



VETERANS QUALITY OF LIFE ACCESS NETWORK INC. NEWS

BARRY G. CAMPBELL FOUNDER/PRESIDENT

V.Q.L.A.N.

NOVEMBER 2012

VOLUME III ISSUE II

Anthony J. Williams/Editor

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AMERICA UNCOVERED!



INSIDE

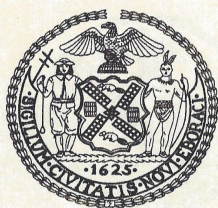
- 1) **MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA**
- 2) **AGENT ORANGE**
- 3) **PERSONALITY DISORDERS**
- 4) **CAMP LEJEUNE**
- 5) **SECONDARY CONDITIONS**
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- 7) **BACK - LOG CLAIMS**
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- 9) **PTSD**
- 10) **VA HEALTH CARE SURVEY**

AND MORE

**WITH AN ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS
VQLAN ASSISTS VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES
FROM ACROSS THE NATION
AND THE WORLD**



NEW MILLENNIUM ORGANIZATION



City Council Citation

Whereas, a great city is only as great as those persons who give exemplary service to their communities, whether through participation in voluntary programs, through unique personal achievement in their professional or other endeavors or simply through a lifetime of good citizenry; and

Whereas, such service, which is truly the lifeblood of the community and the city, so often goes unrecognized and unrewarded; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that as duly elected members of the New York City Council, we recognize that in

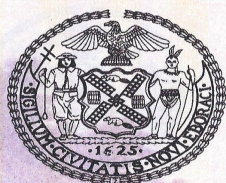
Barry G. Campbell *Going Above & Beyond for Veterans In Need*

we have an outstanding citizen, one which is worthy of the esteem of both community and the great City of New York.

In witness whereof
I have hereunto set
my hand

Jeboah Rose
COUNCIL MEMBER

May 7th, 2011
Date



The Council of the City of New York
Office of the Majority Leader
Hon. Joel Rivera, Majority Leader

Citation

Whereas, a great city is only as great as those persons who give exemplary service to their communities, whether through participation in voluntary programs, through unique personal achievement in their professional or other endeavors or simply through a lifetime of good citizenry; and

Whereas, such service, which is truly the lifeblood of the community and the city, so often goes unrecognized and unrewarded; now therefore be it

Resolved, that as a duly elected member of The Council of the City of New York, I recognize that in

Barry Campbell

we have an outstanding citizen, one who is worthy of the esteem of both the community and the great City of New York.

April 16, 2009

In witness whereof
I have hereunto set
my hand

JR



A CALL TO ACTION!

BE HEARD

VQLAN is issuing a nationwide call for **ALL VETERANS: STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!**

We are reaching out to **ALL** of America's Veterans from past and present wars (we are **21,000,000 + strong**) to remind them why they became members of America's armed forces. We are requesting that they direct this same **DESIRE** and **DEDICATION** into the 'MOVEMENT' that we are currently engaged in on our home front.

We, America's Veterans, are in a national **SOCIAL FIGHT** and this fight is no different from any other fight. It is a **FIGHT FOR OUR VERY SURVIVAL**, a **FIGHT FOR JUSTICE** and a **FIGHT FOR PEACE AT HOME**.

It is time for **AMERICA'S VETERANS** to **STOP** being reactive and start being proactive. It is time for us to **STAND UP AND BE HEARD!**

We were 'trained' to **SERVE** and to **PROTECT**. Well, it is time for us to **SERVE** and to **PROTECT**:

- * **our homes**
- * **our families**
- * **our communities**
- * **our very way of life**

VQLAN is issuing this **CALL TO ACTION** under the full understanding that **NO ONE IS GOING TO HELP US**. therefore, **WE MUST HELP OURSELVES**.

PLAN OF ACTION!

1. **ECONOMICS:** Make our dollars count. If each Vet donates \$1, we can begin to leverage our financial power, community by community. Learn the ABC's of \$1 **POWER**.
2. **POLITICS:** Become a registered voter and unite to be a mighty force. **VOTE FOR CHANGE**. There is strength in numbers. Make the numbers work in our favor.
3. **SOCIAL:** We are ready to **RECLAIM** our **HONOR** and our **DIGNITY**. Reinvest in our lives, our families and our communities.
4. **CULTURAL:** We are more alike than we are different. Let us start celebrating our **SAME-NESS**. Cultural diversity no longer exists. We are now all in the same boat . That boat is sinking **FAST**.

VQLAN IS COMMITTED to becoming a '**FORCE**' TO BE RECKONNED WITH!



photos by Anthony J. Williams

VET: U.S. WISHES I'D DIE

Battle over illness



While Americans spent the day at parades and ceremonies honoring service members who died in the line of duty, one Queens Veteran believes government bureaucrats can't wait for him to die.

Frank Bari, a 62-year old lawyer, has been waging an eight-year legal battle with the Veterans Administration over his claims that he was left permanently disabled by Agent Orange that was sprayed on him while he served with the Coast Guard in Vietnam.

"I did one year, two months and three days," in the war zone," he said. His job was boarding small local fishing boats called sampans in search of Viet Cong weapon stashes. He and his crew-mates were stationed in an area where fierce firefights regularly took place and U.S. planes dropped the powerful defoliant to expose the enemy's jungle hiding places.

Bari says he suffers from a rare form of cancer, Type II diabetes, chronic post-traumatic stress disorder and anxiety. He said the Veterans Administration has admitted all of these maladies have been linked to Agent Orange. Bari won a significant legal victory several months ago in the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, but it has been sent back to a lower court.

Meanwhile, as Bari's health continues to deteriorate, he's left wondering whether the government of the country he fought for would rather see him dead.

"There are many other former Vietnam Veterans like me and sometimes, I think they {US government bureaucrats} are waiting for us all to just die", said Bari, a former Newark public defender who now practices criminal law.

In 1999, he was diagnosed with Stage 4 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and given just four months to live, he recalled. Many of the doctors he consulted, Bari says, were "fitting me for a casket," until he found one who saved his life through a newly approved drug therapy program. He took another hit after 9/11 when he was activated as a Coast Guard reservist and assigned to Ground Zero - a tour that he says led to chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder that is part of a separate medical claim with the government.

Randy Noller, a spokesman for the VA, declined to discuss Bari's case, citing privacy issues: Noller was unable to provide data on how many other Vietnam era Veterans have pending medical disability claims, but officials say the number climbed in the past several years, as additional maladies have been included.

by Phillip Messing NY Post May 2012

NOT ALL EMPLOYEES GUNG HO ON VETS

MILITARY VETERANS and prospective employees aren't exactly marching in step when it comes to jobs. A new study from hiring website Monster.com found that most vets are confident about the skills they can bring to the civilian workforce - yet less than half of employers believe Veterans are prepared to compete for jobs once they leave the service.

The 2012 Veterans Talent Index said that 75% of Veterans believe that what they learned in their military careers - including teamwork, discipline and the ability to meet deadlines - are valuable skills to have as civilian workers. That's up slightly from 73% in November, when Monster.com created the index as a tool to help connect vets and companies as more than 1 million service members are expected to reenter civilian life over the next five years.

But only 39% of employers believe Vets are prepared to make the transition - down from 77% six months ago. "Veterans bring a wide range of skills and expertise into the mix," said Terry (T) McCreary, Military.com president and president for Monster Worldwide.

"But it's difficult shifting their mindset out of military culture and into civilian culture when talking to a hiring manager." The study also found that only 29% of Vets are confident about finding a job that suits them, down from 44% in November.

There was encouraging news. Of the employers surveyed, 74% hired more than one Vet within the past year, up from 70% - and 99% of them recommended hiring Veterans.

By Robert Dominguez Daily News May 31, 2012

BILL TO CREATE VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS

WASHINGTON, D.C.— In response to the growing number of Veterans denied the mental health treatment needed to address their post traumatic stress who end up in legal trouble after self-medicating to suppress their anxieties, Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) introduced the Services, Education, and Rehabilitation for Veterans (SERV) Act to create Veterans drug treatment courts to support Veterans combat cycle of alcohol and drug addiction. A similar program is operating in Buffalo, NY and has already seen great success.

"These treatment courts will address the specific challenges with drug and alcohol too many Veterans face when returning home from their honorable service overseas," said Senator John Kerry.

"For those who have given so much for our country, we should address the serious issues of drug and alcohol addiction in an appropriate forum that recognizes that some Veterans fall victim to substance abuse as a way to handle post-traumatic stress. It's well past time we offer our Veterans services worthy of their sacrifice."

(Report in Associated Press 2008)

PERSONALITY DISORDER DISCHARGES

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA HAS FILED A LAWSUIT RESPONDING TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - **WRONGFUL DISCHARGE OF NEARLY 26,000 VETERANS**

The Department of Defense (DoD) has violated the law by failing to release records showing that it has wrongly discharged nearly 26,000 service members on the basis of so-called '*Personality Disorder*.' This *Personality Disorder* designation has prevented disabled Veterans from receiving the **disability compensation** and other benefits they have earned. Vietnam Veterans of America and its counsel, the Veterans Legal Services Clinic of the Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization at Yale Law School hopes that the records they obtain through this lawsuit will convince **Congress** to mandate a system review of these discharges and compel DoD to repair the harm it has done.

In 2007, the Veterans Affairs Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives charged DoD with deliberately misusing personality disorder diagnosis in order to reduce the cost of health care and disability compensation by at least 12.5 billion. Since then, DoD has dramatically decreased the number of soldiers it has discharged on the basis of Personality Disorder. After discharging an average of 3,750 service members per year for Personality Disorder between 2001 and 2007, DoD has discharged only 960 service members in 2008; 1,426 in 2009 and 650 to date in 2010. However, rather than repairing the harm it has caused to the Veterans it misdiagnosed, DoD is refusing to admit that Veterans were inappropriately discharged with Personality Disorder before 2008.

"While DoD protects its reputation and its pocketbook, Veterans with PTSD and TBI continue to be denied the benefits and medical care they are due," said Dr. Thomas Berger Executive Director of VVA's Veteran Health Council. Since 2007, VVA has publicly criticized DoD's systematic misuse of Personality Disorder discharges. In a correspondence to DoD Secretary (at the time of this article) and in testimony before the House Veterans Affairs Committee, this was done with the intent of curbing the wrongful discharge practice and assisting those wrongfully discharged Veterans in receiving the benefits to which they are entitled.

"If DoD truly believes that all Personality Disorder discharges were lawful, why does it refuse to provide records responsive to VVA's Freedom of Information Act request?" asked Melissa Ader, a law student intern in the Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization at Yale Law School, which is council in the case. "We hope that this lawsuit will allow the public to assess for itself whether DoD has treated Veterans unjustly."

Original article released on December 15, 2010
Vietnam Veterans of America Press Release.
<http://www.wa.org/ppd.html>

View updated article 3-22-2012 at denverpost.com:
http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_20235680/u-s-military-illegally-discharging-veterans-diagnosed-personality

GENES LINKED TO POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

Science Daily (Apr. 2, 2012) — Why do some persons succumb to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) while other suffer the same ordeal do not? A new UCLA study sheds light on the answer.

UCLA scientist have linked genes involved in serotonin production to a higher risk of developing PTSD. Published in the April 3 online edition of Journal of Affective Disorder, the findings suggest that susceptibility to PTSD is inherited, pointing to new ways of screening for and treating the disorder.

"People can develop post-traumatic stress disorder after surviving a life threatening ordeal like war, rape or a natural disaster," explained lead author Dr. Armen Goenjian, a research professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA. "If confirmed, our findings could eventually lead to new ways to screen people at the risk for PTSD and target specific medicines for prevention and treating the disorder."

Read entire article at: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/08/120807132213.html>

**STUDENT LOAN
LEGAL ASSISTANCE HOTLINE
FOR VETERANS
718-237-5564**

Attention New York City Veterans:

- Are you struggling with student loan debt?
- Did your school fail to deliver on the education or career placement it promised?
- Do you need legal advice about your loan or concerning the school you attended?



**Free legal assistance is available
for you and your family.**

**Call the Hotline at
718-237-5564**

A joint project of NEDAP (nedap.org) and South Brooklyn Legal Services (sbils.org).
The hotline is operated by SBLS and serves veterans, service members and their families.



Jay F. Johnson - Barry G. Campbell - Donald Hogan - Anthony J. Williams - Dabney Montgomery - Amelia A. Montgomery

VETERANS IN THE COMMUNITY

Veterans from New York City joined the graduating students of Middle School 254 in the Bronx, NY. The Veterans were invited by social studies teacher Ms. Green. Among the Veterans were **Tuskegee Airman Dabney Montgomery** and his wife **Amelia**. The Veterans related their military experiences, and answered questions from the teachers and students. Mr. Montgomery talked about his American experience in the 1940s and his life as a Tuskegee Airman mechanic. He also recalled his experience when there were water fountains for blacks and separate water fountains for whites. He emphasized to the students not to allow different cultures, beliefs or ways of life to generate prejudice. "We should all find common ground to work together," he stated. Mr. Montgomery was also one of the body guards to **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** He brought to this event a bronze copy of the **Gold Congressional Medal of Honor** and other medals he has received for service to his country. He stated, "There were 15 crew members assigned to the flight crew for each aircraft. We were successful because we worked as a team."

Veteran Montgomery also discussed a document which stated that, "because of the small veins in African American male's brains that they could not be pilots." Of course we know that this is not true. The Tuskegee airmen did not lose one bomber aircraft in WWII. **They were the best.** Mrs. Montgomery answered questions pertaining to the movie **Red Tails**, a historic movie on the Tuskegee Airmen. U.S. Army Veteran Jay F. Johnson spoke on his experiences in Vietnam and how he was wounded. The students wanted to see his wound and wanted to know if it still hurts. U.S. Army Veteran Barry G. Campbell, Founder and President of Veterans Quality of Life Access Network Inc., spoke on the importance of keeping records and his 30-year experience working for the Dept. of Veterans Affairs in New York City.

U.S. Air Force Veteran Donald Hogan shared his experiences working on the flight line. His slide presentation of aircrafts and the runway while he was stationed in Thailand was greatly appreciated by the students. It was informative and educational. Artist and Air Force Veteran Anthony J. Williams shared his experience of learning in the Public School system. He emphasized the importance of the students learning their basics, reading, writing and arithmetic. "When I became editor of the VQLAN Newsletter, I was surprised at how much grammar skills I had learned in the public school system. The lessons really came in handy later on in life," he stated.. Anthony distributed signed posters of his needlepoint design of **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** The posters came in handy. The students wanted signatures from all the Veterans.

Overall, the Veterans were received well by the staff and the students. It was a very rewarding experience. I have spoken in public before, but this was the first time I had the opportunity to speak to students in a junior high school setting. It was a unique and moving experience. Veterans have a great deal of talent. It would serve our country well if Veterans were able to do positive things in the community of their choosing. However, this is not an easy task. Veterans have to be prepared and be able to show a positive attitude. No matter where I have gone, children are willing to listen to Veterans. It seems that they hold a fondness and a special respect for those Americans who have served their country.

article by editor

photo by one of the students

VETERANS JOB BILL BLOCKED IN THE SENATE

The measure, which would have potentially created jobs for up to 20,000 veterans, was blocked on a procedural point by Republicans, who argued that the bill was unpaid for. Senator Pat Murray, a Washington Democrat and the bill's main sponsor, said the bill would have covered the costs in part with fees on Medicare providers and suppliers who are delinquent on their tax bills.

The procedural vote was 58 to 40; 60 votes would have been required to waive Republican objections. Read entire article at:

<http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/09/19/veterans-job-bill-blocked-in-the-senate/>

Suicide Rates Reach High

The Pentagon reports that thirty-eight soldiers are suspected of committing suicide in July, which was the worst month for suicides since the Army first started releasing monthly figures in 2009. Suicide rates in other military services are not looking much better with both Marine Corps and Coast Guard suicide rates already above those reported in 2011. For resources to prevent suicide, visit the U.S. Army Suicide Prevention Program web page. If you are a servicemember in crisis, or know a servicemember who is, confidential support is only a phone call, click, or text away. Call the Military Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255--press 1. Or text to 838255. Or visit the Military Crisis Line website to start a confidential chat with a caring, qualified responder.

For more military support resources, visit the Military.com Family Center on the internet.

Employed ExOffender.com

EXO provides a complete and confidential marketing and job assistance service for those with a "black" mark on their personal record. Unlike most "employment agencies" that work for the company that is doing the hiring, EXO works for the job seeker exclusively. We work as your personal marketing agent through the whole job search process, removing much of the stress and uncertainty from the applicant.

In an economy and job market where time is money, speed is of the essence. EXO's streamlined process allows it to launch its clients quickly and with a process that encourages competition for their services. With EXO the return on your investment can be exceptional.

Go to: <http://www.employedexoffender.com> or call

877-483-8226 for additional information

ALMOST HALF OF NEW VETS SEEK DISABILITY

America's newest Veterans are filing for disability benefits at a historic rate, claiming to be the most medically and mentally troubled generation of former troops the nation has ever seen. A staggering 45 percent of the 1.6 million Veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are now seeking compensation for injuries they say are service related. That is more than double the estimate of 21 percent who filed such claims after the Gulf War in early 1990s, top government officials told The Associate Press.

What's more, these new Veterans are claiming eight to nine ailments on average, and the most recent ones over the last year are claiming 11 to 14. By comparison, Vietnam Veterans are currently receiving compensation for fewer than four, on average, and those from World War II and Korea, just two.

It's unclear how much worse off these Veterans are than their predecessors. Many factors are driving the dramatic increase in claims—the weak economy, more troops surviving wounds, and more awareness of problems such as concussions and PTSD. Almost one-third have been granted disability so far.

Government officials and some Veteran's advocates say that Veterans who might have been able to work with certain disabilities may be more inclined to seek benefits who lost jobs or can't find any. Aggressive outreach and advocacy efforts also have brought more Veterans into the system, which must evaluate each claim to see if it is war-related. Payments range from \$127.00 a month for a 10 percent disability to \$2,769 for a full 100% disability rating.

As the nation commemorates the more than 6,400 troops who died in post 9/11 wars, the problems of those who survived also draw attention. These new Veterans are seeking a level of help the government did not anticipate, and for which there is no special fund set aside to pay.

More of the new Veterans are women, accounting for 12 percent of those who have sought care through the VA. Women also serve in greater numbers in these wars than in the past. Some female Veterans are claiming PTSD due to military sexual trauma - a new challenge from a disability rating standpoint, Hicky said.

More than 95% of wounded troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have survived. Just over half of these Veterans are eligible for VA care have used it so far. Of those who have sought VA care: more than 1,600 of them lost a limb; many others lost fingers and toes. At least 156 are blind, and thousands of others have impaired vision. More than 177,000 have hearing loss, and more than 350,00 report tinnitus noise or ringing in the ears. Thousands are disfigured, as many as 200 of them so badly that they may need face transplants. One-quarter of battle field injuries requiring evacuation included wounds to the face or jaw, one study found.

Others have invisible wounds. More than 400,000 of these new Veterans have been treated by the VA for a mental health problem, most commonly PTSD. Tens of thousands of Veterans suffered traumatic brain injury, (TBI) mostly mild concussions from bomb blasts and doctors don't know what's in store for them long term.

Read entire article at <http://www.msnbc.com/id/47583746/r746/ns/health-healthcare/t/nearly-half-net-vets-seek-disability/>

Veterans Quality of Life Access Network INC.

Presents

Resources and Networking

4 EVER

Section 8
Housing

Preventive
Healthcare

Residual Income

Lawyers

Help You Need

Community
Services

All The Information You Need To Survive

DATE: June 2, 2012
PLACE: Harriet Tubman School
250 West 127th St.
(Between 7th and 8th Ave.)
TIME: 11:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Bring A Friend

Be On Time

Advocacy

STOP THE SUFFERING NOW

Educate

Empowerment

Unity

VETERANS QUALITY OF LIFE ACCESS NETWORK, INC.

GENERAL MEETING – SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2012

ACTION AGENDA

Prayer

- 11:02 Willy Burch – Veteran Singer
- 11:05 Donald Hogan – Host (VQLAN Representative) – What VQLAN is about
- 11:25 Brittney Taylor – Re-housing Case Manager – Supportive Services for Veterans and their families - jobs
- 11:40 Brian Figeroux, Esq. – New American Chamber of Commerce – Resources for veterans – How to open a Business plus financial help
- 11:55 Donald Hogan – Donations and membership drive
- 12:10 Kristina Sicard – Chase Bank – Resource for veterans
- 12:25 Halcyon Isaac – Energy Medicine
- 12:40 Scott Salmons – SSI & SSD Lawyer
- 1:00 Tanya M. Douglas – Manhattan Legal Services – Director Of Disability Advocacy Project
- 1:15 Tanisha Lesane – Goodwill Job Developer
- 1:30 Anthony Miller – Cambridge Business Institute
- 1:45 Donald Greenwell, J.D. – Life Trainer/Wellness Advisor
- 2:00 Hubert Gaillard – Section 8 Housing
- 2:15 Leslie Wyche – Council Member
- 2:30 Barry G. Campbell – Founder/President – Close-out



Veterans Quality of Life Access Network
For The Forgotten Ones

ABOUT US

- FOUNDER/ PRESIDENT
- VICE PRESIDENT
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- VA FORMS
- BENEFITS
- INFORMATION BANK
- NEWSLETTERS
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- VIDEOS
- LIBRARY

HONORING ALL Who Served

Veterans Quality of Life Access Network is the world's largest independently compiled and maintained veteran's information and resource bank.

Veterans Quality of Life Access Network is a non-profit organization. It was created to help our veterans and their families to obtain the benefits and gain access to the resources to which they are entitled.

The information bank that Mr. Campbell created is crucial to bridging the gap between what our veterans are entitled to and what they actually receive.

CHECK OUT OUR
NEW WEBSITE
FINISHED RECONSTRUCTION
www.vqlan.org

NEXT GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 3, 2012

11:00 AM TO 3:00 PM HARRIET TUBMAN SCHOOL
250 West 127th Street (Bet. 7th and 8th Ave)



**VETERANS QUALITY OF LIFE
ACCESS NETWORK INC. NEWS**

BARRY G. CAMPBELL PRESIDENT/ FOUNDER

V.Q.L.A.N
VOLUME III ISSUE II
Anthony J. Williams/Editor

WANT TO ADVERTISE
IN OUR
NEWSLETTER

CONTACT
VQLAN SECRETARY
AT

louise1911@aol.com

NEW MILLENNIUM ORGANIZATION

VETERANS QUALITY OF LIFE ACCESS NETWORK, INC.

9 WEST 130TH STREET (St. Ambrose Church)
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10037
212-234-9544

NEWSFLASH!!!

MR. CAMPBELL AND VQLAN ARE
BACK FROM VACATION. THE OFFICE
OPENED UP ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2012 AT
THE CHURCH.

In order for VQLAN to continue to help
veterans and their families, we now have
a price list which is effective immediately.

Please look at VQLAN's new PRICE
LIST at our office or on our website:
WWW.VQLAN.ORG

VETERANS QUALITY OF LIFE ACCESS NETWORK, INC.

NEW PRICE LIST

Page 1

*VQLAN Members (must present VQLAN Membership Card)
and Senior Citizens - $\frac{1}{2}$ price

**Advocacy - Members Only - \$35.00 a year

FOR CLAIMS (V.A. PURPOSES)

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. Initial application for benefits (Form 526) | \$25.00 |
| 2. Support of claims (Form 4138) | \$25.00 |
| Compensation & Pension | |
| 3. How to write up "secondary conditions" | \$25.00 |
| 4. Upgrade of discharge | \$50.00 |
| 5. Clothing allowance | \$10.00 |
| 6. Duty to assist letters | \$20.00 |
| 7. Dependent forms (V.A.) | \$10.00 |
| 8. Death benefits | \$20.00 |
| 9. Get military records | \$20.00 |
| 10. Senior citizen benefits | \$10.00 |
| 11. Agent Orange | \$25.00 |
| 12. Correction of military records | \$25.00 |
| 13. Appeals | \$35.00 |
| 14. Camp Lejeune drinking water (forms) | \$20.00 |
| 15. Claims that have been turned down before | \$50.00 |
| 16. Hardship waivers | \$25.00 |
| 17. All follow-ups | \$10.00 |

Page 2

REFERRAL SERVICES

All Referral Services \$15.00

- Housing
- Jobs
- Schools
- Government, state, city and V.A. hospital services
- Drug and rehab services
- Homeless
- Social Security claim
- Free food
- Free clothing
- Up-to-date apartment listings
- How to get free computers
- Training programs
- Homes - V.A. - Talk to the right people
- Lawyers

General meetings, resourcing and networking are free.
Veterans Quality of Life Library information is also free.

***This list does not include Mr. Campbell's personal
help or time.

****Prices effective September 10, 2012

VETERANS QUALITY OF LIFE ACCESS NETWORK, INC.

IN-TAKE FORM

(Information is confidential)

Date: _____

Name: _____ Last 4 (SSN #) _____

Phone or email address: _____

Branch of service: _____ Dates of service: From _____ to _____

Are you receiving: SSI _____, SSD _____ or Non-Service Pension _____

Do you want/need information or assistance with any of the following (check all that apply)?

V.A. BENEFITS

- ☐ VA Compensation & Pension
- ☐ Increases
- ☐ Discharge Upgrade (OTH-HON/GEN)
- ☐ Forms and Applications
- ☐ VQLAN Library
- ☐ How to apply
- ☐ DD 214
- ☐ Survival Benefits
- ☐ Home Loan Assistance
- ☐ Vocational Rehabilitation
- ☐ VA Life Insurance
- ☐ Knowledge about VA system

RELATIONSHIP ISSUES/CONCERNS

- ☐ Support Groups (i.e. family, peer support)

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

- ☐ VA Hardship Waivers Processing
- ☐ Social Security
- ☐ State Disability
- ☐ Emergency Assistance (food and clothes)
- ☐ Want to become a VQLAN member
- ☐ Other concerns

HEALTHCARE

- ☐ VA Enrollment/ID Card
- ☐ Readjustment Counseling
- ☐ Substance Abuse (Drug Rehab, Ctrs.)
- ☐ Resources from city, state, gov.

EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

EDUCATION

- ☐ GI Bill Assistance
- ☐ Student Support
- ☐ How to apply for all resources available

HOUSING

- ☐ Homelessness
- ☐ Resources (apts., up-to-date lists)
- ☐ Foreclosure

LEGAL

- ☐ Resources
- ☐ SS & SSD Lawyers
- ☐ Regular Compensation (not VA)
- ☐ Jag Lawyers

Interviewer: _____

Notes & Comments: _____

If you don't have a DD214, we will help you get one. Also all service records available.
(Updated 2/2012)

THE RAPING OF AMERICA'S VETERANS CONTINUES

Duty Station: Hildesheim, Germany
Unit E- Company 123rd. Main Battalion
Location : Graffenvece, Germany July 1982
Assignment Field MOS (job) 63rd. HD Mechanic

I was sleeping in my tent when I was awoken by a noise outside my tent made by two male Veterans. I got up to see what was going on when I was hit in the head by an unknown object. The blow was so hard that I fell back into my tent. Dazed and confused I attempted to get up only to be dragged by my feet towards the front of my tent. My bottom and my arms were being pulled down. I was pinned down. I did not know these men. All I knew is that I was being punched, kicked and spat at. I was brutally raped from behind.

I laid in my tent crying in pain and feeling ashamed and wondered why did this happen to me. My Sgt. informed my Commanding Officer about the incident. I was escorted to the medical hospital, where I was treated for my physical bruises. I was later told that I had gonorrhea.

This sexual trauma has made my life a living hell. In 1984 I was taken to Germantown Hospital on my 23rd. birthday for trying to commit suicide. In 1994 I was an in-patient at the Bronx VA Medical Center's mental health ward for psychological issues related to the rape. Trying to deal with that horrific incident, I turned to illegal drugs. I also have been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. I have been on psychological medications since, and I am still receiving treatment at the Manhattan VA Hospital.

I was very healthy physically and mentally before I became a soldier. I just don't understand why two soldiers would do something like commit a brutal rape and crime to a fellow soldier. I hope that one day I can begin to heal and live a normal life. That sexual trauma while on active duty in the U.S. Army has destroyed my life and who I am as a woman. End of statement

TRUTH

(CNN) — OPINION

WHY MILITARY RAPIST GETS AWAY WITH IT

If you serve in the U.S. Military and you rape or sexually assault a fellow service member, chances are you won't be punished. In fact, you have an estimated 86.5% chance of keeping your crime a secret and 92% chance of avoiding a court-martial.

These disturbing statistics illustrate an opening epidemic of rape and sexual assault in the military that Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta believes amounted to 19,000 incidents just in 2010. A culture of acceptance combined with few prosecutions against assailants and the conflicted chain of command structure discourage victims from reporting crimes.

Service members who report being sexually assaulted by a Commanding officer or military colleague do so at their own peril. They face ridicule, investigation that includes an involuntary review of their sexual history and even demotion and discharge.

'VICTIMS SAY MILITARY LABEL THEM AS CRAZY. FEMALE SERVICE MEMBERS SUE U.S. MILITARY FOR ALLEGED RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT. VICTIMS OF MILITARY RAPE DESERVE JUSTICE

Read entire article: <http://www.cnn.com/2012/06/21/opinion/spoir-military-rape/index.html>
discharges victims from reporting crimes.

This happened to a Vet for 18 months of active duty!!!

To: Who it may concern:

This is a letter to voice my rape that happened over a period of 18 months while I was in the military, U.S. Army.

My 1st. Sgt., raped me over a period of 18 months. I was his training N.C.O. I worked very close to my 1st. Sergeant.

I went into the military to make a 20 year career of it, but it was taken away from me in a quick moment. When I told my Sgt. Major, he informed me that he could not ruin my 1st Sgt's., career because he had 18 years in the military, I only had 4 years at the time. I did report this terrible thing to my Chaplin. The 1st. Sgt. threatened that he would send my family home and I would be without them for the rest of my tour duty. This is how this bad thing happened to me over and over again.

When we have all the top people working together they get rid of all the bad things that happened to soldiers and they get rid of the soldiers.

Something needs to be done about the rape of soldiers in the military. When we file our claim, they deny them because all the records have been destroyed and the government acts like it never happened. But me being a Vet, I'll never give up. I don't care how many times the government denies my claim. This is another lonely vet who needs help from the government. I was a scared Vet, who needed my family with me.

FEMALE VET IN NEED OF HELP

TRUTH

Quote from: Barry G. Campbell Founder and President of Veterans Quality of Life Access Network Inc.

"I have been working with both male and female rape victims for years and I will continue to work for them. The truth is America has only hit the tip of the iceberg. From being on the front line for many years, I know the lines will never end."
(scary truth)





TBI

**National Institute of
Neurological Disorders
and Stroke**

WHAT IS TRAMATIC BRAIN INJURY?

Traumatic brain injury (TBI), a form of acquired brain injury, occurs when a sudden trauma causes damage to the brain. TBI can result when the head suddenly and violently hits an object, or when an object pierces the skull and enters brain tissue. Symptoms of TBI can be mild, moderate, or severe, depending on the extent of the damage to the brain. A person with a mild TBI may remain conscious or may experience a loss of consciousness for a few seconds or minutes. Other symptoms of mild TBI include headaches that gets worse or does not go away, repeated vomiting or nausea, convulsions or seizures, an inability to awaken from sleep, dilation of one or both pupils of the eyes, slurred speech, weakness or numbness in the extremities, loss of coordination, and increase confusion, restlessness, or agitation.

IS THERE ANY TREATMENT?

Any person with signs of moderate or severe TBI should receive medical attention as soon as possible. Because little can be done to reverse the initial brain damage caused by trauma, medical personnel try to stabilize an individual with TBI and focus on preventing further injury. Primary concerns include insuring proper oxygen supply to the brain and the rest of the body, maintaining adequate blood flow, and controlling blood pressure. Imaging tests help in determining the diagnosis and prognosis of a TBI patient.

Veterans who have been diagnosed with TBI can get additional information from a host of organizations.

- * **Acoustic Neuroma Association:** info@anausa.org -
http://www.anausa.Org
- * **Brain Trauma Foundation:** education@braintruama.org
http://www.braintrauma.org
- * **National Rehabilitation Information Center (NARIC)**
naricinfo@heitechservice.com http://www.heitechservice.com
- * **Brain Injury Association of America, Inc.**
braininjuryinfo@biausa.org http://www.biausa.org

Review the NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS AND STROKES AT

<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/tbi/tbi.htm#Organizations> and other related information on the internet

VQLAN'S VETERANS ALERT

SECONDARY CONDITIONS (KNOWLEDGE IS POWER)

For more than 50 years secondary conditions have been passing Veterans like trains in the night because 'no one told us or showed us how to link it. 'I have been using secondary conditions and teaching how to use it for years. Now it's time for every Veteran to know the truth and how it works. (proven)
Secondary conditions don't work without the set-up first. Remember, all primary conditions have secondary conditions.

THE SET UP:

Step 1 - Go to your primary-care doctor for a consult to see a Specialist - example - service connection i.e.

- A. **Orthopedic** - service connected disability and depression. Get consult from psych doctor.
- B. **Prostate Cancer**
Get consult to go for impotency or psych for depression. (whatever bothers you from your service connected disability.)

Step 2 — The words to use (Most important make the link) Say the following or similar words.
"I am here because I'm service connected for this condition and this condition is bothering me from the service connected disability."

Step 3 - A. Once you create the paper trail and know it's there (the doctor's evidence is on paper)
B. Put the claim in as a 'secondary' to your service connected condition.

Now I have saved million with this. Share your knowledge

PRES. - GOD Bless — Too many have suffered



VQLAN LIBRARY



Our library is full of information for Veterans, family members and anyone in the community who needs help. The information ranges from housing, food, clothing, information for Veterans claims, updates to forms and resources from the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, State Veterans Benefits and resources from the New York City Mayors office of Veterans Affairs. (MOVA)

The PRES is in the process of adding a computer lab for internet access for Veterans who may need to contact the VA by computer, including my HealtheVet, Secure Messaging to your VA care givers and E- Benefits. VQLAN members may also be able to use the library computers to type resumes and other documents concerning Veterans and their families.



*Paralyzed Veterans
of America*

OPERATION PAVE

Paving Access for Veterans Employment

Paralyzed Veterans of America's vocational rehabilitation program supports paralyzed Veterans in their search for good jobs and meaningful careers while helping employers strengthen their workforce with hard-working gifted employees. This program offers vocational oriented services to Veterans with disabilities, especially those Veterans with spinal cord injuries/dysfunction.

Nearly 85 percent of America's 44,000 paralyzed Veterans are unemployed. Research and clinical studies have shown that providing an individual with a vocational focus is critical to their successful transition to living with paralysis. Access to education and career opportunities is essential to boost quality of life, reduce chronic health issues and improve the financial stability to Veterans and their families.

Traditional vocational rehabilitation models have been ineffective in preparing our nation's paralyzed and disabled Veterans to re-enter the work force and remain there.

That's why Paralyzed Veterans' is working to overcome the vocational challenges that face Veterans living with spinal cord injuries, and all persons with disabilities, at our six vocational rehabilitation centers located across the country. At each, PAVE counselors work hand-in-hand with the Veteran, medical staff, Paralyzed Veterans' national service officers and physical therapists to:

- * Explore career options early on in a paralyzed Veteran's medical rehabilitation
- * Assist Veterans to find the appropriate educational opportunities, job training, skill improvement, etc.
- * Connect Veterans to a network of hiring employers

Currently led by a graduate of the program, the vocational rehabilitation program has been a great success since the inception in 2007. OPERATION PAVE has served more than 850 Veterans and has placed about 150 at an average salary of \$42,000. Paralyzed Veterans' goal is to expand PAVE nationwide, eventually establishing offices at 24 VA Spinal Cord Injury Centers and opening a new office each year.

Read entire information article and additional information at:

http://www.pva.org/site/c.ajlRK9NJLcJ2E/b.7739541/k.17C/OPERA-TIOB_PAVE_Paving_Access_for_Veterans_Employment.htm



SAVE THE DATE

11-17-12 @ 1 pm

PLEASE JOIN US IN HONORING & THANKING OUR VETERANS

AND THEIR FAMILIES

WHERE: CLAREMONT NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS INC

489 EAST 169 STREET

(bet. Washington & Third Avenue)

BRONX, NEW YORK 10456



CO- SPONSORED BY

NY TAINO LIONS CLUB &

CLAREMONT NEIGHBORHOOD

CENTER

FOR MORE INFO:

Lion Anita Serrano Lion Joanne W. Dixon

(347) 922 4637 (917) 822 2903



2012 NEW YORK CITY VETERANS DAY PARADE

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2012

VQLAN MEMBERS WILL MEET AT APPROXIMATELY

11:00 AM AT 26th STREET

BETWEEN FIFTH AND

MADISON AVENUES

COME ONE COME ALL

VQLAN MEMBERS ON THE MOVE



VQLAN member Anthony J. Williams receives a Citation from Queens New York Council Member on behalf of the Manhattan Veterans Advocacy Council. "Since becoming a member of VQLAN I have had a desire to work to improve the lives of Veterans," said Anthony during a recent conversation. The mission of MVAC is to advocate for better mental health services at the New York Harbor Health Care System, Manhattan Campus. Member Anthony is the Chairman.

Recently Anthony and two other Veterans, Steven Konyha and Carmelo Cintron met with the Associated Director on concerns of the closing of the Patient Computer room located across from the library. The Veterans learned that the hospital is in the process of hiring a full time librarian, to revamp the library and has plans to build a learning center. The Focus Group plans for the center was cancelled because of a lack of Veteran participation.



ART THERAPY AS A TOOL TO MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY

Like in many of the Public School Systems, NY VA Hospitals has decided to take art and recreation therapy out of the mental health recovery care. Getting rid of many programs that worked in the past, the NYVA has decided that art as therapy is too expensive or not an avenue to recovery. Many Veterans who attended the art programs in the past will tell you that art worked better than the medications prescribed to Veteran consumers. Art therapy works very well. Simply, Veterans shared their knowledge of the creative spirit. The Veterans were engaged in peer to peer work before the VA decided to use it as part of it's mental health language.

Each one teach one is also a saying that has manifested in many ways to Veterans who never thought they weren't creative, and gave them the opportunity to exhibit and share some of the aggressive hostile thoughts that were roaming around in their minds. They were able to turn the thoughts into something beautiful and positive. Veterans exhibited their work nationally and international. Art therapy is good for the Veteran and the veteran's family.

articles by Anthony J. Williams

VA WILL PAY \$20 MILLION TO SETTLE LAWSUIT OVER STOLEN LAPTOP'S DATA

The VA has agreed to pay \$20 million to current and former military personnel to settle a class action lawsuit on behalf of the men and women whose personal data was on a laptop stolen during a burglary.

The names, dates of birth and Social Security numbers of about 2.5 million active duty troops and Veterans were on the laptop and external drive, which disappeared while in the custody of a Veterans Affairs data analyst in 2006. The theft led to an urgent search by federal authorities that ended with recovery of the laptop and a conclusion that the missing data had not been improperly used.

"The defendants (VA) have agreed to pay a lump sum of \$20 million to the plaintiffs inclusive of fees and costs in exchange for the dismissal of the litigation," according to the settlement document.

A settlement, announced in U.S. District Court in Washington, was reached "in the interests of avoiding the expense, delay, and inconvenience of further litigation of the issues raised in the class complaints," the agreement says.

The funds will go to military personnel and Veterans who were harmed by the loss of personal data either through emotional distress or through costs incurred in monitoring credit records.

The settlement ends nearly three years of litigation. After the May 3, 2006, theft, five Veteran groups filed the class action suit initially seeking \$1,000 in damages for every Veteran whose information was compromised in the computer theft.

On June 9, 2006, the FBI announced the stolen laptop had been recovered and that it appeared no one had accessed the personal data. The FBI said it believes the laptop was taken in a routine burglary.

CNN Politics January 2009 by Terry Frieden CNN Justice Producer

http://www.articles.cnn.com/2009-01-27/politics/va.data.theft_1_laptop-personal-data-single-veteran?_s=pm:politivs



HOMELESS VETERANS

WHY?

The Marine Corps encourages all those who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune before 1987 to register to receive notifications regarding Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water. The Department of the Navy is funding independent research initiatives.

The United States Marine Corps operates social media sites and communities where people can go to share, communicate and gather information and stories about the corps. Marine Corps News maintain the following flagship Marine Corps social media presences.

Official Marine Corps Social Media sites:

YouTube Marines : Facebook Marines : Marines Blog : Pinterest Marines Twitter — USMC :Marinee Magazine : Marine Pictures (flickr) See related articles: <http://www.marines.mil/usmc/Pages/SocialMedia.aspx>

Please go to **www.tftptf.com/** for the latest information and **illness registration!**

COME TO VQLAN'S OFFICE FOR APPLICATIONS AND HELP!

HIRE OUR HEROES



VETERANS FACE NEW BATTLES IN PRIVATE SECTOR JOB MARKET

The transition from serving the U.S. Armed Forces to working in the private sector can be a difficult one.



WHY GE BELIEVES IN HIRING OUR HEROES — “Veterans have led in the field. They can lead in a factory or research facility. Veterans believe in getting the job done and doing it in the right way,” writes *GE* Chairman Jeff Immelt



GI BILL BENEFIT CUT TIED TO JUMP IN VETERAN EMPLOYMENT? - The first two months of 2012 have nearly erased the five year of high employment for post 9/11 Veterans. Is this some blip, or is it proof that Veterans are finally gaining a foothold



Post-Military Careers - Military Veterans face a massive adjustment when returning to civilian life. It's not only a matter of transitioning. About a quarter of all Gulf War-era II Veterans are also returning with a service-connected disability.



HIRING HEROES GOOD BUSINESS, RIGHT THING TO DO - At Lockheed Martin we believe Veterans should not return from the front line to stand in the unemployment line..and we're working to make sure that doesn't happen



US BANKCORP CEO ON HIRING VETERANS - US Bankcorp CEO Richard Davis explains how his company is committed to hiring Veterans



GUEST BLOG: WANT TO HIRE AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER DRIVER? - If one were to consider the story of today's military Veterans, they are often stuck in similar situation when it comes to securing a new career in our civilian society . It's both a challenge to the out—processing military hero and to the company giving the interview.



'BUILDING A FULLY—INTEGRATED MILITARY MAEKETPLACE' - TroopSwap is a full-fledged commerce and daily site exclusively for Veterans, service members and their families. The discount site offers up to 90 percent off on everything from skydiving to legal service, vacation and restaurants. Watch video and find additional information at <http://www.cnn.com/id/46762074/>

TESTIMONY OF THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

At a public hearing on: Examining the Veterans Treatment Court Model Presented by the New York City Council Committee on Veterans and Committee on Fire and Criminal Justice Services

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

According to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, there are more than 22 million Veterans in the United States today. These Veterans present a unique set of service needs as one in five Veterans report systems of mental disorder, Veterans who have a high prevalence of substance abuse; traumatic brain injury and an array of other health concerns, that often impact their functioning and adjustment back to civilian life.

Veterans Affairs statistics indicate that as many as one third of the adult homeless population in the United States has served in the military. Roughly 56 percent of all homeless Veterans are *African American* and *Hispanic*. About 1.5 million Veterans are considered at-risk of homelessness due to poverty, a lack of support network or residency in over crowded or substandard housing,

Provisions of adequate housing for Veterans are either through the Veteran's Administration community mental health housing or Federally-funded programs such as Section 8.

Involvement of peer mentors in the development of the court and to provide on-going support to the court. We should support peer involvement through stipends and training to ensure that their voice is heard among the group of largely professional stakeholders.

Include job training in the participant's treatment plans to better prepare them to become part of the workforce during or after the completion of their court mandate. Many problems involving court are so treatment-focused they lose sight of the importance of assisting participants in becoming job-ready. Future employment for Veterans Court participants may be more therapeutic than intervention provided.

The ability to connect participants with effective trauma treatment. There are a great numbers of people under court mandate who are provided treatment for a myriad of issues including mental illness, medical issues and/or substance abuse issues while underlying trauma issues remain unaddressed. Any Veteran Court must have the means to provide participants with high-quality trauma treatment.

Read full report at: <http://www.legal-aid.org/media/134001/veterans%20testimony%20april%202010.pdf>

GO ON INTERNET FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

http://search.aol.com/aol/search?query=veteran+treatment+court+of+ny&s_it=keyword_rollover

NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS

VETERANS COURTS RESOURCE GUIDE

The first Veteran's Court opened in Buffalo, N.Y. in 2008. The Veteran's court model is based on drug treatment and/or mental health treatment courts. Substance abuse or mental health treatment is offered as an alternative to incarceration. Typically Veteran mentors assist with the program. An important issue that has to be addressed is the eligibility for Veteran's courts in terms of whether changes involving felonies or crimes of violence will be allowed. The inclusion of offenders changed with inter-family violence is also of grave concern to policy makers

Go on the internet for featured links to this issue:

<http://www.ncsc.org/Problem-Solving-Courts/Veterans-Court/Resource-Guide.aspx>



CONFLICT HAPPENS. YOUR DISPUTE WON'T RESOLVE ITSELF.

Mediation Works. Even your most intractable, difficult, and tense disputes can be resolved.

A dispute takes over your whole life while it's unresolved. If you've glanced at a newspaper or seen the news, you'll know that far too many disputes end up in tragedy. But it doesn't have to be this way.

MEDIATION IS THE ANSWER.

Mediation is a conversation between two or more parties that disagree, facilitation is by a professional mediator. Mediation creates a safe environment to face those you disagree with, and helps people on any side of a conflict air differences with dignity and respect. Most importantly it points you towards a solution.

FIND A RESOLUTION. We Sort out conflict in these areas.

Family disputes: We can help if you're dealing with parenting or co-parenting issues, end-of-life decisions, and relationship disputes, including separation and divorce.

HOUSING SOLUTIONS: We can help work out the disagreements that arise between neighbors, roommates, landlords and tenants.

DISABILITY MATTERS: We can mediate the conflicts between parents and children with disabilities—or adults with disabilities—and their service providers.

WORKPLACE ISSUES: We can help resolve disputes between businesses, as well as among employees and employers, and co-workers. And much more.

Manhattan Mediation Center
346 Broadway, Suite 400W
New York, NY 10013
T: 212-577-1740

Brooklyn Mediation Center
210 Joralemon Street Suite 618
Brooklyn, NY 11201
T: 718-834-6681

NYPEACE INSTITUTE : NYPEACE.ORG

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

Take An Anonymous Mental Health Screening
Web-site: www.militarymentalhealth.org

Military Pathways—Military Mental Health Screening Program

Military life can present challenges to service members and their families that are both unique and difficult. Some are manageable, Some are not. Many times we can successfully deal with them on our own. In some instances matters get worse and one problem can trigger other more serious issues. At such times it is wise to check things out and see what is really happening. That's the purpose of these totally anonymous and voluntary self-assessments.

These questions are designed so you can review your situation with regard to some of the more common mental health issues including, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, alcohol problems and more. The screening will not provide a diagnosis - for that you need to see a professional. But, it will tell you whether or not you have symptoms that are consistent with a condition or concern that would benefit from further evaluation or treatment. It will also give you guidance as to where you might seek assistance.

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FEEDBACK AT THE END OF THE SCREENING OF THE TEST. YOU CAN TAKE VARIOUS KINDS OF TESTS. THERE IS ALSO A DISCLAIMER AND A TERM OF USE AGREEMENT. THERE IS A LIST OF AVAILABLE TESTS. YOU CAN TAKE SEVERAL TESTS AND READ HELPFUL ARTICLES.

HOW TO FIND YOUR MISSING RECORDS



Records.Base.com - Find Veterans Records Instantly

HERE IS A LIST OF WEB-SITES

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. US MILITARY RECORD SEARCH - military.archives.com/ | 5. www.ask.com/veterans+records |
| 2. OFFICIAL CERTIFIED DD214 — www.aardvarkresearchgroup.com/ | 6. www.info.com/VeteransRecords |
| 3. EPIC - VA DATA THEFT - epicorg/privacy/vatheft/ | 7. www.publicrecords.com/ |
| 4. 1973 ST. LOUIS FIRE AND LOST RECORDS - NATIONAL VET
www.nvlsp.org/information/ArticleLibrary/Service Records/MILREC | 8. www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=1618 9. www.publicrecords.com/ |

VETERANS WAIT FOR BENEFITS AS CLAIMS PILE UP! NY TIMES 9-2012

Numbers tell the story. Last year, Veterans filed more than 1.3 million claims, double the number in 2001. Despite having added nearly 4,000 new workers since 2008, the agency did not keep pace, completing less than 80 percent of its inventory.

This year, the agency has already completed more than one million claims for the third consecutive year. Yet it is still taking about eight months to process the average claim, two months longer than a decade ago. As of Monday, 890,000 pensions and compensation claims were pending.

Skyrocketing costs have accompanied that flood of claims. By next year, the department's major benefit programs—compensation for the disabled, pension for the low-income and educational assistance—are projected to cost about \$76 billion, triple the amount in 2001. By 2022, those costs are projected to rise nearly 70 percent to about \$130 billion.

These are the compounding wages of war, and they are not just the result of recent conflicts. The department is administering pensions for World War II Veterans while handling new claims from Vietnam Veterans struggling with the multiplying ailments of age. Indeed, nearly a third of all pending new claims are from the Vietnam-era Veterans, roughly equal to the number from Iraq and Afghanistan war Veterans.

Thanks to superior battlefield medicine and armor, those Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans have survived combat at a higher rate. As they return home with more wounds, and perhaps more savvy, the ones who file for disability compensation are claiming on average nearly 10 disorders or injuries each, compared to 6 for Vietnam Veterans and fewer than 4 for World War II Veterans. Their complex claims are often more time-consuming to process, adding to the backlog.

READ ENTIRE ARTICLE AT

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/28/us/veterans-wait-for-us-aid-amid-growing-backlog-of-claims.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

BACKLOG ON VA DISABILITY CLAIMS GROWING

WASHINGTON—Although the Obama administration has stepped up efforts to process medical disability claims by U.S. Veterans, a top Department Of Veterans Affairs Official told law makers that the agency's backlog continues to grow. The flow of VA claims has increased 48% over the past three years.

Despite unprecedented VA claims production - completing over 1 million claims each year for the last two years—VA's backlog has grown," said Allison Hickey, Under secretary for benefits at the VA., in her written testimony to the House Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense and Foreign Operations.

As of mid-June the VA had 870,000 pending cases, and 66% had been pending more than 125 days, according to a special analysis of the data cited by Hickey. At the same time last year, VA was dealing with more than 836,000 claims, with 59% pending more than 125 days, according to the data on the VA website. The VA has set a goal of processing all claims in fewer than 125 days by 2015,

The backlog problems is a decade old, and Hickey noted in her testimony that the delays are due in part to a generation of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans with more complex claims, and a decision two years ago to expand compensation for Agent Orange-related illnesses. Claims also increase in a poor economy.

Veterans are now claiming a greater number of disabilities. Last year, the number of medical conditions cited by the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans averaged 8.5; World War II era Veterans average one to two, and Vietnam Veterans three to four, Hickey said in her testimony.

Read full Story: USA TODAY by Aamer Madhani and Zoroya

AIDING VETERANS ON JOB FRONT

The problem of New York soldiers coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan and searching for jobs in this recession is bigger than a Big Gulp, but the mayor has manned up to the task. The Mayor of New York got it right. He has pledged to place 1,200 Veterans in private-sector jobs this year, and in July the Mayor cut the ribbon on a new city Workforce 1 Center just for Vets, run by Vets, at 60 Madison Ave. It will be the first of its kind in America, and Mayor Bloomberg said, "We hope it will serve as a model for what other cities can do."

This is a complete about-face from how returning Vietnam Vets were treated - the men and women who 40 years later still sit on our streets begging for money with cardboard signs. There are currently 8,000 unemployed Veterans in the city, and the mayor aims to help every single one at the center or through the NYC Digital website.

The center's goal is, we're not just here to say we'll find you a job," claims Morvillo. "We understand there are barriers for a soldier, maybe he or she only finished high school, maybe their rent is in arrears, maybe they need training, or have physical or mental health issues. We're going to use a very holistic approach."

It's our turn," says Bloomberg, "to stand up for those who stood up for our nation." Three Cheers." **Read entire article at**

jmolloy@nydailynews.com or *Daily News July 4, 2012*

RECESSION DOES JOB ON GIs

Memorial Day will be filled with dishonor and shame for thousands of Veterans coming home from two wars who are unable to find jobs in the land of opportunity. While the unemployment rate for Veterans has dropped in the past year, advocates said that nearly one in five returning service people have been unable to find work.

"The system is broken," Paul Rieckhoff, executive director and founder of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, said on CNN's "State of the Union." "The president has not been aggressive in tackling this backlog, which continues to plague our Veterans nationwide." "It is not acceptable," Sen. Pat Murray, chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, told CNN. It doesn't meet the guidelines of the VA. It doesn't meet what the country expects."

Under legislation signed last year by President Obama, businesses that hire Veterans and provide education and training for Veterans can receive tax credits.

A program announced in July by the Veterans Affairs and Labor departments lets Veterans ages 35 to 60 receive 12 months worth of benefits to cover education. In addition to filling out job applications, the country's newest Veterans are filing for disability benefits at a historic rate. About 45 percent of the 1.6 million Veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are now seeking compensation for injuries they say are service-related.

That is more than double the estimate of 21 percent who filed such claims after the Gulf War in the early 1990s government officials said. Administrators give a number of reasons for the increase in claims, including the fact that wounded soldiers are surviving more injuries than previous generations of Veterans. Body armor and improved battlefield care allowed many soldiers to survive the wounds that in the past wars were fatal.

Officials also blame the weak economy for the rise in the number of claims. "Our mission is to take care of whatever the population is," said Allison Hickey, the VA's Undersecretary for benefits. "We want them to have what their entitlement is."

Read entire story at *New York Post* at gshield@nypost.com

VIETNAM VET PUT INTO SPOTLIGHT

Events through 2025 will commemorate their service

WASHINGTON - The nation is beginning a 13-year effort to heal from the lingering pain of the Vietnam War.

The campaign to close 'one of the most painful chapters in our history,' President Obama said at a Memorial Day ceremony in June 2012 is a "chance to set the record straight. The events running through 2025 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, will range from national ceremonies to community events as simple as asking a Veteran to throw the first pitch at a Little League game, Defense Department spokesman Kevin Wensing said.

"The American public now applauds soldiers. That didn't happen before," Nichol said. "Veterans need that support to get out and live a real life." He said, "Now, when I am in uniform, people approach me and say thank you.

"If you look around, a lot of us won't be here in 13 years," Vietnam Vet Jerry Martin said. "This remembrance has to happen in our lifetime. We have grown old, but those with their names on the wall will never grow old as long as someone is there to tell their story."

By Natalie DiBlasio USA TODAY 5-29-2012

**STATEMENT OF OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
U.S. SENATE HEARING ON VA MENTAL HEALTH
CARE: EVALUATION ACCESS AND ASSESSING
CARE APRIL 25, 2012**

BACKGROUND

Based on concerns that Veterans may not be able to access the mental health care they need in a timely manner, the OIG was asked to determine how accurately the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) records wait times for mental health services for both initial (new patients) and follow-up (established patients) visits and if the wait time data VA collects is an accurate depiction of the Veteran's ability to access those services.

VHA policy requires all first-time patients referred to or requesting mental health services receive an initial evaluation within 24 hours and a more comprehensive mental health diagnostic and treatment planning evaluation within 14 hours. The primary goal of the 24-hour evaluation is to identify patients with urgent care needs and to trigger hospitalization or immediate initiation of out-patient care when needed. Primary care providers, mental health providers, other referring licensed independent providers, or licensed independent mental health providers can conduct the initial 24-hour evaluation.

VHA uses two principal measures to monitor access to mental health care. One measures looks at the percentage of comprehensive patient evaluations completed within 14 days of an initial encounter for patients new to mental health services. Another method VHA uses is to calculate patient waiting times by measuring the elapsed days from the desired dates of care to the dates of the treatment appointments. Medical facility schedulers must enter the correct desired dates of care in the system to ensure the accuracy of this measurement. VHA's goal is to see patients within 14 days of the desired dates of care.

REVIEW RESULTS

Our review focused on how accurate VHA records wait times for mental health services for initial and follow-up visits and if the wait time data VA collects is an accurate depiction of the Veterans' ability to access those services. **We found:**

- * VHA's mental health performance data is not accurate and reliable
- * VHA's measures do not adequately reflect critical dimension of mental health care access.

Although VHA collects and reports mental health staffing and productivity data, the inaccuracies in some of the data sources presently hinder the usability of information by VHA decision makers to fully assess current capacity, determine optimal resource distribution, evaluate productivity across the system, and establish mental health staffing and productivity standards.

VHA'S PERFORMANCE DATA IS NOT ACCURATE OR RELIABLE.

In VA's fiscal year (FY) 2011 Performance and Accountability Report (PAR), VHA reported 95 percent of first time patients received a full mental health evaluation within 14 days. However, the 14 day measure has no real value as VHA measured how long it took for VHA to conduct the evaluation, not how long the patient waited to receive an evaluation. VHA's measurement differed from the measure's objective that Veterans should have further evaluation and initiation of mental health care in 14 days of a trigger encounter. VHA defined the trigger encounter as the Veteran's contact with the mental health clinic or the Veteran's referral to the mental health service from another provider.

Using the same data VHA used to calculate the 95 percent success rate shown in the FY 2011 PAR, we conducted an independent assessment to identify the exact date of the trigger encounter (the date the patient initially contacted mental health seeking services, or when the full evaluation containing a patient history, diagnosis, and treatment plans was completed. Based on our analysis of that information, we calculate the number of days between a first-time patient's initial contact in mental health and their full mental health evaluation. Our analysis projected that VHA provided only 49 percent (approximately 184,000 of first-time patients their evaluation within 14 days).

VHA does not consider the full mental health evaluation as an appointment for treatment, but rather the evaluation is the prerequisite for VHA to develop a patient-appropriate treatment plan. Once VHA provides the patient with a full mental health evaluation, VHA schedules the patient for an appointment to begin treatment. We found that VHA did not always provide both new and established patients their treatment appointments within 14 days of the patient's desired date. We reviewed patient records to identify the desire data (generally located in the physician's note as the date the patient needed to return to the clinic or shown as a referral from another provider) and calculated the elapsed days to the date of the patient's completed treatment appointment date.

CONCLUSION

VHA does not have a reliable and accurate method of determining whether they are providing patients timely access to mental health care services. VHA did not provide first-time patients with timely mental health evaluation and existing patients often waited more than 14 days past their desired date of care for their treatment appointment. As a result, performance measures used to report patient's access to mental health care do not depict the true picture of a patient's waiting time to see a mental health provider.

While no measure will be complete, meaningful analysis and decision making requires reliable data. A series of paired timelines and treatment engagement measures might provide decision makers with a more comprehensive view of the ability with which new patients can access mental health treatment.

read update and entire article at:
<http://www.va.gov/oig/pubs/vaog-12>

AGENT ORANGE REPORT

By Joe Ingino VVA 82 Nassau County

Veterans Diseases Associated with Agent Orange Exposure

Veterans may be eligible for the disability compensation and health care benefits for diseases that VA has recognize as associated with exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides.

- * **Acute and Subacute Peripheral Neuropathy** A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor Weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to herbicides and Resolve within 2 years after it began.
- * **AL Amyloidosis** A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs.
- * **Chloracne (or Similar Acneform Disease)** A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, chloracne (or other acneform disease similar to chloracne) must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to herbicides.
- * **Chronic B-cell** Leukemias A type of cancer which effects white blood cells. VA's regulation recognizes all chronic B-cell leukemias as related exposure to herbicides took effect on October 30, 2010.
- * **Diabetes Mellitus (TYPE 2)** A disease characterize by high blood sugar levels resulting from body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin.
- * **Hodkin's Disease** A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progresseive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and a spleen, and by progressive anemia.
- * **Ischemic Heart Disease** A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain. VA's regulation recognizes ischemic heart disease as related to exposure to herbicides or effect on October 30, 2010.
- * **Multiple Myeloma** A cancer of plasma calls, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow.
- * **Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma** A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue.
- * **Parkinson's Disease** A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement. VA's regulation recognizing Parkinson's disease as related to exposure to herbicides took effect on October 30, 2012.
- * **Porphyria Cutanea Tarda** A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction a and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposure to herbicides.
- * **Prostate Cancer** Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men.
- * **Respiratory Cancer** Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus.

article submitted by Creag

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* **Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's safcoma, or Mesothelioma)**

A group of different types of cancers in the body tissues such as muscles, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is not associated with Agent Orange exposure. However, VA has recognized ALS diagnosed in Veterans with 90 days or more of continuing active duty in the military was caused by their military service. Learn about benefits for ALS, including VA health care benefits and disability compensation and other non health benefits.

VA ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP TO HOUSE 100,000 HOMELESS VETERANS IN 2012

"President Obama and I are personally committed to ending homelessness among Veterans," said Secretary of the Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki. "Those who have served this Nation as Veterans should never find themselves on the streets, living without care and without hope."

WASHINGTON (May 30, 2012) The U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs announced that it will collaborate with the "100,000 Homes" Campaign and its participating communities to help find permanent housing for 10,000 vulnerable and chronically homeless Veterans this year.

The collaboration is intended to help accomplish Secretary Shinseki's goal of ending Veteran homelessness in 2015. It will also support the ongoing work of the U.S Interagency Council on Homelessness and a host of state and local organizations working to implement "Opening Doors," the federal plan to end chronic and Veteran homelessness. According to the 2011 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report to Congress, homelessness among Veterans has declined 12 percent since January 2010.

The initiative will better integrate the efforts of VA case managers and their local partners by leveraging VA resources and those of participants in the "100,000 Homes" campaign. The campaign's national support staff, provided by New York-based non-profit Community Solutions, will also work with VA to provide technical assistance to help communities reduce the amount of time necessary to house a single homeless Veteran.

As a result, community organizations will be better able to utilize the Housing and Urban Development's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program. The program is a coordinated effort by HUD, VA, and local housing agencies to provide permanent housing with case management and other support services for homeless Veterans. The collaboration will also help VA increase the proportion of HUD-VASH vouchers that help house chronic and vulnerable homeless individuals. Research indicates that this approach can successfully end homelessness for vulnerable and chronically homeless Veterans while also achieving significant public cost savings. From fiscal years 2008 to 2012, HUD has allocated funding to local public housing authorities to provide over 47,000 housing choice vouchers to homeless Veterans. — **READ ENTIRE ARTICLE**

<http://www.gov/opa/presrel/pressrelease.cfm.?id=2321>

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BARRY CAMPBELL STOPS BY TO SUPPORT MEMBERS OF VQLAN



VQLAN Founder and President Barry G. Campbell stopped by the Manhattan VA to show support for its members in their community activities. I am the current Chairman of the Manhattan Veterans Advocacy Council. (MVAC) The mission of the council is to advocate for better mental health services at the Manhattan VA Hospital and to assist Veterans in understanding their mental health care services. Today MVAC was setup in the lobby to recruit new members and to give out information. The day went well.

Since becoming a member of VQLAN, I have wanted to get more involved in helping Veterans, their family members and private citizens in the community. When I first began working with VQLAN I was just a Veteran using his camera to take picture. Now I do the photography, video, newsletter, and whatever else I can do to assist Mr. Campbell in his efforts of helping Veterans. Mr. Campbell always told me that I should do any job that I thought would advance the work of VQLAN.

In essence, Mr. Campbell gave me the opportunity to do something that I always wanted to do, but just never made any attempt. I have always liked to write, but never thought of writing as a career or a goal. Being the editor of the VQLAN Newsletter has enabled me to be successful. My work is seen across the U.S. and in other countries around the world.

It is very important for Mr. Campbell to support my efforts outside of VQLAN. Mr. Campbell stated that I was doing a great job. Helping others can sometimes be stressful and a lot of work. You have to be able to continue to separate yourself from the many complex issues that Veterans have. You have to make sure that your emotions don't get in the way. It is hard work. Mr. Campbell does it very well.

I've always said to Mr. Campbell, "I'm glad you have your job. Some of the Veteran experiences would just stress me out or make me batty." I'm sure that Mr. Campbell would agree that it's a very hard job getting Veterans involved in helping themselves and one another. One way is getting them to read. VQLAN has the largest information library on Veterans issues, benefits and community resources.

by Anthony J. Williams/VQLAN Member.

Gee.. thanks

1.7% in benefits will mean almost nothing to seniors

Don't expect your social security checks to get much bigger this year. For the 62 million Americans who receive Social Security, benefits will rise by just 1.7% in 2013, after going up 3.6% this year, the U.S. Social Security Administration announced yesterday.

The average benefits will rise about \$21 a month to total of \$1,261 per month, or \$15,132 per year.

For some beneficiaries, the increases will be partially or completely eaten up by increases in the Medicare premiums, the Social Security Administration warned. The cost of Part B Medicare premiums will be announced later this month.

Every year, Social Security has a cost of living adjustment (COLA) to ensure that the buying power of its beneficiaries is not eroded by rising prices. COLA is based on the Consumer Price Index, which measures inflation. Inflation has been relatively low this year.

In 2010 and 2011, Social Security beneficiaries saw a zero increase in benefits. Even so, the modest bump next year will be a setback for many seniors who are facing dwindling savings, a decline in the value of their homes and a significant rise in health care costs.

"This cost of living increase will probably not meet the actual increase of costs for seniors, certainly not for New York seniors," said Gideon Schein, a partner in Manhattan based Eddy & Schein, which help seniors navigate their finances. "We are in a very expensive market."

David Certner, legislative policy director for "AARP, noted that things could get worse if efforts on Capital Hill to lower the cost of living adjustments are not successful.

"Social Security COLA is critical to making sure seniors don't fall behind as prices go up," Certner told the Daily News. The Social Security Administration also announced that the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax will increase to \$113,700 from \$110,100 next year.

Of the estimated 163 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2013, nearly 10 million will pay higher taxes as a result of the increase in the taxable maximum.

By Phyllis Furman New York Daily News



FROM THE DESK OF BARRY G. CAMPBELL

Founder and President Veterans Quality of Life Access Network Inc.
(V.Q.L.A.N.)

Projects already in the works.

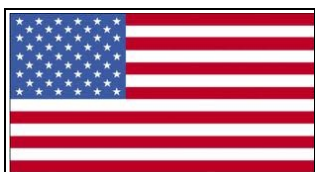
1. To strategically establish VQLAN offices in communities which can benefit from its services throughout the United States of America.
2. To continue providing an online resource library that will benefit Veterans regardless where they are located globally.
3. To join in unity with other Veteran organizations and put an end to perceived prejudices and separation.

We are all in this together.

4. To establish a References, Information and Resource center in the NYC area which will serve to keep all Veterans current, informed and updated with news on a community, city, state and federal level. e.g.
 - * Veteran Benefits * Survivor Benefits * Compensation and Pension * Burial Benefits * etc.
5. To ensure that ALL Veterans are treated with courtesy and respect.
6. To assist those who are unable to complete their forms and applications so that the forms, applications and paperwork is processed correctly and on time.
7. To offer networking opportunities and workshops to other Veteran organizations - to coach them to quickly and efficiently navigate their way through the system: wellness and nutritional workshops, life and business coaching and financial counseling.
8. To work towards restoring pride and dignity to all Veterans
9. To establish a community center dedicated to the health and wellbeing of our female Veterans. It will be a center for women run by women.

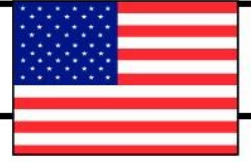
To some the future may appear to be dark and bleak. I see a world that is full of possibilities and I know that together We CAN make a difference.

Now, lets get to work!



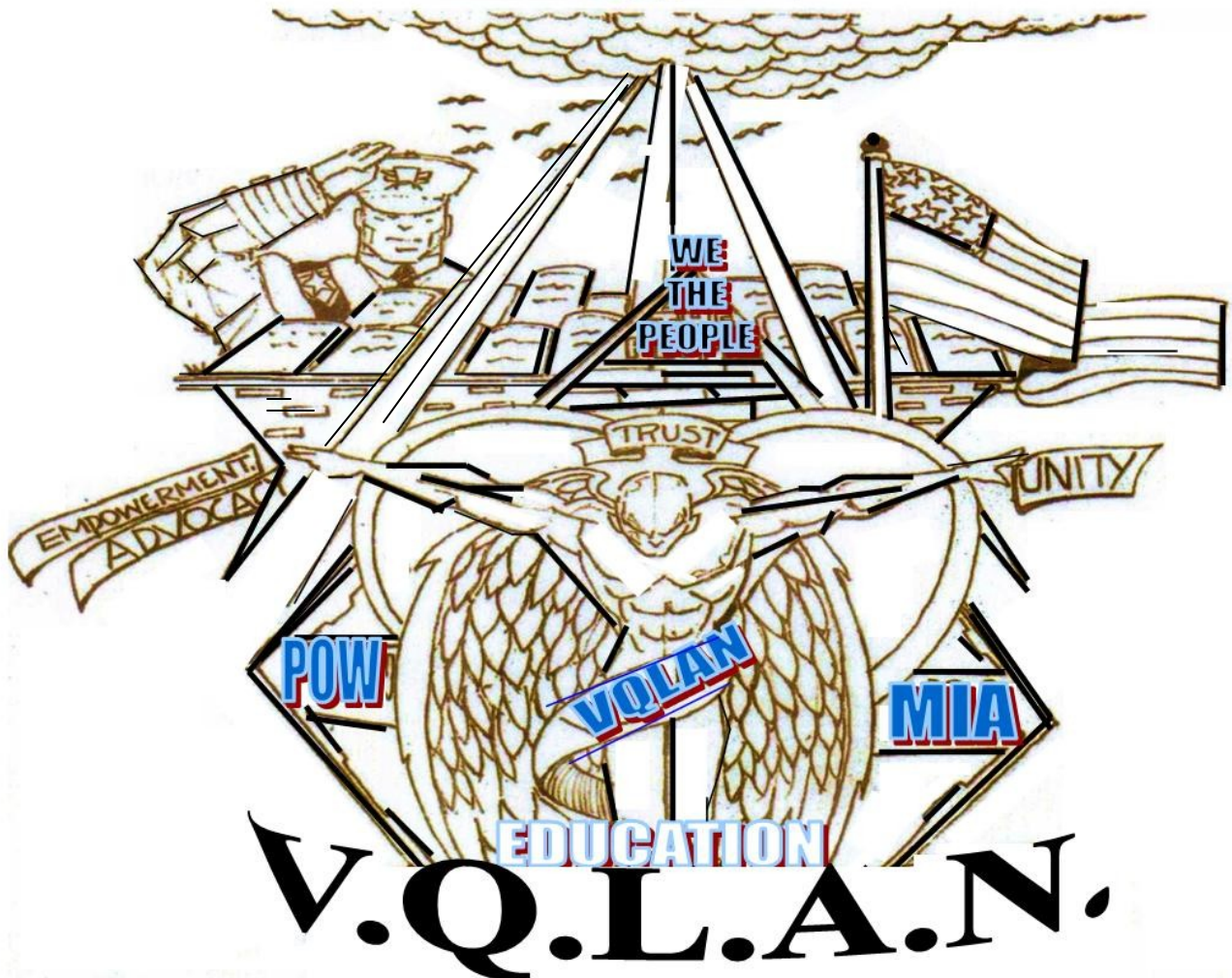


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**IN A
CLASS
BY ITSELF**

**MANY ARE CALLED
FEW ARE CHOSEN**



VETERANS QUALITY OF LIFE ACCESS NETWORK

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IS
NOT
FREE**

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**ABOVE
AND
BEYOND**

