

The Official Newsletter of the Cedar County Veterans Affairs Office

VETERANS EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE

ISSUE 4

Spring 2010

On October 13, 2009, there were three new presumptive conditions linked to agent orange exposure. On March 25, 2010, proposed rules were released in regard to these conditions.

Approximately, as of August 2009, 86,069 Vietnam beneficiaries will be eligible to receive benefits under these new presumptive conditions:

Hairy cell and other B-cell leukemias, Parkinson's disease and Ischemic heart disease. If you are a Veteran and were exposed to agent orange, you may be compensated if you have been diagnosed with any of these new presumptive conditions. Even if you have been turned down

in the past, you need to ask that your file be re-examined.

Widows, if your husband died from any of these new presumptive conditions, you also may be awarded compensation for a service connected death of your Veteran spouse no matter how long ago the death occurred.

The information regarding two of the new presumptives are relatively clear, but there are many different heart conditions that fall under "Ischemic Heart Disease". For the purpose of the proposed regulation, the term "IHD" includes, but is not limited to, acute, subacute, and old myocardial infarction; atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease,

including coronary artery disease (including coronary spasm) and coronary bypass surgery and stable, unstable and Prinzmetal's angina. Since the term refers only to heart disease, it does not include hypertension or peripheral manifestations of arteriosclerosis such as peripheral vascular disease or stroke.

The significance of these new presumptive conditions will affect many. If you or someone you know suffer from any of these conditions, it is their right to file a claim for compensation.

Please contact the office at 563-886-2170 to set up an appointment to discuss your options.

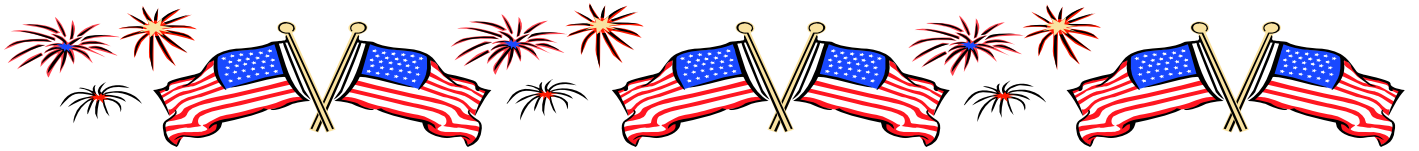
Special points of interest:

- Monthly Commissioner Meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. in the basement of the Cedar County Courthouse. The meetings will be as follows: April 21, May 26, June 23.
- For your convenience, it is best to call 886-2170 before coming to the office to set up an appointment time. Some appointments can take more than an hour, and when applying for benefits, there are items you will need to bring with you to apply.

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NEW PRESUMPTIVES FOR GULF WAR VETERANS

On March 18, 2010, it was announced that there are new presumptive conditions relating to military service in Southwest Asia during the Persian Gulf War, or in Afghanistan on or after September 19, 2001.

The proposed rule includes information about the long-term health effects potentially associated with the following nine diseases: Burcellosis, Campylobacter Jejuni, Coxiella Burnetii (Q fever), Malaria, Mycobacterium Tuberculosis, Nontyphoid Salmonella, Shigella, Visceral Leishmaniasis and West

Nile Virus.

With non-presumptive conditions, a Veteran would be required to provide medical evidence to establish connection between military service in Southwest Asia or Afghanistan, along with the specific disease.

With the proposed rule, a Veteran will only have to show service in Southwest Asia or Afghanistan and a current diagnosis of one of the nine diseases.

Once comments are given on the proposed rule over the next 60

days, a final regulation will be published. Until then, all claims filed for any of these presumptive conditions will be held for rating.

Because the Persian Gulf War has not officially been declared ended, Veterans serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom are eligible for VA's new presumptions. Secretary Shinseki decided to include Afghanistan Veterans in these presumptions because the National Academy of Sciences found that the nine diseases are prevalent in that country.

Correction from our winter newsletter.

This Veteran was inadvertently listed incorrectly. It should have been Richard "RJ" Ferguson, not John Ferguson passed away June 21, 2009. He served in the Navy from 1943-1946 during WWII.

DeWayne Ailey - passed away October 28, 2009. He served during the Korean War and served as a paratrooper in the 11th Airborne Division of the US Army.

Kenny Jedlicka - passed away on August 8, 2009. He served in the Army as a Corporal Drill Instructor during

HONORS CORNER

the Korean War.

Gaylord Mickle - passed away on February 10, 2010. He served for 3 years during WWII in the Navy.

Raymond Ihns - passed away January 21, 2010. He served in World War II in the US Navy from 1942-1945. He was a torpedo man aboard the USS Ralph Talbot.

This corner is reserved for recognizing the Cedar County Veterans who have left us. If you have recently lost a loved one who served in the military, please contact the office with their information. We will publish names, branch of service and service

times of those who have recently passed.

Please understand that the office does not receive a list of Veterans who have passed. The only names that can be published are those received from family or friends who contact the office with the information.

We will do our best to honor those who served our country honorably and be sure to publish it as such.



SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS AND WHAT THEY CAN DO

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW):

The VFW welcomes all who meet eligibility criteria. If you have received a campaign medal for overseas service, have served 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in Korea, or have ever received hostile fire or imminent danger pay, then you are eligible.

What are some of your member benefits?

- Discounts on prescriptions and vision care plans
- Funeral/Memorial services
- Financial Planning
- Hotel and motel discounts
- Discounts at Sears Commercial
- VFW real estate and mortgage services
- Multiple group-rate insurance programs
- \$1,000/\$1,500 personal accident insurance
- Vehicle insurance plan
- Cancer insurance
- Medicare Advantage, supplement and prescription drug plans
- Senior term life
- Condo and cruise program

The VFW provides numerous services to military service members and their families.

The three main efforts of the VFW Military Services department are:

- The Military Assistance program
 - Operation Uplink and
 - Unmet Needs
- Each program has a focus of support:

- MAP has helped fund farewell and welcome home gatherings
- Operation Uplink provides free, pre-paid phone cards to service members
- Unmet Needs can give a one-time grant up to \$2,500 for qualifying service members and their families experiencing financial hardship

Where is your local VFW?

Post 2537
Tipton, Iowa
563-886-6140

American Legion:

If you are currently on active duty, serving the United States honorably anywhere in the world, or have served honorably during any of the following eligible war eras, you are invited to become a member:

WWI, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Lebanon/Grenada, Panama, Gulf War/War on Terrorism

All Veterans who serve their country are entitled to certain benefits, but those who join the American Legion have additional ones. They range from discounts on home electronics to travel.

- Home modification/Improvement
- Moving/relocation
- Real estate/mortgage services
- Financial services
- Medical/prescription/vision
- Auto club

The Legion also is involved in the Family Support Network. With the ongoing deployments, some families are finding themselves in crisis, from grocery shopping, mowing the grass, fixing the family vehicle or child care.

Those families who find themselves in financial crisis who have minor children are encouraged to apply for Temporary Financial Assistance. This program can help those families of Veterans, either at war or deceased, with providing the basic needs of shelter, food, utilities, and health expenses in the absence of the Veteran.

How to get involved? Contact your local American Legion:

Garey-Whalen Post 123
886-6453

Hegarty-Busching Post 348
303 2nd Ave
Stanwood
Victory Post 286
P.O. Box 267
Clarence

Rixe-Lausen Post 104
242 Main St. Box G
Bennett

Busch-Dennis Post 309
P.O. Box 73
Mechanicsville

Lillis-Deerberg Post 366
606 Main St
Lowden, IA 52255

Chauncey Butler Post 514
204 Cookson Dr
West Branch

**The Official Newsletter of the
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400 Cedar Street
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Veteran Commissioners

Who are your Cedar County Veteran Commissioners?

Bruce Jeffries, Chairman

John Sauer

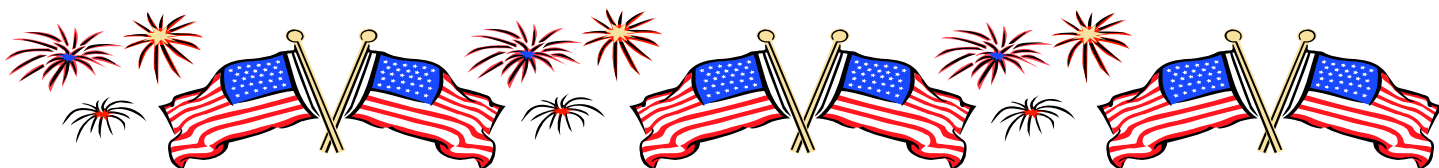
Patrick Ihns

Marlin Hillyer

Virgil Kruckenberg

The food certificate sign up has passed. The Veterans Affairs office received generous monetary donations from the following organizations and private donors:

- *American Legion Auxiliary Lowden \$100*
- *American Legion Victory Post No 286, Clarence \$50*



Service Organizations cont'd

American Legion Auxiliary:

Eligibility:

- A woman who is eligible for membership in the American Legion is also eligible to join the Auxiliary
- The mother, wife, daughter, sister, grand-daughter, great-grand-daughter, or grandmother of members of the American Legion, and deceased Veterans

who served in the United States Armed Forces during approved war eras

- Step relatives are also eligible

There are many benefits available for auxiliary members

Sons of the American Legion

Eligibility:

- members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the

US Military and were eligible for American Legion membership.

Sons is not a separate entity. It has its own membership. However it is a program of the American Legion.