



Veterans Service Program Newsletter



May 2009



MEMORIAL DAY – May 25

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country. The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation.

VA Accepting Applications for Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits

Now are accepting applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit that is effective August 1, 2009. Individuals with active duty service since September 11, 2001, may be eligible for this benefit and can apply on-line at www.GIBILL.VA.gov. The program provides tuition assistance, a housing allowance, a books and supplies stipend, and the option to transfer these benefits to family members under certain circumstances.

Veterans, service members, reservists and National Guard members with active duty since Sept. 10, 2001, may be eligible for this benefit. Veterans will remain eligible for benefits for 15 years from the date of last discharge or release from a period of active duty of at least 90 continuous days. Qualified Veterans will receive a “Certification of Eligibility” Information about the new program and VA’s other educational benefits can be obtained through www.GIBILL.VA.gov or by calling 1-888-GIBILL1 (1-888-442-4551).

Advise from Bob Harvey

Effective April 1, 2009, DIC claims are to be sent to Pension Maintenance Center Milwaukee. They will also work combination claims, i.e., DIC/Death pension and burial. Stand alone burial claims may still be sent to VARO St. Louis. Newer VSOs whose worked is being reviewed in St. Louis should address the DIC/DP/ claims to PMC, but still send them to the St. Louis Office for review. We will try to get them forwarded within a day.

PLEASE, PLEASE, read your rating decisions. If you encounter a case where there is a diagnosis of the claimed condition, and a favorable medical opinion on VA examination, but there is a denial, Please call the St. Louis Office, so we can review. We are seeing quite a few of these on hearing loss/tinnitus and PTSD claims.

We continue to get disagreements with VA proposals. Whether the proposal is to reduce a rating, sever service connection, or rate a veteran incompetent, a disagreement may not be accepted until/unless the adverse action has been completed. The claimant has the option of submitting additional evidence, or asks for a hearing. If a hearing is requested within 30 days of the notice of the proposal, VA will not act on the proposal until the hearing has been held and reviewed. Otherwise the due process timeline for action on the proposal is 60 days.



May Birthdays

Marquis Schultz 5/2
Lloyd Knox 5/14
Charles Baxter 5/20

Happy Birthday!!!



If you have news or events you would like to post, please submit the information to:

Cindy Stivers, VSO at Cindy.Stivers@mvc.dps.mo.gov or
Karla Alsberge, OSA at Karla.Alsberge@mvc.dps.mo.gov for submission

www.mvc.dps.mo.gov