Veterans Benefits

We
can help you manage your claim for VA pensions, disability benefits, VA
hospital care, home loans, military records and burial benefits. Contact my Nashville office at
615-736-5295 for help. In order to assist you, we will need a signed Privacy Release Form. For information about
benefits, you may also visit the Veterans
Administration online at www.va.gov.

Frequently
Asked Questions:

- How Can I contact the Department of
Veterans' Affairs?

- What's the difference between disability
compensation and disability pension?

- What are the types of VA claims?

- How
do I get a VA Home Loan?

- How do I get a copy of my military
records?

- What do I do if my records were
destroyed in the 1973 fire?

- How
can I get replacement medals?

How Can I Contact the Department of Veterans' Affairs?

The VA has toll free numbers for the convenience of veterans and dependents:

- Benefits Information 1-800-827-1000

- Life Insurance 1-800-669-8477

- Debt Management 1-800-827-0648

- Mammography Hotline 1-888-492-7844

- Tele. Dev. for Deaf (TDD) 1-800-829-4833

- CHAMPVA 1-800-733-8387

- Headstones/Markers 1-800-697-6947

- Gulf War Helpline 1-800-749-8387

- Sexual Trauma Hotline 1-800-827-1000

What's the difference between disability compensation and disability pension?

- Disability Compensation: A monthly monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred in or aggravated during military service.

- Disability Pension: A monetary benefit paid to veterans of a period of war who are permanently and totally disabled for reasons not the result of their own willful misconduct and not related to their military service. This benefit is income-dependent.

What Are the Types of VA Claims?

There are Four Types of claims:

- Original Claim: The very first claim for disability benefits (compensation or pension) filed by a veteran. All original claims must be filed on VA Form 21-526.

- Claim for increase: A claim for increased compensation for a disability already found to be service-connected.

- New Claim: A claim for compensation for a disability not part of the original claim. Also known as a supplemental claim.

- Reopened Claim: A claim asking for reconsideration of an issue previously considered and finally disallowed by VA (after more than one year has passed).

The type of claim determines how much development is required by VA and/or the nature of the supporting evidence the veteran must submit in support of the claim. The processing time for a claim varies depending on the type of claim and the supporting evidence provided by the veteran.

How Do I Get a VA Home Loan?

There are 5 steps to get a
VA Loan:

- Apply for a
Certificate of Eligibility. A Veteran who doesn't have a certificate can obtain one by filling out and sending the VA Form 26-1880, Request for Determination of Eligibility and Available Loan Guaranty Entitlement, to the local VA office.

Department of Veterans Affairs

110 9th Avenue South

Nashville, TN 37203

Phone: 800.827.1000

The form can be found by following the link above.

- Decide on a home the
buyer wants to buy and sign a purchase agreement.

- Order an appraisal
from VA.
(This is usually done by lender.)

- Apply to a mortgage
lender for the loan. While the appraisal is being done, the lender can be gathering credit and income information. If the lender is authorized by the VA to do automatic processing, upon receipt of the appraised value determination, the loan can be approved and closed without waiting for VA review of the credit application. For loans that must first be approved by VA, the lender will send the application to the local VA office, which will notify the lender of its decision.

- Close on loan and
you move in!

How Do I Get a Copy of My Military Records?

For copies of your military
service records you may contact:

National Personnel Records Center

9700 Page Avenue

St. Louis, Missouri
63132-5100

What do I do if my records were destroyed in the 1973 fire?

You may contact
the National Personnel Records
Center at

National Personnel
Records Center

9700 Page Avenue

St. Louis, Missouri
63132-5100

You can also find out the status
of your records by phone at the following numbers:

Army
Records: (314)
538-4261

For service during 1912-1959

Air
Force Records:
(314) 538-4243

For service during 1964-Present or for service during 1947-1963 (for individuals with the last names of A through Hubbard, James D.)

For service during 1947-1963 (for individuals with the last names after Hubbard, James D.) contact Air Force Records at (314) 538-4261.

Navy,
Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Records: (314) 538-4141

How Can I Get Replacement Medals?

You can request replacement for lost or stolen medals from the National Personnel Records Center or write to:

National Personnel
Records Center

9700 Page Avenue

St. Louis, Missouri
63132-510

or

DATC-PAP-BC

Chief Military
Awards Branch

Military Personnel
Branch

Hoffman Building
#2

200 Stovall Street

Alexandria, VA
22332

All
requests must be completed in writing.

Privacy Release Form

When requesting information it is sometimes necessary to provide a privacy release form to give us access to retrieve your information. Please download this form, fill it out, sign and mail to the appropriate location.