidelines at the VA medical center level. "The VA must take this provision of P.L. '97-72 seriously," said DAV National Director of Services Norman B. Hartnett.

"We understand that this places an added burden on a system that can't keep up with current demand due to underfunding and understaffing," he added. "But, that doesn't change the nature of the question or the intent of Congress. There is at least reason to suspect that the disabilities involved may have been caused by military service."

"Until research resolves those suspicions one way or the other," Hartnett explained, "the VA must take seriously its obligation to provide these veterans the medical treatment called for by the law."

The guidelines were outlined in a recent VA news release. While the release was somewhat technical in its wording, it may have something to say about the agency's attitude toward providing care for conditions allegedly caused by Agent Orange and other herbicides.

Therefore, *DAV Magazine's* editors felt that veterans should have the opportunity to read the pertinent sections in their entirety.

The following is quoted directly from that VA news release:

Health care services may not be provided under this law, the guidelines point out, for the care of conditions which are found to have resulted from a cause other than the specified exposures.

Health care services authorized under this provision of the law are limited to hospital and nursing home care in VA facilities, and outpatient care in VA facilities on a pre-or post-hospitalization basis or to obviate a need for hospitalization. These services will be provided without regard to the veteran's age, service connected status or the inability of the veteran to defray the expenses of such care. Veterans furnished outpatient care under this authority will be accorded priority ahead of non-service-connected veterans and equal to former POWs receiving care for non-service-connected conditions.

Congress made it clear that this law provides for health care only. A determination that a veteran is eligible for such care does not constitute a basis for service connection or in any way affect determinations regarding service connection.

VA guidelines provide also that a complete medical history, physical examination and appropriate diagnostic studies will be developed for each veteran who served in the republic of Vietnam and who requests VA medical care. For those who have been examined within the prior six months, only those procedures which are medically indicated by the current circumstances will be repeated. Where the findings reveal a condition requiring treatment, the responsible staff physician shall make a determination as to whether the condition resulted from a cause other than the specified exposure. In making this determination, the physician will consider that the following types of conditions are not ordinarily considered to be due to such exposure:

a. Congenital or developmental condition, e.g., spina bifida, scoliosis;

b. Conditions which are known to have preexisted military service;

c. Conditions resulting from trauma, e.g., deformity or limitation of motion of an extremity;

d. Conditions having a specific and well established etiology, e.g., tuberculosis, gout;

e. Common conditions having a well recognized clinical course, e.g., inguinal hernia, acute appendicitis.

"On occasion," the guidelines continue, "the responsible staff physician may find that a veteran requires care for one or more of the conditions listed (above), but that the case presents complicating circumstances that make the provision of care under this authority appropriate. In such instances, the physician should seek guidance from the chief of staff regarding authorization for treatment. If treatment is so authorized, the reasons will be clearly documented in the medical record. Veterans who are not provided needed medical care under this circular may be furnished care if they are eligible under any other statutory authority."

Veterans who are denied VA health care to which they believe they are entitled under this authority are urged to contact their DAV national service officer (NSO). The DAV NSO may be able to help these veterans get the care they require from the VA, and the organization needs the assistance of veterans in locating trouble spots in the implementation of these guidelines.



Vets' Day Speaker . . .

Dennis Joyner, DAV national 1st junior vice commander, shows off a baton he received from members of the Golden Knights, the U.S. Army's precision parachute team. The baton was passed between team members at an altitude of 10,000 feet during the Veterans' Day observance in New Port Richey, Fla. The keynote speaker, Joyner told the audience of about 2,500 what it means to be a veteran. The event was sponsored by Veterans Village, Inc., and was hosted by the DAV and other veterans' organizations.

Worldwide AO Literature

The compilation of worldwide literature on Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War was published and distributed to various interested parties by the VA shortly after last month's issue of *DAV Magazine* went to press.

This two-volume *Review of Literature on Herbicides, Including Phenoxy Herbicides and Associated Dioxins* covers approximately 1,200 documents spanning more than 20 years. It was compiled for the VA under contract by JRB Associates of McLean, Va.

VA officials have consistently held that past research on the effects of herbicides is not sufficiently conclusive to use in making determinations of service-connection. However, a VA news release announcing the newly published compilation of currently available research said it "is expected to assist researchers, both in government and the private sector, to identify opportunities for the systematic development of new knowledge based on what is already known and published."

Barclay M. Shepard, M.D., VA special assistant to the chief medical director for environmental medicine, told the DAV that "completion of this scientific review is a major step forward in resolving the health issues which are related to the use of herbicides both at home and abroad.

"It will serve as a significant resource in the field of scientific research on these chemical agents," said the VA's point man on the Agent Orange issue. "It will significantly assist us in serving that segment of the population concerned about the possible adverse health effects of exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides."

The DAV's Lenham agreed that this compilation of literature will be helpful to researchers working on the dioxin question. "For the first time, it will be relatively easy for these investigators to find work that's already been done on Agent Orange and similar herbicides. For them, it will be like having a card index in book form."

Where Things Stand

Since 1978, the VA has examined some 65,000 veterans concerned about the possible effects of their exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. This and other dioxin-bearing herbicides were used extensively during the war to deprive enemy forces of food supplies and ground cover.

More than 10,500 of these veterans have filed claims for service-connection of disabilities they feel may have been caused by their exposure. Approximately 3,000 of these veterans are represented by DAV NSOs, and their complaints cover a wide variety of medical symptoms.

While service-connection has been denied in a good number of these claims, they can be re-opened at any time when new evidence becomes available. However, it's likely to be some time before service-connection is granted in significant numbers of herbicide related claims.

It's likely to be a long, difficult battle, according to Lenham, who compared the Agent Orange issue to the battles waged by veterans who were exposed to radiation during atomic weapons tests and to the experience of former POWs.

"It's very difficult to pinpoint exact cause-and-effect relationships between Agent Orange and the various disabilities it is alleged to have caused," said the Vietnam veteran. "In fact, it may never be possible to say beyond any doubt that some of these disabilities resulted from Agent Orange exposure and no other cause.

"That's very similar to what we face in cases involving former POWs and veterans exposed to radiation. Cause and effect relationships are blurred by any number of factors. After years of battle for these veterans, we've made measurable progress for ex-POWs, though many problems remain. And, though we've seen some progress on radiation-related claims, we're a very long way from the finish line in our efforts to help these veterans.

"I really hate to say it," Lenham concluded, "but we may face years of struggle in our attempts to resolve the Agent Orange issue as well. But, I want to reassure Vietnam veterans that the DAV is on their side in the battle for the long haul."

Older Vets Not Given Automatic Medical Care

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) officials have told a number of news reporters in Washington, D.C., that veterans age 65 and older enjoy automatic entitlement to free medical care from the VA, regardless of whether or not their conditions are service-connected.

"As a blanket statement, this OMB assertion is only partially true," charged DAV National Service Director Arthur H. Wilson. "And, realities at the level of individual VA hospitals and clinics often render this entitlement meaningless," he explained.

OMB's exaggerated statements about the health care eligibility of older veterans have appeared in several newspapers across the country in recent months. This prompted many older veterans to contact DAV National Service Offices with complaints that the VA had denied them medical benefits to which they're entitled by law.

It is true that some forms of health care entitlement were extended to veterans age 65 and older by a 1970 law. However, this entitlement applies only on a space-available basis, and it is limited to inpatient hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary care from the VA.

Outpatient treatment of nonservice-connected conditions suffered by these veterans is provided under the VA's ambulatory care program, which provides older veterans no entitlement beyond that of other veterans seeking care for nonservice-connected health problems.

While it is by no means always the case, veterans aged 65 and older generally have few problems in obtaining inpatient hospital and domiciliary care. On the other hand, nonservice-connected veterans in this age group experience grave difficulties when trying to get into VA nursing homes, which have a high occupancy rate, leaving them little room for

Supreme Court Refuses To Hear Agent Orange Suit

The Supreme Court refused last month to hear a case brought by Vietnam veterans against several companies that manufactured the toxic defoliant, Agent Orange, during the Vietnam War.

In doing so, the court let stand a New York City federal appeals court ruling that Agent Orange suits should be tried under the laws of individual states rather than federal law. Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Harry A. Blackmun dissented from the court's majority opinion.

In 20 states, the statute of limitations has already run out, making it impossible to sue in these state courts. Suits may be possible in the other 30 states, however.

new, nonservice-connected cases.

Further, it is frequently impossible for these veterans to get VA outpatient care for nonservice-connected conditions. And, more than any other type of care, outpatient treatment is what these veterans most often require.

"The VA's outpatient care system is so strapped and ambulatory care for nonservice-connected conditions rates such a low priority that nonservice-connected veterans are very frequently turned away without treatment, regardless of what age group they belong to," Wilson explained.

OMB's "wild exaggerations" of the health care entitlement of older veterans were probably made to build support for cutbacks in the VA medical system, according to the DAV spokesman.

"OMB has painted pictures of free care being lavished on veterans whose disabilities are not service-connected and who can afford treatment from sources other than the VA," Wilson charged. "Such is not the case." He cited recent VA statistics, showing that at least 78.6 percent of the VA's patients have family incomes of less than \$15,000. At least 42.4 percent of the agency's patients earn less than \$7,000.

Wilson also expressed the DAV's fear that OMB is exaggerating the health care entitlement of retirement age veterans to drive a wedge between veterans of World War II and the Vietnam era. "This would create a rift in the veterans' movement, making it easier for OMB to cut everyone's benefits," the Vietnam veteran said.

DAV Helps VA Hospital Win Suit

The DAV's Department of Oregon played a crucial role in a recent court battle that pitted the VA against private health care providers in Portland, Ore.

Though the suit brought against the VA in Portland involved construction of only one VA medical facility, the entire future of the VA's health care system was jeopardized in the case, according to DAV National Legislative Director John F. Heilman.

A coalition of citizens and environmental groups in Portland brought suit against the VA, seeking to block construction of a replacement VA medical complex there on the grounds that the VA's environmental impact statement on the construction project was inadequate.

Organized and spearheaded by private health care providers in Portland, the coalition charged that the VA had not considered "mainstreaming" as an alternative to building its new medical facility. The term, "mainstreaming," means shifting veterans from the VA to private sources of treatment, with the VA paying the bill.

A faction of Portland physicians tried to get the powerful American Medical Association

(AMA) to adopt a position in favor of mainstreaming the VA's patient load a year and a half ago. However, the national AMA rejected the proposal last summer.

The Portland suit demonstrated that these physicians remain committed to the mainstreaming concept. In the view of DAV leaders, proponents of mainstreaming want to use veterans to fill the waiting rooms of private physicians and occupy the empty beds of private and not-for-profit hospitals that have built more capacity than they need.

U.S. District Court Judge Robert Belloni's opinion, resolving the Portland suit in the VA's favor, seemed to recognize that the environmental impact of the VA's construction project there had little to do with the case before him. He said the suit appeared to be "calling for an overhaul of national VA policy, which is to provide VA facilities rather than to pay for care."

Commenting on the outcome of the suit, the DAV's Heilman said, "There is no doubt that the *amicus curiae* brief filed by the DAV Department of Oregon gave weight and credence to the position and arguments advanced by the VA's district counsel.

"The initiative shown by your department in this most important matter stands as an example for all DAV state departments throughout the country," the DAV spokesman said in a letter to Duane Rold, commander of the Department of Oregon, which became the first DAV state department to reach its 1981-82 membership quota in mid-November.

"Had this suit not been turned aside, the entire future of the VA health care system—not just that of the Portland medical facility—would have been placed in jeopardy," Heilman concluded.

DAV National Director of Services Norman B. Hartnett warned, however, that the mainstreaming concept remains a serious threat to the VA medical system. "The proponents of this disastrous idea have shown that they don't intend to give up, even though they failed to win AMA support for mainstreaming and they lost this crucial lawsuit.

"If these people get their way," Hartnett cautioned, "the interests of veterans using the VA health care system will be seriously harmed. And, many veterans will lose the only source of medical treatment available to them."

Congress Grants Charter To Italian American Vets

The Italian American War Veterans (IAWV) has been granted a national charter by legislation that was recently passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan.

The DAV supported this legislation when it was under consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The 10,000-member IAWV was formed nearly 50 years ago by Italian American veterans of World War I, and now includes veterans of both World Wars, the Korean War, and Vietnam War.

Decline of VA Prosthetics Program Reported to House Subcommittee

The VA has lost the world leadership position it held following World War II in the field of prosthetics, orthotics, and sensory aids, a DAV spokesman charged in recent testimony before a House Veterans' Affairs Committee panel.

DAV Deputy National Legislative Director Charles E. Joeckel, Jr., blamed "ineffective management" as the reason why "VA prosthetics research has floundered in recent years."

Joeckel's testimony offered no criticism of VA prosthetics services to individual disabled veterans. "Our organization receives very few complaints from veterans regarding the prosthetics services provided by the VA," he told the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care.

However, he said, "There simply has been nothing new in the area of prosthetics research in the last 15 years," because VA prosthetics programs have been subjected to splintered management and lack of priority.

"The VA has an obligation to place greater emphasis on the development of appliances and devices designed to improve the quality of life of service-connected amputee veterans," said Joeckel, who uses prosthetic legs as a result of Vietnam combat injuries.

The DAV spokesman sharply criticized a recent Government Accounting Office (GAO) study, which asserted that amputees who wear prosthetic devices will unavoidably suffer some degree of pain. He also refused to accept the idea, presented in the GAO report, that "some amputees would never be satisfied."

He expressed the DAV's fear that such statements only serve to rationalize the low priority the government has given to prosthetics research in recent years. "Through better leadership and management, as well as greater emphasis on research and development of prosthetic appliances," Joeckel claimed, "we believe such statements can be refuted."

The GAO report, released in September, was requested by several congressmen who felt that many amputees may have borne years of unnecessary pain because the prosthetics industry in the United States has fallen behind the times. These congressmen also felt that amputees may have suffered needlessly because medical personnel haven't studied the latest surgical techniques and prosthetics practitioners haven't received adequate training.

Outlining the history of the VA's prosthetics programs, Joeckel explained that the agency was ill-equipped to meet the prosthetic needs of the large numbers of veterans coming home with combat disabilities in the early years of World War II.

Angered by this situation, the DAV and other veterans' organizations appeared before Congress in 1945 to demand action. As a

result, new legislation and centralization of the VA's previously fragmented prosthetics programs quickly launched the agency into world leadership in the field of prosthetics and orthotics.

Over the past two decades, however, the nationwide coordination and high priority that made this leadership possible have crumbled. By 1975, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) was forced to conclude that "in the field of prosthetics, the United States has lost its world leadership.

"Despite large expenditures of money," NAS commented in its VA-funded report, "the VA has not been able to achieve much in terms of reading devices or controlled and powered prostheses for actual patient use. The sophisticated devices that they have sponsored tend to stay in the laboratory for partial local evaluation and further refinement."

Similar criticism was voiced last year by A. Bennett Wilson, writing in *Orthotics and Prosthetics*, journal of the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association. A review of the prosthetics and rehabilitation engineering projects of the VA and other government agencies, said Wilson, "reveals that a relatively small emphasis is being placed on limb prosthetics and orthotics.

"Just why this is so," Wilson remarked, "is not clear . . ."

Joeckel offered the DAV's opinion that this low priority has resulted, in good part, from a number of organizational changes within the VA, which have splintered the management of the agency's prosthetics research and service programs. Responsibility for these programs is currently spread out among several elements of the VA Department of Medicine and Surgery (DM&S).

Even the VA's rehabilitation engineering center in New York, in which disabled veterans had placed great hopes in the very recent past, has been affected by reorganizations. The center has been placed under the management of DM&S Medical District I, and some of its \$1.1-million funding has been siphoned off for use by other health care programs in the medical district.

Joeckel told the congressmen that control of the VA's prosthetics programs must again be centralized and their priority reestablished. Only in this way, the DAV believes, can the VA become the dynamic force in the prosthetics and orthotics field that it was following World War II.

Joeckel also told the congressmen that the VA could do more to inform disabled veterans of the prosthetic, orthotic, and sensory aid equipment and benefits available to them. He suggested a continuing outreach effort designed to heighten awareness of these benefits among eligible veterans, including a brochure outlining what is available.

VA Reviews Draw Criticism

The DAV recently warned Congress that the VA may be going overboard in its efforts to trim the rolls of disabled veterans who have been granted 100-percent disability ratings on the basis of individual unemployability.

With these efforts, "the VA has gone beyond the point of protecting program integrity and has entered the realm of over-review and over-evaluation for purposes other than protecting its programs," charged DAV Deputy National Legislative Director Charles E. Joeckel, Jr.

A review of unemployability cases, initiated by the VA under the Carter administration last year, resulted in reduced evaluations in less than 5 percent of the 68,000 cases reviewed. The results of this review of all unemployability cases involving disabled veterans less than 60 years of age indicates that original VA evaluations were correct in 95 percent of all cases, Joeckel told the House Veterans' Affairs Committee's panel on compensation, pension, and insurance.

He said the 5-percent error rate would have been even lower if VA regional offices in some cities had followed the intent of DVB Circular 21-80-7, which directed the review. He specifically accused VA regional offices in Boston, Mass.; Togus, Me.; Buffalo, N.Y.; and St. Paul, Minn., of taking the circular "as a mandate for a witch hunt."

He said over-zealous implementation of the circular in offices such as these "resulted in many reductions in VA benefits without a conclusion that the original grant of individual unemployability was clearly and unmistakably erroneous."

Subsequent to this review, the VA has discussed several other possibilities, which the DAV fears are nothing more than attempts to whittle down the number of disabled veterans receiving the 100-percent rate based on individual unemployability.

VA Central Office has requested a copy of each new rating establishing entitlement to individual unemployability ratings. The agency has considered plans to review cases of veterans over the age of 60. It has considered a second review of all cases involving individual unemployability based on nervous conditions. And, it is currently considering a new DVB circular dealing with claims for individual unemployability benefits.

Joeckel told the House Veterans' Committee panel that the VA's first review of unemployability cases served the purpose "of insuring the integrity of this successful program."

He stated that the "VA's latest proposal to issue still another DVB circular constitutes nothing new, but rather, will intimidate VA field rating personnel, thus inhibiting the independent judgment of local rating board members."

The Nuclear Cloud Still Hangs Over the Lives Of Hundreds of Thousands of Veterans, Families

There have been, for years, questions surrounding what radiation exposure may have done to the health of veterans who participated in nuclear weapons tests or the occupations of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

Answers are scarce.

And getting the VA to grant service-connection for disabilities that may have been caused by radiation has always been a difficult proposition. Some progress has been made.

But, all in all, establishment of service-connection for these veterans remains a tough business. These cases are among the most difficult that DAV national service officers (NSOs) handle, according to the organization's National Service Director Arthur H. Wilson.

Nearly all of these cases wind up at the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA). Located in Washington, D.C., BVA is the highest level of appeal in the agency's claims processing system. DAV national appeals officers handle nearly 40 percent of the cases of veterans, dependents, and survivors who bring their cases before BVA.

Among these cases are several hundred claims for service-connection of diseases that veterans or survivors believe are related to exposure to radiation during military service. Most prevalent among these disabilities are various forms of cancer, with a good number of leukemia and skin cancer cases. But, a long list of other health problems that veterans feel could be related to radiation exposure include:

- early death,
- sterility,
- loss of hearing,
- skin diseases,
- bone deterioration,
- muscle weakness and deterioration,
- blindness,
- brain tumors,
- emotional problems,
- hair loss,
- lung problems,
- internal disorders,
- heart problems and high blood pressure,
- blisters and boils,
- rectal bleeding and blood in urine,
- numbness in extremities,
- chronic headaches, and
- tinnitus (ringing in ears).

"All too frequently," said DAV Chief of Claims Jesse Brown, "DAV national service

officers must develop a traditional approach to establishing service-connection for claimed disabilities, as opposed to establishing a direct cause-and-effect relationship between radiation exposure and the disability in question."

That's what happened in the case of retired Army sergeant Paul L. Cooper, said Brown, who represented many veterans in the earliest cases involving radiation exposure, when he was a DAV national appeals officer at BVA. The DAV represented Cooper in his claim for service-connection in the mid-1970s. Brown and other DAV NSOs had great hopes that they could establish some defined guidelines with this case.

On Aug. 23, 1957, Cooper—at that time a strapping, young paratrooper—marched across a desolate stretch of Nevada toward "ground zero," the center of the site at which a 44-kiloton atomic weapon had just been detonated. Cooper's unit had been situated about 3,000 yards away in a trench. Just before the bomb test, though, the wind had changed direction, and the unit had been marched to a new location on an exposed hillside about the same distance from ground zero.

There, young Cooper waited. Nerves and muscles taut, even though he knew of no reason why he should fear an atomic blast. Surely, he reasoned, the Defense Department wouldn't risk his life . . . except in a war.

Then came the explosion. Crouched with his back turned to the fireball, he held his hands over his eyes. He could see the bones in his hands—like an X-ray—through his closed eyelids.

After the explosion, Cooper and 163 other GIs approached to within 100-200 yards of ground zero. Then they boarded trucks and were driven away. Operation Smokey, through which the Defense Department gained new data on how ground troops would react in the aftermath of an atomic blast, was over.

Or was it? Twenty years later, Cooper lay wasting away in a VA hospital bed, dying of leukemia. He was certain the disease had been caused by his exposure to radiation that day back in 1957 at the barren, bleak stretch of Nevada.

After a long struggle, the DAV finally got the VA to grant service-connection for Cooper's leukemia in April 1977. But, it was a heart-breaker for Cooper and the DAV NSOs who had worked on the case. They had hoped to win a landmark decision, linking the leu-

emia to radiation exposure from BVA. But they didn't get it.

Instead, BVA based service-connection on symptoms for which Cooper had been treated while he was still on active-duty in his last year of service. However, Cooper died with some comfort. He knew his wife and children would receive service-connected death benefits (DIC) and other VA assistance after he was gone.

No one knows how many times Cooper's story has been repeated in other scenarios by other veterans exposed to radiation during atomic weapons tests or during the occupations of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, following use of atomic bombs in those cities during World War II.

Between 1945 and 1962, the United States detonated 183 nuclear bombs in atmospheric tests in the Pacific Islands and the American Southwest. Some estimate of the number of veterans who participated in these tests run as low as 174,000. Other estimates approach half a million. According to most estimates today, approximately a quarter of a million veterans took part in these tests.

But, no one really knows for sure how many people got a dose of radiation while witnessing atomic weapons tests. Records are incomplete. Many records have been destroyed or lost. Not only does the government lack any way to get a handle on how many veterans were exposed to radiation during the tests, but the veterans who were there have a difficult time getting their hands on information the VA needs for their claims.

This lack of information is compounded by the fact that many of the cancers and other diseases the veterans claim were caused by radiation take years to develop. In some cases, 20 or even 30 years may go by before symptoms show up. Throughout the 1970s until today, the DAV and other organizations, such as the National Association of Atomic Veterans (NAAV), have plugged away at VA top management, other government leaders, and public opinion.

In 1979, the VA adopted new guidelines for handling radiation-related claims, and many thought these guidelines would be a major breakthrough. However, though the 1979 guidelines did loosen up the claims system somewhat for these veterans, they proved to be just one more milestone in a long journey.

Two years later, VA Deputy Chief Benefits Director John W. Hagan, Jr., spelled out the disappointing statistics in a letter to NAAV Executive Director Wanda S. Kelly, widow

of Orville E. Kelly, who founded the national organization of radiation-exposed veterans and their families.

"Through August 1981," said the VA's Hagan, "we have received 2,354 rating sheets. Of this number, there were 1,463 with an allegation of radiation exposure while participating in an atmospheric test, and 257 claims of veterans who participated in the occupation of Nagasaki and Hiroshima after the bombing of those cities. The balance of ratings contain disabilities which are due to other causes.

"Sixty-four radiation claims have been allowed for all causes, with 14 being allowed due to radiation exposure while participating in an atmospheric test," said the VA official. "None of the 257 claims containing allegations of exposure during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have been allowed to date. The balance of the 50 claims allowed were for other causes such as radiation therapy and occupational exposure."

BVA, Hagan told NAAV, "has allowed ten claims due to exposure to radiation while participating in atmospheric tests. The board has not allowed any claims based on exposure to radiation while serving in Hiroshima and Nagasaki."

The 1979 guidelines, for which the DAV fought hard, supposedly give the veteran the benefit of the doubt. "Where there is a reasonable doubt, it is supposed to be settled in the veteran's favor," said DAV Deputy National Legislative Director Charles E. Joeckel, Jr., who worked closely with Congress to get the VA to adopt the new guidelines.

Judging from the statistics on claims that have been allowed on the basis of radiation exposure, many now ask if the VA is interpreting the question of reasonable doubt as strictly as it possibly can.

Both DAV and NAAV leaders point out that the scientific community is split on the health-related effects of radiation exposure. Many scientists believe that even small doses of radiation can cause significant health damage, including various types of cancer.

And a recent Center for Disease Control (CDC) study of 3,223 veterans who participated in the 1957 "Smokey" test uncovered findings that strongly suggest a risk of cancer among participants in atmospheric atomic weapons tests. Initial reports from this study indicated that the nine leukemia cases found among test participants nearly tripled the leukemia rate nationwide.

Not played up in those reports was the fact that 303 of the veterans—nearly 10 percent of them—were already dead. Also not featured was the fact that 50 cases of cancer were found, *in addition* to the nine cases of leukemia.

These results demonstrate that the VA

could be considerably more liberal in granting veterans the benefit based on reasonable doubt, according to officials in both the DAV and NAAV. "There is at least cause to admit a reasonable doubt in the cases of veterans suffering from several forms of cancer," said DAV National Director of Services Norman B. Hartnett.

One recent step forward in the battle to win justice for veterans exposed to radiation doesn't involve claims for service-connection of disabilities. It concerns health care, which is a crucial issue to those exposed veterans who suffer long-term, debilitating diseases. However, that step forward may not have been a very large step.

As reported in the December issue of *DAV Magazine*, the VA was granted authority to provide health care for disabilities that may be related to radiation exposure during military service under a provision of The Veterans' Health Care, Training and Small Business Loan Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-72). The new law made similar provisions for treatment of disabilities that may be related to Agent Orange.

The VA has since issued guidelines to its health care facilities, explaining how this care should be administered. Those guidelines have drawn less than an enthusiastic response from DAV leaders, who feel they may be too restrictive. Those fears are shared by NAAV leaders, who have used phrases such as "hollow victory" and "token gesture of appeasement" to describe what has happened.

"We have a lot of veterans—and children—who are sick and still unable to get health care from the VA," explained NAAV National Veterans Liaison Barry Kail.

The DAV became wary about what kind of health care the VA was going to provide under P.L. 97-72 to veterans exposed to radiation and toxic chemicals on Nov. 3, the day President Reagan signed this legislation. A White House statement, attributed to the President and issued that day, indicated very weak Reagan administration support for this provision of the bill.

The statement said the administration would add no funds to the budget to provide the health services the bill authorizes. "I ex-

The NAAV

The editors wish to thank the officials of the National Association of Atomic Veterans (NAAV) for their invaluable assistance in the research for this feature article. NAAV is a nationwide association, made up strictly of veterans who were exposed to radiation during military service and their families. It is located at 1109 Franklin St., Burlington, Iowa, 52601.

pect this provision to be implemented in a manner that will not add to the budgetary costs of Veterans Administration medical care and treatment," the President's statement read.

The DAV's Hartnett explained that this lack of funding means the VA is once again being asked to deliver more service with fewer resources. "It's no longer possible to place that kind of requirement on a system that has already been forced to turn thousands of eligible veterans away from its doors due to funding and staffing cutbacks over the last four years," he said.

According to Hartnett, the Presidential statement leads one to believe that the administration views veterans exposed to radiation and toxic defoliants as basically nonservice-connected cases. In particular, he referred to the White House's remark that this care would be provided "without regard to financial need."

While service-connection hasn't been established in all of these cases, Hartnett said, "these disabilities may very well have been caused by military service. Congress provided this health care eligibility on the basis of the *possible* service-connection of these cases.

"As long as there's any doubt about that," the DAV spokesman stated, "no one should treat these veterans as if they were nonservice-connected. That's just not right."

The new VA guidelines do grant these veterans a priority in the VA health care system that's higher than given to strictly nonservice-connected applicants for VA care. But it's a good deal less than what the DAV believes these veterans deserve.

The guidelines were furnished to the VA field facilities on an interim basis to allow these facilities to start treating exposed veterans now. However, they have been published in the *Federal Register*, and public comment is invited by VA Central Office (810 Vermont Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C., 20420) before they become regulatory.

The guidelines state: "each veteran who participated in the testing of a nuclear device or who participated in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan, between September 11, 1945, and July 1, 1946, and who requests VA medical care, will be provided a complete medical examination and appropriate diagnostic studies . . . Where the findings reveal a condition requiring treatment, the responsible staff physician shall make a determination as to whether that condition resulted from a cause other than the veteran's exposure to radiation. Conditions other than cancer are usually considered to be due to causes other than exposure to ionizing radiation."

(Continued on page 14)

The Nuclear Cloud Still Hangs Over the Lives Of Hundreds of Thousands of Veterans, Families

(Continued from page 13)

After reading this statement, DAV leaders asked two basic questions:

- Are the guidelines directing VA physicians to look for reasons to screen radiation-exposed veterans out of their eligibility for VA care under the provisions of P.L. 97-72, a law passed by Congress and signed by the President; and

- Is VA Central Office attempting to limit care for radiation-exposed veterans only to treatment for cancer when there is sufficient evidence to at least suspect that several other disabilities may be related to radiation?

The debate on P.L. 97-72, as well as the law itself, is very clear in indicating that Congress intended VA care to be extended to all veterans suffering conditions that *may be* related to radiation.

While Congress was perfectly clear in pointing out that care provided under the authority of P.L. 97-72 is not to be viewed as a determination that a veteran has a basis for service-connection of the disability in question, nothing in the law says that this care is to be limited specifically to cases of cancer.

The new VA guidelines are also very stringent—too stringent in the DAV's opinion—with regard to the types of care that will be provided to veterans exposed to radiation and toxic chemicals. A recent VA news release spelled out the types of care these veterans will be provided:

"Health care is limited to hospital and nursing home care in VA facilities and outpatient care in VA facilities on a pre- or post-hospitalization basis or to obviate a need for hospitalization," said the release from VA Central Office.

"The services will be provided without regard to the veterans' age, service-connected status or the inability of the veteran to defray the expenses of such care, VA facilities are instructed. Veterans furnished outpatient care under this authority will be accorded priority ahead of nonservice-connected veterans and equal to former prisoners of war who are receiving care for nonservice-connected conditions."

According to DAV National Service Director Wilson, that statement may as well have been written by the Office of Management and Budget, which probably directed the writing of President Reagan's statement of weak support for the health care provisions of P.L. 97-72 reflected in its wording.

"The assumption of nonservice-connection on the part of VA Central Office rings through clear as a bell in this release," commented Wilson. "The guidelines leave veterans exposed to radiation and toxic de-

foliants in a better position than veterans who are strictly nonservice-connected—but not that much better.

"The DAV will have to wait and see how these guidelines are implemented, but I don't think they jive with Congressional intent. If, in our judgment, they fall short of what Congress intended, the DAV is going to let Congress know about it," added DAV National Legislative Director John F. Heilman.

"We supported P.L. 97-72 all the way," he stated, "and we don't want this important legislation to prove to be nothing more than an empty shell."

A disturbing aspect of the radiation exposure problem is the possibility that the children and grandchildren of these veterans have been affected. This has *not* been demonstrated scientifically, but news reports on the possible genetic effects of radiation exposure generally are bound to cause concern among veterans who were exposed during military

Radiation-Related Claims Make Vets Eligible for DAV

Most veterans who have filed claims for service-connection of disabilities they believe were caused by exposure to radiation during atomic weapons tests or during the occupations of Nagasaki or Hiroshima are eligible for DAV membership. Nearly all of these veterans have World War II or Cold War military service. And, according to the DAV's official by-laws, "An adverse ruling of the Veterans Administration will not in itself preclude eligibility to membership."

The determination on the eligibility of a veteran for DAV membership rests with the local DAV chapter or the veteran's DAV national service officer (NSO). "We ask all chapters and NSOs to be very liberal in determining the eligibility of radiation-exposed veterans," said DAV Assistant National Adjutant Robert H. Lenham.

"Due to the complex nature of radiation-related claims, *denial of service-connection by the VA should not be an overriding consideration in eligibility determinations*," said Lenham. "We decide who's eligible for membership in the DAV—not the VA. Unless there is *convincing* evidence that a radiation-exposed veteran's disabilities were caused by factors other than military service, the veteran's application for DAV membership should *always* be given the benefit of the doubt in these cases."

service.

These concerns were expressed by NAAV Executive Director Kelly in a letter that Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Minority Member Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) recently had published in the *Congressional Record*:

"An important factor to be noted from letters NAAV receives," wrote Kelly, "is the prevalence of birth defects in the children and grandchildren of the atomic veterans. In many instances, the atomic veteran informs us that children born prior to their exposure have no health problems, while children born after their exposure have birth defects and other serious illnesses."

Stating a position with which the DAV agrees, Kelly concluded that "research should be done not only on the atomic veterans, but also their offspring."

Currently, no legal or regulatory provisions address the possible effects of radiation or chemical exposure on the offspring of exposed veterans. In addition, veterans do not have the right to judicial review of denied VA claims under current law.

However, one radiation-exposed veteran recently went to court to gain the right to sue the federal government on behalf of his children, claiming his two sons suffered birth defects as a result of his participation in an atomic weapons test in 1955. U.S. District Court Judge Norma Shapiro in Philadelphia ruled in the veteran's favor.

This ruling only said that veterans' families have the right to sue the government. It involved no decision on the merit of the suit, which the veteran involved plans to bring against the government on behalf of his sons. In addition, the VA could challenge Judge Shapiro's ruling in a higher court. Therefore, the full implications of this ruling are unknown at this time.

Summing up the radiation exposure situation as it stands today, DAV National Commander Sherman E. Roodzant said, "To be sure, some progress has been made in the battle to win justice for these veterans. But, clearly, the battle is far from won."

"Though regulations governing the handling of claims have been improved, the VA continues to deny approximately 98 percent of the claims filed by veterans and their families for service-connection of disabilities they charge were caused by radiation exposure."

"Members of the DAV's national staff have been talking to officials of NAAV, discussing what steps need to be taken next. Further discussions will take place this month. Because of the nature of the radiation problem, it may take some time to get things done. But, simple justice demands faster, more aggressive action by the government than we've seen to date."



Metro Ostash, Pennsylvania Department legislative projects officer, makes introductory remarks at the first legislative action training workshop. At left is Department Commander Robert J. Reddington, who also helped organize the workshop.

Pennsylvania Kicks Off Legislative Workshops

The Department of Pennsylvania set the pace for the DAV's new Legislative Action Program when nearly 200 chapter and Auxiliary unit leaders participated in a mid-November legislative action training workshop at department headquarters near Harrisburg.

This event marked the first department-wide seminar for the Legislative Action Program, and it was enthusiastically received by all of those in attendance.

DAV National Legislative Director John F. Heilman, who conducted the workshop, expressed total amazement at the large turnout and the keen interest shown.

"If we experience the same type of attendance and enthusiasm at other department legislative action workshops as we saw in Pennsylvania, there's no doubt that the DAV

Legislative Action Program will produce the results it was designed to produce," he said.

Heilman, as well as other national staff members and national officers present for the Pennsylvania event, gave high marks to department leaders who organized the workshop. Included were Metro Ostash, department legislative projects officer; Robert J. Reddington, department commander; Robert L. Hedstrom, department adjutant; and Mary Szmurlo, department Auxiliary commander.

"They really did their homework," said Heilman. "They followed instructions provided in their Legislative Action Program—and the results showed."

Paul L. Thompson, past national commander and special projects coordinator for the DAV Commanders and Adjutants Association (C&A), was equally enthusiastic about the Pennsylvania workshop.

"It demonstrated that the C&A can work hand-in-hand with the national organization in developing and producing a project that will benefit all DAV and Auxiliary members," Thompson said.

Other past national commanders on hand for the workshop were Oliver J. Meadows and Frank Randazzo. They—along with Past National Commanders Stan Pealer and Paul Thompson; Jim Hudson, legislative chairman for the Department of Colorado DAV; and John Heilman, Charles Joeckel, and Steve Edmiston of the DAV National Legislative staff—will be conducting the various Department Legislative Action workshops.

Two national officers, Dean Ascherman, 2nd junior vice commander, and Henry Prokop, 4th junior vice commander, attended the Pennsylvania event, as did Assistant National Adjutants Dick Wilson and Bob Lenham.

Seven additional Department Legislative Action workshops were scheduled during December: Maine, Colorado, Indiana, Michigan, West Virginia, and one each for Southern and Northern California. As this issue of *DAV Magazine* went to press, the Departments of New Jersey, Florida, and Mississippi had slated workshops in January. Many more departments are expected to follow suit in the next few months.

Sitka Cemetery to Close

The Sitka National Cemetery will be closed for new burials by the end of August 1982, according to VA estimates based on current and projected interment rates.

The closing does not affect additional family-related burials in occupied graves and those reserved before 1962. The cemetery is located in the judicial division of Juneau, Alaska. The nearest open national cemetery is the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Ore.

ACTION Program Gets Underway

A new volunteer program, intended to fill some of the gaps in service programs to assist Vietnam veterans, is getting underway, with pilot projects operating in six cities.

Designed to tap the leadership resources of Vietnam veterans to assist other veterans, the program was established as part of ACTION by Thomas W. Pauken, the Vietnam veteran President Reagan named to head the federal government's volunteer agency.

Called the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLP), the new ACTION project is attempting to attract successful Vietnam veterans to help solve the problems still faced by many of their fellow veterans. Pauken has appointed several DAV members to management positions in the VVLP.

Included among them is James Webb, author of the best-selling Vietnam combat novel, *Fields of Fire*, and a new novel, *A Sense of Honor*. Webb will be an advisor to the program.

The advice of several established Vietnam veterans' leaders, including DAV National Employment Director Ronald W. Drach, was sought in setting up the VVLP, which will be funded at \$2 million a year for three years. VVLP National Program Director John P. Wheeler, III, hopes to get the program going in 50 communities nationwide.

Each community will have a salaried project director and a volunteer chairman, who will seek as volunteers Vietnam veterans who have been successful in civilian life. "We're looking for veterans who have excelled in a wide variety of civilian pursuits—the professions, business, labor, the arts," VVLP Deputy Director Bill Jayne told *DAV Magazine*.

"We're looking for people who can function at the senior levels of the business and

government structures in their communities to help build and maintain coordinated community-wide efforts to help Vietnam veterans."

While VVLP would like to concentrate on combat veterans as volunteers, Jayne stressed that commitment and integrity are the essential characteristics of the Vietnam era veterans the program is seeking.

Among the problems VVLP wants to confront are unemployment and underemployment of Vietnam veterans, though VVLP leaders hope to avoid duplicating or overlapping services already provided by the VA, the DAV and VA outreach centers, existing community-based organizations, and veterans' service organizations, such as the DAV.

However, the program will attempt to tackle some symbolic goals as well. Most important among these, according to Jayne, is "counteracting the stereotype of Vietnam veterans as losers—a notion that most harms those Vietnam veterans who do have significant problems."

The DAV's Drach agreed with VVLP coordinators that the program "cannot be a panacea that will cure all of the problems Vietnam veterans have experienced." But, he said, "It can, if successful, serve as a needed link in a chain of services for Vietnam era veterans.

"There are many Vietnam veterans in the DAV who today occupy responsible positions in their communities—business managers and executives, doctors, union officials, lawyers, clergymen, and so forth," Drach said. "These are the kind of people VVLP needs as volunteers, and this program offers such leaders a genuine opportunity to do something really meaningful for their fellow veterans."

DAV

...department and chapter news

Two Washington NSOs Promoted

David W. Gorman has been promoted to administrative assistant at DAV National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C., according to DAV National Director of Services Norman B. Hartnett.

He had been supervisor of the DAV's national appeals staff at the VA Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) in Washington since February, and had worked in that office for more than five years. In his new job, Gorman will perform a variety of duties within the DAV National Service Program.

Richard E. Patterson, assistant supervisor of the DAV's national appeals staff at BVA, has been promoted to supervisor, according to Hartnett.

Gorman was born in Pawtucket, R.I., and attended Cape Cod Community College before entering the U.S. Army in 1969. He was severely wounded by an enemy booby trap while on patrol in central Vietnam. He joined the DAV the same month he was discharged, and is a life member of National Amputation Chapter 76 and Chapter 7 in Bowie, Md.

He joined the DAV's professional staff as a national service officer (NSO) in Boston in 1971, transferring the following year to Providence, R.I. He worked as NSO supervisor

Hammerschmidt Dedicates New Chapter Building

U.S. Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt (R-Ark.) was the guest speaker at recent dedication ceremonies for the new chapter building of Fort Smith, Ark., DAV Chapter 1.

Rep. Hammerschmidt, who is the ranking minority member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, also presented a flag to the chapter that had flown over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. The flag was accepted by DAV National 3rd Junior Vice Commander Chad Colley, who is also commander of the Fort Smith chapter.

More than 100 DAV and Auxiliary members and guests attended the dedication ceremonies, including the following DAV and Auxiliary department officers: Adrian Hunt, commander; Bill Blockson, adjutant; Roy Nelson, sergeant-at-arms; Cleo Nelson, Auxiliary senior vice commander; and Edna Blockson, Auxiliary junior vice commander.

Officers and members from several other DAV chapters and Auxiliary units also attended. Colley is also the Arkansas DAV department senior vice commander.



Gorman

Patterson

there until joining the DAV national appeals staff in 1975. Gorman lives in Olney, Md., with his wife, Karen, and their three children.

Patterson, in his new position, will supervise the handling of DAV claims at the highest level of appeal in the VA claims system.

Patterson entered the U.S. Army in October 1965, and was serving with the 173rd Airborne Brigade as a medic when he was wounded in combat. He was discharged in July 1968, and joined the DAV later that month.

He joined the Boston DAV NSO staff in July 1972, and served there until December 1975, when he assumed duties as supervisor of the Providence, R.I., National Service Office. In April 1978, he joined the DAV's office at BVA, serving as an appeals officer until last August, when he was appointed assistant supervisor.

Patterson studied business administration at Rhode Island Junior College. He lives in Silver Spring, Md., and is a life member of DAV Chapter 28, Concord, Mass., and DAV Chapter 12, Rockville, Md.



DAV National 3rd Junior Vice Commander Chad Colley, right, accepts a U.S. flag from U.S. Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt (R-Ark.) during the dedication of the chapter's new building. The flag had flown over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

C&A Mid-Year Conference Set

The DAV Commanders and Adjutants Association (C&A) has scheduled its mid-year conference for Feb. 19-23, 1982, at the International Hotel, Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI).

According to Walter D. Hyle, Jr., C&A secretary-treasurer, the annual event has been timed to coincide with DAV National Commander Sherman E. Roodzant's legislative presentation to the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

Buses will be provided for those attending the conference to travel to Washington for the National Commander's presentation, as well as to the Feb. 22 sessions of the DAV National Executive and Finance Committee meetings.

Also on the conference schedule is the Department of Maryland's Feb. 20th testimonial banquet at nearby Andrews Air Force Base in honor of DAV National Commander Roodzant and Betty Hall, DAV Auxiliary national commander.

Full details on the conference are available from Walter D. Hyle, Jr., secretary-treasurer, DAV Commander and Adjutants Association, War Memorial Bldg., Room B, Baltimore, Md. 21202. Deadline for reservations and registration is Feb. 1.

DAVers Pay 'Special Tribute' on Vets' Day

Members of James R. Thomas, Jr., DAV Chapter 6, Salt Lake City, Utah, celebrated Veterans Day by honoring veterans at the Bonneville Convalescent Center. Small American flags were taped to each bed and a written Veterans Day tribute was presented to each veteran at the home.

The tribute stated, in part, "When our country called for your help in her hour of need, you dropped everything and answered that call! That's why we're proud of you! And on this day, Nov. 11, 1981, a day which is dedicated to the honor of America's veterans, we salute you!"

The members also presented letters of thanks to nonveterans at the center for their support as civilians in times of war.

Chapter members participating were George L. Carey, adjutant and Salt Lake City DAV national service officer; Frank Merrill, junior vice commander; "Skip" Hagman, past commander; John G.E. Anderson, commander; Bonnie Anderson, past commander; and George Worthen, senior vice commander.

Rites Held for Philip Muller, Former NSO

Funeral services were held recently in Myrtle Beach, S.C., for former DAV National Service Officer Philip H. Muller, 67.

Muller served in the U.S. Army from September 1940, until June 1946, when he was medically discharged for an injury he received in Italy in 1943.

After graduating in Class VIII at American University, Muller joined the DAV National Service Office staff at Fort Jackson, S.C., in May 1948. He later became supervisor of that office, which eventually moved to Columbia, S.C. He retired from the DAV in 1974.

A former adjutant of DAV Chapter 30 in Myrtle Beach, Muller also served as South Carolina Department commander and adjutant. He is survived by his wife, Catherine, and three children. Mrs. Muller requests that any memorial contributions be sent to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, 3020 Devine St., Columbia, S.C. 29201.

Rites Held for Dept. of Tennessee Commander

Funeral services for Homer Collins, Jr., commander of the Department of Tennessee DAV, were held in late November at the Mountain Home National Cemetery, Mountain Home, Tenn.

Collins, a World War II Navy veteran was born Feb. 10, 1919, in Appalachia, Va. He entered the Navy on April 22, 1944, and was honorably discharged for disabilities incurred while in the service of his country.

He was active in the DAV, and served in various capacities in Kingsport, Tenn., DAV Chapter 38, of which he was a life member.



Greet Commander . . .

Members of Ernestine Schumann-Heink DAV Chapter 2, Kansas City, Mo., greet DAV National Commander Sherman E. Roodzant, third from left, after his arrival at the Kansas City airport. The DAV members are, from left, Harry Cloverdyke, VAVS representative; Cliff Ishmael, a 50-year DAV member; Allen Van Hoy, VAVS deputy representative; Jim Schilpp, deputy chief of staff; and Walter Wessing, VAVS deputy representative.

He served as a division commander, and was elected to the department commander's post last summer. B.H. "Whitt" Whitten, department senior vice commander, moves up as commander to complete the term.

Collins is survived by his widow, Mildred; two sons, Harry of Kingsport and Richard of Asheville, N.C.; three daughters, Mrs. Jean Gibson of Nashville, Tenn., and Mrs. Judy Armitage and Mrs. Janice Wolfe of Kingsport; three stepsons, Jim and Tony Anderson of Kingsport and Johnny Anderson of Los Angeles, Calif.; 20 grandchildren; and one sister, Mrs. Eva Dyal of Jacksonville, Fla.

Five DAVers Honored For Years of Service

Five members of Greater Buffalo, N.Y., DAV Chapter 1 were recently honored with pins for 60 and 50 years of DAV service. The ceremony took place during the chapter's recent installation of officers.

Two of the members, John M.A. Sorrentino, and Raymond Kumpf, both World War I veterans who have been DAV members for 61 years, each received their 60-year pins from Chapter Commander Matthew J. O'Hara.

Sorrentino, who helped organize the chapter, and served as chapter commander three times, also was awarded an Outstanding Service Citation from DAV National Commander Sherman E. Roodzant.

Three other chapter members received their 50-year pins. They, and their length of DAV membership, are Cross Maggio, 59; Biagio Falzone, 51; and Frank Sikorski, 50.

Utah Establishes Scholarship Fund

The DAV Department of Utah has pledged two perpetuating scholarship funds totaling \$80,000 to the University of Utah's College of Nursing and College of Physical Therapy. So far, the department has given \$70,000 to university students.

The scholarship fund originated with the department board of trustees, and was unanimously approved by the state executive committee. Nursing and physical therapy students were chosen for the scholarship awards because "we feel a much closer kinship to them," said Edward Shockey, board chairman.

Scholarships are provided to juniors majoring in nursing or physical therapy after they are accepted by a review board, which includes members of the department's board of trustees. First preference is given to qualified applicants of relatives of DAV members, disabled veterans, and other handicapped people.



Board of Trustee members of the DAV Department of Utah stand with one of the many University of Utah students that will receive DAV scholarship money. Pictured, from left, are Roy Crane, board secretary; Jack O.

Bills, board vice chairman; Conrad White, Jr., past commander; Randy McGee, scholarship recipient; Fred Chavez, board member; Joe Beck, department adjutant; and Edward Shockey, board chairman.

Wisconsin CCC Group To Meet for Reunion

A reunion for Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) members stationed at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum between 1935 and 1941 is being planned for the spring of 1982 by Friends of the Arboretum.

Corps crews were responsible for the Arboretum's development and creation of its unique collection of native ecological communities. Those interested in attending the reunion, which marks the Arboretum's 50th anniversary, can write to Friends of the Arboretum, 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison, Wis. 53711.

The organization is also interested in obtaining photographs, copies of the camp newsletter, and other memorabilia.



84 VAVS Officers Appointed

DAV National VAVS Representative John P. Charlton has appointed 84 DAV members to VAVS posts in VA hospitals throughout the country, with the approval of National Commander Sherman E. Roodzant.

The appointments include four new VAVS representatives, 11 new deputy representatives, 21 recertified VAVS representatives, 38 recertified deputy representatives, two recertified state VAVS chairmen, and eight recertified associate representatives.

The new VAVS representatives are Thomas Wojciechowski, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Mike Forkapa, Cleveland, Ohio; Starks M. Crowe, Salisbury, N.C.; and James Conole, West Roxbury, Mass.

The new deputy representatives are John Ferris, Sheridan, Wyo.; John C. Palmer, Perry Point, Md.; Robert W. Pringle and Eino Tuomi, Prescott, Ariz.; Harvey G. Gregg, Martinsburg, W. Va.; Gary L. Yundt, Fort Harrison, Mont.; Peter Pizzichini, Wood, Wis.; Chester D. Davis, Birmingham, Ala.; Paul V. O'Leary, Boston, Mass.; and Kenneth Taft and Mary Tatum, West Roxbury, Mass.

The recertified VAVS representatives are Herman Newman, Brecksville, Ohio; Andrew J. Offutt, Cincinnati, Ohio; Joseph Jacob, Dayton, Ohio; Edward A. Benoit, Tucson, Ariz.; Cecil L. Boyd, Jr., Phoenix, Ariz.; Rheinhardt A. Hassler, East Orange, N.J.; Charles Juliussen, Lyons, N.J.; Wallace W. Jenkins, Madison, Wis.; Arthur Clapper, Wood, Wis.; Philip J. Feehily, Bedford, Mass.; John J. White, Boston, Mass.; Richard Corey, Brockton, Mass.; Frazier Bell, Alexandria, La.; Albert Ludens, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Raymond Parsons, Fayetteville, Ark.; Norman L. Minor, Vancouver, Wash.; Victor A. Gabaldon, Albuquerque,

N.M.; Albert A. Curry, Atlanta, Ga.; Harold E. Hall, Dublin, Ga.; Allen Benson, Allen Park, Mich.; and James Whipple, Saginaw, Mich.

The recertified deputy representatives are Clyde Stein, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Bernard Bush, Anthony Groeschel, and Jim Glahn, Fort Thomas, Ky.; Carl B. Ford, Bonham, Tex.; Harry Quatier and Isaac Pritchett, Vancouver, Wash.; Eve E. Simmons, Edward E. Donaghue, and Norman Calvert, Tucson, Ariz.; William Crivello and Chauncey Dunday, Wood, Wis.; Vasil Gartsu, West Roxbury, Mass.; Fred Cox and Robert P. Stoner, Montgomery, Ala.; Charles E. Repko and Steve Chmielecki, Brecksville, Ohio; Richard M. Stentiford, James W. Sandlin, and Arthur F. Kingsley, Bedford, Mass.; Robert Daltry and Peter Dricker, Boston, Mass.; Raymond Maples, Fayetteville, Ark.; Melvin Makey and Lloyd Phillips, Martinez, Calif.; Vito Lucie and Frank Bove, Montrose, N.Y.; Benjamin O. Peterson and Tycho Weigelt, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Louis Sasso, West Haven, Conn.; Orval Williams and Leroy T. Himes, Erie, Pa.; Philip Weltner, Jr., Atlanta, Ga.; Clifford Detamble and Joseph Parys, Allen Park, Mich.; Robert L. Green and Charles Eck, Phoenix, Ariz.; and Archie J. Gordon, Washington, D.C.

The recertified state VAVS chairmen are Albert A. Curry, Georgia, and Nelson Kelley, Texas.

The recertified associate representatives are Norman Wensky, Memphis, Tenn.; Walter N. Truslow and Emanuel Orenberg, Washington, D.C.; Thomas A. Addison, Jr., Mountain Home, Tenn.; Clifford L. Kitts and Charles Yinger, Martinsburg, W. Va.; Marion M. Mason, Louisville, Ky.; and Michael G. Ward, Tuskegee, Ala.

Signs Proclamation . . .

Tacoma, Wash., Mayor Mike Parker, second from right, stands with members of Harmony DAV Chapter 18, Tacoma, after signing a proclamation for the chapter's Forget-Me-Not campaign. DAV members are, from left, Henry Schoren, senior vice commander and campaign chairman; Adolph Dennison, commander; and John Palmiter, past department commander and chapter publicity chairman.



Supports NEHW . . .

Houston, Tex., Mayor Jim McConn, left, presents a proclamation supporting National Employ the Handicapped Week to Robert Robinson, right, Houston DAV national service officer, and Charles R. Poor, coordinator and chairman of the Greater Houston Observants of the International Year of Disabled Persons. The proclamation was strongly supported by the Houston City Council.

Membership Recruiting Awards

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S TEAM

(More than 100 New Members)

George L. Carey, Utah 6.

FRANCIS J. BEATON AWARD

(50 to 100 New Members)

David N. Sweidel, Calif. 44; Larry A. Polzin, Calif. 73; Andrew W. Klith, Fla. 75; Norman G. Brown, Idaho 2; Virgil A. Barnett, Idaho 22; Troy Bowling, Ky. 1; Michael G. Bargmann, Md. 12; George C. Doring, Mass. 40; James V. Pellegrini, Mich. 111; Gregory M. Jackson, Mich. 123; Donald R. Crull, Mich. 127; J.A. Viaminck, Minn. 33; Gerald E. Humphries, Miss. 11; Seymour R. Jaffey, N.Y. 1; Jacob Stein, N.Y. 78; John C. Vegass, Jr., N.C. 16; Walter W. Foltz, Ohio 42; Richard F. Schultz, Ohio 115; Paul A. DeMichael, Ohio 116; Irving Meadow, Pa. 14; Oscar Moan Sherrick, Pa.; Darrel E. Babcock, Tex. 17; Ray M. Borders, Tex. 31; Richard A. Fret, P.R. 1.

GOLD STAR

(25 to 49 New Members)

Lewis O. Wood, Ala. 22; James Y. Marcus, Ariz. 1; Gordon A. Parker, Ariz. 18; James R. Richardson, Ariz. 20; Willis L. Gore, Calif. 2; Guillermo Pajo, Calif. 3; Ernest C. McGaw, James E. Milton, Calif. 5; Keith L. Gustlin, Colo. 7; James J. Aretz, Jr., Conn. 5; Mary Schwartz, Fla. 35; Francis A. Benedetto, Fla. 43; Reuben F. McMullen, Fla. 96; Richard E. Jones, Fla. 139; Harold J. Anderson, Ill. 99; Larry J. Jatho, Iowa; Merle C. Smith, Iowa 54; Glen E. Willard, Ky. 89; Roy C. Runyon, Ky. 136; Cecil J. Wyatt, Me. 1; Paul L. Thompson, Md. 1; Joseph R. Harold, Michael F. Riley, Mass. 10; George O. Robinson, Mo. 10; George Anton, Nev. 11; William Petersel, N.Y. 23; John Joseph T. Shea, N.C. 20; Leroy J. Lamb, N.D. 1; James E. Norvell, Okla. 29; Bruce D. Gillikin, Tex. 5; Mark V.C. Favata, Jr., Tex. 12; Jack Hickman, Tex. 20; Roman C. Osuna, Tex. 25; Michael A. Corcoran, Va. 3; William A. Crivello, Wis. 1; Philip C. Kreisa, Wis. 19; Michael Silva-Rivera, P.R. 4.

SILVER STAR

(10 to 24 New Members)

Hollis O. Bridges, Ala. 26; Doyle P. Taylor, Ala. 41; James E. Moors, Ariz. 22; Francis J. Seaman, Ariz. 25; Phillip B. Blockson, David A. Jeter, Ark. 7; Frank T. Andrews, Ark. 42; Albert L. Aviles, Robert R. Jordan, Calif. 5; Ralph G. Gaiardo, Calif. 9; Edgar A. Blevins, Calif. 12; Reginald C. Nedeau, Calif. 13; William D. Charleston, Calif. 19; Eugene A. Twiford, Calif. 23; Joseph J. Gibbs, Calif. 44; Lester E. Cooper, Calif. 45; Clarence E. Ragland, Calif. 58; Blaine J. Bowman, Calif. 73; Samuel F. Ayala, Calif. 101; Geoffrey Dumaguit, James E. Holley, Calif. 144; William H. Conroy, Jr., Bruce G. Nitsche, Jerry P. Steelman, Colo. 7; Bernice Thorsten, Colo. 39; Clarence W. Byers, Sr., Sylvio Lamontagne, Fla. 4; Monroe D. Bosley, Carl W. Shouled, Fla. 18; Glenn P. Wade, Fla. 23; Roland C. Oakley, Fla. 28; George Pfaffendorf, Sr., Fla. 43; Bessie J. Arnold, Fla. 57; Vincent C. Nigiazio, Fla. 67; Hugh D. LeCroy, Fla. 72; Albert W. Clutter, Jr., Fla. 91; Billy J. Nix, Ga. 1; Jack B. Corson, Ind. 3; Deniz E. Reed, Ind. 7; James D. Wharry, Ind. 38; Carol D. Illener, Iowa 1; James C. Glouser, Sr., Iowa 33; Thorville W. Prather, Iowa 59; Ronald A. Paul Yeamans, Kan. 1; Charles Luttjohann, Kan. 4; Louis A. Dilbert, Ky. 47; Pearl W. Frazier, Ky. 51; Roy Cole, Ky. 94; Giles Edward Gough, Ky. 106; Perry T. Hall, Ky. 134; Elmon Newsom, Ky. 151; Samuel Z. Booher, Ky. 155; Henry Walthour, La. 15; Elmer Sewell, Md. 1; Anthony Baskerville, Md. 7; Walter Phillips, Md. 10; Anthony R. Cucchi, Francis Gilileo, Mass. 10; Samuel B. Mullin, Mas. 13; Dominic C. Spada, Mass. 42; Leroy G. Canady, Mass. 44; Charles F. Miller, Mich. 12; Budd L. Pedersen, Minn. 15; Dennis D. Mensing, Minn. 20; Ernest W. Lee, Minn. 34; Robert W. McCoy, Mo. 56; Clayton Hughes, Neb. 2; Roy D. Avery, Ollie McDuffie, Jr., Nev. 11; George T. Burdette, N.H. 1; Thomas Kruszewski, N.J. 21; Louis B. Washington, N.J. 31; Almon C. Stacy, N.J. 72; Ralph King, N.M. 3; Harold E. Schultz, N.Y. 15; Patrick Terzini, N.Y. 30; Arthur Carosella, N.Y. 154; Woodrow Boyd, N.C. 37; George B. Kashner, Robert Pierce, James F. Smith, N.C. 46; Coy D. Young, N.C. 66; Nickolas Martiniello, Ohio 117; Larry L. Settemyre, Okla. 7; N.G. Van Horn, Okla. 54; James W. Dodson, Ore. 1; Paul M. Ivas, Pa. 57; Norman J. Geist, Pa. 72; Joseph D. Whitaker, Pa. 84; Charles M. McLeod, S.C. 5; Marion D. Nesbitt, S.C. 45; Toy E. Reece, Tenn. 102; Elmer M. Carlson, Tex. 6; Sammy Ruiz, Tex. 25; Richard L. Hargrave, Tex. 78; Richard L. Richards, Tex. 195; Leroy A. Hough, Wash. 6; Paul Overby, W. Va. 2; Elmer L. Adkins, W. Va. 18; William A. Crivello, Wis. 1; Arthur Clapper, Gilbert W. Keller, Wis. 19.

BRONZE STAR

(5 to 9 New Members)

Warren H. Henson, Ala. 4; Walter Y. Green, Ala. 5; Isaac Nelson, Ala. 12; Hollis O. Bridges, Ala. 26; Charles F. Anderson, Ala. 38; Colie R. Wambles, Ala. 41; Alton E. Rogers, Ala. 75; Mario Cattani, Ariz. 1; Raymond E. Armstrong, James M. Fink, Ariz. 18; Joseph Bonfante, Sr., Ariz. 30; Virgil C. Anheg, Ark. 7; Martha F. Hayward, Ark. 27; James B. Phillips, Ark. 51; Freeland Peterson, Ark. 55; John A. Vogel, Calif. 1; Edgar A. Blevins, Calif. 12; Darrel C. Camp, Calif. 15; Eugene A. Twiford, Calif. 23; Victor J. Gumina, Calif. 46; Clarence E. Ragland, Calif. 58; John W. Ford, Jr., Calif. 93; Henry N. Darlow, Darrell K. Johnson, Calif. 95; Albert Lucero, Calif. 131; William H. Conroy, Jr., Colo. 7; Salvatore G. Marino, Colo. 22; Louise Mericle, Conn. 18; Clayton P. Giles, D.C. 16; Robert Ernst, Donald L. Rousey, Glen Wilburn, Fla. 4; Harry L. Welsing, Fla. 11; Henry S. Williams, Fla. 16; C.L. Van Der Poel, Fla. 26; Roland C. Oakley, Fla. 28; Howard L. Farrier, Fla. 32; Henry F. Koenzie, Fla. 33; Paul C. Hunkel, Jr., Fla. 38; George Pfaffendorf, Sr., Fla. 43; Harry L. Fox, Fla. 51; Thomas A. Despart, Fla. 53; Bessie J. Arnold, Fla. 57; Elmer C. Hampton, Norman F. McCarty, Fla. 58; Alfred L. Braun, Fla. 72; Robert C. Schweder, Sr. Fla. 87; Anthony P. Daddi, Robert Manfre, Fla. 119; Frank S. Ford, Jr., Ga. 11; Jerry B. Adams, Ga. 13; Anthony J. Laska, Ga. 38; Howard T. Lee, Ga. 57; Leonard Polk, Earl Russell, Ill. 6; Daniel Martellotta, Ill. 40; George R. Patzer, Ill. 42; Joseph E. Heffley, Ill. 53; Roy R. Gilmer, Ind. 6; Curtis R. Beavers, Ind. 8; Richard R. Snyder, Ind. 9; J.O. Hanesworth, Jr., Ind. 28; Claude Gehlhausen, Ind. 77; James C. Glouser, Sr., Iowa 33; Lonnie E. Hopkins, Kan. 1; William J. Moore, Kan. 4; James M.

Jones, Ky. 3; Alfred F. Wylie, Ky. 55; Monroe Vanderpool, Ky. 128; Perry T. Hall, Ky. 134; Camille H. Roy, Me. 4; William C. Walters, Md. 14; William E. Comp, Jr. Md. 21; John M. Brown, Md. 22; Henry Gillett, Mass. 9; Anthony R. Cucchi, Francis Gilileo, Mass. 10; Charles L. Snow, Mass. 71; Alfred L. Pagnotta, Mass. 96; Derek M. Flack, Mich. 2; Linville Eldridge, Mich. 122; Melvin H. Kopischke, Minn. 16; Louis C. Maloney, Miss. 50; James D. Spears, Miss. 58; Kenneth R. Morris, Mo. 1; Ronald P. Yeamans, Mo. 2; Warren A. Dysard, Mo. 41; Fred J. MacKintosh, Mont. 3; Perry Maze, Neb. 43; Dennis A. Jenkins, Warren A. Reddington, Nev. 1; Roy D. Avery, Ollie McDuffie, Jr., Nev. 11; Robert C. Stanley, N.H. 25; John S. Hrabovsky, N.J. 2; Thomas J. Michaels, N.J. 36; Kenneth Welch, N.M. 3; Alfred A. Sanchez, N.M. 37; Frank J. Fantanza, N.Y. 15; Gregory Voci, N.Y. 20; Harry G. Erway, III, N.Y. 60; Elion D. Miller, N.Y. 78; William W. Capehart, N.Y. 154; Howard J. Forney, N.Y. 171; Richard F. Weber, N.C. 9; Ted H. Newton, N.C. 25; Richard E. Hodges, N.C. 30; Robert E. Miller, N.C. 43; DeVaughan H. Ross, N.C. 48; William M. Kockeler, N.C. 67; Oscar E. Jones, Jr., N.C. 74; Curtis M. Matheson, N.C. 77; L.J. Buzzell, N.D. 4; Donald Lewis, Ohio 15; Paul Johnson, Ohio 18; John M. Uzarski, Ohio 26; James E. Snyder, Ohio 40; Robert N. Ball, Ohio 43; Harland F. Plummer, Ohio 71; James R. Wright, Ohio 74; Albert J. Gummow, Okla. 16; Bruce D. Lippert, Okla. 39; Leonard J. Burton, Okla. 63; Clyde E. Robb, Okla. 67; James W. Dodson, Ore. 1; James K. Ashley, Ore. 42; William J. Zwick, Pa. 1; Harry B. Pollack, Pa. 14; Alvin R. Kinley, Pa. 47; Charles R. Orsinger, Pa. 50; Joseph D. Whitaker, Pa. 84; John L. Bryant, Pa. 101; James R. Lloyd, S.C. 47; Omer A. Peterson, S.D. 6; Norwin Christiansen, S.D. 7; Gentry D. Smith, Tenn. 64; Burnice Whitten, Tenn. 70; Toy E. Reece, Tenn. 102; Elmer M. Carlson, Tex. 6; Volney G. Cagle, Tex. 20; William A. Bowman, Tex. 21; Abraham De LaGarza, Tex. 87; Robert M. Rosenberg, Tex. 233; Carroll E. Pyer, Jr., Vt. 3; Nathan A. Nelson, Va. 50; Clarence Lee Bundick, Va. 51; Irene L. Martin, Kenneth J. Porter, Wash. 6; James R. Rising, Wash. 8; Elmer L. Adkins, W. Va. 18; Richard L. Scott, W. Va. 24; Richard W. Saronko, Earl L. Sloniker, Wis. 9; Calvin D. Venable, Blind 1; Pedro E. Cora, P.R. 9; Amadeo Bermudez, P.R. 11.

Nine Chapters Receive Charters

Nine more new DAV chapters have been issued charters, according to National Membership Director John P. Charlton. They are:

Hi Jackson Chapter 39, located at Scottsboro, Ala., with Mose H. Johnson, Rte. 1, Box 483-A, Hollywood, Ala. 35752, as adjutant.

Carroll County Chapter 57, located at Carrollton, Ga., with Howard T. Lee, Chateau Apt. 0-7, Carrollton, Ga. 30117, as temporary officer.

William McClanahan Chapter 12, located at Paris, Ky., with William A. Brown, Rte. 5, Box 218, Paris, Ky. 40361, as adjutant.

Flemingsburg Chapter 14, located at Flemingsburg, Ky., with Joe R. Duncan, Jr., Rte. 1, Box 11, Wallingford, Ky. 41093, as acting commander.

Carriagetown Chapter 71, located at Amesbury, Mass., with Charles L. Snow, 102 T Main St., Salisbury, Mass. 01950, as acting commander.

Crossroads of Southwest Missouri Chapter 41, located at Carthage, Mo., with Noel K. Derrick, Sr., 821 Clinton, Carthage, Mo. 64836, as adjutant.

Joe Louis Chapter 33, located at North Las Vegas, Nev., with Charles R. Stewart, 3627 Timberlake Dr., North Las Vegas, Nev. 89030, as adjutant.

Newport Chapter 49, located at Newport, Pa., with Robert L. Hedstrom, 4219 Trindle Rd., Camp Hill, Pa., 17011, as temporary officer.

Eastland Chapter 92, located at Eastland, Tex., with Ray M. Borders, 4500 South Lancaster, Dallas, Tex. 75216, as temporary officer.

membership standings . . .

NOVEMBER 30, 1981

Stdg. State	Member. Popula.	Quota	% of Quota
DIVISION I—(More than 25,000 Members)			
1 Florida	43,731	44,031	99.32
2 Pennsylvania	35,751	36,211	98.73
3 Michigan	47,586	48,384	98.35
4 Massachusetts	35,656	36,254	98.35
5 California	49,866	50,892	97.98
6 Texas	40,787	42,065	96.96
7 New York	51,949	55,031	94.40
8 Ohio	40,839	43,353	94.20

DIVISION II—(10,000 to 24,999 Members)			
1 Washington	12,115	12,227	99.08
2 Illinois	17,411	17,643	98.69
3 Wisconsin	10,554	10,703	98.61
4 Colorado	10,632	10,897	97.57
5 Missouri	12,848	13,217	97.21
6 Virginia	13,777	14,199	97.03
7 Minnesota	10,840	11,195	96.83
8 Maryland	12,043	12,444	96.78
9 N. Carolina	16,295	16,917	96.32
10 New Jersey	19,936	20,723	96.20
11 Kentucky	17,688	18,419	96.03
12 Indiana	13,950	14,543	95.92
13 Georgia	10,840	11,428	94.85
14 Oklahoma	11,516	12,224	94.21

DIVISION III—(6,000 to 9,999 Members)			
1 Alabama	8,372	8,310	100.75
2 Iowa	6,677	6,756	98.83
3 Arizona	9,414	9,580	98.27
4 Connecticut	9,085	9,251	98.21
5 Arkansas	5,567	5,757	96.85
6 New Mexico	6,399	6,681	95.78
7 West Virginia	6,947	7,299	95.18
8 S. Carolina	6,187	6,542	94.57
9 Tennessee	9,328	9,894	94.28
10 Louisiana	6,751	7,221	93.49


DIVISION IV—(3,500 to 5,999 Members)			
1 Oregon	5,412	5,340	101.35
2 Idaho	3,517	3,577	98.32
3 Maine	3,782	3,881	97.45
4 Nebraska	5,122	5,329	96.12
5 Utah	4,772	4,984	95.75
6 Rhode Island	4,670	4,904	95.23
7 Kansas	5,374	5,651	95.10
8 Mississippi	5,496	5,792	94.89
9 Puerto Rico	5,289	5,577	94.84
10 New Hampshire	3,719	3,957	93.99

DIVISION V—(Less than 3,500 Members)			
1 Nevada	2,139	2,101	101.81
2 South Dakota	2,984	3,065	97.36
3 Hawaii	2,251	2,325	96.82
4 Wyoming	1,295	1,342	96.50
5 North Dakota	3,220	3,348	96.18
6 Vermont	1,917	2,000	95.85
7 Alaska	206	216	95.37
8 Montana	3,300	3,463	95.29
9 Wash., D.C.	3,121	3,281	95.12
10 Delaware	1,946	2,211	88.01


**NATIONAL TOTAL, 687,695;
NATIONAL QUOTA, 709,673**



SILVER BEAVER AWARD

 "This is the greatest thing that has ever happened to me," DAVer Vincent Colabella said recently when awarded the Silver Beaver Award, the most coveted honor in adult scouting. Colabella, who is Department of New Jersey DAV chaplain, has been active in the scouting program since 1959, serving as assistant cubmaster, pack committeeman, commissioner, unit commissioner, neighborhood commissioner, assistant district commissioner, and council commissioner. The World War II Navy veteran is a member of Kearny, N.J., DAV Chapter 25, where he has served as hospital chairman, service officer, and Americanism chairman. He is pictured receiving the prestigious award from George Magdich, left, vice president of the Boy Scouts' Tamarack Council, Lyndhurst, N.J.

'YEAR OF THE VETERAN'


 Oklahoma Gov. George Nigh has issued a proclamation for 1982 as "The Year of the Veteran." He presented the proclamation to DAV leaders at the recent Oklahoma Veterans Conference in Oklahoma City. Some 400 individuals from all veterans' groups and various government agencies attended the one-day meeting to discuss legislative priority needs. Gov. Nigh declared that he "will work with the Oklahoma Legislature and the veteran organizations to work as a team in the passage of legislation to determine that no Oklahoma war veteran shall be denied medical care, emergency assistance, training, education, or the opportunity to work and support their families." Gov. Nigh, left, is pictured presenting the proclamation to Oklahoma DAV Depart-



ment Commander Harry Roots, right, and Department Auxiliary 1st Junior Vice Commander Darlene Conroy.




MAYOR HONORED

 Syracuse, N.Y., Mayor Lee Alexander was recently honored by members of Coonley-Nojaim Memorial

DAV Chapter 30 of Syracuse "for his dedication and outstanding service to the Disabled American Veterans in this area." The mayor is shown receiving a special citation from Chapter Commander Frank Pierce, left, and Adjutant Joe Barone, right. "He has always supported us in all our endeavors," Barone said. "He has appeared at most of our DAV functions . . . but most of all he has been largely responsible for supplying us with an office and meeting rooms, lights, heat, janitorial services, for free. Because of his dedication, it has left us monies which could be used otherwise."


HONORED FOR DAV SERVICE

 Donald H. Dunn, a former DAV national service officer and past commander of the District of Columbia DAV Department, was honored recently for more than 35 years of "outstanding services to the DAV and hospitalized veterans." Department Commander Robert J. Green, left, presented Dunn, right, with a special plaque. Also present were, from left, Cleveland Jordan, chief of staff; Ell Jay Wilkins, 2nd junior vice commander; and Tom Weir, senior vice commander.






GROUNDBREAKING FOR CHAPTER HOME


 U.S. Congressman Earl D. Hutto (D-Fla.) and State Representative Ken Boles, chairman of the Florida House Veterans Affairs Committee, were special guests at recent groundbreaking ceremonies for the new chapter home of North Walton County DAV Chapter 37, Paxton, Fla. The chapter was chartered in September 1980. The two lawmakers posed with chapter officers after the groundbreaking event. Pictured, from left, are Rep. Boles, Sergeant-at-Arms Grover Beverly, Officer-of-the-Day Claude Cassidy, Commander Walter E. Polhlopek, Adjutant George E. Skirven, and Congressman Hutto.



FIRST VETS' DAY


 Citizens of Murray, Ky., enjoyed their first full-scale Veterans Day observance, thanks to the efforts of Murray DAV Chapter 50 and its publicity chairman, Alex Pall. Pall and other chapter members organized the celebration, and Pall coordinated the various groups participating, which included the Murray High School Band, Murray State University ROTC cadets, and an Army helicopter unit from nearby Fort Campbell. More than 300 people turned out for the event, which was held on the court square in the center of town. An Air Force fly-by and an appearance by U.S. Senator Walter D. Huddleston did not materialize this year, but Pall said, "I guarantee that in the future I will have both of them."

VETS' DAY IN CATSKILLS

 Members of Green County DAV Chapter and Auxiliary Unit 186, Palenville, N.Y., participated in Veterans Day memorial services in Catskill, N.Y., with other veterans' organizations. Pictured at the event are, from left, Unit Commander Sylvia DiCesare, Chapter member Charles Kline, 2nd Junior Vice Commander Thomas Dapolito, and Unit member Barbara Florak. Chapter Commander Joseph Fisco directed the chapter and unit activities at the event.




TOP VOLUNTEERS

 A husband and wife team from Rutland, Vt.—Harry and Mary Genovesi—were honored recently for each giving more than 10,000 hours of volunteer service at the White River Junction and Bennington, Vt., VA Medical Centers. William A. Yasiniski, director of the White River Junction VA Medical Center, presented silver bowls and appropriate plaques to the dedicated couple. They have been hospital volunteers since joining the DAV and Auxiliary 36 years ago. Both are presently serving as VAVS representatives.



NEW CHAPTER CHARTERED

 DAV Chapter 67 in Manning, S.C., received a DAV charter as a new chapter recently, with Department Commander Joseph W. Rabon presenting the charter to Chapter Commander Norman B. Smith. Manning Mayor Pansy Ridgeway was the featured speaker, and expressed her "pleasure in standing before such a group of dedicated veterans." "You are a different group," she said, "because it's folks like you who give America its greatness." Pictured admiring the new charter are, from left, Daniel Mims, junior vice commander; Imogene Mitchell; C.B. Mitchell, 6th District commander; Lee White; Paps Jenkinson; Clifton McNeely, senior vice commander; Culbert Haley; and Norman B. Smith, commander.



loud 'n clear

DAV MAGAZINE welcomes letters from its readers. However, due to the large volume of mail received each month, it is impossible for each letter to be acknowledged. Also, space limitations permit us to publish only a small number of letters in the "Loud 'n Clear" section. Letters requesting assistance in obtaining veterans' benefits are referred to the DAV National Service Department in Washington, D.C., for necessary action. DAV Magazine, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214.

Appreciates DAV's Help

Sir: Though, through the years, there have been many reasons to criticize the Veterans Administration, my personal experiences have always been extremely satisfactory. The DAV has been responsible for making these experiences pleasant, and I shall be eternally grateful for the wonderful work the DAV has done for me.—William C. Schobert, San Jose, California.

Blowing the Lid

Editor: Operation Big Mouth has finally blown the lid off the Reagan administration's Budget Pot. Do you believe the Congress of the United States of America will allow David Stockman to keep on back stabbing our nation's finest veterans' programs? If David Stockman is still the director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) when this letter appears in the next issue of *DAV Magazine's* "Loud 'n Clear" section, then you better believe our National Commander's Viewpoint, which appeared in the November 1981 issue of *DAV Magazine*, page 1.—Charles C. Wilkinson, Ailey, Georgia.

DAV Helps Student

Sir: I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your organization, not only for the scholarship you awarded me this year, but also for the financial assistance you have given me in past years. I will be graduating from Brown next June, and I am currently applying to law schools. Again, thanks for your generous support.—James M. Green, Hyannis, Massachusetts.

'We Can Win This One'

Sir: We, the veterans, have a tough job on our hands . . . All of the veterans should stick together in order to draw more strength into the organization. This will help and aid us in the battle. We have won all of America's wars, and this one is ours. If we stick together and fight, I am sure that we can win this one.—Levi Hicks, Jr., Chicago, Illinois.

'Heart of the Organization'

Editor: Thank you to the *DAV Magazine* staff for sticking in there on the VA program as a whole . . . and for the rapport it continues to foster, which is the heart of the organization.—John G. Lyon, Seoul, Korea.

'Inquiries' Opens Door

Sir: Thanks to your "Inquiries" section in *DAV Magazine* I saw where my old bomb group, the 463rd, was having a reunion. In writing to them I was advised that if I needed information about the day I was lost in combat—to the plane and crew—to write to the General Services Administration, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. 20409. I did so, because my medical records were destroyed by a fire in St. Louis, and the VA says because I cannot produce records of hospital treatment I am not considered service connected, even though I received the Purple Heart, was a POW, came back on a hospital ship, was in two hospitals, and discharged with a hospital. Would you believe, the National Archives (Seventh and Pennsylvania, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20408) sent me a complete record of the day I was shot down, my testimony at the War Crimes Trials, plus a captured enemy document (which they translated) listing me and wounded. I was listed among the wounded. My Congressman is now helping me in my battle with the VA. Thanks again to your "Inquiries" section, for without it I would never have known who to write to.—Lawrence W. (Bill) Hulcher, Richmond, Virginia.

Age Discrimination

Sir: The DAV does a bang-up job in helping the disabled veteran. No other veterans' organization can "hold a light" to the DAV. However, there is one place where you are "missing the boat." That is job discrimination against the older person. I know that you are in a "running battle" with the Postal Service, but go to the civilian companies and try for a job. The personnel manager will use every method so as to not hire the applicant . . . Here's hoping that you can campaign for the older worker.—John Swearingen, Long Beach, Mississippi.

The 'Most Pride'

Editor: As a World War I veteran, 89 years old, and a member of the DAV for over 60 years, I wish to give thanks to a fine organization. Your organization has always given help or advice when needed. I was born in Yugoslavia and have been on my own since the age of 12. I worked in the coal mines, the CCC, and the Federal government, but it gives me most pride to have served in the Army and to be a longtime DAV member—Mike Perpich, Laguna Hills, California.

Expresses Gratitude to DAV

Editor: I am the widow of George Wilbur Sterling, who passed away on October 8, 1981. He was a member of Chapter 7, Oakland, Calif. Last month he received your 50-year membership Certificate, for which I write to thank you . . . I'm writing this to express my gratitude to the DAV. They stood by him through all these many years, like when the VA "upped and downed" his compensation, ranging from \$8 to \$100 and down to \$0. It was the DAV lawyers who did battle for him. They always won, for they had plenty of evidence . . . We reared two children, both of whom were Navy officers, a daughter in the WAVES and a son in WWII and Korea. As a DAV member I have spent many hours as a hospital volunteer. I'm now 88 and confined to a wheelchair myself. Please accept my appreciation on behalf of your organization for the services that contributed so much to the health and happiness of my husband and his family. May the DAV continue to prosper and serve your fellow veterans. I KNOW their need is great.—Lillian C. Sterling, Mountain View, California.

Agent Orange Question

Sir: I am a life member of Chapter 115, Texas, and I am a past commander. I'm proud of my membership and of the DAV. However, I would like to take issue with National Commander Roodzant's comments concerning Agent Orange and the VA ("Commander's viewpoint," October 1981) . . . The commander feels it wrong to grant "service-connected disability" for exposure without adequate scientific evidence. Perhaps so, but it is equally wrong for the government to disavow any responsibility, without some attempt to verify or disprove the dangers of Agent Orange exposure . . . It appears that this will be another long year for the Vietnam veteran. So, what else is new? Yes, I'm a Vietnam veteran, having served there in 1965-66 and again in 1967-68. But, I guess I'm luckier than some others. I don't have to worry about having deformed children, since impotency is also an effect of Agent Orange exposure.—William W. Waters, San Marcos, Texas.

More Ernie Pyle Types

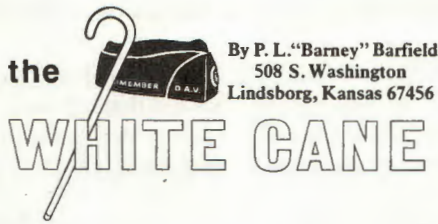
Editor: We need more Ernie Pyles . . . I can remember Ernie Pyle during World War II. He was loved and respected by our military and fellow newsmen. He was the "G.I." correspondent. He was in the front lines under fire, reporting the truth of combat. I believe he was instrumental in the respect and the support we received from the American people. The devotion he gave did cost him his life under fire. If we had such a reporter during the Vietnam Conflict, our military may have returned home with respect and honor, let alone the morale he may have given the fighting man during combat in Nam. I hope in the future our military may have more Ernie Pyle types.—Victor J. Gressot, Dobbins, California.

Lowest Class Citizens?

Editor: Many veterans remember the signs seen in lawns during the thirties and the early forties saying, "Soldiers and Dogs Keep Off." Since then, I have always assumed that a soldier is a second-class citizen, except in wartime. It seems that veterans are a little lower in the scale of humanity. Even lower is the disabled veteran with a service-connected disability, followed by the disabled veteran with nonservice-connected disabilities. There is one lower class of individuals . . . These are the retired military with service-connected disabilities. All disabled veterans received a percentage increase in their disability pay last month. Retired civil servants, who are disabled, also received this increase. Retired military with service-connected disabilities received this pay increase too, but it was deducted from their retired pay check.—Ole C. Davis, Hampton, Virginia.

Visiting the Housebound

Sirs: The DAV Magazine arrived today and I have read it with the usual pleasure. One thing came to mind that has prompted me to write a note asking you to include a small article in a near future issue. I am 100-percent disabled and essentially housebound. I have been almost housebound for about two years now, and get lonesome often. It would be of great service to me, and I'm sure to many others like me, if the local chapters could try to set up visitation programs to those who can't get around. The two vet hospitals I have been in have comradeship among patients, but I have seen very few visitors from "outside" . . . I know it's hard to get visitation committees formed or to work, but I feel this would be a good thing nationwide.—Clarence U.V. Benton, Los Alamos, New Mexico.



By P. L. "Barney" Barfield
508 S. Washington
Lindsborg, Kansas 67456

Commander Dawson and staff members of the BVNC extend the warmest and sincerest of wishes for your happiness and prosperity during this brand new year. As we face this



Visits Bases . . .

Richard L. Jones, center, California DAV department service officer (DSO), stands outside a department field service unit while explaining veterans' benefits to two Marine Corps sergeants at the San Diego Marine Corps Recruit Depot. California's service officers, working closely with the DAV national service officers in San Diego, recently established a program that permits a DAV field service unit to visit Navy and Marine Corps bases in the San Diego metropolitan area one day each week. The department has another van, manned by DSO Keith Johnson, that serves communities north of San Diego, including the large Camp Pendleton Marine Base. The one-day visits to the recruit depot and the San Diego Navy bases have alone resulted in an average of 50 contacts per week and an increase in local DAV membership. The vans were donated by the DAV Industries of San Diego.

Student Says Thanks

Gentlemen: I am a sophomore currently attending the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. This is my second year as a recipient of the DAV Scholarship, and once again I would like to express my appreciation. It is only through the help of the DAV that I am able to attend this institution. Thank you.—Richard F. Kossik.

next 12 months, let us keep in mind that, even though we have come a long way, there is much to be done.

We have now completed the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP), and many wonder if anyone or group will begin to analyze its merits. Most all segments of the media have given coverage to this movement, giving attention to the plight of the handicapped.

Many disabled individuals have personally benefited through becoming gainfully employed, etc. But, now that the seeds of information have been planted, let us continue to express our abilities and capabilities, as we live with our handicaps.

The poet, Robert Frost, said it best in one of his many poems: "The woods are lovely—dark and deep, but I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep." How easy it is to sit back and enjoy the exploration of each day, taking it easy. Yet, we must be thinking and planning for the future, too. What resolutions have you made that will be kept?

Looking to the future, you are encouraged to put on your thinking caps and use the good sense that God gave. For instance, did you know that our legislators, congressmen, senators all react before they act? Good and sound ideas to these lawmakers are given consideration and careful scrutiny.

Also, this is as good a time as can be had to go to work on any resolutions for our departments and national office. Work through your local chapter. Get involved. Each day is a challenge to us all. Enthusiasm and expectation are ingredients worthy of cultivating.

This month begins the third year that DAV Magazine is available on a voice-print copy. Application requests and comments continue to come this way. If you are a listener-reader via the Talking Book services, why not say a "thank you" to our magazine's staff at DAV National Headquarters?

John Battle, past NEC, BVNC commander, and NSO, tells us that a blind veteran can obtain a Golden Access passport to use for a discount at all National Parks. For information, write to: U.S. Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. The time for making this request is now, if you desire to visit our National Parks this summer.

Past Commander Battle also extends greetings to his many friends in the DAV, and informs us that he has been on the sick list for the last two years. We all hope to find him restored to good health, and be with us in Las Vegas in July.

John Malamazian, Director, Hines, Ill., Blind Rehab Center, has been dismissed from the hospital, after heart surgery and complications. Keep up the good work, John. All HBCA members rejoice in the good news.

The BVNC can meet its expenses only by the contributions and percentages of flower sales. Send to C.D. Venable, 2785 Skyline Dr., Westminster, Colo. 80030. Thanks for your consideration, and have a good and fruitful year. This is our sincere wish.

VAVS in action

This column invites reports of VAVS activities from every Department and Chapter in the DAV. Service to our comrades through our VAVS activities is one of the most important activities in which any

DAV member can be involved . . . and we intend to see that all such activities are acknowledged. Send your VAVS news to: VAVS in Action, DAV Magazine, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214.

150 Miles for Party

Members of Pikeville, Ky., DAV Chapter 134 drove 150 miles to the Lexington VA Medical Center to stage a bingo party and distribute donuts, sandwiches, cupcakes, homemade candy, coffee, orange juice, and clothing to about 150 patients.

The \$840 spent by the chapter and Auxiliary members came from their forget-Me-Not road-block. Officers participating included Commander Willie Lawson, Senior Vice Commander John Handshoe, Adjutant Delmer Frasure, Treasurer H.D. (Dallas) Gibson, and Historian Perry T. Hall. Auxiliary members participating included Ora Lawson, Okie Ward, Minnie Keene, Oma Frasure, Hilda Hamilton, and Genevive Walker.



Congressman Tours Hospital

U.S. Congressman Gerald B. Solomon (R-N.Y.), a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, made a recent tour of the Albany, N.Y., VA Medical Center.

Rep. Solomon, left in photo, was accompanied on his tour by Edward Zacharek, center, newly appointed chief of medical administration, and Tony LaSalvia, right, the DAV's deputy VAVS representative.

Minnesota Chapter Helps

Members of Lakeland DAV Chapter 31 of Detroit Lakes, Minn., joined other veterans' organizations in the community to help provide cable TV service for patients at the Fargo, N.D., VA Medical Center.

The DAV chapter donated \$200 to the project, which will put a remote-control color television set in each patient room and will provide cable TV service on a 12-channel system. Chapter Commander Charles Kohler presented the chapter's \$200 check to F.E. Gathman, director of the Fargo VA Medical Center.

Purchases TV Set

Kerrville, Tex., VA Medical Center patients have a new remote-control color television set, thanks to the generosity of members of Devine, Tex., DAV Chapter 23 and its Auxiliary. Chapter 23 Commander Adrian Walker, left in photo, and Unit 23 Commander Bertie Vanderleest, presented checks totaling \$500 to Arnold Mouish, director of the Kerrville VA Medical Center.



Razors, Radios Given

Members of S.R. Pyne DAV Chapter 20 of Roseburg, Ore., recently donated 12 electric razors and 12 portable radios with batteries for the patients at the Roseburg VA Medical Center. The gifts were presented by Chapter Commander Frank Gillette, Adjutant Connie Potter, and VAVS Representative Bob Smith to Clarence Gaines, chief of Recreation Service.

VA Employee Honored

The Department of New Mexico DAV recently honored Felix Garcia, a patient's representative at the Albuquerque, N.M., VA Medical Center. Department Commander Joe F. Chavez presented the DAV's Citation of Merit to Garcia in appreciation for his outstanding service. In the picture, Commander Chavez, center, presents the award to Garcia, left, while VAVS Representative Victor S. Gabaldon watches.



Help with Patients' Needs

Members of Shawnee DAV Chapter 32 of Plymouth, Pa., recently donated \$500 to the Wilkes-Barre, Pa., VA Medical Center to be used as needed for patients' benefits and for items for the nursing home that is being added to the center. The nursing home unit is expected to be completed early this year.

Chapter Commander Raymond

Bianconi presented the check to Center Director Michael Parell while a host of chapter members witnessed the event. These included VAVS Deputy Representative Edward Rogers, William Cleary, Stanley Woytowicz, Ralph Yanora, Stephen Kmush, Dennis Parulis, Michael Kelly, John Markiewicz, Albin Wienczkowski, John Pil, and Louis Nowak.



Musical Presented

A Broadway musical revue was recently sponsored by Plainfield, N.J., DAV Chapter 7 for patients at the Lyons, N.J., VA Medical Center and the Menlo Park Disabled Soldiers Home.

The show, "Memorable Moments," consisted of songs from Tony Award-winning musicals, "West Side Story," "Annie," "South Pacific," "A Chorus Line," and "Call Me Madam." A USO production, the revue was presented by a cast from the

American Theatre Wing.

Pictured after one of the performances are, standing from left, Past Commander Fred Geschwinder, Chapter 7 Commander Jerome H. Hogan, Department Senior Vice Commander Charles Juliussen, Chapter Treasurer William Scouten, and Betty Locknecker, musical accompanist. Seated, from left, are USO performers Bob Stallworth, Mayla McKeehan, Sally Woodson, and Craig Wells.



Barnett Visits Baltimore

American League umpire Larry Barnett made a special visit to the Baltimore, Md., VA Medical Center recently. Barnett toured many of the wards, chatted with patients, signed autographs, and distributed small replicas of the American flag.

Accompanying Barnett, second from left, on the tour

were, from left, Medical Center Director Richard P. Miller, Department of Maryland DAV Hospital Chairman Conrad Binick, Department of Maryland DAV Commander Anthony L. Marino, VAVS Representative George Azzaro, Chief of Staff Dr. Stanley B. Kahane, and Acting Chief of Voluntary Service David Evans, Jr.



Nebraska Donates \$1,800

The Department of Nebraska DAV recently donated \$1,800 to the three VA medical centers in the state, with \$600 going to Omaha, \$600 to Grand Island, and \$600 to Norfolk.

In the photo, Department Commander Billy R. Hough, second from right, presents a \$600 check to Steven J. Gentling, assistant director of the Omaha VA Medical Center. Witnessing the event are Charles A. (Chuck) Morgan, left, VAVS state chairman, and Ralph Spann, department adjutant.

Ready for the 'Kernels'

A jumbo popcorn popper was recently donated by members of Marquette, Mich., DAV Chapter 22 and its Auxiliary to residents of Michigan's new Jacobetti Veterans Facility at Marquette. Chapter 22 Commander Francis Helgren, left, and Unit 22 Commander Joyce Chiri presented the popcorn machine to Anton Wedal, right, commandant of the new facility in Michigan's upper peninsula area.

inquiries...

This column is devoted to all personal inquiries submitted by DAV members and other interested parties. When submitting items, please indicate if it is to substantiate a claim, to locate relatives and friends, or to locate hobby items. If you have information that can be of use to these people, please correspond directly with them. Thank you ... The Editors.

To Substantiate Claims . . .

VIETNAM, 1968—Barry Faulkner, Rte. 1, Box 25, Foster, Ky. 41043, must contact men he served with on USS Safeguard (ARS-25) who remember him injuring his back while carrying pelican hook to fantail during enemy attack, Dec. 1966, especially Hoot Phillips from Minnesota.

FRANCE, 1944-45—George N. Clewlow, P.O. Box 782, Vacaville, Calif. 95689, in behalf of the widow of the late Shirley Gonterman, would like to hear from former members of 42nd M.R. & R. Sqdn. serving at Criel, France, especially the medical people that served the unit and those who remember the housing conditions.

USS BROWNSON (DD-868), 1955-58—Ronald Miday, 170 N. Yonge St., Lot 46, Ormond Beach, Fla. 32074, would like to contact anyone who remembers his being exposed to SR6-B radar radiation while servicing antenna motor on mast in Spring 1957, especially Marcel Blais, Harold Trufant, Edward Opat, Wedo Dingledine, Chief E.T. Karkocis, and Lt. James Sanders.

NAVY ETMS, FIRE CONTROL TECHS—Ronald Miday, 170 N. Yonge St., Lot 46, Ormond Beach, Fla. 32074, would like to contact anyone claiming radar radiation induced cancer, sarcoma or carcinoma, service related or connected.

KOREA, 1953—Kenneth R. Ford, P.O. Box 405, Custer, S.D. 57730, needs to contact former members of Co. C, 839th Avn. Engr. Bn., who were with him in Osan, Korea, 1953.

USS EUCELADUS, USS STEREOPE—Dr. Edgar Paul Booth, 511 Danville Ave., Stanford, Ky. 40484, would like to hear from anyone knowing the whereabouts of Guy E. Bowerman, III, of California, who remembers his back injury on USS Eucladus, and Jack Cunningham of Philadelphia, Pa., who remembers his injury on USS Stereope; also James O'Hara and Walter J. Kiernan of Brooklyn, N.Y.

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, 1941—Jesse L. Foster, 6608 Powhatan St., Riverdale, Md. 20737, would like to hear from anyone who remembers him being in Co. E, 19th Inf. Regt., Hawaii Div., Schofield Barracks, during Japanese attack Dec. 7, 1941; also from anyone who remembers him being in Anti-Tank Co., 19th Inf., 1941-42.

KOREA, 1950-51—Alfredo Hernandez, Jr., 1314 2nd St., League City, Tex. 77573, would like to hear from anyone in B Btry., 38th F.A. Bn., 2nd Inf. Div., who remembers his hearing loss, especially Capt. Phillips and Lt. Coleman.

OKLAHOMA, WWII—Louise Chambers Hume, Rte. 2, Shelbyville, Ky. 40065, would like to hear from anyone knowing the whereabouts of Lt. Leonard U. Phelps, who lived somewhere in Oklahoma during WWII.

GERMANY, 1944—John D. Hucci, 120 St. Andrew Rd., East Boston, Mass. 02128, wants to hear from anyone who served with him in Co. D, 407th Bn., 102nd Inf. Div., especially 1st Sgt. Ryan, who sent him to hospital with frozen feet and hands, and Pltn. Sgt. Hinkley of Chelsea, Mass.

ITALY, 1944—Marvin K. (Jack) Buchanan, Rte. 1, Box 358D, Big Stone Gap, Va. 24219, would like to hear from anyone who remembers him in 8th AVAC Hospital during Battle of Casino, when he developed malaria, trench feet, and nervous condition.

CAMP BEALE, CALIF., 1946—James W. Bogle, P.O. Box 25124, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80936, needs to contact Army medical officer who examined him at Separation Center, July 29-Aug. 1, 1946, and tested him for three days regarding heart condition.

10th MOUNTAIN DIVISION, WWII—Arthur San Gregorio, 757 South Brand Blvd., San Fernando, Calif. 91340, needs to contact anyone serving with Co. E, 86th Regt., who remembers him being wounded on Mount Belvedere, Italy, February 1945.

DAV Day . . .

Pittsburgh, Pa., Mayor Richard Caliguiri, center, presents a Disabled American Veterans Day proclamation to members of Greater Pittsburgh DAV Chapter 8. The proclamation helped the chapter kick off its Forget-Me-Not campaign. Pictured, from left, are William C. Bowyer, junior vice commander; Edward Poyitlyo, finance chairman; John A. Kish, past commander; Mayor Caliguiri; Greer E. Claypoole, commander; William S. Dolney, treasurer; and Eugene P. Tallon, senior vice commander.

KOREA, 1951-52—Melvin J. Simmons, Rte. 1, Lenox, Ga. 31637, would like to hear from men who served with him in 14th Inf. Regt. and 14th Tank Co. attached to 79th and 89th Tank Bns. regarding wounds received in Triangle of Kumhwa Valley, especially Glenn Bland, Ga.; Dennis Attley, Wyo.; Thomas R. West, Harry Gray, Robert F. Baxter, and Troy Graves, S.C.; Maj. George Cook; and Telerica, Okla., who was wounded in his tank.

USS SATYR (ARL-23), 1952-53—Andrew J. Graham, 2424 Lennox St., Pomona, Calif. 91767, would like to hear from former crew members to verify medical history.

JAPAN, KOREA, 1951-52—John F. Cowles, 18 Logan Way, South Boston, Mass. 02127, would like to hear from anyone who served with him at Camp Kukamaunga, Beppu, Japan, and remembers when a tear gas grenade was set off near him while asleep in quonset hut after field exercises.

FORT BRAGG, N.C., 1951—William T. Boykin, 416 Cherry St., Kent, Ohio 44240, must contact anyone who was in Fort Bragg Field Hospital, June or July, when he was treated for his throat, while a member of 354th Trucking Co., 216th Trucking Bn.

CUBA, 1964—Rich Draugellis, 1 South Dorado Cir. #2-F, Hauppauge, N.Y. 11787, would like to hear from anyone from 4th Bn., 10th Mar. Div., who remembers when he had a cast on his leg, or who saw him in the Guantanamo Bay hospital.

35th INF. DIV., 137th REGT., CO. H—Frank Colonnese, 686 E. Monroe St., Little Falls, N.Y. 13365, would like to hear from anyone who remembers him going to the field hospital for a bayonet cut on his hand, especially Lloyd A. Bottemiller, Vancouver, Wash.; Lt. Parkhurst, Houstonia, Mo.; John V. Prais, Chicago, Ill.; and Sgt. Lawson, Kentucky.

KOREA, 1952-53—William T. Kish, Box 252 Fed. Sta., New Haven, Conn. 06502, wants to hear from anyone who knows anything about a top secret suicide intelligence mission into North Korea by small Navy-Marine group.

USS WOODBURY, II, WWII—John W. Gray, P.O. Box 642, Cashion, Ariz. 85329, would like to contact Lt. Desmond, second in command, or anyone knowing his whereabouts, who treated him for head wound suffered when ship was attacked after leaving New Orleans.

VIETNAM, 1966-67, 1969-70—Jerry E. Shroyer, Rte. 3, Columbia, Ky. 42726, would like to hear from anyone who served with him in 227th Avn. Airmobile Unit, Co. A, Ahn-Khe, who was with 1st Cav. Div. in Phan-Thiet; also from anyone who was with him during ambush when returning from Bohn-Sohng River.

NORTH AFRICA, ITALY, GERMANY, 1943—John T. (Curly or Tommy) Helms, 823 Ruebens Rd., Concord, N.C. 28025, would like to hear from anyone who served with him in Co. I, 133rd Inf., 4th Bn., 3rd Regt., 34th Div., who remembers him being hit with shrapnel, especially Lawrence Hartsell, Ted Helbeck, Corw. Hugerhide, and medic.

VALLEY FORGE ARMY HOSPITAL, 1953—John E. Vagi, P.O. Box 3044, Wright Branch, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. 32549, would like to hear from anyone knowing the whereabouts of Lavern Wagner, who was a patient with him from Mar. 26 to June 17, 1953.

GERMANY, WWII—Edward J. Kazanas, 45 Ringtown Rd., Shenandoah Heights, Pa. 17976, must contact men with him in 664th Clearing Sta. Hosp. while serving in 819th MPs, Co. B, 20th Corps, 3rd Army, especially 1st Lt. Carmen Parazzo, 1st Lt. David McClathrie, Capt. Theodore Ecklow, MD, Raymond O. Pollon, and Sgt. John Frey.

USS EGERIA (ARL-8), WWII—Gene Jones, 5049 Winsford Ct., Newark, Calif. 94560, would like to hear from shipmates who served with him from 1944 to 1946.

561st TC PORT BTN., 1952—Jefferson D. Rosier, 1520 Helena St., Jacksonville, Fla. 32208, must contact anyone who served with him and remembers when he was crushed between a fuel tank and wall of a barge in Greenland, around July 3 or 4; 561st was on USS General Hershey at the time.

CAMP VAN DORN, MISS.—Patsy A. Romeo, 39 Carver St.,

Pittsburgh, Pa. 15206, would like to hear from the medic, doctor, or colonel who remembers the 5-foot soldier rifleman from 63rd Inf. Div. who was bitten by black widow spider.

FORT McCLELLAN, ALA., 1944-45—Dennis Sanford, P.O. Box 184, Virginia, Va. 24598, would like to hear from men he served with in Inf. Repl. Trng. Camp, Co. E, 2nd Bn., 1st Regt., especially 1st Sgt. Cousins, Sgt. Goode, and Pvt. Joe Jones; also from Med. Det., especially Maj. Oscar Zarkins, MD, 14th Area Dispensary, Sect. II, and PFC Phiffer.

MOUNT PACAUAGEN, LUZON, PHILIPPINES, 1945—Albert J. Bosnyak, 616 Darrow Rd., Apt. C, Akron, Ohio 44305, would like to hear from any men of Cos. I and L, 145th Inf., 37th Inf. Div., who remember when he was at 3rd Bn. Aid Sta. with concussion, Mar. 1945, later returned to outfit to call in tank fire on Japanese position and received more concussion from Japanese artillery and mortars.

SAN DIEGO NTC, 1945—Orin R. Kitson, 834 Soroya Dr., S.W., Olympia, Wash. 98502, needs to hear from anyone who served with him during 1945 and remembers his hospitalization for chest pains, especially Mr. Jensen and Mr. Maust from Seattle.

USS FRANKLIN (CV-13), 1944—Russell Anderson, 3604 Mason Ave., Louisville, Ky. 40229, would like to hear from anyone who served with him during invasion of Philippines when Japanese suicide planes struck ship, the last one blowing him 45 or 50 feet and causing burns and metal wounds.

KOREA, 1952—John Moulton, 85 Newton St., Hartford, Conn. 06106, needs to contact Lt. Raymond E. Selttab, who knows about barrage and injuries, forward observers, 2nd Inf. Div., 23rd Inf. Regt.

334th INF. REGT., 84th INF. DIV., WWII—Robert Eugene Hall, Rte. 2, Box 323, Heathsville, Va. 22473, would like to hear from anyone knowing the whereabouts of Rudolph Gutierrez of Cutulla, Tex., James Elkins of Pikeville, Ky., Earl Youngberg of Duluth, Minn., and Bill Crumpton of Ogden, Kan.

CAMP WHEELER, GA., 1945—G.W. Newton, P.O. Box 101, Enosburg Falls, Vt. 05450, would like to hear from anyone stationed with him in Co. B, 13th Inf. Trng. Bn., 1st Pltn., who remembers his ankle injury and hospitalization for four weeks, August 1945.

USS OAK HILL (LSD-7), 1950-53—Michael J. Mahoney, 175 Searles Rd., Nashua, N.H. 03062, wants to hear from all ORANY members of R Div. concerning claims for asbestosis and radiation activity from Operation Ivy-Eniwetok, 1952.

FLIGHT SQDN. 1 (VR-1), PATUXENT RIVER, MD., 1953-55—O.W. Nicks, Jr., 8-15 27th Ave., Apt. 306, L.I.C., N.Y. 11102, would like to hear from members of Flight Med. Team: Lt. Naldena O'Barto, nurse, and hospital corpsmen Patrick J. Flynn and Rankin Watson, or Watson Rankin.

To Locate Relatives and Friends . . .

USS PRESERVER (ARS-8), 1945—Elmer L. Martin, Rte. 2, Mount Vernon, Ark. 72117, would like to hear from anyone who served with him.

TOKYO, JAPAN, 1945-47—Rosallo Garcia, P.O. Box 394, Anthony, Tex. 88021, would like to hear from Bill H. Duke and James L. Fulgion, who served with him in 64th Engr. Topographic Bn.

FORT DEVENS, MASS., 1958—J. Noll, 9 Pinehurst Ave., Saugus, Mass. 01906, would like to hear from anyone knowing the whereabouts of former MP Sgt. McKnight, who left Fort Devens for Germany in 1958.

KOREA, 1950—Glenn M. Ward, 705 West Pear Ave., Selah, Wash. 98942, would like to hear from men who were captured during the first three months of the Korean Conflict and liberated in September 1950 for a reunion being planned for 1983.

FRANCE, WWII—Adam G. Margoupis, 812 Portland Ave., Old Orchard Beach, Me. 04064, would like to hear from men who served with him in 561st QM Railroad Co., especially Capt. Cormac F. O'Callaghan and Lt. Mahlon C. Feinberg.

594th J.A.S.C.O., SOUTH PACIFIC, WWII—Charles P.



McConnell, 3013 Wayne Ave., Granite City, Ill. 62040, would like to hear from anyone in his old outfit.

FORT BELVOIR, VA., WWII—Jim Belitere, 2716 Tisinger, Dallas, Tex. 75228, would like to hear from anyone knowing the whereabouts of Leo LaForge of Ellenville, N.Y., who served with him in 85th Pontoon Engrs.

36th Div., 141st Inf., CO. A., 1944-45—Harlan M. Hoffman, 530 N. Midway Dr., Apt. 77, Escondido, Calif. 92027, would like to hear from anyone knowing the whereabouts of Edward Fiedler of Detroit, Mich., Edmond Edwards of Peoria, Ill., and Lt. O'Grady of Cincinnati, Ohio.

VIETNAM, 1966-69—Wayne Chance, 10956 So. Homan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60655, would like to hear from men he served with in 101st Airborne Div., especially Dennis Payne of Parkers Prairie, Minn., Henry Scott of Detroit, Mich., and Donald Kissner of Terre Haute, Ind.

580th and 581st A.R.C. WINGS—Roy C. Simpson, P.O. Box 11616, Fort Worth, Tex. 76109, would like to hear from all former members interested in a reunion.

KOREA, 1950-51—Harold G. Mosley, P.O. Box 532, Hyden, Ky. 41749, would like to hear from anyone knowing the whereabouts of Capt. Raymond Harvy, CO of Co. C, 17th Inf., 7th Inf. Div.; also from anyone knowing where he could obtain a copy of Capt. Harvy's book, "Fix Bayonets."

IWO JIMA, 1945—Robert Carver, 327 S. 7th St., Scottsville, Ky. 42164, would like to hear from anyone who served with him in Hq. & Hq. Sqn., 7th Fighter Command.

U.S. NAVY, 1976-79—Jim Secor, 1933 Jameson Ct., Concord, Calif. 94521, would like to hear from anyone knowing the whereabouts of Keith Burns, who served with him from June 16, 1976, to Nov. 16, 1979.

USS DENEbola (AD-12)—John Jack Burke, 5405 Columbus Rd., West Palm Beach, Fla. 33405, would like to hear from former shipmates interested in arranging a reunion.

USCGC CACTUS, WWII—Bernard Fath, 962 Fashion Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45238, would like to hear from former shipmates interested in a reunion.

781st TANK BDN.—Donald C. Wright, 1614 Merrywood Dr., Apt. 3, Johnson City, Tenn. 37601, would like to hear from anyone who served with this unit, especially Lt. Bob McIntire of Glendale, Calif., and members of Co. D.

USS ENRIGHT (APD-66)—Hayes J. Carter, 664 Riverside Dr., Lincolnton, N.C. 28092, would like to hear from former shipmates who served during WWII in Pacific to plan for a reunion.

FORT ORD, CALIF., 1942-43—R. Peter Iacchei, 1015 Rumbold St., Gardena, Calif. 90248, would like to hear from friends he served with, especially Rocky DiPietro from Scranton, Pa., and from anyone knowing the whereabouts of Jack and Irene Rogers, brother and sister.

FRANCE, 1944—Harlin Curtis Roe, Rte. 2, Box 742, Olive Hill, Ky. 41164, would like to hear from anyone knowing the whereabouts of Leo Kiser, originally from Philadelphia, Pa., who served in 80th Inf. Div.

USS TARBELL (DD-142), WWII—John L. Merritt, 5103 Hewitt Dr., Fayetteville, N.C. 28301, would like to hear from John S. Anastasia, former RM3, last known to be living in Philadelphia, Pa., or from anyone knowing his whereabouts.

77th INFANTRY DIV., 1940-45—Josephine Greenberg Komlosy, 109 Cambridge Dr., Hicksville, N.Y. 11801, would like to hear from anyone knowing the whereabouts of her brother, William (Bill) Greenberg, who served in 77th Div. on Guam and Alaska, last known to living in Miami, Fla.

FORT SILL, OKLA., WWII—Millard F. Dailey, 106 Belcher St., Centerville, Ala. 35042, would like to hear from former members of 3rd Air Training (Overhead) who are interested in a reunion.

ITALY, 1944-45—Benny Shaffner, P.O. Box 128, Eddyville, Ky. 42038, would like to hear from anyone who served in Co. G, 338th Inf. Regt., 85th Div., May 1944 to Jan. 1945.

U.S. ARMY, 1940-45—Nathaniel Woody and Vance A. Carpenter, 13133 Callender, South Gate, Mich. 48195, would like to hear from anyone who served with them in Co. C, Anti-Tank Bn., 34th Inf., 8th Div., Camp Jackson, S.C., 1940-41, especially Homer Maddley; also 501st Paratroopers, Fort Benning, Ga., 1941-43; and 771st T.D. Bn., England, France, Germany, 1944-45; and MPs 1st Army Hqtrs., Eastern Defense Command, Governor's Island, N.Y.; and 626th T.D. Bn.

NAVY FLIGHT TRNG., 1943—Thomas D. Crouch, Rte. 2, Box 1002B, Rusk, Tex. 75785, would like to hear from anyone who remembers him from Navy Flight Training Class 1943, pre-flight, U. of Georgia, Athens, primary flight training, New Orleans, advanced PBYS, Pensacola, Fla.; also from anyone who served with him in VS-41, USS Ranger.

USS S-14—Orval Dupree, 152 Dory Ln., Osprey, Fla. 33559, would like to hear from anyone who put the S-14 back in commission and served on her in Caribbean, especially G.O. (Jeff) Giofrida and C. (Corky) Conrad.

CO. K, 22nd INF., 4th INF. DIV., WWII—Charles L. Evans, P.O. Box 456, Galatia, Ill. 62935, would like to hear from friends he served with, especially Clayton (Little Joe) Waldrup, William Levy, and Joseph Thomas.

WWII—Henry J. Summerlin, Rte. 1, Box 134-A, Charlotte Court House, Va. 23923, would like to hear from anyone knowing the whereabouts of his daughter, Sonja Eloise Summerlin, last known to be in Dundalk, Md., when she graduated from Notre Dame Teachers College, was married about 1968 to an Army captain whose name may be McCormack.

C.B.M.U. 527, 1945-46—Ralph Bemis, 918 Inagua W. Bay Indies, Venice, Fla. 33595, would like to hear from anyone who was in this unit on Palmyra or John Rogers Airport, Honolulu.

FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE, WWII—John A. Rich, 202 South 9th St., Zephyrhills, Fla. 33599, would like to hear from friends he served with in 3rd Co., 3rd Regt.

104th INF. DIV., WWII—Gerald Adamietz, P.O. Box 14099, Spokane, Wash. 99214, would like to hear from anyone knowing the whereabouts of his brother, Erwin A. Adamietz, who served in 104th Inf. Div., 1942-44; also a former merchant seaman in German service, 1934-39; last known to be living in New York City and Miami, Fla.

SOUTHERN FRANCE, 1955-56—Frank G. Tolliver, 1707 8th St., N.W., Apt. 101, Washington, D.C. 20001, would like to hear from friends he served with in Co. C, 469th Engr. Avn. Bn., especially Cleo Weaver, Fred Harrell, Murray Eskridge, and Roy T. Howerton; also Sgt. Junious Bowers, who served with him in 972nd Laundry Co., Fort Lee, Va., 1954.

reunions...

24th INF. DIV. (KOREA, 1950-51), 21st INF. REGT., CO. L, 5-6-7—February 1982, Atlanta, Ga. Contact Hugh A. Brown, 75 Jefferson Cir., Athens, Ga. 30601.

DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION—February 26-28, 1982, Marriott Hotel, San Antonio, Tex. Contact Byron P. Howlett, Jr., P.O. Box 8091, Wainwright Station, San Antonio, Tex. 78208.

10th MOUNTAIN DIVISION, WWII—Southeast Chapter reunion, March 1982, Fort Myers, Fla. Contact Virgil Raulerson, 3726 Welcome Ln., Jacksonville, Fla. 32216.

805th AVIATION ENGINEERS BTN.—March 12-14, 1982, Cypress Gardens, Winter Haven, Fla. Contact Ray Roberts, 14430 Spyglass St., Orlando, Fla. 32817.

ALAMO SCOUTS—April 1982, San Antonio, Tex. Contact R.S. Sumner, 4101 Waltrous Ave., Tampa, Fla. 33609.

USS MELLETTE (APA-156)—April 23-25, 1982, St. Louis, Mo. Contact D.S. Letnes, 1529 Robertson Ct., Grand Forks, N.D. 58201.

USS LST 312—May 14-16, 1982, Panorama Inn, Ocala, Fla. Contact Bill McCumiskey, 514A Fairways Circle, Ocala, Fla. 32672.

FIRST BEACH BDN., U.S. NAVY, WWII—May 19-22, 1982, Hilton Inn, Jeffersonville, Ind. Contact Harvey P. Jeffries, 805 Lafayette Ave., Oolitic, Ind. 47451.

461st and 484 BOMB GROUPS—May 28-30, 1982, Sheraton-Dayton Downtown Hotel, Dayton, Ohio. Contact Bud Markel, 1122 Ysabel St., Redondo Beach, Calif. 90277, or Frank O'Bannon, 137 Via La Soledad, Redondo Beach, Calif. 90277.

117th CAVALRY RECON. SQDN.—May 29, 1982, Westfield Armory, Westfield, N.J. Contact Anton Plonko, 500 Rahway Ave., Westfield, N.J. 07090.

28th INFANTRY DIVISION, WWI, WWII, KOREA—June 1982, Pittsburgh, Pa. Contact Leon H. Hancock, 105 Schars Ln., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15237.

63rd AIRDROME SQDN.—June 1982, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact Jesse W. Gray, 2802 Cheyenne Ave., Pueblo, Colo. 81003.

NAVY HURRICANE HUNTERS (VW-4, VJ-2, VP-23, VP-13, VPM-3, VPW-3, VPB-114)—June 18-19, 1982, Jacksonville, Fla. Contact R.J. Fitzsimmons, Jr., 2818 Cedarcrest Dr., Orange Park, Fla. 32073.

494th BOMB GRP. (H), 864th, 865th, 866th, 867th, Hq. Sqdns. and all support units, 7th AF, WWII—June 18-20, 1982, Stouffer's Dayton Plaza, Dayton, Ohio. Contact Alfred (Rusty) Restuccia, 100 Willard St., Quincy, Mass. 02169.

76th TRANSP. TRUCK CO. (HEAVY)—Summer 1982, Contact Dr. Lester F. Russell, 310 Belmar Blvd., Farmingdale, N.J. 07727.

12th ARMORED DIVISION—July 8-11, 1982, St. Louis, Mo. Contact Warren E. Mau, 4320 Germantown-Liberty Rd., Germantown, Ohio 45327.

VIETNAM, 1970-73—Jerry E. Sears, 163 Farley Pl., Paducah, Ky. 42001, would like to hear from former NHA, Inc., employees, Donald E. Felder and Mike Sloss.

U.S. MARINE CORPS, WWII—Floyd J. West, Apartado Postal 3, Tala, Jalisco, Mexico 45300, would like to hear from anyone knowing the whereabouts of Stanley Krzywicki, who served with him during WWII in Marines and was best man at his wedding in 1947.

KHE SANH, VIETNAM, 1967-68—Mrs. Michael J. Brellenthin, 5271 Roosevelt Blvd., Clearwater, Fla. 33516, would like to hear from anyone who served with her husband in 1st Bn., 26th Mar., 3rd Div., Bravo Co., and also from his best friends, Robert Butler from Ala., Ferguson Brewer from W. Va., Carlos Beltran from Ecuador, and Walter Boone from Calif., all who went to Nam with him.

JAPAN, 1948-50—John J. Dixon, Jr., 25 Sunrise Dr., Bridgewater, Mass. 02324, wants to hear from anyone from Co. D, 27th Inf. Regt., 25th Div., who served in Osaka Honshu, Japan and then went to Korea.

ITALY, 1943-45—James Onistzuk, 17 Cunniff Ave., Milford, Mass. 01757, would like to hear from men he served with in Co. M, 135th Inf., 34th Div., also from men he served with in Co. M, 21st Inf., Schofield Barracks, 1938-41.

VIETNAM, 1969-70—Dwight (Sunny) Johnson, 5417 Ravenna St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45227, would like to hear from men he served with at An-Hoa, Kilo 3/5, 1st Mar. Div.

USS ENGLEWOOD HILLS, PACIFIC, WWII—Jacqueline Snider Templest, 847 Tyson Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19111, would like to contact her father, SN. Clarence Everett Snider, or anyone knowing his whereabouts.

CHANUTE AFB, ILL., 1953-54—Chuck Esquirell, 243 Morwood Rd., Telford, Pa. 18969, would like to hear from Albert (Al) Menke, who served with him in Hqtrs. Sqn., 3345th ABG, or anyone knowing his whereabouts; also would like to hear from anyone who served in Hqtrs. Sqn. during that time.

WWII, PACIFIC/WAR DOGS—John G. Lyon, FESS/USAGY, APO, San Francisco, Calif. 96301, would like to hear from 1st Dog Pltn. members, especially Bud Poole, Chicago; "Penny," Florida; Ogilvie Brothers, N.Y.

To Locate Hobby Items . . .

KENNETH S. NICHOLS, 11 East Lake Rd., New Fairfield, Conn. 06810, would like to hear from anyone who can tell him where he can obtain copies of Bill Mauldin's book, "Up Front."

DEXTER PATTON, P.O. Box 111, Crossville, Tenn. 38555, wants to buy "Stars and Stripes," 1942 through 1945, will also pay postage.

DAVID W. WOODRUM, 5031 N. 71st, Lincoln, Neb. 68507, would like to receive shoulder patches from discontinued units,

1906th AVIATION ENGINEERS BDN., H&S CO., and all 1906th Line Companies, A, B, C, D—July 11-18, 1982, Grand Rapids, Mich. Contact Arthur C. Burgdorf, 207 Wall St., Michigan City, Ind. 46360.

29th AIR SERVICE GROUP—July 12-16, 1982, Clarksville, Va. Contact Frank Pace, 315 W. 15th St., Dover, Ohio 44622.

AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR—July 12-14, 1982, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact E.O. Hollinsworth, P.O. Box 517, Fountain, Colo. 80817.

9th ARMORED DIVISION, WWII—July 13-15, 1982, Manhattan, Kan. Contact Vern W. Reaugh, 323 S. Willard Ave., Hampton, Va. 23663.

USS MELVILLE (AD-2)—July 16-18, 1982, Allentown, Pa. Contact James H. West, 4 Melbourne Ln., Greenville, S.C. 29615.

CO. A, 112th INF. REGT., 28th DIV.—July 30-31, 1982, Cory, Pa. Contact Frank J. Delury, Rte. 2, Cory, Pa. 16407.

414th BOMB SQDN., 97th BOMB GRP.—August 4-6, 1982, Chattanooga, Tenn. Contact Charles A. Merlo, 7335 Neckel, Dearborn, Mich. 48126.

USS STERPOE & USS ENCELADUS—August 6-8, 1982, Continental Inn, Lexington, Ky. Contact Dr. Edgar Paul Booth, 511 Danville Ave., Stanford, Ky. 40484.

676th RADAR SQDN.—August 6-8, 1982, Antigo, Wis. Contact Roy (Tiny) Swinehart, 827 6th Ave., Antigo, Wis. 54409.

USS VINCENNES (CA-44 & CL-64)—August 7-12, 1982, Holiday Inn, Vincennes, Ind. Contact Bert Gibbons, 2709 Monroe St., Paducah, Ky. 42001.

96th NAVY SEA BEES, WWII—August 19-22, 1982, Camelot Hotel, Tulsa, Okla. Contact Mrs. Gus (Hazel) Solarski, 139 Ravenhead, Houston, Tex. 77034.

USS CURTISS (AV-4)—September 7-9, 1982, San Diego, Calif. Contact Francis A. Pavlu, 682 Medford St., El Cajon, Calif. 92020.

100th BOMB GROUP—September 9-12, 1982, Landmark Hotel, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Horace Varian, 1145 Boylston St., Newton, Mass. 02164, or Storm C. Rhode, C-11 Chicora Apts., 3701 N. Kings Highway, Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29577.

5959th AAA (AW) BDN.—September 11, 1982, Butler, Pa. Contact Dominic Bonafeste, 444 Vista Dr., Butler, Pa. 16001.

USS QUINCY (CA-39 & CA-71)—September 17-19, 1982, Chattanooga, Tenn. Contact Albert Levesque, 46 Foster St., Pawtucket, R.I. 02861.

5th AIR BASE GROUP, Del Monte Air Base, Philippines, Dec. 8, 1941—September 24-26, 1982, Sacramento, Calif. Contact Walt Regehr, 5137 Elbert Way, Sacramento, Calif. 95842.

243rd CA, BTRY, D, WWII—September 25, 1982, Cranston, R.I. Contact Charles E. Brothers, 48 Jastram St., Providence, R.I. 02908.

75th AIR DEPOT WING (all squadrons serving in Texas, Korea, Japan, 1952-55)—October 14-17, 1982, San Antonio, Tex. Contact Kenneth M. Brunmeier, P.O. Box 181, Onida, S.D. 57564.

especialy WWII paratrooper units.

TOM McLAUGHLIN, P.O. Box 1913, North Mankato, Minn. 56001, wants "Leatherneck" magazines, 1966-70; state year, month, and cost.

HARRY PROSPER, 1833 58th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11204, would like to obtain the following WWII vintage OD chevrons: T-5 (Cpl. W/T), T-4 (Buck Sgt. W/T), S/Sgt.; will pay reasonable price and postage.

DENZIL COPPLER, 23415 W. Centerfield Dr., Genoa, Ohio 43430, would like to obtain any old plastic model airplane kits.

DAN VILLANO, 10158 1/2 McClemon, Tujunga, Calif. 91042, would like to purchase police shoulder patches.

CHARLES E. DREASHER, 1710 S. Clementine, Ocean-side, Calif. 92054, would like to hear from anyone who knows where he can purchase a copy of the book, "Sochow The Marine," by Paul C. Lees, which is about the 4th Marines' mascot dog.

JACK GOLOB, 10138 Odessa Ave., Sepulveda, Calif. 91343, would like to get all different military matches, Army, Air Force, and Marines; will trade stamps or cash.

ROY S. HAMMOCK, 833 Noble Ave., Danville, Va. 24540, needs license plates from every state to help with his hobby, any year; will return postage costs.

CHUCK RAAB, Rte. 6, Box 979B-2, Orlando, Fla. 32820, would like pocket or pen knife; will pay reasonable price and postage.

JAMES FELDHAUS, 35 Shirley Dr., Jacksonville, N.C. 28540, would like to receive any and all copies of military recruiting material, especially pamphlets, handouts, etc., WWII, Korea, Vietnam, any of the services; will pay postage.

CARL L. ROSCHER, 6908 Rowland, Kansas City, Kan. 66109, would like to locate a WWII discharge button (ruptured duck); will pay reasonable price and postage.

E.V. MAC KINNON, 140-112 Ave., Apt. 1, Treasure Island, Fla. 33706, would like to get a 3rd Division, Constabulary (Circle C Cowboys), and 7th Army patches to complete collection of units he served with in WWII, Korea, and German occupation; will pay reasonable price and postage.

JOHN W. CALHOUN, P.O. Box 1558, Post Falls, Idaho 83854, would like to obtain old badges, buttons, and picture post cards of Spokane, Wash.; also old trade tokens; will pay reasonable price and postage.

JOHN D. LUPTON, 249 Davis St., Ishpeming, Mich. 49849, would like to pick up a "pen pal" from Alaska.

STEVE WALKER, SR., 18 Ohio Ave., Newton Upper Falls, Mass. 02164, would like to purchase the book, "World War II History of the 4th Armored Division"; will pay going price plus postage.

FRANK SINGER, P.O. Box 100, Centerville, Mass. 02632, would like to buy old pocket knives.

Visits Michigan . . .

National Commander Betty Hall, seated left, pauses for a picture while visiting the Allen Park, Mich., VA Medical Center. Seated with her are Center Director James Stephens and Auxiliary Department Commander Addie White. Standing, from left, are VAVS Representative Eleanor DeTamble, Department Adjutant Margaret Baumgartner, Chief of Voluntary Services Wayne Snider, VAVS Deputy Helen Parys, Department Senior Vice Commander June Nettleton, and Frances Roberts. Commander Hall also visited the Battle Creek VA Medical Center and the Michigan Veterans Facility at Grand Rapids, and attended zone receptions and 50th anniversaries.



Visits Tennessee . . .

National Commander Betty Hall, second from left in top photo and right in bottom photo, visits the Memphis and Nashville, Tenn., VA Medical Centers. Joining her on the Memphis tour are, from left, Center Assistant Director R.C. Meiler, 6th District NEC Mary Farmer, Department Commander Margaret Brown, Department Senior Vice Commander Lula Howard, Unit 70 Commander Ruby Watkins, VAVS representative Janice Boozer, and DAV Department Past Commander Edward Brown. Seated center is Charles Boozer, DAV VAVS representative. In the bottom photo are, from left Past Commander Edward Brown, Auxiliary Department Commander Margaret Brown, and Nashville VA Center Director Larry E. Deters. Commander Hall also attended the Tennessee Mid-Winter Conference in Nashville.



Join the 'Reach for the Stars' Bunch

As the year 1981 draws to a close, I am asking that you look back on 1981 and see all the changes that have taken place.

For example, we have a new president and a new head of the Veterans Administration, neither of which have shown any particular interest in the veterans and their problems. We also have new members in the Congress. How many of them have shown their interest?

Well, we of the Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary are ever diligent and remain constantly at hand when needed. Speaking of Auxiliary members, do you know that we have 10,864 one-year delinquent members and 7,224 two-year delinquents. I wonder where they are and have they been contacted regarding their overdue dues. We need them, because our strength lies in our numbers.

A review of the December 10th printout also revealed that we are short 9 percent of our quota. If we all made an effort to get a few of the delinquent members we would be over quota. You realize that the dues notices for next year will be coming out soon, and we don't want our members paying for next year if they haven't paid for this one, do we??

Let us all get on those stairs heading for the stars and bring along those delinquent members. And, let us not forget those who are eligible and haven't signed up yet. The bigger the membership, the better the clout. Let us all "Reach for the Stars" with Commander Betty.

P.S. Those Junior Stars shine mighty bright, and give us much light—Florence Daley, national membership chairman.



From your commander . . .

A New Beginning . . .

Betty Hall
DAV Auxiliary National Commander

Thank goodness for January!
It's a time of new beginnings and a time to store last year's treasures in our hearts and minds. We remember with joy the successes we have had, and are thankful that January traditionally is a time of renewal.

1981 is worth remembering . . . but, thank goodness for new beginnings. We can look back and see that we haven't really had the tremendous success that we MUST have in the area of MEMBERSHIP. We are still a long way from our goal. This has to be one of our most important priorities!

The well being of all of our other programs depends on membership. With the enormous cuts being made in our national budget, sheer numbers will insure us an equal hearing when our programs are being considered.

Those of us who have disabled loved ones know that the pain and mental anguish they suffer is well worth the time we spend with DAV Auxiliary projects. But, we need even more members to expand the programs to adequately cover all those who need our help. Won't you make a special effort to bring in two or more new members this month? They will be glad you did, and DAV Auxiliary will too.

We have so many things in this country to be thankful for . . . the privilege of meeting together to work for our veterans is one of them. Our men and women who gave their lives and health believed in this country. We dare not let that belief falter. Ask your Americanism chairman what you can do to help promote patriotism.

Because we are free Americans, we can choose to serve our community as best we see fit. All of you know of the many worthwhile projects that deserve support in our own towns and cities, and while we cannot be involved in every one, as members of the DAV Auxiliary we can cheerfully aid in some.

Word of our love and concern will make it easier when we need to ask for help for our organization. And, of course, the personal reward from working in community service projects is immeasurable. When your Community Service chairman asks for help, give it willingly.

One of the major responsibilities of our Auxiliary is to give aid to our disabled veterans and their families. By volunteering our time to work in hospitals, nursing homes, and other like facilities, we can accomplish much. Volunteer your time to your Hospital Chairman.

Our Junior members can add a great deal to many of our programs. It's fun to work with your Junior Activities chairman. You'll be surprised and grateful for the exuberance and good will these young women can bring to your unit.

"Volunteers make a difference." While this is true about any volunteer program, it is particularly meaningful for our VAVS

program. The work we do in Veterans Administration medical facilities assists and motivates our veterans to an early recovery and a return to life with their families in their own communities. This is, perhaps, the highest reward our Auxiliary can receive. For, these men are OUR husbands, SONS, and FATHERS that are being restored to us. We have a unique opportunity to be a part of this experience. Talk to your VAVS representative. She will know how you can best serve.

Will there be hospital beds for needy veterans, or college money for those young men and women who have lost one or more parents in a war? How will surviving spouses of war victims support young families?

These items are part of the continuing cost of any war action, but many of our legislators have never been involved in a war or have forgotten the horror of it all. When your Legislative chairman asks you to write or phone your senator or congressman, do so immediately. We all know that we will have to bear our fair share of the national budget cuts being made, but let's make sure that the programs that are most vital will not be lost. Respond positively to each request for help. It's the least we can do.

This can be a wonderful new beginning for our DAV Auxiliary. Let's work together to make this the best year yet!

Happy New Year!

Reach for The Stars



★ Kentucky

★ North Dakota

★ South Carolina

DAV

Auxiliary in action...

Great Participation . . .

Junior members of Manatee County DAV Auxiliary Unit 18, East Bradenton, Fla., smile happily after receiving a plaque for outstanding participation in the Veterans Day parade in their city. Pictured, from left, are Linda Ruh, Lucille Langois, Cindy Curry, Shannon Lanphear, Junior Commander Cathy McCluskey, Shaelyn Nelson, and Junior Advisor and unit Commander Helen Shoudel.



History Award . . .

Addie White, right, Department of Michigan DAV Auxiliary commander, and Johann Spalding, department historian, display the national award the Michigan department won for the best history book. It is the only award given in the national history book contest.



Certificate of Appreciation . . .

Department of Georgia DAV Auxiliary Commander Ann Reynolds, left, happily accepts a VA Certificate of Appreciation from Eugene E. Speer, Jr., director of the Augusta, Ga., VA Medical Center.

Chaplain's Corner . . .

Lenna Mary Moore
National Chaplain

This poem was read at the Fall Conference, and was requested by members who attended to be published in the magazine.

Lord, help me to live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way
That when I kneel to pray
My prayers shall be for others.

Help me in all the work I do
Ever to be sincere and true,
And know that all I do for Thee
Must needs be done for others.

Others, Lord, yes others
Let this my motto be.
Let me live for others
That I may live like Thee.

—Anonymous

TAPS

Elma T. Lindsey, Ala. 66; Lue Bertha Glover, Ark. 2; Alice T. Wiles, Calif. 2; Emma Ewing, Calif. 4; Helene Jansen, Calif. 5; Stella Cook, Calif. 9; Chloe Valentine, Calif. 27; Leona B. Greer, Fla. 16; Mary G. McShane, Fla. 42; Gertrude P. Lutz, Fla. 45; Margaret Martin, Fla. 65; Ann W. Cheney, Gladys L. Ellenwood, Ga. 44; Clentine Fisher, Mabel A. Summers, Ind. 6; Bessie Castello, Ind. 15; Kathryn E. Dunn, Ind. 16; Lula M. Payne, La. 15; Clare C. Hall, Me. 16; Violet Wood, Mich. 2; Lorella B. Lightbody, Mich. 7; Julia Kwetkowski, Mich. 23; Agnes Burnash, Mich. 61; Lucy Propst, Mich. 135; Arvilla E. Hamlin, Minn. 5; Othelia Koshiol, Minn. 9; Marguerite W. Hill, Blanche B. Klein, Miss. 5; Lena Ashcraft, Mo. 21; Ruth Eckel, N.J. 49; Ethel Wood, N.M. 30; Julia Corridore, N.Y. 88; Esther P. McKnight, Ohio 8; Janet E. Ladd, Mary Potter, Ohio 27; Mona Sheridan, Ohio 43; Cleo Brown, Ohio 95; Sana Scheuffele, Ore. 7; Mrs. Clyde Haney, Tex. 83; Merle M. Lucy, Tex. 165; Crystal Elbert, Mabel S. Quinn, Wash. 1; Minnie Selsmeyer, Wis. 3; Mary Joyce, Wis. 6.

Unit Charters Issued

Charters have been issued to 10 new DAV Auxiliary units, including three Junior units, according to National Adjutant L. Kit Seal.

The three Junior units are Michigan 20, North Carolina 39, and North Dakota 24. The new senior units are:

Carbondale Unit 98, Pennsylvania, with Sonia Baldwin, 16 Chestnut St., Carbondale, Pa. 18407, as commander.

Wilson County Unit 8, North Carolina, with Magnolia Tripp, 208 Daniel St., Tarboro, N.C. 27866, as commander.

Flemingsburg Unit 14, Kentucky, with no officers yet announced.

Selden Unit 190, New York, with no offices yet announced.

Meyersdale Unit 127, Pennsylvania, with Patricia Ann Diest, Rte. 4, Box 266, Meyersdale, Pa. 15552, as commander.

Eastland Unit 92, Texas, with Ruth Haley, Rte. 2, Eastland, Tex. 76448, as acting commander.

Lawrenceburg Unit 75, Indiana, with no officers yet announced.



Building Fund . . .

Lucy W. Ross, left, commander of DAV Auxiliary Unit 42, Willingboro, N.J., presents a check for \$300 to Thomas Stubblefield, right, Chapter 42 commander, that will be added to the chapter's building fund. Unit 42 also recently entertained New Jersey DAV and Auxiliary department officers during an official visit to the chapter and unit. Department officers attending included Charles Juliusen, commander; Frank Dazzo, 1st junior vice commander; and Auxiliary officers Theresa Dazzo, commander; Elizabeth Reynolds, senior vice commander; Barbara Gallelo, 1st junior vice commander; Ann Kunz, Historian; and Helen Dolci, past department commander.

Auxiliary VAVS Activities . . .

DELIVER TV SET . . . Members of Thomas Poldino DAV Auxiliary Unit 185, Lindenhurst, N. Y., recently delivered a color TV to the Northport, N. Y., VA Medical Center. It is the second year that the 3½-year-old unit has donated one or more televisions to the hospital. Last year, the unit presented five black and white TV sets. Pictured, from left, are Dorothy Martin; Betty James; William W. Hart, chief of voluntary service; Geraldine Asdahl, commander; Fran Peribonis, VAVS representative; Nancy Shore; Elinore Herbst; Gloria Stewart; and Dolores Robidoux, VAVS deputy representative.



TOURS HOSPITAL . . . Bee Lewis, commander of the Department of Texas DAV Auxiliary, recently visited the Waco, Tex., VA Medical Center. Pictured, from left, are Hazel Neill, VAVS representative; Bee Lewis; and Irvin D. Noll, hospital director.



CHECK PRESENTED . . . The DAV Auxiliary Department of Virginia recently presented a \$1,000 check to the McGuire VA Medical Center (VAMC) that will be used to buy recreation equipment. Pictured are, from left, Gladys Moulson, VAVS deputy representative; Bessie South, VAVS representative; Jean Allen, Auxiliary department commander; and Kenneth Mulholland, Jr., VAMC associate director.

PRESENT CHECK . . . DAV Auxiliary Unit 28, Lakeland, Fla., recently donated \$500 to the Tampa, Fla., VA Medical Center. The money will be used to buy a TV set for the spinal cord injury unit at the hospital. Pictured, from left, are Georganne Ritchie, VAVS representative; Richard A. Silver, hospital director; Clois Merkel, unit hospital representative; Dorothy Gartrell, commander; and Ennis Sheard, VAVS representative.



- Alabama**
1—Sudduth, James P.; 2—Self, William K.; 7—Shurden, Robert W.; 9—Aycock, Wilburn T.; 26—Phillips, Claude S.; 76—Adams, Fancher, Jr.
- Arizona**
1—Bolio, Howard; Ekis, Edward L.; Gordon, Homer D.; Horvat, Nicholas; Hurkala, Nicholas; Jacobs, Fay A.; McKee, Robert L.; Miller, Harold G.; Sargent, Harry A.; Senter, Claude A.; Spitz, Ralph C.; Timpe, David; Wilson, Hiram E.; 4—Martin, Stephen J.; 12—Robinson, Fred S.; 16—Coyner, Dave; Wallace, William C.; 18—Clark, Merrell B.; Mitchell, Lloyd V.; Sprengle, Richard E.; 20—Yancy, James; 22—Minnick, Glen H.; 24—O'Donnell, Norman A.; 28—Ehrichs, Gene J.; Wood, Roy E.; 30—Bricker, Donald D.; Hunt, LeRoy K.
- Arkansas**
2—Jenkins, Clarence A.; Pantroy, Mercer; 7—Baker, Maurice C.; Beers, George F.; Bradley, E.A.; Starnes, James W.; 23—LaRue, Charles M.; 26—Jones, Randolph J.; 39—Heft, Frank C.; 47—McCaskill, Paul D.
- Blind**
1—Reed, Wallace J.
- California**
2—DeWitt, Millard G.; Durland, Charles C.; Rotter, Marion C.; 3—Baumann, Woodrow C.; Cartiel, Howard W.; Nelson, Warren C.; Recto, Eugenio B.; Welch, David M.; Ying, Hom W.; 5—Coleman, Ardis W.; Copeland, Dock C.; Garter, William A.; McGaughey, Joel; Meifert, Paul W.; Moseley, Willie M.; Tidmore, Willie C.; Volz, Fritz; Yacoubian, Edward Y.; 6—Dare, Richard B.; Humiston, George A., II; Watkins, Charles E.; 7—Blaine, James S.; 11—Perry, Arthur; 14—Magee, Mary; Schickner, Leslie E.; 17—Herzog, Eula M.; Higbee, Clarence M.; Scalabrino, Adam J.; 19—Vollmer, Robert; 20—Corbin, Harold W.; Hraslich, Louis; 22—Meade, Arthur E.; 23—Barker, William H.; Groshong, Floyd E.; Kloecker, Sam S.; Langord, Guy O.; 28—Wilke, Edwin F.; 30—Weikal, William B.; 33—

Werner, William C.; 42—Moore, Warren E.; 48—Hall, Howard B.; 52—Teall, Dewey A.; Umbarger, Vernon L.; 56—Kinney, Donald R.; Piano, Maximiano; Reynolds, Walter R.; 62—Maccucci, Paul R.; 71—Miller, Henry W.; 73—Manning, Cyril C.; Stanley, Clyde E.; 78—Anderson, Joe I.; 81—Empling, Alfred G.; 84—Pope, Orris R.; 85—Crenshaw, Andrew D.; Engholm, Samuel J.; Glick, Donald R.; Kito, Robert A.; Robertson, M.J.; Sloop, James H.; 89—Day, Glen V.; 114—Sommers, Herbert J.; 128—Britt, Raymond; 144—Gardner, Ben B.; Jacobson, Leo D.; Jordan, Lovelace; 154—Henoach, Paul C.

Colorado
1—Hill, Richard W.; 7—Doxbeck, Thomas A.; Jelliffe, William L.; Machamer, Roy; Robertson, John E.; 9—Overturf, Lee Lake; 18—McCartney, M.F.; 21—Meek, Robert A.; 22—Bebber, Vincent; Thompson, Chester I.

Connecticut
3—Baldino, Patrick J.; Rotzal, Reinhold A.; 9—Doll, Emil G.; 10—Reynolds, Joseph P.; 12—Shea, William D.; 18—Cooper, Ray C.

Delaware
1—Betts, Walter H.

District of Columbia
1—Grant, Charles L., Jr.; Thomas, John F.; 5—Parman, William; 14—Anderson, Charles E.

Florida
2—Baker, Gerald T.; 4—Tetlow, Phillip H.; 9—Kollman, Clinton R.; Mackiewicz, Eugene; 11—Smith, Kenneth E.; 12—Johns, Walter; 16—Blythe, James A.; Iler, Arthur D.; Jackson, Benjamin F.; Lane, Jesse R., Sr.; McGivern, Joseph P.; Nettles, Jack L.; 17—Sellers, A.E.; 18—Jacobs, Dana B.; Pratt, Clifton M.; 23—Andrews, John P.; Monneyham, D.H., Sr.; 24—Balmaseda, Reinaldo; 25—Tetlow, Phillip H.; 30—Matias, John A.; Poole, Jack A.; 32—Harris, John J.; Lorbach, Harold E.; 40—Hanser, Robert C.; Shub, Bernard; Slomer, Norbert F.; 41—Davis, William H.; 43—Cowart, C.T.; Khoury, Abraham F.; Sargent, Manuel J.; Sykes, Charles J.; 45—Hogue, Charles O.; 46—Reese, Robert H.; Whitman, Elmer L.; 59—Fritsch, James R.; Nevins, James; 72—Brazel, Harvey L.; Doss, Jodie A.; McNichol, John J.; Todd, M.A.; 73—Lazarus, Alexander; 75—Bembry, Calvin; 78—Koenig, John J.; Laird, Archie; 81—Yates, Doris B.; 83—Labor, George I.; 86—Donahue, Charles A.; 87—Mooneyhan, Houston; 91—Wiseman, Kermit R.; 93—Breuer, Carl William; Rebban, Kenneth C.; 101—Bolds, James J.; 103—Freeman, Lester H.; Lynch, Robert J.; 108—Collins, Frederick M.; 116—Greene, Charles M.; McCoy, Richard P.; McDonald, Paul H.; 117—Ray, Joe P.; 125—Cook, Zinney W.; Malone, John C., Jr.; 127—Brennan, Mary B.; Clark, Ernest N., Sr.; 129—Ritter, Clovis D.; 137—Brown, Harvey R.

Foreign
8—O'Grady, Henry P.

Georgia
9—Christian, Ann R.; 13—Wallace, Charles E.; 14—Jackson, Elias, Jr.; 20—White, Benjamin P.; 44—Cheney, Prather R.; 56—Bennett, Herbert.

Idaho
1—Skym, Richard D.; 2—Dana, Robert R.; Drollinger, Alfonso; 5—Nickolaus, Raymond G.; 6—Peterson, Delbert K.; Woolsey, Lynn W.; 18—Holdren, Richard E.; 20—Hutchison, Lawrence C.

Illinois
2—Sitter, Rudolph L.; 4—Kennedy, Thomas; 5—Koebler, Jacob E., Jr.; 15—Deming, Donald W.; 18—Peterson, Howard E.; 22—Howes, Jack; Miliota, Joseph E.; 25—Von Cloedt, William T.; 34—Reed, Lester A.; 40—Glatz, Edgar; 42—Crane, Ben; 51—Evans, Frank J.; 54—Herrman, Robert Edward; 62—King, Edward A.; 76—Mulder, Gerrit; 77—Weber, Harold H.; 84—Tralewski, Edward R.; 87—Kirk, Clyde W.; 88—Mayberry, Ralph J.; 90—Gross, Paul A.; Harris, Stephen W.; Largent, Roy C.; Reynolds, Stanford; 95—Metelko, Frank T.

Indiana
2—Gaine, Todd; 5—Maggard, William; 9—Scott, James; 15—Rohn, Howard; 16—Jenkins, Paul D.; Sams, Raymond L.; 17—Palkovich, Basil; 19—Correll, William F.; 33—Cabbage, James A.; 40—Gerbers, Wayne J.; Meyer, Howard C.; Mock, Earl E.; 55—McCauley, Robert E.; 57—Edick, Kenneth G.; 77—Jaent, Othmar M.; Sermersheim, Ray G.

Iowa
4—Neff, Clifford K.; 15—Powers, Cyril E.; 17—Dunnington, Robert L.; 18—Smithburg, Herbert R.; 19—Carlson, Wallace E.; 20—Allgood, Howard Ray; 21—Blackwood, Robert; 33—Kuhman, Fred; 54—Moret, Henry J.

Kansas
10—Crow, Harry E.; 22—Vance, John W.; 25—Carter, John H.; 38—Boller, Harold D.

Kentucky
1—Combs, James; Freeman, Paul G.; 4—Swift, Gova V.; 7—Shepherd, Willis L.; 11—Golden, Floyd D.; 48—Hunt, Clarence A.; 51—Wilson, Roy R.; 81—Moore, Wallace; 103—Knox, Kenneth; 106—Hall, John B.; 126—Ball, Willard; 148—Miller, Robert C.; 153—Fleming, Ernest B.

Louisiana
6—Faris, Nicholas B., Sr.; 9—Mennet, Francis J.; 19—Brunet, Willard J.; Bushnell, Leo J.; 36—Terry, Emile G., Jr.; 45—Boudreaux, Wallace J.; Gomez, Carlton M.; Stokes, Charles B.; Wonnacott, Richard F.

Maine
3—Laird, Paul E.; 4—Barnes, Charles P.; Guillerault, Raymone; 11—St. Marie, Roland A.; 18—Soucier, Rene J.; 21—Daigle, Joseph A.; Moody, Kenneth C.; Weston, Orton F.



Greet Van . . .
Several DAV and VA personnel greet a DAV Field Service Unit as it arrives at the Westchester Mall in Mohegan Lake, N.Y. The van assisted more than 100 disabled veterans with questions about their benefits. DAV Chapter 137, Peekskill, N.Y., held a special luncheon for local and state officials and government and private employers on the employment

needs of disabled veterans. Pictured, from left, are P.J. Reilly, VAVS deputy representative; Peter Kovacs, director, New York VA Regional Office; Jim Waters, New York City DAV national service officer (NSO); Joseph Weintraub, aide to Kovacs; Richard DiIorio, DAV NSO; and Frank Columbo, Chapter 137 commander and VAVS representative.

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chaplain's corner...

January 1982

"Lest old acquaintances be forgot, and never brought to mind" . . . Familiar words we hear sung as we usher in a new year.

These words tell us something important. We are told to *don't forget!!!* Don't forget those of the past who have been part of our lives, people whom we have loved, by whom we have been loved. Remember those who have been part of our lives, who have been responsible for who we are, what we are. Words of wisdom, coming into our lives at the changing of the year, when we pause at a moment in time, looking forward to the unknown future . . . Looking backward with a grateful memory.

Our beloved DAV subscribes to this wisdom of "lest old acquaintances be forgot." We never forget those who have gone before us in the DAV, be it in the past year, be it in all the years past. We need the memories of these who have gone before us in the DAV to remind us of their work, which laid the foundations of what we proudly possess today.

Disabled veterans cannot forget their past. Their disability is with them at all times and places. No disabled veteran asked for a disability. They accept that which they cannot change, and live with it.

At the beginning of 1982, we of the DAV send up our prayer to the Lord of all creation . . . To the God of history . . . To the all-loving timeless God of mercy and love. We ask Him for His blessings in the forthcoming year . . . We ask for peace in the world, and we pray that to all DAVers the year of 1982 will bring joys and happiness . . . Amen.

Fr. Thomas J. Meersman
DAV National Chaplain

Albert; Reitan, Martin; 21—Urych, Stanley; 22—Aldrich, Kirk R.; 23—Bjorklund, David; Dietz, Arthur H.; Mead, Allen M., Jr.; Schultz, Elmer J.; Wasrnuud, Kenneth A.; 35—Kmet, Sam.

West Virginia

2—White, James A.; 16—Van Kirk, Woodrow M.; 18—Stafford, Carl W.; 33—Hall, Henry L.

Wisconsin

1—Januchowski, Theodore; Linsinger, Frank; Sarge, Walter J.; 2—Beutler, Marvin R.; 6—Mecca, Rodger; 8—Schulte, Kenneth I.; 10—Garton, Raymond E.; Olstad, Al R.; 20—Larsen, Robert F.; McLean, James A.; Zinkel, Roland; 27—Konis, John A.; 46—Wolff, Frederick R.; 48—Prior, Clifford W.; 49—Lechnir, Thomas R.; 57—Stricker, Harry C.; 64—Bonk, Julius S.

Wyoming

2—Tafoya, Joe M.; 4—Funkhouser, Vern C.; 8—Daniels, Edward L.; Smith, Otis E.

Maryland

1—Albi, Guido; Engelbach, William D.; Sullivan, Edward M.; 3—Hutton, Charles, Jr.; Martin, John S.; 13—Schroen, Edward, Jr.; 14—Bockstanz, Clarence K.; 16—Poremski, Alfonse A.; 21—McHenry, George D.; 29—Rodeheaver, C.F., Sr.

Massachusetts

1—Kent, John; 8—Bellantuoni, Philip; Brown, Ralph L.; Conti, Lenio; Gibson, Terry A.; 9—Breaud, Edward H.; Sardinio, Julio; 10—Casey, Edward J.; Marcinkiewics, S.F.; 22—Albert, Robert J.; Nagle, John J.; 25—White, Thomas N., Sr.; 27—Kneeland, Harold W.; 32—Dolan, John T.; 33—Guerino, Anthony M.; 35—Leonard, James H.; 39—Burns, John J.; McDermott, James A.; Philbrook, Frederick; 45—Isaacson, Carl H.; 48—Niemaszky, Anthony J.; 49—Armour, Charles R.; 53—Turpack, Walter E.; 56—Dunphe, Earle S.; 62—Frasciello, Joseph; 63—Lefebvre, Leo P.; 64—Monette, Raymond J.; 68—Begley, John G.; Ostrowski, Vincent; Tuper, Elaine F.; 69—Harlow, Maitland T.; 84—Sands, James J.; 88—Ralston, John L.; 96—Glavin, Thomas J.; Hill, Ester P.; 105—St. Pierre, J.C.R.; 109—Doherty, John J.

Michigan

1—Casey, Neil W.; Herring, Luther A., Jr.; Lystad, C.A.; 2—Vandenberge, Timothy; Walenga, William T.H.R.; 4—Weirauch, Walter A.; 6—Haines, Howard, Jr.; Koole, Glenn E.; 8—Dobson, Robert J., Sr.; 9—Jezewski, Paul; Symroski, Joseph; 10—Rogers, Vincent; 13—Conlin, William A.; 15—Myers, Elmer J.; 16—Biel, Kenneth J.; Walerych, Paul; 17—Shannon, Eli L.; 18—Gerling, Marshall H.; 19—Ackerson, Karl D.; Firman, Gerald L.; O'Brien, Joseph C.; 23—Provost, William P.; 29—Shaw, Robert O. J.; 32—Cooper, Gifford A.; 36—Jirak, Frank J.; 38—Rokos, Carl J.; 53—Cott, Ralph W.; 62—Tinsley, Leslie G.; 73—Runyan, David F.; 74—Kauppanen, William N.; Lemm, Carl F., Sr.; Luttinen, Andrew R.; 77—Laduke, Gerald E.; 89—Sherburn, Carroll, Jr.; 113—Benbow, Robert W.; Bulger, Paul J., Sr.; Fricchette, Philip J.; Hartley, George, Sr.; Hawkins, Lance K.; MacFarlane, Andrew; 121—Van Daele, Albert L.; 123—Tenace, Joseph; 127—Edwards, John T.; Iadipalo, Jerry; Mayer, William Henry; Werner, Richard J.; 135—Barber, Eugene E.

Minnesota

1—Dubravcic, Stephan M.; Gates, James L.; Hansen, Hans M.; Van Duessen, R.L.; 5—Swanson, Frank; 10—Harten, Clarence D.; Priem, C.; 33—Driscoll, James.

Mississippi

5—McPherson, Otis J.; 29—Trussell, Granville L.

Missouri

1—Campbell, Charles L.; Carmody, James; Coffey, Rich; Deering, Lee H.; Dermody, Charles D.; Finney, Roy; Hamilton, Frank L.; Henderson, Francis T.; Johnson, George E.; Jones, Albert W.; Klein, Harold E.; Micciche, John P.; Simakoff, Isadore I.; 2—Vincent, Eddie E.; 11—Camp, Lloyd E.; Maness, Ralph E.; 16—Black, Eugene; Williams, Robert G.; 51—Nixon, Hilburn L.; 52—McCloud, John D.

Montana

2—Fabian, John S.; 3—Melvie, John; White, Irl E.; 10—Haugh, Richard F.; 11—Haugse, Erling; 13—Coley, Albert; 16—Collins, Walter H.

Nebraska

2—Kana, Mitchell; Vahle, Paul E.; 7—Cutter, George D.; Ritchey, C.J.; 20—Louden, Ben K.; 35—Weddie, Thomas C.; 42—Vejraska, Melvin.

Nevada

1—Wuench, Joseph L.; 11—Gray, Anne G.

New Hampshire

7—Brousseau, Henry R.; Charron, Francis X.; Richardson, Henry B.; Toussaint, Richard L.; 11—Paquette, J. Alfred; 19—Bates, John E., Jr.; Deming, Lawrence E.; Fallon, John H.; 23—Wallace, Joseph.

New Jersey

1—Rona, Oscar M.A.; 4—LeCato, Charles; Murday, Charles; 8—Dembowski, Walter; 10—Hombarger, Stewart; Toro, Frank; 18—Gole, Anthony A.; 33—Crudelle, Alfonso; 40—Szymanski, Bruno J.; 44—Glidden, Burt R.; 63—Miller, Lester J.; 68—Watson, Harold S.

New Mexico

2—Martin, John W., Jr.; Vigil, Carlos; 20—Montano, Edward S.; 27—Greenwood, Leo O.; Setters, Walter E.; 30—Martin, Albert R.; 33—Van Rensselaer, K.M.

New York

8—Nicotra, Joseph P.; 10—McGinley, Kevin T.; 16—Bagnato, Marcus A.; 18—McDonald, Joseph R.; Washer, Burt T.; 23—Doyle, Daniel J.; 28—Iacono, Aniello A.; 30—Sullivan, Riley W.; 38—Crandall, Arthur S.; Garrett, Lionel J., Sr.; 82—Corridori, Joseph; Dardano, Nicholas F.; De Santis, Philip F.; Decosty, Charles P.; Donegan, John E.; Gerstner, John A.; Kamin, Bernard; Manley, Harry W.; Perrotta, Carmen J.; Saporito, James; Sychysz, Stephen F.; 88—Abbate, Arthur C.; Capobianco, Arthur; Carach, Ralph L.; Carpenter, Joseph T.; Catroppa, Dominick; Chase, Arthur D.; DeCocco, Joseph; Ferrucci, Stephen P.; Graham, Olin; Karbowski, Casimer; Mahar, James E.; Martinez, Agapito V.; Mennillo, Dominick; Moskal, Thaddeus J.; Van Allen, Raymond W.; White, Sam N.; 109—DePalma, Joseph N.; 113—Hubbard, Horace H.; 118—Russo, John V.; 119—Newton, Cecil R.; 120—Bleckinger, Frank C.; Radice, Irene C.; Von Scheidt, John A.; 123—Scive, John; 173—Frare, Romeo.

North Carolina

3—Anderson, Lindsay D.; Baker, James S.; Benosky, Stephen, Jr.; Bingham, Gordon R.; Booth, George; Eller, Dan William; Morton, E.T.; 4—Griffin, J.C.; 10—Clark, Seymour; 14—Swan, William J.; 16—Wolfe, James E.; 20—Grant, William R.; Trojchak, Frank; 25—Lee, Woodrow F.; 29—Dorsett, Eddie C.; 40—Smith, Jason B., Sr.; 48—Bright, Sylvester A.; Corey, Ira H.; 55—Noble, Franklin E.; 67—Brodie, William E.; 79—O'Neill, Nicholas, Jr.

North Dakota

9—Berve, Ordean S.

Ohio

2—Fisher, Albert E.; 3—Arbogast, Quetin W.; Arms, Richard Charles; Baker, Clarence E.; Blackburn, Guilford I.; Davis, Earl W.; Eastep, Edward J.; Herron, Lester L.; Price, Gurney A.; Taylor, Earl, Jr.; Thompson, Paul E.; Tomic, Paul E.; 7—Bobek, Albert S.; 8—Turner, Lawrence O.; 9—Mason, William P.; 15—Geisler, Walter S., Jr.; 17—Coulter, Thomas W.

Hicks, George; Matevich, Leo J.; 20—Gaydosh, Andrew J.; 23—Wolfe, William D.; 27—Lefevre, Carl R.; 28—Woods, John F.; 30—Daley, Craig L.; 35—Austin, Charles R.; Brown, Priscilla E.; Jarvis, D.; Monahan, Floyd; Palmer, Alvin I.; 36—Curtis, George S.; 40—Kane, Paul R.; 45—Jenkins, Charles F.; 50—Goodballet, George S.; 52—Creighton, Michael E.; Winters, Floyd J.; 53—Hoffman, Julian W.; 56—Bartlett, Henry D.; 65—Ball, Chester; Walter; 67—West, Orville B.; 71—Frumpp, Ralph J.; 89—Jordan, Ralph L.; 103—Cook, Lester; 105—Cridler, Odys; Hesse, Arthur P.; 117—Dawson, Jack C.; Dupont, Helen K.; Modra, Frank A.; Schlanz, Frank A.; Stanko, Andrew; 131—Myers, Cecil J.

Oklahoma

26—Smith, Harry L.; 29—Kirken, Ted R.; 30—Bryson, Howard A., Sr.; 32—DePolo, Joseph Ross; 39—Vaughan, James V.; 47—Harris, Luther L.; Julien, E.A.; Porter, Ernest B.; Schlabach, E.A.; 54—Erwin, Louis A.

Oregon

1—Angerinos, Peter; 4—Bremer, August H.; 7—Barber, Dan C.; 9—Dayton, Harry; 10—Quenell, Lawrence; 12—Gantt, Oscar; 25—Ehrmantraut, Frank R.; 40—McIntire, Charles G.

Pennsylvania

1—Bossick, Francis; Jones, Harry W.; 2—Glavach, Adolph L.; 3—McElwee, Hubert W.; Paul, James C.; 4—Hunsicker, Charles, Jr.; 6—Stotesberry, Leslie; Wallace, Oswald L.; 7—Cole, Stanley W.; 8—Cowan, James M.; D'Azzarello, Vincent; Daschbach, Raymond, Jr.; Kephart, George J., Sr.; Shorts, Blair B.; Wesling, Lawrence; 9—Ras, Edward W.; 10—Delp, Clarence A.; 11—Meyers, Joseph; 13—Royler, Robert E.; 14—Avery, David J.; Fortune, Elmer; Kovelman, David; Powell, Eddie; Tynes, Alexander; 15—Novia, Dionino; 16—Mikalarias, John L.; Seigfried, Charles L.; 20—McAfoos, Earl; 21—Cooper, Albert W.; 22—Kobulinsky, George; 24—Rowe, Henry F.; 31—Ambromovage, Alex W.; Przybylik, Paul J.; Yorski, Victor; 32—Yanord, Ralph; 34—Landis, Levi C.; 36—Sloan, Wayne W.; 44—Gilsleider, George O.; 47—Whyne, John M.; 50—Albert, Harry E., Jr.; 73—Dombrowski, Stanley; Johnson, Donald A.; Meckley, Patricia A.; Miller, Richard L.; 76—Borrelli, James A.; Hecker, Raymond; 77—Omlor, Robert H.; 78—Ramsey, John W.; 80—Cromwell, John J.; Saunders, L.R.; 82—Donohoe, James H.; 85—Markowski, Walter E.; McGuinness, James; 102—Martin, Arthur R.; Motz, Leonard J.; 110—Jacob, Harvey T.; 115—Laiso, Frank; 119—Maceiunas, Joseph A.; 125—Dempsey, Edward B.; 127; Shumaker, Artha E.

Philippines

2—Pano, Rafael B.

Puerto Rico

55—Donate, Juan.

Rhode Island

10—Cabana, Clifford J.; Clifford, Norman A.; Patalano, Nicola; 13—Allsop, Jean; LaMora, Joseph L.; Lazar, John R.; Proulx, Lester J.; Rocabello, John J.; 17—Campbell, George M.; 22—Detonnancourt, Omer E.

South Carolina

1—Dill, Corthen O.; Miles, Charles; Woodruff, William, Jr.; 3—Javier, Ferdinand R.; 17—Gordon, Earl F.; Ward, Euton E.; 28—High, James H.; McFarland, J.B., Sr.; 40—Johnson, Hoke S.; 44—Dennis, Harold.

South Dakota

1—Colwill, Harry E.; Diekman, Fred H.; Duffy, Laurence B.; 3—Cross, Cassius N.; 7—Kollmar, Aaron E.; 20—Kallenberger, Ernie T.

Tennessee

3—Armes, Grover S.; Dunn, Edward F.; 13—Fagan, John O.; 21—Wrenn, James E., Sr.; 38—Whitton, Vernon H.; 39—Crosswhite, Roby C.; Purvis, William I.; 70—Churchman, Charles L.; Cornelius, Ira E.; Sanders, Robert E., Jr.; 91—Crowley, Thomas H.

Texas

1—Williams, Austin; 2—Abbott, Maurice L.; Cox, Walter J.; Del Toro Grabel; Eldred, Bennie; Loffand, Price A.; McNealy, Herbert P.; Zschiesche, Edgar L.; 6—Collier, William M.; 10—Sekulic, Phil; 11—Rowden, Floyd; 14—Butcher, William E.; 16—Russell, Charles E.; 20—Brewer, Alvin C.; Hathaway, Emory A.; Ramsey, Charles L.; 21—Roberts, Frank L.; 31—Plimmer, Charles C.; 32—Wallace, William T.; 42—Patridge, O.S.; 44—Charness, Casey, Sr.; 45—Dickens, Walter E.; 54—Clontz, Roy L.; Ford, Calvin L.; Shourd, Louis A.; 55—Blum, Earl; Marsh, James H.; Miller, Joseph; Yayon, John B.; Watkins, Hartwell R.; 61—Bonorden, Malcolm; Bremer, Marcus M.; 63—Robinson, Claude A.; 81—Lewis, Arlie F.; 95—Daly, Lynn; 101—Hollaway, George I.; 113—Lindsay, James V.; 158—Woodin, Woodrow L.; 163—Laughner, Kenneth G.; 165—Loewenstein, Albert G.; 167—Roberts, Calvin E.; 175—Templeton, Nmie D.; 188—Barron, Hurshel L.; Hobbs, Jess; Massengale, Z.L.; Swain, Floyd S.; 197—Watkins, Dixie L.; 198—Glenn, Calvin B., Jr.; Lackey, James A.; Piper, Charles W.; 203—Trevino, Oscar R.

Utah

6—Gage, Earle E.; King, Albert E.; Schmidke, Albert; 9—Mortensen, Gary W.; Stevens, Don E.

Vermont

6—Dukette, Francis A.; 7—Cone, Bernard L.; 15—Cleveland, Charles N.

Virginia

2—Akers, Norman D.; 3—Craft, Carl C.; Epperly, Harless C.; Gordon, Walter D.; Hutchinson, Ezra R.; Lucado, Huey W.; Smith, Basiel M.; 5—Mason, William F., Sr.; Umphlette, William B.; 8—Carson, Milton D.; Hughes, Eugene O.; 10—Sastr, Louis P.; Tate, Vernie E.; 11—Hedrick, Dale C.; Murray, Ralph E.; 17—Shavender, Wilbur M.; Stickle, Marvin S.; 22—King, Rodney L.; 23—Bowen, Ivan L.; Hundley, Kermit R.; Spence, Silas W.; 26—McGowan, James D.; 29—Boyd, Ervin M.; Genadopoulos, M.J.; Workman, James J.; Young, James W.; 30—Via, Roy L.; 35—Kerr, Howard E.; 44—Rice, John H.; Waitman, Clifton K.; 47—Johnson, Virgil S.; Juice, James J.; 50—Hastings, John F.; 52—Goard, Raymond R.

Washington

1—Aslaender, Harold R.; Morgan, Walter J.; 5—Murphy, John E.; 6—Dolan, Eugene J.; Glick, James M., Sr.; Lautenschlager, W.; 9—Gill, Chris G.; Palmquist, Sam; 10—King, Albert E.; 13—Robinson, Bertram T.; 17—Shadle, Glen M.; 18—Burns, J. Bruce; Odum, Richard A.; 19—Anderson,

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Survey Pressed on Illness of Atomic Veterans

BURLINGTON, Iowa, June 18 (AP) — When Orville E. Kelly died of cancer in 1980, he left a wife, two children and a group that represents some of the "atomic veterans," the servicemen exposed to radiation in American tests of nuclear weapons.

Today Mr. Kelly's widow, Wanda, leads a drive to find those servicemen, whose numbers are estimated at 220,000. From a cramped office in the basement of her home, she tracks down the veterans and their children.

"This is our national headquarters," Mrs. Kelly said as she sidestepped files filled with names and medical histories

of servicemen who participated in atomic tests in Nevada and the Pacific from 1945 to 1962.

"What we're doing is looking for clusters of illnesses," said Mrs. Kelly, who now runs the National Association of Atomic Veterans. "Like men who served on one ship who are all dying of a certain illness."

A Difficult Task

The task has not been easy. The Veterans Administration has denied most of the disability claims of atomic veterans, and many veterans refuse to believe illnesses and birth defects

might have been caused by their service.

"The V.A. says these guys did not receive enough radiation to even worry about," said Mrs. Kelly, who cites a survey by the association that found abnormally high incidences of cancer and other illnesses in a group of 700 veterans.

Mrs. Kelly said many veterans who suffered illnesses later in life fail to connect them with their military service. In addition, miscarriages and birth defects are difficult to trace to radiation exposure.

But unless a large number of atomic

veterans can be surveyed, effects of the atomic testing program may never be known, Mrs. Kelly said. "We need to hear from all of them in order to put the whole story together."

V.A. Recognizes Some Claims

Testimony from N.A.A.V. members has helped atomic veterans gain recognition from the Government. The Veterans Administration agreed in April to provide treatment of illnesses that might have been caused by exposure. By the end of May, the agency had received more than 3,300 claims for disability compensation for atomic veterans and had awarded compensation to 69 of them.

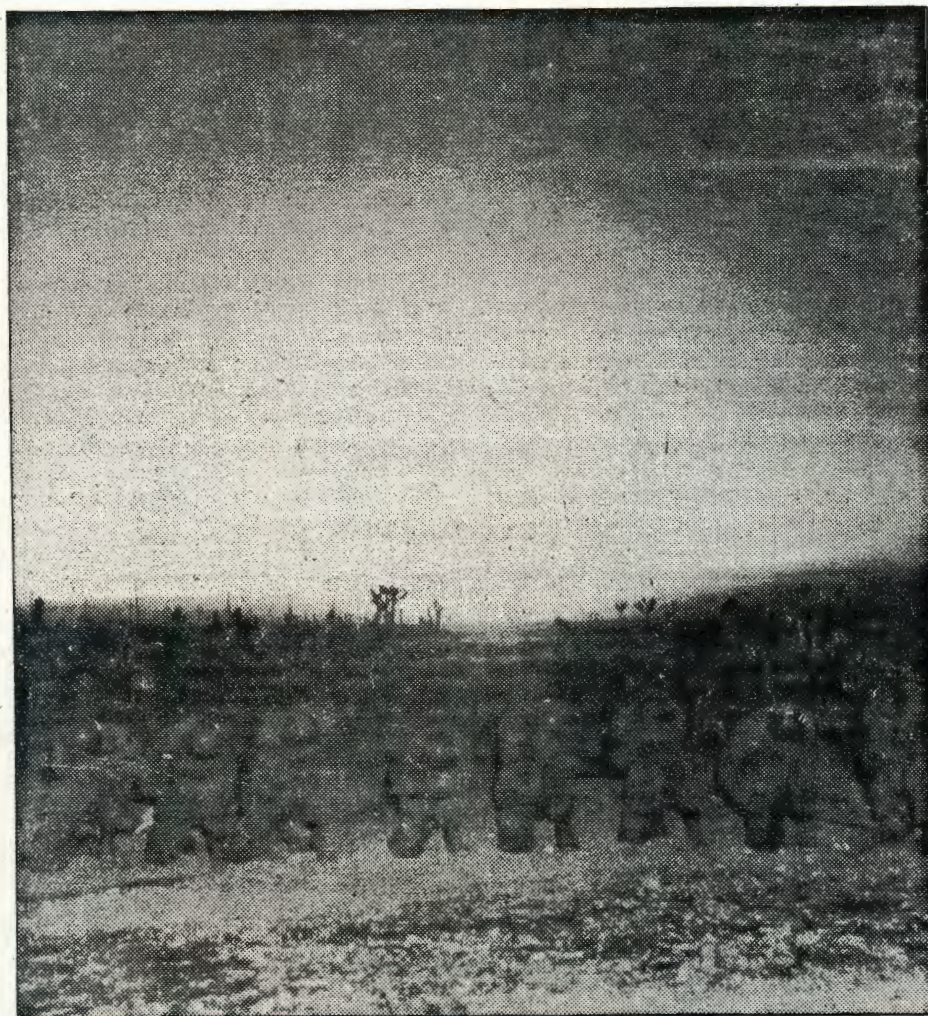
Mrs. Kelly's husband was told he had terminal lymphatic cancer in 1973. As

an Army commander, Mr. Kelly witnessed 22 atomic weapons tests in the Pacific in 1957 and 1958. When he was denied disability compensation, he and his wife founded the association.

The V.A. approved Mr. Kelly's disability claim in November 1979, seven months before he died. "He was involved for a few months, then became real ill," Mrs. Kelly said. "And I've run it ever since."

Mrs. Kelly now employs five people here and three in an office recently opened in Washington, D.C.

"When we first started we had one desk and a little file cabinet with 150 names," she said. The association's membership now includes some 8,000 veterans and their relatives or survivors.



Soldiers face away from atomic shot Smokey on Aug. 31, 1957. U.S. Army

Atomic Veterans

AGENT ORANGE victims thought they had retired the cup in the raw deal division. They are being hard pressed for the trophy by another group of veterans who also in line of duty were exposed to dangers they were neither warned about nor protected against.

These are World War II veterans whose

Mary McGrory

RADIATION

service to their country took them to "ground zero" during those years when the United States was enthusiastically testing its new toy, the atomic bomb.

For 10 years, the government denied that Agent Orange was responsible for the mysterious ailments, ranging from skin rashes to birth defects in their children, which Vietnam veterans brought home with them.

See McGrory, Page C3

Mary McGrory is a Washington Post columnist.

The Newest Raw Deal for Our Veterans

McGRORY, From Page C1

But now that it has had to buy Times Beach, the Missouri town which dioxin made unfit for human habitation, the government can no longer insist that dioxin is really not a health hazard.

Heroic efforts in Congress won the veterans treatment for Agent Orange in VA hospitals. Rep. Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) has introduced a bill for compensation for them. A study which the VA sat on for three years is now in the hands of the Center for Disease Control.

But for the atomic veterans, who decades ago were ordered to areas saturated with radiation, the fight has just begun. They organized themselves as the National Association of Atomic Veterans only four years ago and opened a Washington office in February. The VA wouldn't treat them, rejected their claims and clings to the official view that a little radiation won't hurt you.

The veterans' first order of business is to have their own Memorial Day. They have a bill in Congress to make July 16, the anniversary of the first atomic bomb testing in the United States, Atomic Veterans Commemorative Day. People tell them they should spend their time pushing for tangible expressions of gratitude. Apparently, from 30 years of official callousness they have a deep need for an acknowledgement of their existence.

Of the 3,400 claims for atomic exposure

filed by atomic veterans, only 69 have been honored.

When the bureaucrats are asked why they could honor 69 and not the rest, the answer was that they have to study each individual case. Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) pressed the VA to upgrade the priority for treating atomic veterans. But a directive from VA leaves it to the discretion of local doctors to decide whether a veteran's ailments are related to the effects of ionizing radiation.

But a new report, commissioned by the Committee for International Radiation Research and Training Institute, may put an end to all that.

The work of Dr. Arjup Makhijani and David Albright, the report is based on the papers of Col. Stafford Warren, a doctor who was the chief of the Radiological Safety Section at Operation Crossroads, experimental underwater blasts, the second of which took place at Bikini on July 25, 1946. Forty-two thousand American servicemen were involved.

Dr. Warren died last year and left his papers to the UCLA library, where they were discovered by an atomic veteran. His account shows that the precautions taken for the men were minimal. Film badges, which record the levels of radiation, were issued only to a few, and many of them have been lost. What is clear is that safety measures were subordinate to what was called "a hairy-chested" approach to testing the blockbuster the U.S.

alone possessed at the time.

On the day of the test, code named "Baker," the men were sent into the radioactive lagoon and the beaches to measure radioactivity and retrieve instruments. Nobody knew how to decontaminate a ship, but the men were ordered aboard within three days of the explosion to clean them up. The target ships were so contaminated, most of them had to be sunk.

"The tolerance limits at Bikini were more than 5,000 times the allowable limit of 5 millirems per year that has been set by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for nuclear power plant operators," according to the report. The Nuclear Defense Agency, nonetheless insists that in all atomic tests, "exposures generally were well within established radiation exposure limits, and there was no reason to expect any increased health risk."

A recent NAVA survey of its 12,500 members showed a 39 percent incidence of cancer.

At a hearing last week, Gen. Harry Griffith, director of the Nuclear Defense Agency, was questioned about the radioactive report. He hadn't read it, he said.

He was further asked why his agency had not studied such basic documents as those of the medical officer at Operation Crossroads.

An aide piped up brightly, "We can't go looking in everybody's garage."

The atomic veterans have become the veterans that the government would most like to forget on Memorial Day.

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1983

Atomic Veterans

TWO GENERATIONS of veterans are complaining that they are being treated unfairly by the government when it comes to health and disability care for injuries that may be service-related. Vietnam veterans, whose duties required them to come into contact with the herbicide Agent Orange, claim that a wide range of illnesses, from skin disease to birth defects, has been caused by the chemical. They want medical treatment and more information on the predictable effects of exposure, and some want permanent disability pay.

Less noticed until recently was a group of veterans who served a generation earlier and who participated in the early testing of atomic weapons in the western states and in the Pacific. According to a doctor at the Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta who studied one group of these veterans, the incidence of leukemia in the sample is significantly higher than it is in the general population. Thousands of "atomic veterans" have filed disability claims for illness they blame on exposure to radiation, but the VA has approved only 29 of them.

Disability is a difficult claim to establish and an expensive one to cover. Each case must be considered individually—in both the Agent Orange and the atomic test cases—and a specific connection demonstrated between exposure and illness. The

extent of disability must be assessed and, once it is established, the government assumes a permanent and costly liability. But medical care and information are easier to provide. Broad rules can be written and presumptions made in favor of the veteran.

For two years, medical care has been provided for the Agent Orange vets, and work has been undertaken on an epidemiological study of the effects of the chemical on human health. Until this week, however, no such help has been offered to the older veterans. Now the VA has announced that free health care will be given in government hospitals to all the atomic-test veterans whose illnesses might have been caused by exposure. It will be assumed that unless an illness is one for which another cause has been demonstrated, it has been caused by radiation.

These veterans, just as the Agent Orange veterans, also need information about the possible dangers of having been exposed. If there is a disproportionate incidence of cancer in this group, all need to be warned. Steps can be taken to adjust life styles and minimize the risk; early warning signs can be caught; prompt treatment may save lives. And, of course, if clear epidemiological evidence is produced that these men have in fact suffered injuries that are service-connected, disability claims can be filed and must be paid.



—U.S. Medicine photo

Lt. Gen. Harry A. Griffith, director of the Defense Nuclear Agency, tells the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee his agency has compiled 31 volumes documenting tests in the above-ground series and expects to publish another nine this year.

Bill Seeks Guidelines For Radiation Rulings

WASHINGTON—How the Veterans Administration handles claims for compensation from veterans exposed to ionizing radiation is an issue surrounded by medical unknowns and procedural consequences.

While the agency claims it needs the "flexibility" to assess each case on an individual basis, Sen. Alan Cranston (D., Calif.), ranking minority member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, has introduced legislation requiring VA to delineate the factors it will take into consideration in deciding who is granted compensation (Sen. Cranston's bill also would apply to agent orange cases).

The Cranston proposal addresses one of the main concerns expressed by "atomic veterans" about the VA compensation process: that agency decisions are arbitrary and inconsistent, and that veterans have no way of knowing how the agency will approach a claim.

So far VA has granted compensation to 29 veterans claiming exposure to ionizing radiation, Dr. D. Earl Brown, associate deputy chief medical director, related in testimony before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

Sen. Cranston's bill would require the agency to go through a formal rulemaking process—complete with a hearing at

deciding on the factors it intends to use in making compensation judgments.

Its final rules would have to be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

The issue of VA's compensation decision process in radiation cases has been simmering for several years, coming to a boil when the National Veterans Law Center filed suit against the agency on

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Ionizing Radiation Claims

Bill Seeks Compensation Rules

(Continued from page 3)

grounds that documents disseminated by VA to its adjudication boards constituted a set of guidelines for making compensation rulings.

The documents consist of a report on current scientific theories about the relationship between radiation exposure and subsequent development of disease, a memorandum of understanding between VA and the Defense Nuclear Agency for information on veterans' exposure levels and guidance on how regional offices should send copies of their decisions about service connection to central office.

VA has maintained that the documents in question were merely informational, and not the basis for making these decisions.

However, a U.S. district judge ruled in favor of the veterans group and ordered VA to publish the documents as proposed rules under terms of the Administrative Procedures Act.

VA has done so, and has accepted comments on the documents. Final publication of these documents will see them in much different form, however, a VA spokesman told U.S. MEDICINE.

"There still are a lot of policy decisions to be made," he said. "We expect to have a final version ready to go to the Office of Management and Budget for approval this month.

"The final rule will look quite different from the documents, which we published word-for-word because that's what we thought the court wanted us to do.

"The final version will be more in the form of rules," the VA official said.

He said he does not know if publication of these rules will satisfy Sen. Cranston's legislative requirement for rulemaking, should it be enacted.

"It's possible we would have to go through the whole process again," the official said. "It's not clear to us whether he wants us to define the cases we will

allow or state what considerations we will use in making decisions."

A member of Sen. Cranston's staff said the final rules due from VA probably will satisfy the requirements of the proposed legislation.

"What we want is a way to have all these considerations (involved in granting compensation) sorted and weighed," he explained—"other than through a congressional hearing."

However, he noted, a similar bill introduced by Sen. Cranston last session which applied only to agent orange cases was not accepted by the House. It's possible that this year's version, which applies to both agent orange and ionizing radiation cases, may meet a similar fate, he said.

The House objections reportedly stem from the requirement for formal rulemaking, which includes a provision that the final regulations can be reviewed in court if a group believes they do not reflect the public comments

secured in the rulemaking process.

"We could end up with everything tied up in the courts," one House staff member observed.

During the Senate hearing, Dr. Brown stated VA's opposition to other legislation introduced by Sen. Cranston to require an epidemiologic study of ionizing radiation's effects similar to the one now being conducted for agent orange.

Dr. Brown related that the Inter-agency Radiation Research Committee, established in 1980 as a "clearinghouse" for federal radiation research efforts, already is considering the concept of such a study.

If this committee concludes such a study would be useful, it will be undertaken, and therefore mandatory legislation is not needed, Dr. Brown said.

He also labeled unnecessary a proposal in the bill to require a comprehensive review of literature on the adverse health effects of ionizing radiation.

Dr. Brown pointed out that such reviews already are being made by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), the National Academy of Sciences Committee on the Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation (BEIR) and other groups.

One of the witnesses at the hearing, Edward A. Martell, PhD, who took part in four nuclear test series as a member of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, was highly critical of the dose reconstructions used by VA in trying to determine service connection in ionizing radiation claims.

VA uses dose reconstructions provided by the Defense Nuclear Agency.

Dr. Martell said the DNA technique is based on film badges used to record radiation levels during the test series. However, he asserted, this method does not take into account the radioactive particles that may have been inhaled by test participants, nor does it measure the higher doses to the extremities.

He said DNA, in making its dose reconstructions, uses the pre-operation plans developed for the tests—but not always followed. Consequently, he said, some persons could have received doses higher than these plans indicate.

Dr. Martell suggested that ionizing radiation is responsible for speeding up the aging process, thus causing cancers at younger ages and producing other diseases such as atherosclerosis.

Lt. Gen. Harry A. Griffith, USA, director of DNA, testified that his agency is in the process of analyzing internal doses for those tests where potential for such exposure existed.

Results of these analyses should be available by the end of this year, he said.

Dr. Glyn G. Caldwell, deputy director of the chronic diseases division of the Centers for Disease Control, testified that he found, in conducting a retrospective epidemiological study of participants in the 1957 Smoky nuclear test, a level of leukemia deaths that was three times the rate expected (9 were found compared to 3.1 expected).

However, he noted, the level of deaths in general was lower than expected (320 compared to 365 expected) and the level of cancer deaths was at the expected level (64 compared to 64.3 expected).

One other disease has been found at a

rate that is statistically significant, he related: four cases of polycythemia vera were found, compared to only one expected.

"This disease, which is characterized by an inappropriate increase in the number and production of red blood cells, has not been shown to be caused by ionizing radiation," he noted, however.

Dr. Caldwell said a protocol for a 25-year followup of Smoky participants currently is being prepared. In addition, he noted other studies are being done by the National Academy of Sciences/Na-

tional Research Council.

Seymour Jablon, project officer for some of those studies, told the Senate committee that leukemia, tumors and thyroid nodules at present are the only adverse effects that have been demonstrated for ionizing radiation.

He said a study is being conducted of the possibility that multiple myeloma is occurring at excessive rates in veterans who were members of the Nagasaki occupation forces. That study should be finished within two months, he related.

It unquestionably is true that veterans exposed to atmospheric nuclear

testing received higher doses of radiation (an average of 1 rem) than those who were part of the occupation forces (100 millirads), he said.

However, he said, even these higher exposure levels (some participants may have received as much as 5 rem) were not enough to produce detectable disease, unless both the UNSCEAR and BEIR committees are wrong in their estimates.

"The United National Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, in its 1977 report, asserted that the lifetime risk of radiation-

induced leukemia at low doses is less than 50 cases per million persons per rad," Jablon related.

"If that is true, the excess found by Dr. Caldwell...would be produced by an average dose of about 34 rads, which is more than 20 times any estimates that have been made of the actual average exposures," he noted.

This discrepancy currently is being studied by NAS, he related. Mortality experience of more than 50,000 participants in five test series are being examined, with a preliminary report expected by mid-summer, he said.

VA Expands Program On Radiation Exposure

(Continued from page 3)
 appendicitis, inguinal hernia).

The new guidelines on radiation exposure contain these same criteria.

The reason treatment for "atomic veterans" at first was limited to only two conditions is that "we thought Congress was taking into account the differences in what was known about the health effects of radiation and agent orange exposure," one VA official explained.

"We know a lot about radiation, but very little about agent orange," he noted. (Both conditions previously cited in the circular are known to be associated with radiation exposure.)

However, he said, Sen. Alan Cranston (D., Calif.), ranking minority member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, pointed out to the agency that it was not implementing the law the same way for the two groups of veterans—and the law provides for no such differentiation.

Consequently, VA administrator Harry N. Walters made the decision that the guidance concerning veterans exposed to ionizing radiation should be changed, the official said.

In fact, the revised circular was signed the same morning that the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee held a hearing on VA's policies concerning veterans exposed to radiation.

At the hearing, Dr. D. Earl Brown, associate deputy chief medical director, announced that the new guidelines would be published for comment in the **FEDERAL REGISTER**.

Upon questioning by committee chairman Sen. Alan Simpson (R., Wyo.), Dr. Brown related that about 5,000 veterans have contacted VA seeking examinations on grounds they had been exposed to ionizing radiation during military service. Of these, about 4,000 actually were examined, he said.

However, he added, some of these veterans had sought care before Congress passed the legislation dealing with ionizing radiation. "We don't know exactly how many have responded to that law," he told Sen. Simpson.

A VA press spokesman, Ozzie Garza, told **U.S. MEDICINE** there is no way the agency can determine how many veterans alleging radiation exposure have been denied treatment.

"Physicians are not asked to report on those they turn away," he explained. "But physicians tend to be very sympathetic, so it wouldn't be very many," he added.

"Besides," he said, if large numbers of veterans had been denied treatment "we would be hearing from them. We haven't heard from many."

Garza said about 1,400 veterans alleging radiation exposure currently are receiving treatment in VA facilities—though not necessarily for a condition directly related to that exposure.

Sen. Cranston praised Walters for his decision to amend the guidelines on treating veterans exposed to ionizing radiation and to publish them for public comment.

However, he continued, "there can hardly be euphoria over the VA's grudging agreement—17 months after the law was enacted and only after repeated urging—to carry out the law as Congress intended."

Dr. Brown, in his testimony, noted that VA since 1978 has been providing examinations for veterans who participated in nuclear weapons testing.

In March 1979, he related, VA and the Defense Nuclear Agency began a program of notifying and examining veterans with recorded external ionizing radiation doses exceeding 25 rem. This program subsequently was expanded to include all weapons test participants with annual radiation doses in excess of 5 rem.

In addition, VA is compiling a registry of veterans exposed to radiation.

The revised circular issued last month, like its agent orange counterpart, asks that the veteran's exposure to ionizing radiation be documented, if possible. However, if exposure cannot be verified, the veteran's contention "will be accepted."

"Health care personnel responsible for treating veterans for illnesses potentially associated with radiation exposure should be aware of developments in scientific and medical understanding of diseases for which treatment is being offered, including research on the etiology of the diseases," Dr. Brown said.

"To this end," he related, "we are preparing a detailed manual for use by health care personnel that will assist them in treating veterans with radiation exposure."

Dr. Brown said the manual will provide "examination protocols identifying organs or organ systems that should be particularly examined."

It also will serve as a basic reference for physicians, he said.

Sen. Simpson asked if VA has a continuing education program on the health effects of radiation.

Dr. James J. Smith, director of the Department of Medicine and Surgery's nuclear medicine service, responded that VA's manual will be used for continuing education. In looseleaf form, it will be supplemented with monthly reviews of the literature obtained from the National Library of Medicine, he said.

John Smitherman, in testimony submitted to the Senate committee (he did not appear in person because he was hospitalized), asserted that veterans who have been granted care because of radiation exposure have become "both frustrated and angered" at the treatment they've received in the VA.

Smitherman, president of the National Association of Atomic Veterans, said the "inevitable conclusion" his membership has drawn "after years of neglect, misdiagnosis, poor treatment,

lost and misplaced service and medical records, denial of their claims and callous stonewalling" is that the government wants to suppress the facts about the nuclear weapons test series.

"While the debate continues to rage over the health consequences of exposure to varying levels of ionizing radiation and medical records that either were never kept or have since been lost, atomic veterans are being denied needed treatment from the VA," he asserted.

He said 90 per cent of veterans seeking examinations to determine if their illnesses might be radiation-related receive a 15 to 30 minute check-up consisting of a chest x-ray, blood test and urinalysis.

"Given the present state of technology, there exist more sophisticated diagnostic procedures for ascertaining residual radiation levels in the human body," Smitherman said.

He said even though the list of conditions for which veterans can receive treatment is being expanded, many VA hospitals will not have the staff expertise or medical technology available to properly diagnose and treat these illnesses.

Wednesday, April 20, 1983

JUDY MANN

ATOMIC VICTIMS

In 1973, Orville Kelly of Burlington, Iowa, was diagnosed as having a terminal form of lymphatic cancer. He was 42 years old. He told his wife, Wanda, that he believed the cancer was caused by excessive exposure to radiation. Kelly, who had been the Army commander of Japtan Island in the Pacific between 1957 and 1958, had witnessed 22 detonations of nuclear weapons.

"Orville used to tell me they'd swim in the lagoon where they blew up the bomb," says Wanda Kelly. "Testing took place all the time, before he got there. You know there was radiation all over the place."

Orville Kelly began filing claims with the Veterans Administration for medical treatment and disability compensation. His claims were denied because the illness had not shown up within a year of his discharge from the military, and later, because he had not been exposed to enough radiation. "He had to prove they'd only measured him for five months," says Wanda Kelly.

In 1979, the Kellys formed the National Association of Atomic Veterans, to lobby on behalf of an estimated 250,000 American servicemen who were exposed to radiation during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and during the atmospheric tests in the Pacific and the American southwest between 1946 and 1962. They were exposed at a time when authorities knew little about the long-term dangers of radiation.

Dr. Edward A. Martell of the National Center for Atmospheric Research—a radiochemist who participated in four test series in the early 1950s—testified at a recent congressional hearing that film badges worn by servicemen near the testing sites often did not properly measure the radiation they were exposed to. He believes they may have inhaled fallout that is causing delayed health problems for them and their children.

According to the VA, 3,325 veterans have filed for compensation as a result of radiation exposure. Only 2,321 of them have shown medical conditions requiring treatment. So far, the VA has allowed 29 claims as a result of atomic testing and 55 claims as a result of radiation exposure from other sources. It has allowed none of some 388 radiation claims by military personnel in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

It finally allowed Kelly's claim in November 1979. He died seven months later, but as a result of his tenacity, his widow is entitled to a pension, his four children are entitled to go to college on the GI bill, and the family to military health care.

Wanda Kelly says her organization has recently located 16 widows of veterans who died of leukemia, and 22 cases of multiple myeloma, a deadly form of bone cancer, among 500 veterans of Hiroshima and Nagasaki who have contacted NAAV. Joint and muscle problems are also being reported, as well as stillbirths, birth defects and miscarriages.

The only government study done produced less alarming findings. The Centers for Disease Control studied veterans exposed in August 1957 to a nuclear blast in Nevada. It found a statistically significant increase in the incidence of leukemia, but no increase in other cancers and a lower overall death rate than could be expected.

Until recently, the VA treated only cancers or thyroid nodules, which are known effects of radiation exposure, as service-related illnesses. Guidelines issued this month enable veterans who were exposed to radiation in Japan or during the atmospheric testing programs to receive a physical, and if a medical problem is identified, it is up to the physician to establish that it was caused by something other than exposure to radiation. The new approach considerably broadens the range of illnesses that can be treated in VA facilities.

Except for the CDC study, and for data being collected by NAAV, there is very little known about what has happened to veterans exposed to radiation and whether they are suffering statistically normal or abnormal problems of reproduction and aging.

The Senate Veterans Committee has endorsed legislation that mandates a long-term epidemiological study of the atomic veterans in order to get better answers to some of the disturbing questions being raised. Such a study will be costly and the record that can be accumulated will at best be circumstantial. But it would provide atomic veterans a much better idea than they have now as to what price they and their children may have paid for their exposure.

They didn't get much information years ago. They deserve some now.

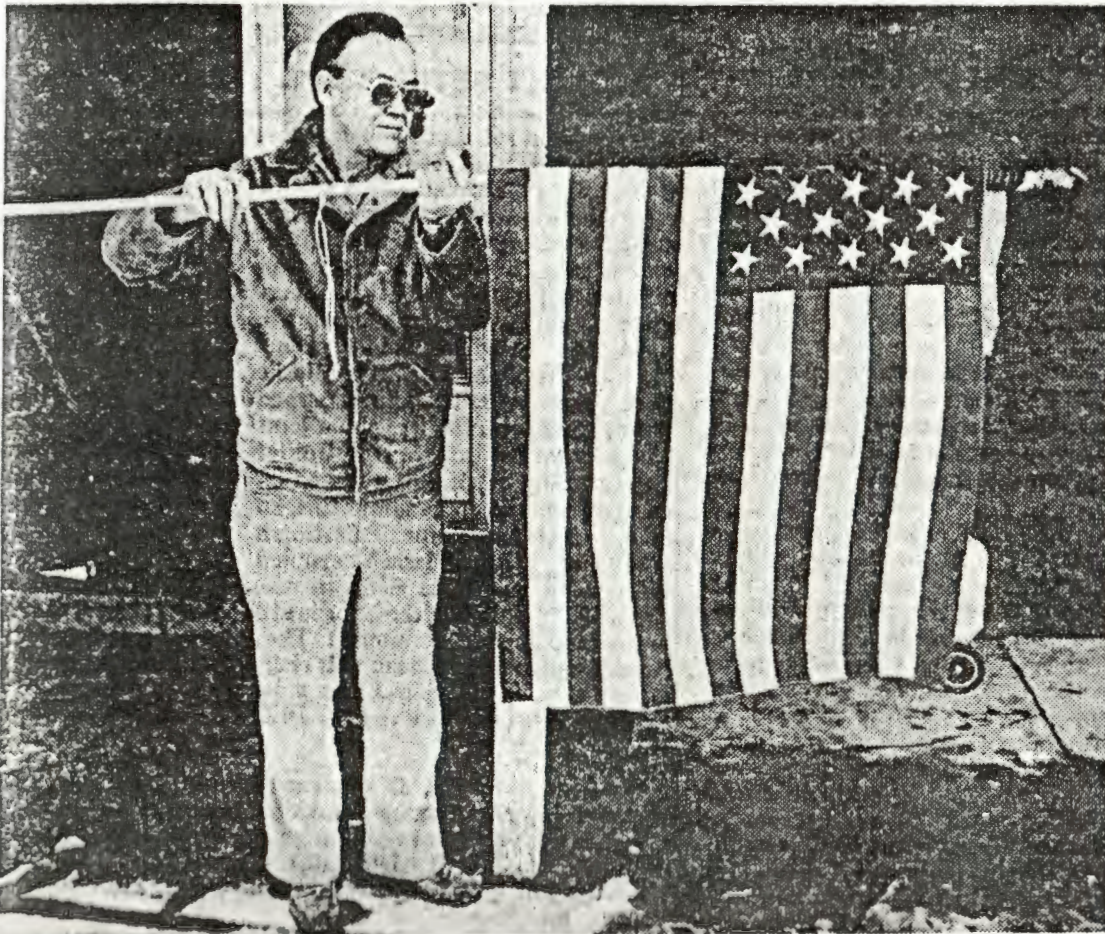
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Bob Farmer (left), "guinea pig" for two 1946 atomic tests at Bikini atoll (above), takes in the flag at his Steeleville, Ill., home. Right: Farmer's son Steven feeds grandson Steven Jr. Steven, 22, was born without a hip and thigh. Four-month-old Steven Jr. seems healthy. Time will tell. (Sun-Times Photos by Pete Souza)

9 reasons he can't forget 2 atomic blasts

By Bruce Ingersoll

Sun-Times Correspondent

STEELEVILLE, Ill.—Sitting in the afternoon quiet of his kitchen, before his teenagers come home from school, Bob Farmer frequently finds himself haunted by memories of 1946.

For him, there's no forgetting Operation Crossroads.

On the morning of July 1, 1946, Robert F. Farmer was a 19-year-old sailor aboard a troop ship off the Pacific atoll of Bikini, when a far-off flyspeck of a B-29 bomber dropped an atomic bomb on a target fleet of war-surplus ships.

He and his shipmates, though 10 miles away, were nearly bowled over by the shock waves from the 23-kiloton blast, the first in a series of postwar atomic tests in the Marshall Islands.

And they were there for the second test on July 25, an underwater blast that flung old battleships sky high and left the sands and waters of Bikini even more radioactive. Immediately after each test, Farmer recalled, they were ferried back into the Bikini lagoon and put aboard undamaged or lightly damaged target ships.

Today, a nuclear pall hangs over the Farmer household.

Farmer, 55, fathered nine children. All nine, he maintained, suffer from some sort of genetic defect or deformity. One boy

was born without a hip and thigh.

He blames the woes of his offspring on his exposure to radiation.

"There was nothing [genetically] wrong with my wife or her side of the family," Farmer said.

"I have five sisters and two brothers, and there was nothing wrong with them or their children."

Farmer fervently believes that he was as much a "guinea pig" at Bikini as the penned-in chickens, goats and pigs on the target ships.

"They never told us one thing about radiation," Farmer said of the Navy and Pentagon. "That's what really makes you bitter. I would never have nine children if I'd known all this was going to happen to them."

What has befallen them would fill a medical textbook:

● Farmer's son, Robert Jr., 33, was born with a deformed right lung, which inexplicably began hemorrhaging in 1978. "The fact is," the junior Farmer said, "I almost drowned in my own blood two years in a row."

● Dianna, 32, has pronounced ridges on her skull. She sometimes suffers from headaches so severe she has to go to a hospital emergency room.

● Victoria, 30, was born with her intestines attached to her female organs and

with a heart deformity.

● Patricia, 28, had an 8-pound non-malignant tumor removed from her abdomen at age 15. "It was as big as a basketball," said her father. "The doctor told us it would have eventually killed her."

● Steven, 22, was born with one knee joined to his torso by flesh. Missing were his hip and thighbone. As a toddler, he learned to hobble around on a metal peg. He did not get his first artificial leg until he was a first-grader.

"Steve's had almost as many operations [eight] as cats have lives," said Farmer.

● William, 21, has small, cystlike bumps all over his body, right under his skin.

● Michael, 17, has an irregular heartbeat and is developing the same sort of bumps as William.

● Jeffrey, 15, underwent surgery for an extra bone in his right leg. "Now he's got another bone that's started to grow in his leg," Farmer said.

● Janet, 14, suffers a serious breathing problem.

Over the years, Farmer has consulted with family doctors, medical specialists and the St. Louis chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, only to obtain a lot

of conflicting opinions.

Some said it is possible—but not probable—that the genetic defects in his children are the legacy of Bikini. A few doctors scoffed at the idea.

Others said it is likely that his exposure to low-level radiation is to blame for some—but not necessarily all—of his children's medical troubles. Proving it, however, would be virtually impossible, they said.

To the dismay of Farmer and the National Association of Atomic Veterans, the Veterans Administration recently said, "The weight of the evidence is that genetic and congenital defects do not result from low-level exposure."

The VA's conclusion, said Glen Alcalay, scientific/medical adviser to the atomic veterans, ignores studies on the fate of the Marshall Islanders, whose homeland was used for a proving ground.

"Half of the exposed population suffered a rare form of chromosome damage and a high number of birth defects showed up in their children," Alcalay said.

Fifty percent of 700 atomic veterans who responded in a recent survey reported having one or more children with significant birth defects, he said. The rate for the U.S. population is 4 to 5 percent.

An armada of 200 ships and 150 aircraft,
See ATOMIC, Page 20

Atomic:

Bikini test veteran remembers life as atomic bomb 'guinea pig'

Continued from Page 13

manned by 42,000 servicemen and civilian scientists, took part in the two 1946 tests to assess the atomic bomb's impact on a naval fleet, according to a pictorial history of Operation Crossroads, published in 1946.

"We were two or three days out [of Pearl Harbor] before the captain told us where we were headed," Farmer recalled.

Film badges to measure radiation exposure were handed out to some crews, he said, "but I never saw a badge; nobody on my ship was issued one."

His ship, the Cortland, was one of the outlying target ships anchored in the Bikini lagoon.

"They'd detonate the bombs, and then we'd just go back in and live on our ships," said Farmer. "We had to throw all our food overboard. They were afraid of [radioactive] contamination."

The target ships were washed down as a health precaution, according to the pictorial history, but Farmer insisted his never was decontaminated.

"Intense and lasting radioactivity was produced in the water of lagoon [by the second test shot]," the history book said. "The ships, drenched by tons of water thrown up by the explosion, became similarly contaminated. The extent of such contamination proved a matter of great interest."

As a small-boat operator, Farmer said, he frequently got soaked by radioactive seawater while ferrying people from ship to shore.

"We went swimming a lot," he also remembered. "We laid in the sand, played ball, got drunk, wrestled, did everything. There were no precautions. I guess that's why we were called guinea pigs. We just did the normal things that normal people do."

"We wound up at the short end of the stick."

Farmer, like thousands of other atomic veterans, is in failing health. A heart attack forced him to retire as a truck driver 15 years ago. He since has developed diabetes. Two years ago, half of his thyroid gland had to be removed. Thyroid cancer is common among atomic veterans.

A VA doctor told Farmer the growth was not malignant, but he said he does not know what to believe. He said they operated only after his private doctors twice had detected it in X-ray scans and the VA doctors twice had been unable to find it.

"Sometimes I just sit here by myself and get to thinking about all the tragedies my [late] wife and I have had with our kids," Farmer said.

"I've had to quit work. I don't have [Teamsters health] insurance any more. There's no way in the world I could afford medical help if something worse should turn up with them."

At the request of the National Association of Atomic Veterans' Illinois chapter, Rep. Paul Simon (D-Ill.) has introduced a bill that would provide free medical care for atomic veterans' children afflicted with genetic defects.

If the bill stalls, Farmer said he fears the worse.

"Man, I've lived my life," he half-whispers. "What I worry about is those kids. You met them. They're a wonderful bunch of kids."

The Washington Post

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THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1983

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VA Finally Agrees To Free Medical Care For 'Atomic Veterans'

By Pete Earley

Washington Post Staff Writer

After 17 months of delay, the Veterans Administration yesterday agreed to give free medical treatment to military personnel who took part in open-air atomic tests and whose illnesses might have been caused by exposure to radiation.

The policy change, announced at a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee meeting, was a belated victory for the nation's "atomic veterans"—an estimated 250,000 to 500,000 servicemen who participated in atomic tests in Nevada and the Pacific between 1945 and 1962.

Free medical care brings the veterans one step closer to obtaining the same limited rights that the VA has granted reluctantly to Vietnam veterans exposed to the defoliant Agent Orange.

But VA officials said the agency does not intend to soften its policy of rejecting most "atomic vets'" disability compensation claims VA scientists say they do not believe there is any evidence that those veterans were exposed to enough radiation to suffer health problems.

The agency also said it opposes legislation requiring several VA studies of "atomic veterans," including one comparing the health of veterans exposed to radiation with

those who were not exposed. A similar study was ordered in 1979 for veterans exposed to Agent Orange but has not yet been started.

Congress ordered the VA in 1981 to provide free health care to veterans for any ailment that might reasonably be assumed to result from exposure to radiation or to Agent Orange. The VA began providing such care to veterans exposed to Agent Orange, but it limited treatment for "atomic veterans" to those suffering from cancer or thyroid diseases.

Those restrictions irritated Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), who has repeatedly demanded that the VA change its policy and yesterday criticized it for taking 17 months "to carry out the law as Congress intended."

A parade of witnesses, mostly from the National Association of Atomic Veterans, also denounced the VA for failing to enact standard procedures for deciding when "atomic veterans" should receive disability compensation.

A total of 2,067 "atomic veterans" have filed claims for a variety of disabilities that they blame on exposure to radiation. The VA has approved 29 of them, including 15 on appeal.

VA officials acknowledged under questioning by Sen. Alan K. Simpson (R-Wyo.) that the agency had failed to develop standard criteria for deciding atomic veterans' disability claims.

Cranston yesterday introduced a bill that would force the VA to draft such standards both for exposure to radiation and to dioxin-contaminated herbicides such as Agent Orange. It also would require the VA to "resolve every reasonable doubt in favor of the veterans."

In deciding disability claims, one factor used by the VA is the amount of radiation a soldier received as measured by a film detection badge worn during the test. A Defense Department witness said the badges that show only a few servicemen received "significant" doses of radiation.

But Dr. Edward Martel, who helped plan some of the tests, said the badges were unreliable, in part because they did not measure how much contaminated air a soldier inhaled.

A witness from the national Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta also testified that a "statistically significant" increase in cancers and certain blood diseases had been found in soldiers who witnessed a 1957 blast, even though the Army said the badges showed that none of the servicemen had received significant doses of radiation.

Fears stalk our atomic veterans

By Judy Mann
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — In 1973, Orville Kelly of Burlington, Iowa, was diagnosed as having a terminal form of lymphatic cancer. He was 42 years old. He told his wife Wanda, that he believed the cancer was caused by excessive exposure to radiation.

Kelly, who had been with the Army on Enewetak atoll in the Marshall Islands between 1957 and 1958, had witnessed 22 detonations of nuclear weapons.

"Orville used to tell me they'd swim in the lagoon where they blew up the bomb," says Wanda Kelly.

ORVILLE KELLY began filing claims with the Veterans Administration for medical treatment and disability compensation. His claims were denied because the illness had not shown up within a year of his discharge from the military, and later, because he had not been exposed to enough radiation.

In 1979, the Kellys formed the National Association of Atomic Veterans, to lobby on behalf of an estimated 250,000 American servicemen who were exposed to radiation during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and during the atmospheric tests in the Pacific and the American southwest between 1946 and 1962. They were exposed at a time when authorities knew little about the long-term dangers of radiation.

Dr. Edward A. Martell of the National Center for Atmospheric Research — a radiochemist who participated in four test series in the early 1950s — testified at a recent congressional hearing that film badges worn by servicemen near the testing sites often did not properly measure the radiation they were exposed to. He believes they may have inhaled fallout that is causing delayed health problems for them and their children.

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ans of Hiroshima and Nagasaki who have contacted NAAV. Joint and muscle problems are also being reported, as well as stillbirths, birth defects and miscarriages.

The only government study done produced less alarming findings. The Centers for Disease Control studied veterans exposed in August 1957 to a nuclear blast in Nevada. It found a statistically significant increase in the incidence of leukemia, but no increase in other cancers and a lower overall death rate than could be expected.

Until recently, the VA treated only cancers or thyroid nodules, which are known effects of radiation exposure, as service-related illnesses. Guidelines issued this month enable veterans who were exposed to radiation in Japan or during the atmospheric testing programs to receive a physical, and if a medical problem is identified, it is up to the physician to establish that it was caused by something other than exposure to radiation.

The new approach considerably broadens the range of illnesses that can be treated in VA facilities.

EXCEPT FOR the CDC study, and for data being collected by NAAV, there is very little known about what has happened to veterans exposed to radiation and whether they are suffering statistically normal or abnormal problems of reproduction and aging.

The Senate Veterans Committee has endorsed legislation that mandates a long-term epidemiological study of the atomic veterans in order to get better answers to some of the disturbing questions being raised. Such a study will be costly and the record that can be accumulated will at best be circumstantial.

But it would provide atomic veterans a much better idea than they have now as to what price they and their children may have paid for their exposure.

They didn't get much information years ago. They deserve some now



Orville Kelly
Founder of atomic veterans group
Honolulu Advertiser/State Bulletin

April 24, 1983



Ideas & Trends

Associated Press

Marines on maneuvers 4,000 yards from an atomic blast in the Nevada desert in 1953.

A-Test Veterans Getting a Break On Health Care

The Government announced last week that it was expanding its guidelines on free medical care for veterans who participated in open-air atomic tests between 1945 and 1962. Anyone whose diseases today might have resulted from radiation exposure then will receive free treatment. Until now, only those with cancer or thyroid nodules qualified.

"We are giving atomic veterans the benefit of the doubt," said a Veterans Administration spokesman. "If they say their illnesses are from radiation exposure and, after a medical examination, this seems remotely possible, they will get free care."

Although many veterans wanted more, "If the promise is borne out, it's wonderful news," said Glenn Alcalay, scientific and medical adviser to the National Association of Atomic Veterans. "We will have lookouts in the hospitals to see whether the agency is as good as its word."

The announcement came during Senate hearings to determine how well the V.A. has served veterans exposed to radiation or to the herbicide Agent Orange, in accordance with Public Law 97-72. The law, enacted in 1981, ordered the agency to provide free health care to veterans for any ailment that might reasonably be related to radiation or Agent Orange exposure. The atomic veterans group says some 250,000 veterans participated in open-air nuclear tests.

The agency initially decided that only those with cancer or thyroid nodules qualified for a "priority status." Now many more will qualify, but what the atomic veterans really want is "service-related" status, the highest health care rating in the V.A. system. In addition to free treatment, it gives veterans priority access to V.A. hospital facilities and allows them to transfer among veterans hospitals to the one best equipped to treat them, or perhaps to an outside facility.

The New York Times

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—NEW YORK, THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1983—

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U.S. EXPANDS CARE OF ATOM VETERANS

Agency States It Will Treat All
Who Might Have Become Ill
as a Result of Radiation

WASHINGTON, April 6 (AP) — The Veterans Administration said today it would start giving free medical treatment to veterans who took part in open-air atomic tests and who had illnesses that might be a result of exposure to radiation.

The Pentagon estimates that about 220,000 servicemen participated in 235 atomic tests in Nevada and the Pacific from 1945 to 1962.

Until now the Veterans Administration had been willing to treat only those veterans who took part in the tests who were suffering from cancer or thyroid diseases. The agency said the new guidelines would be published soon in the Federal Register.

Officials of the Veterans Administration told the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee today that the guidelines were being made more liberal "to allow treatment of all conditions except for those which are known to have causes other than radiation exposure."

Leukemia Death Rate Higher

An official at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta testified its study of 3,027 men who took part in one of the Nevada tests showed their death rate from leukemia was three times higher than what health statistics indicate should have been expected.

Dr. Glyn G. Caldwell of the Atlanta agency said nine leukemia deaths were reported in the group while 3.1 would have been expected. Dr. Caldwell said cases of other forms of cancer among the veterans were slightly lower than would normally be expected, 112 as against 117.5.

The Veterans Administration began giving free treatment for veterans of the atomic tests who suffered from cancer or thyroid diseases after being compelled to do so by a law passed in 1981. Under the law, a veteran is entitled to medical care at a V.A. hospital if his ailment is service connected, if he is over 65 years old or if he signs a poverty oath.

Dr. D. Earl Brown, associate deputy chief medical director of the Veterans Administration, told the Senate panel of the decision to broaden the guidelines. However, he reiterated the agency's longstanding position that cancer is the only disease considered likely to have been caused by radiation at the dose levels experienced by the troops taking part in the atomic tests.

Reason for Agency View

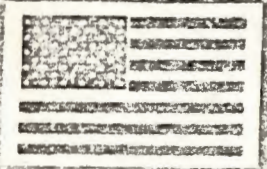
He explained it this way: "Although consensus exists in the scientific community as to the adverse health effects of high doses of ionizing radiation, and there is general agreement as to the potential for carcinogenesis at low doses, no consensus exists regarding the causation of other diseases by exposure to low doses."

Dr. Brown opposed proposed legislation that would require the Veterans Administration to conduct an epidemiological study comparing the health of a group of veterans exposed to radiation with the health of a group that had not been exposed. He said the agency would conduct the study without being required to do so by law if scientific experts decided that such an investigation "would yield scientifically useful results."

He also opposed a proposal that would require the Veterans Administration to draw plans for compensating the children of veterans of the atomic tests who were born with genetic or congenital disabilities if scientific studies now under way concluded that the children's health was affected by their fathers' exposure to radiation.

"Public consideration by Congress of methods of providing for redress of genetic or congenital disabilities would lend the unwarranted appearance that a scientific link is soon to be established and quite possibly would increase the anxiety of parents and parents-to-be," Dr. Brown said.

He said there is no scientific evidence that a child fathered by servicemen exposed to radiation is more likely than any other child to have birth defects.



Chicago Tribune

35c

Thursday April 7, 1983

VA to treat A-test veterans for free

WASHINGTON [AP]—The Veterans Administration said Wednesday it will give free medical treatment to veterans who took part in open-air atomic tests years ago and whose illnesses possibly could be a result of exposure to radiation.

Between 250,000 and 500,000 American servicemen participated in tests in Nevada and the Pacific between 1945 and 1962.

Until now, the VA had been willing to treat only veterans suffering from cancer or thyroid diseases. The agency said the new guidelines will be published in the Federal Register.

VA officials told the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Wednesday that the guidelines are being liberalized "to allow treatment of all conditions except for those which are known to have causes other than radiation exposure."

THE AGENCY started giving treatment to veterans who participated in the atomic testing after being compelled to do so by a law passed in 1980.

The law allowed the VA to draw up guidelines for eligibility. The initial guidelines, now to be broadened, recognized only cancer and thyroid

disorders as eligible.

Dr. D. Earl Brown, associate deputy chief medical director of the VA, told the Senate panel of the decision, but reiterated the agency's longstanding position that cancer is the only disease considered likely to have been caused by radiation at the dose levels experienced by the troops taking part in the atomic tests.

He put it this way:

"ALTHOUGH CONSENSUS exists in the scientific community as to the adverse health effects of high doses

Continued from page 1

of ionizing radiation, and there is general agreement as to the potential for carcinogenesis at low doses, no consensus exists regarding the causation of other diseases by exposure to low doses."

Brown opposed proposed legislation requiring the VA to conduct an epidemiological study comparing the health of a group of veterans who had been exposed to radiation with the health of a group that had not. He said the VA would conduct the study without being required to do so by law if scientific experts decide that such an investigation "would yield scientifically useful results."

He also opposed a proposal to require the VA to draw up plans for compensating veterans' children born with genetic or congenital disabilities if scientific studies conclude that the children's health was affected by their fathers' exposure to radiation.

"Public consideration by Congress of methods of providing for redress of genetic or congenital disabilities would lend the unwarranted appearance that a scientific link is soon to be established and quite possibly would increase the anxiety of parents and parents-to-be," Brown said.

HE SAID THERE is no scientific evidence that a child fathered by a veteran who had exposed to radiation is more likely than other children to have birth defects.

Brown said the VA has received applications for disability compensation from 2,067 veterans who said the tests caused them to be diseased in later years.

So far, the VA has approved on 29 of those claims. Fifteen were approved on appeal after initial rejection. Two of the claims that were accepted were filed on behalf of veterans who had died from their ailments.

Front Page

Los Angeles Times

ACOL 7 1983

Thursday, April 7, 1983

The Nation

Aid for 'Atomic Veterans'

The Veterans Administration agreed to give free medical treatment to military personnel who took part in open-air atomic tests and whose illnesses might have been caused by exposure to radiation. The policy change, announced at a Senate Veterans Affairs Committee meeting, was a belated victory for the nation's "atomic veterans"—an estimated 250,000 to 500,000 servicemen who participated in atomic tests in Nevada and the Pacific between 1945 and 1962. Free medical care brings those veterans one step closer to obtaining the same limited rights that the VA has granted reluctantly to Vietnam veterans exposed to the defoliant Agent Orange.

Front Page

VA offers free treatment for atomic-test veterans

By Pete Earley
Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Veterans Administration agreed yesterday to give free medical treatment to military personnel who took part in open-air atomic tests and whose illnesses might have been caused by exposure to radiation.

The policy change announced at a Senate Veterans Affairs Committee meeting, was a belated victory for the nation's "atomic veterans" — an estimated 250,000 to 500,000 servicemen who participated in atomic tests in Nevada and the Pacific between 1945 and 1962. [An estimated 10,000 of them are from Massachusetts.]

Free medical care brings the veterans one step closer to obtaining the same limited rights that the VA has granted to Vietnam veterans

exposed to the defoliant Agent Orange.

But VA officials said the agency does not intend to change its policy of rejecting most disability compensation claims filed by "atomic veterans." VA scientists say they do not believe there is any evidence that those veterans were exposed to enough radiation to suffer health problems.

The agency also said it opposes legislation requiring several VA studies of "atomic veterans," including one comparing the health of veterans exposed to radiation with those who were not exposed.

A similar study was ordered in 1979 for veterans exposed to Agent Orange but it has not yet been started.

VETERANS, Page 9

VA offers free treatment for atomic-test veterans

VETERANS

Continued from Page 1

Congress ordered the VA in 1981 to provide free health care to veterans for any ailment that might reasonably be assumed to result from exposure to radiation or to Agent Orange. The VA began providing such care to veterans exposed to Agent Orange, but it limited treatment for "atomic veterans" to those suffering from cancer or thyroid diseases.

Those restrictions irritated Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), who repeatedly demanded that the VA change its policy and yesterday criticized it for taking 17 months "to carry out the law as Congress intended."

A parade of witnesses, mostly from the National Assn. of Atomic Veterans, also denounced the VA for failing to enact standard procedures for deciding when "atomic veterans" should receive disability compensation.

A total of 2067 "atomic veterans" have filed claims for a variety of disabilities that they blame on exposure to radiation. The VA has approved 29 of them, including 15 on appeal.

Cranston yesterday introduced a bill that would force the VA to draft such standards both for exposure to radiation and to dioxin-contaminated herbicides such as Agent Orange. It also would require the VA to "resolve every reasonable doubt in favor of the veterans."

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

ACQUISITIONS

SPORTS FINAL

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1983

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Atomic test veterans get free care

Page A-1

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Veterans Administration said Wednesday it will start offering free medical care to any ex-serviceman for illnesses that possibly could have resulted from radiation exposure in open-air atomic tests in Nevada and the Pacific years ago.

An estimated 220,000 men took part in 235 atmospheric atomic tests between 1945 and 1963.

Some soldiers were positioned only 2,000 yards from the point of nuclear detonation, and others were helicoptered or marched into the area soon after the blast and put through maneuvers to test their reactions.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars told the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee that in the 1950s the Atomic Energy Commission cautioned the Defense Department that "troops involved in the nuclear weapons testing

might be exposed to harmful levels of radiation."

The VFW asked the committee for a more generous government policy toward the veterans of those tests.

The VA's announcement coincided with the disclosure by the Centers for Disease Control that a study of 3,027 men who took part in a 1957 Nevada test code-named "Smoky" showed that their death rate from leukemia was three times higher than expected.

Nine leukemia deaths were reported, while health statistics say only 3.1 should have been expected in a group of that size, Dr. Glyn G. Caldwell of the CDC's Center for Environmental Health told the committee.

But, he said, cases of other forms of cancer were actually slightly lower among the atomic veterans than would be expected — 112 cases vs. the 117.5 that normally could be

expected in a group that size.

Normally, the VA treats at its hospitals only veterans whose conditions are service-connected, who are over age 65 or who are willing to sign a poverty oath.

But in 1981 Congress enacted a law requiring the VA to treat veterans whose conditions could have resulted from radiation exposure in the atomic tests. The guidelines adopted by the VA under that law allowed for treating only those exposed veterans who have cancer or thyroid nodules.

Dr. D. Earl Brown, associate deputy medical director, told the committee that the VA is broadening the guidelines "to allow treatment of all conditions except for those which are known to have causes other than radiation exposure."

Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), who had been pressuring the VA to take that step, welcomed it.

VA to start treating all veterans who took part in open-air A-tests

By Mike Feinsilber
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Veterans Administration said yesterday that it would start giving free medical treatment to veterans who took part in open-air atomic tests years ago and whose illnesses possibly could be caused by radiation.

Between 250,000 and 500,000 American servicemen participated in tests in Nevada and the Pacific between 1945 and 1962.

Until now, the VA had been willing to treat only veterans suffering from cancer or thyroid diseases. The agency said the new guidelines would be published soon in the Federal Register.

VA officials told the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee yesterday that the guidelines were being liberalized "to allow treatment of all conditions except for those which are known to have causes other than radiation exposure."

The agency started giving treatment to atomic veterans after being compelled to do so by a law passed in 1980.

The law allowed the VA to draw up guidelines for eligibility. The initial guidelines, now to be broadened, recognized only cancer and thyroid disorders.

Dr. D. Earl Brown, associate deputy chief medical director of the VA, told the Senate panel of the decision, but reiterated the agency's long-standing position that cancer was the only disease considered likely to have been caused by radiation at the dose levels experienced by the troops taking part in the atomic tests.

Brown opposed proposed legislation requiring the VA to conduct an epidemiological study comparing the health of a group of veterans exposed to radiation with the health of a group that had not been exposed. He said the VA would conduct the study without being required to do so by law if scientific experts decided that such an investigation "would yield scientifically useful results."

He also opposed a proposal to require the VA to draw up plans for compensating atomic veterans' children born with genetic or congenital disabilities if scientific studies con-

cluded that the children's health had been affected by their fathers' exposure to radiation.

"Public consideration by Congress of methods of providing for redress of genetic or congenital disabilities would lend the unwarranted appearance that a scientific link is soon to be established and quite possibly would increase the anxiety of parents and parents-to-be," Brown said.

He said there was no scientific evidence that a child fathered by an exposed veteran was more likely than other children to have birth defects.

Brown said the VA had received applications for disability compensation from 2,067 veterans who said the tests caused them to be diseased in later years.

So far, the VA has approved 29 claims and rejected the others. Fifteen were approved on appeal after an initial turndown. Two of the claims that were accepted were filed on behalf of veterans who had died from their ailments.

Of the total, 820 of the claims involved veterans with cancer.

The Miami Herald

Thursday, April 7, 1983

VA expands services to atomic-test vets

The Veterans Administration said Wednesday that it will start offering free medical care to any ex-servicemen for illnesses that possibly could have resulted from radiation exposure in open-air atomic tests in Nevada and the Pacific years ago.

An estimated 220,000 troops took part in 235 atmospheric atomic tests between 1945 and 1963. In 1981, Congress enacted a law requiring the VA to treat those veterans. The guidelines adopted by the VA under that law allowed for treating only those exposed veterans who have cancer or thyroid nodules.

Dr. D. Earl Brown, associate deputy medical director, said Wednesday that the VA is broadening the guidelines "to allow treatment of all conditions except for those which are known to have causes other than radiation exposure."

Congressmen introduce legislation proclaiming Atomic Veterans Day

Citing the patriotic service of Atomic Veterans to their country, Senator Arlen Specter and Representative Bob Edgar, both of Pennsylvania, have intro-

duced legislation which would set aside July 16 as a special day of recognition for the men who participated in U.S. nuclear weapons tests between 1945 and 1962,

as well as for those who served in the U.S. occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki following WW II.

In a "Dear Colleague" letter co-

signed by Senators Specter (Pa), Cran-

ston (Ca), Jepsen (Ia) and DeConcini (Az), the support of other Senators for this special recognition was requested.

"The health of many patriotic veterans and their children may have been adversely affected by exposure to radiation resulting from nuclear weapons deto-

nation of an atomic weapon, at Alamogordo AFB, New Mexico) . . .

"We therefore believe that it is appropriate to have that day declared National Atomic Veterans Day in recognition of the importance of resolving issues related to the exposure of these veterans to ionizing radiation."

The "Atomic Veterans Day" resolution evidences the growing support and

attention Congress is giving to this group, estimated to be in excess of 250,000 veterans. Recently Sen-

ator Simpson (Wy) announced that hearings will be held April 6 by the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee into the problems of Atomic Veterans.

Rep. Sonny Montgomery (Ms), Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, will hold similar hearings in May.

Vet Groups Back Aid For Those In N-Tests

By MIKE FEINSILBER
WASHINGTON (AP) — Three veterans groups announced support Friday for efforts to win free medical treatment and disability compensation for former servicemen who claim their participation in atomic tests damaged their health.

* * *
The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Amvets and the Disabled Veterans of America said they would urge Congress to enact legislation making it easier for the atomic test veterans to establish that their illnesses result from radiation.

The American Legion did not go that far but said it supports a bill calling for a long-term study of the adverse health effects of radiation on the veterans.

"The United States government has been less than forthcoming in dealing with the radiation-related disability claims of veterans," the legion said in a statement distributed at a news conference called by the National Association of Atomic Veterans. Statements from the other veterans groups were also released.

The atomic veterans group said the Veterans Administration has accepted only 16 radiation claims and rejected 2,867 by veterans or their widows.

The association said it surveyed 1,200 of its members and of the 700 who replied, 39 percent said they suffer from cancer, 67 percent reported muscle degenerative diseases, 45 percent told of bone deterioration, 11 percent said they were sterile and 51 percent reported genetic or serious health problems in their children or grandchildren.

The most common disorders in the children and grandchildren are retardation, skeletal defects and organ defects, the group said.

* * *
The figures on veterans' diseases understate the problem because many of the veterans who suffered adverse effects from radiation already are dead, said Jess Clark, chairman of the association's medical committee. Clark was a participant in the explosion of two atomic devices at Bikini Island in 1946, an event witnessed by 42,000 military men and scientists.

"Although the evidence is still inconclusive," the association said, "recent medical studies have suggested a significant link between such diseases as leukemia and other forms of cancer, neuro-muscular disorders, internal disorders and cardiovascular disease in atomic veterans and their offspring and their exposure to ionizing radiation."

All told, the association said, between 250,000 and 500,000 Americans took part in 236 atmospheric atomic tests in Nevada and the Pacific between 1945 and 1962, often with inadequate protection or warning of the consequences.

'Atomic' vets to get free VA care

Washington (UPD)—The Veterans Administration, reversing a 17-month policy, has agreed to provide free medical treatment to veterans who took part in open-air atomic tests and whose illnesses might be related to radiation exposure.

Dr. D. Earl Brown, the agency's deputy chief medical director, announced the change in testimony yesterday to the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

A 1981 law mandated free health care for veterans suffering ailments that might be assumed to have resulted from exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange or radiation. The agency began providing the care to those exposed to the herbicide but limited the treatment of "atomic veterans" to those with cancer or thyroid disease.

Under the new policy, treatment for atomic veterans—the estimated 220,000 servicemen at Nevada nuclear test sites from 1945-1962 or in the occupation forces at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where the only atomic bombs dropped in war struck—will be provided for "any type of illness that

may be related to exposure," agency spokesman Ozzie Garza said.

GARZA SAID THE ADMINISTRATOR, Harry Walters, "felt the previous guidelines were limited, that all veterans" exposed should be eligible.

Many of them are ill now. Some of their children were born with defects, and they are angry that the government is refusing to give them service-connected monetary benefits or automatic medical treatment.

"We are being condemned to illness and slow, painful death" by the VA and the Defense Nuclear Agency's resistance to their claims, said John Smitherman, the wheelchair-bound president of the National Association of Atomic Veterans.

His comment was in a prepared statement he could not deliver in person to the Senate Veterans Committee because he was hospitalized.

Missoula, MT.
March 1983

Veterans groups back help for participants in nuclear testing

By MIKE FEINSILBER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Three veterans groups announced support Friday for efforts to win free medical treatment and disability compensation for former servicemen who claim their participation in atomic tests damaged their health.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Amvets and the Disabled Veterans of America said they would urge Congress to enact legislation making it easier for the atomic test veterans to establish that their illnesses result from radiation.

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All told, the association said, between 250,000 and 500,000 Americans took part in 236 atmospheric atomic tests in Nevada and the Pacific between 1945 and 1962, often with inadequate protection or warning of the consequences.

Some U.S. servicemen who entered Hiroshima and Nagasaki shortly after they were bombed in 1945 have developed the rare cancer common to Japanese survivors, the association said.

Veterans are barred by law from suing the government for injuries arising from when they were in uniform. VA denials of claims cannot be appealed to federal courts.

Generally a disease must manifest itself within a year of a veteran's discharge for the VA to recognize it as service-connected, making the veteran eligible for disability benefits and medical treatment in VA hospitals.

The VA has taken the position that the average radiation exposure was too low to have caused physical injury.

No decision has been reached yet in a lawsuit brought by 1,192 civilians, who contend that they or their relatives developed cancer after being exposed to fallout from open-air tests between 1951 and 1962 at the Nevada Test Site.

The atomic veterans association, headquartered in Burlington, Iowa, was started in 1979 by the late Orville E. Kelly.

media
quarterly
file

Veterans back state A-test bill

By Joseph Bauman
Deseret News staff writer

Utah veterans who participated in open-air atomic tests at the Nevada Test Site near Las Vegas are supporting a joint resolution introduced in the Utah House of Representatives.

The measure is HCR5, sponsored by Rep. George L. Gygi, D-Salt Lake, which says about 250,000 American veterans were exposed to nuclear radiation in the occupation of Japan and during tests at the NTS.

The resolution, which was reported favorably out of the House Revenue and Taxation Committee on Tuesday, says veterans "are now suffering myriad health problems, including cancer, degenerative bone and nerve diseases, intestinal disorders, blood and respiratory diseases, emotional problems and birth defects in their children and grandchildren."

It calls on state officials to request Congress and the president to direct the Veterans Administration to "recognize the body of medical evidence associated with exposure to atomic radiation." It also asks that the government investigate the veterans' complaints.

Bob Carter, 4609 Thornwood Ave., Taylorsville, Utah coordinator of the National Association of Atomic Veterans, said the Utah group supports the resolution. About 30 members live in the state.

Carter was with the 435th Fighter Squadron, George Air Force Base, Victorville, Calif., during

some of the NTS testing. Age 17 at the time, he was stationed about six miles from Ground Zero during the Hood atomic shot of July 6, 1957, "the largest detonation on the American continent up to today," he said.

"There were several of us sitting on the hillside, and the concussion blew us all into the mountain," he said. "It did burn the front of me. I had a mild sunburn."

Then Carter started having headaches. Soon after, he lost skin from his hands and scalp. He complained of nausea and vomiting, and this is contained in his service records, he said.

The symptoms are similar to those suffered by victims of radiation poisoning, according to medical experts.

Carter contacted the VA with his problems. "They're not interested at all. They've been directed by someone in government to give us a physical examination once a year, that's all."

"They're not obligated to give us any medical care at all."

Also reporting ailments that could be connected to atomic exposure was David A. Self, 1739 Richard Road, Sandy, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel.

Self, 59, was involved in atomic testing from 1953 to 1959. He was stationed at Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, N.M., a pilot with the rank of captain, in the 4935th Test Group (Atomic).

He had two main jobs: dropping dummy bombs

before air-drop atomic tests to make a check of the shell's ballistics, and to participate in actual bomb tests.

"On one mission, I flew 30 seconds behind a B-50 that dropped, I think it was, a 60-kiloton bomb. We were dropping canisters through the (atomic) cloud so they could collect data."

The canisters would be collected later so scientists could analyze their contents.

During a 1956 test called Red Wing, conducted at Bikini, Marshall Islands, he was in charge of evacuation plans. The wind changed, atomic debris headed toward the island where the scientists and troops were watching, and "I became the most popular guy on the base." The wind changed direction again, carrying the material away from the island.

In one test at Eniwetok, Marshall Islands, a 10-megaton bomb was dropped six miles short of its target. "We called it the big miss. It was really hushed a lot at the time."

Pilots of fighter aircraft in the vicinity were lucky they were not killed, he said.

Self said he has had more than half of the ailments in a list circulated by atomic veterans as those that may be linked to A-blast exposure.

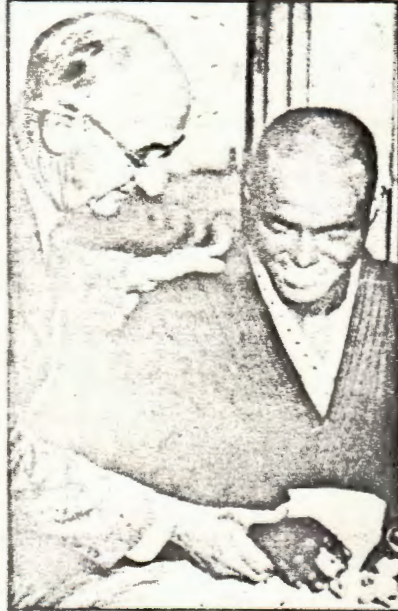
"I've had many problems, especially in the last few years. I've got skin on my nose and forehead that's like — I don't know if it's malignant or not."

He said his white blood count has been high for years. "My doctors tell me that's going toward leukemia."

MAY 1, 1983

Significa

By Irving Wallace, David Wallechinsky and Amy Wallace



Three weeks after BRAVO blast, head of U.S. commission checks fisherman for effects of fallout

Radiation Victims

In the Feb. 13 Significa column, we told the story of the 1954 BRAVO atomic blast on Bikini Island, which endangered the lives of U.S. soldiers and the native Marshallese people. Since then, we have heard from former members of the U.S. armed forces who fear that they may have been exposed to excessive radiation as a result of other atomic bomb tests. Any such concerned persons should write to the National Association of Atomic Veterans (NAAV), 1109 Franklin St., Burlington, Iowa 52601.

Featuring

Vets want July 16 proclaimed Atomic Veteran's Day

By Jeanne Tempest
Editor

It would be hard to find an American who had not heard of Agent Orange.

Since the return of American servicemen from Vietnam, the herbicide has been a controversial issue between the veterans and the United States government.

Fewer people have heard of Agent Blue - the term used by American service personnel from World War II who were exposed to radiation from nuclear test blasts.

One such veteran is Fred Tracy of Warner Hill Road.

Tracy is trying to draw attention to the plight of an estimated 250,000 veterans who want the government to recognize its responsibility for their poor physical conditions by admitting that they were used as guinea pigs.

Tracy himself has had a history of lung problems, periodic bouts with cancer, loss of hair, partial loss of vision, vertigo and skin fungus.

The Veterans Administration says that none of this is connected with the fact that he was on board a vessel which took fallout from the test blast at Bikini Atoll.

In fact, Tracy has had a problem convincing some civilian doctors that his problems are the effect of low level radiation.

Tracy says that the government would not have tested him to see if he was a guinea pig.

Another reason Tracy says is that the government would not have tested him to see if he was a guinea pig.

Tracy is a member of the National Association of Atomic Veterans, an organization founded by Orville and Wanda Kelly of Burlington, Iowa. Orville has

An estimated 250,000 World War II veterans were exposed to atomic blast tests.

since died, and his wife is carrying on the battle with the government on behalf of those veterans who seek redress.

The group is setting aside July 16 as Atomic Veterans Day - it is the anniversary date of the first atomic test blast near Alamogordo, New Mexico on July 16, 1945.

Senator Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Rep. Robert Edgar (D-Pa.) will sponsor bills in the Senate and House, proclaiming the day. Tracy is asking that the people of this area urge the N.H. Congress-

sional Delegation to become co-sponsors.

Wanda Kelly, in a recent letter to members of the NAAV, has explained the purpose for organizing and the mission of the group.

She says that many men have died prematurely from cancer and other radiation-related illnesses. Widows have been left penniless, often saddled with huge medical debts because of the extended and complicated illnesses of their deceased husbands.

According to Kelly, there is now

"an alarmingly high number of genetic problems in the children."

NAAV's mission, the founder says, is to assure that Atomic Veterans and their families receive proper medical and financial assistance.

They are attempting to pass legislation that Atomic Veterans and their families receive proper medical and financial aid; to restore the rights of Atomic Veterans and their families and to assure access to the courts (it is not legal for them to sue the federal government); to change Veterans Administration guidelines to assure that Atomic Veterans and their families receive proper medical and financial aid; to gain recognition that exposure to radiation from atomic and nuclear weapons causes a multitude of health problems; to assure that history shows the true story of the Atomic

Veterans in the nuclear age; and to assure that all Atomic Veterans and their families are located and informed of the potential consequences of exposure to radiation.

To date the organization has gained passage of legislation providing greater access to V.A. hospitals for atomic veterans; it has been successful in litigation against the V.A., challenging the legality of the guidelines used in denying claims for service connected benefits.

The organization is also taking credit for forcing the government to begin studies into the health problems of men who were at the tests or among the Hiroshima-Nagasaki occupation forces.

And finally, Kelly says that this year, the organization has received commitments for Congressional hearings into the problems and needs of American service personnel exposed to radiation.

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Little Rock AR.

'Atomic Veterans' Group Pushing for Recognition

The National Association of Atomic Veterans, a nonprofit organization formed to bring attention to the potential health problems of radiation exposure by American soldiers, held a press conference Wednesday at the Capitol to publicize its work.

The organization, founded in August 1979 in Burlington, Ia., has chapters in 18 states and encouraged the formation of an Arkansas chapter. The group wants recognition and justice for veterans who may have suffered ill effects because they weren't wearing protective clothing near sites in Nevada and the Pacific Ocean where the government tested nuclear weapons between 1945 and 1962.

The group has scheduled a regional meeting for 1 p.m. Saturday in Jackson, Miss., for "atomic veterans" from Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, Florida and Tennessee.

250,000 Exposed

E. Cooper Brown of Burlington, the group's general counsel, distributed prepared statements at the Capitol saying 250,000 veterans were believed exposed to radiation during the tests or during the United States occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan after those cities were bombed.

"Many of these men now suffer a

high incidence of cancers and other radiation-related diseases," the release said. "A disproportionate number of their children suffer genetic damage." The Association wants to find the veterans or their widows and children to warn them about the suspected illnesses and help them file claims for government assistance.

More information about the organization may be obtained by calling Little Rock SANE, an antinuclear organization, at 565-3581, or by writing the National Association of Atomic Veterans at 1109 Franklin Street, Burlington, Ia. 52601.

VA yields to atomic vets' care

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Veterans Administration, reversing a 17-month policy, has agreed to provide free medical treatment to veterans who took part in atmospheric atomic tests and whose illnesses might be related to radiation exposure.

Dr. D. Earl Brown, the agency's deputy chief medical director, announced the change in testimony Thursday to the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

A 1981 law required free health care for veterans for ailments that might be assumed to have resulted from exposure to Agent Orange or radiation. The agency began providing the care to those exposed to the herbicide but limited the treatment for "atomic veterans" to those suffering from cancer or thyroid disease.

UNDER THE NEW POLICY, treatment for the estimated 220,000 servicemen at Nevada nuclear test sites from 1945-1962 or in the postwar occupation forces at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, will be provided for "any type of illness that may be related to exposure," agency spokesman Ozzie Garza said today.

"This is a very important step in our flight for justice," declared E. Cooper Brown, counsel for National Association of Atomic Veterans. Brown formerly worked at NAAV headquarters in Burlington, Iowa, and now heads its Washington office.

He said NAAV "will be monitoring the VA closely ... to insure that needed health care is indeed provided."

Brown; Wanda Kelly of Burlington, NAAV executive director; and NAAV's national research director, Anthony Guarisco of Topok, Ariz., attended the Senate hearing and plan to attend the hearing of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee in May.

(Kelly's late husband, Orville, in Burlington founded NAAV and the now-worldwide "Make Today Count" organization for those with terminal illnesses. He succumbed in 1980 to cancer he believed was related to military service at nuclear test sites.)

Brown also said four service organizations — American Legion, VFW, DAV and Amvets — are lobbying for a congressional resolution asking President Reagan to proclaim July 16 National Atomic Veterans Day. A co-sponsor is Rep. Jim Leach, R-Iowa.

Burlington, Iowa

Thursday, April 7, 1983

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The HAWK EYE

Nuke victims subject of 'largest manhunt in nation's history'

Sunday, 4 October 1982

By MARY MANNING
SUN Staff Writer

When the National Association of Atomic Veterans met in Las Vegas last year, they launched "the largest manhunt in the history of our country."

These soldiers, who claim they were exposed to radiation from atomic bombs exploded at the Nevada Test Site and in the Pacific islands in the 1950s, were seeking others who crouched with them in the trenches and on the ship decks to witness the nuclear tests.

Most important, the atomic veterans asked for records of cancers, diseases and birth defects among their children, illnesses the vets claim came from exposure to the invisible radioactivity from the bombs.

When they gathered in Washington, D.C. last week for this year's convention, members discovered they had, in a very real sense, found their men.

In the last year, about 8,000 atomic veterans and their families have been found, Southern Nevada NAAV representative Ted Przygucki said. At least 7,500 vets have signed themselves up on the mailing list, he added.

Przygucki met with Nevada Sen. Howard Cannon for 35 minutes when he attended the conference.

"Any improvements for vets will have to wait for next year," Przygucki reported, pointing out the Democratic senator cannot introduce legislation this year.

The veterans won better access to Veteran's Administration hospitals last year when President Reagan signed new legislation, but reviews have been mixed on the results of the program.

The atomic vets say they need improved laws allowing them treatment from private physicians for themselves and their deformed children, at government expense.

NAAV was founded by Orville and Wanda Kelly, after Orville's death in 1976 from leukemia. Wanda continues as director of the national organization from her home in Burlington, Iowa.

But NAAV didn't wait for the government to act. Within the last 12 months, members responded to a

medical survey on themselves and their children and their children's children.

The vets discovered 24 percent of the 500 responses suffered cancer — not including skin cancer — 67 percent muscle problems, 55 percent joint diseases and 48 percent lung problems.

Other areas reported include skin cancer, internal disorders, heart problems, emotional problems, rashes, severe headaches, loss of hearing, tinnitus and sterility.

Out of the 500 responses to the survey, 135 reported miscarriages. And, in a smaller sample, conducted by Dorothy Legarreta of Berkeley, Calif., 277 reported serious defects, many of the children showing more than one defect.

In fact, atomic vets' children showed a 50 percent incidence of retardation, physical birth defects and other medical problems, while their grandchildren total another 18 percent of the same problems, the study said.

The survey was presented to Physicians for Social Responsibility and NAAV President John Smitherman met with Japanese physicians and radiation experts in an effort to establish radiation clinics in the United States.

Smitherman, of Mulberry, Tenn., suffers from a lymph disorder that already has resulted in the amputation of both his legs. The vet faces the loss of his left hand from the disorder.

"I have never been treated so kindly or with so much respect in a hospital in my entire life," Smitherman said of the doctors who saw him in hospitals at Tokyo and Hiroshima, where he traveled at his own expense.

Smitherman's problems began in 1946 after World War II where he witnessed two nuclear explosions on Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands. He was stationed on the deck of the USS Allen M. Sumner during Operation Crossroads and was exploring the island within hours after each blast.

Soon after tests, Smitherman was admitted to a military hospital for treatment of burns and swelling of his feet and legs, first diagnosed as a kidney ailment. Smitherman received a medical discharge from the Navy in August, 1947 at the age of 20.

He began his battle for government compensation in 1976, but was denied five times and awaits a sixth decision on his appeal made in March.

Smitherman was accepted at the Japanese hospitals for treatment just three days after being turned

down for help at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

Treatment in Japan included acupuncture, medicine and cobalt-like treatments, which he said relieved the pain in his left arm for short periods of time.

"They said if the hand gives me severe pain or if the swelling moves up my arm I should go immediately and have it taken off," he said. "They said the swelling would never go down and were concerned about me coming back to the States and not receiving treatment."

Accompanying Smitherman was Dr. Susan Lambert of Berkeley's Radiation Research Foundation, who is trying to set up the Japanese treatment in Northern California for the atomic vet, then move it to his Tennessee home.

Smitherman hopes his trip to Japan will open the door for more atomic veterans seeking relief from the severe pain that keeps him from sleeping more than about two hours at a time.

"I'm going to hang on to the very end," he vowed.

NAAV members promise to hang in there with him, and they intend to spread the word around the nation and the world.

Senators to Check Health Effects of Early U.S. Atomic Tests

By JUDITH MILLER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20 — Senator Alan K. Simpson, Republican of Wyoming, chairman of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, agreed today to hold hearings next year to explore whether participants in early atomic weapons tests had suffered diseases brought on by their exposure to radiation.

The hearings, a committee spokesman said, would also focus on whether the Defense Department and Veterans Administration had withheld information from the veterans.

Mr. Simpson met with representatives of the National Association of Atomic Veterans, a three-year old group that has been pressing the Veterans Administration to grant the veterans "service-connected disabilities"

and to acknowledge that the illnesses were related to the radiation exposure.

"Our people are dying at alarming rates, and the Government refuses to help," said John Smitherman, the president of the association.

Officials of the Defense Nuclear Agency have said that about 250,000 veterans took part in about 230 atmospheric tests from 1945 to 1963. They acknowledge that many of the former servicemen are ill but deny that the illnesses are related to radiation.

About 150 association members met here over the weekend and visited members of Congressional committees on veterans. Copper Brown, a lawyer for the group, said it was "in danger of being a group with no veterans and only widows and children as members."

In a news conference, the group's leaders offered preliminary results of a poll of 500 members who say they suffer from radiation-related illness and who

returned questionnaires. Of the 500, 39 percent reported suffering some kind of cancer, 67 percent reported muscle deterioration and 55 percent deterioration of the joints. Internal disorders were reported by 42 percent, and 48 percent cited lung problems, such as shortness of breath and scarring of lung tissue.

Fifty percent of those surveyed reported that their children had disabilities of some kind; 18 percent said their grandchildren had genetic defects.

One-hundred and thirty-five miscarriages were reported by the 500 respondents; 11 percent said that they

were sterile. Representatives of the National Association of Atomic Veterans acknowledged that the poll findings were not "scientific," since the sample was small and non-random.

"But when so many of us are sick with so many of the same illnesses, and when the only common bond we have is participation in that testing program, it certainly raises some questions," said Jess Clark, a director of the group.

The nuclear agency has asserted that most of the veterans received far less radiation than workers in the atomic power industry now receive in a year. There is no evidence, the agency said, to support assertions that the veterans' illnesses could be caused by the very low levels of radiation they received.

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Atomic Veterans Granted Hearing

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Veterans who say they have problems as a result of exposure to atomic-blast tests in the 1950s won a pledge from Congress to hold hearings on the subject next year.

The National Association of Atomic Veterans represents 250,000 men who were exposed to some of the 235 above-ground atomic tests from 1945 to 1963 or who served in Hiroshima and Nagasaki after the Japanese cities were destroyed by atomic bombs. The organization got promises Monday for hearings from the chairmen of the House and Senate Veterans committees.

Earlier, the veterans expressed anger — in some cases they were near tears — at the refusal by the Defense Department and the Veterans Administration to certify the men as

having service-connected disabilities.

"Our people are dying at an alarming rate from cancer and other diseases, and government agencies refuse to help," said John Smitherman of Fayetteville, Tenn. He is a legless veteran whose left hand is grotesquely deformed by deterioration of his lymphatic system.

He said the group had met with members of Congress "to tell them how the insensitivity of this administration is killing our members."

John Hickman, a spokesman for the VA, called the veterans' charges of a cover-up "utter nonsense." He said anyone who thought that he had been exposed to radiation was getting free treatment at agency hospitals. He said 2,882 veterans had asked for treatment.

"The government's position is that

until there is medical or scientific proof beyond a doubt that these tests caused the problems they are concerned about, there's not going to be any compensation," Hickman said.

Cisco Napier of Dayton, Ohio, said he was suffering from spinal degeneration. He has two daughters and a grandson with the same condition, he said.

Jess Clark of San Francisco said a survey of 500 veterans who believed they had been exposed to radiation showed that 39 percent of them had some form of cancer, 67 percent had muscular problems and 45 percent had bone deterioration.

He said 50 percent of the children and 18 percent of the grandchildren of exposed veterans had birth defects.

Atomic vets fight cancer, bureaucracy

by Rena Wish Cohen

Herald staff writer

In 1957, Orville Kelly crouched on a beach in the South Pacific as an atom bomb exploded almost literally in front of his nose.

Twenty-two times in the next 12 months, as the U.S. government continued its nuclear testing program, the Army sergeant witnessed the same harrowing scene: the nuclear fireball, the deafening roar, the shaking when the shock wave reached Kelly and his men.

What he did not know then was that those 22 explosions set a time bomb ticking inside his body. But in June 1973, the Burlington, Iowa, resident was diagnosed as having lymphocytic lymphoma, or cancer of the lymph system — an ailment that has been scientifically linked to radiation.

After that, Kelly became a crusader. In 1974, he founded Make Today Count, an organization to help the incurably ill and their families deal with illness. And before he died last June 24, at the age of 49, Kelly and his wife Wanda founded the National Assn. of Atomic Veterans, a group dedicated to finding others in Kelly's boat and pleading their case with the federal government.

NAAV NOW has 2,000 "atomic veterans" on its mailing list, but that is only a fraction of the 250,000 soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines who are estimated to have been exposed to radiation during the government's atomic testing program from 1945 to 1961.

This weekend, Wanda Kelly and about 20 sympathizers were in Chicago to plot strategy for finding other atomic veterans and enlarging NAAV into a nationwide pressure group.

"1981 is going to be one of the more important years of our existence because it's the year of the big push," said Tom Saffer, the group's deputy director and an atomic veteran who has been afflicted by muscle problems no physician has been able to diagnose.

One of the group's chief goals is to break down the stone wall that usually greets a veteran with an illness like Kelly's when he requests financial compensation from the Veterans Administration on the grounds his ailment was caused by exposure to radiation.

The problem: the VA typically grants benefits for illnesses contracted only during a serviceman's tour of duty or within a year after discharge.

Cancer may not show up until years later.

IN ADDITION, conclusive evidence linking a case of cancer to a given event, such as an atomic test, is difficult to come by. It is complicated by the fact that the Defense Dept. kept poor records on which servicemen participated in the tests and what their radiation exposure was. Worse, some of the records were destroyed during a 1973 fire.

The VA finally granted Kelly's claim a year ago, after six years of wrangling. As of Oct. 1, according to Lew Golinker of the National Veterans Law Center in Washington, D.C., the VA had granted a total of 12 claims related to atomic testing. It had denied 704.

But Golinker believes things may be looking up.

"In late September, the VA awarded a claim to the widow of a man who had died of leukemia, and they had no evidence at all that he was even there," said Golinker, an attorney who attended this weekend's NAAV meeting at the Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church, 600 W. Fullerton Ave. "They said he was present even though there were no supportive records; they said he received the maximum recorded dose of radiation even though they don't know where he was during the test; and they acknowledged that leukemia has been linked to radiation."

Another bright spot is a study by the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga., which discovered nearly three times more cases of leukemia among the 3,224 servicemen present at the widely publicized "Smoky" shot in Nevada on Aug. 31, 1957, than what would be expected.

THE STUDY, published in the Oct. 3 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Assn., identified nine cases of leukemia among the men, compared with an expected 3.5. Researchers concluded that either the participants were exposed to more radiation than the records indicated, or that danger exists at a lower level of radiation exposure than previously believed.

The National Academy of Sciences is scheduled to do a larger study involving 20,000 veterans stationed in the Pacific and 20,000 stationed in Nevada during the nuclear tests. But Seymour Jablon, the researcher heading the study, said it will be two or three years before the report is completed.

Golinker believes the Smoky study eliminates the VA's excuses for denying radiation-related claims. But that



Herald photo

TWENTY-THREE YEARS after he watched a series of atomic test explosions as an American serviceman, Orville Kelly, above, was dead from a cancer of the lymph system linked to radiation exposure. But his cause lives on as his widow, Wanda, continues with the National Assn. of Atomic Veterans — a help group for veterans exposed to atomic testing — that she and Kelly founded before he died. This weekend, Mrs. Kelly and 20 other sympathizers were in Chicago plotting strategy for finding more of the 250,000 servicemen who witnessed nuclear bomb testing in the 1950s.

research is not the final scientific word. And Wanda Kelly is not holding her breath.

"We're still fighting a long battle, the diminutive widow said Saturday. 'I pray he (Golinker) will be right.'"