

Did You Know?

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That I have been a veterans' advocate for over 43 years and from my first year working for the Veterans Administration I heard rumors. My claimants would say they heard from a friend of a friend, scuttlebutt, barracks lawyers and the "know it all" vets. These rumors ranged from the unbelievable to some with a grain of truth. So to continue my tradition, here are some more rumors from the RUMOR MILL.

I have been rated 10% for tinnitus over twenty years ago and it's worse. I was told to file for an increase. SORRY, 10% is the maximum allowed for tinnitus. But do you have a Bilateral Hearing Loss which you never filed for? They are two distinct medical conditions.

My current Power of Attorney is the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and they are working on my appeal. I want to file an entirely different claim and was told the American Legion could help. SORRY AGAIN, the VA only allows one veterans group at a time to represent you on ALL claims. However once the appeal is over we could assist you.

I have a service-connected skin condition and I use medication for that. It stains my clothes. I was told I could apply for an annual clothing allowance. TRUE, you should apply and if eligible the one-time yearly payment is currently over \$700.

I have been rated 100% for over 17 years. I was advised that if I was rated 100% over 15 years my surviving spouse would automatically qualify for benefits no matter what the cause of death. WRONG, it's only 10 years.

My buddy said I could use my VA home loan to buy a nice vacation home up north. I currently spend most of my time in Chicago but if I had a cabin in Wisconsin I would spend at least 2 months a year there. SORRY, for the home loan program you must live in the property over 50% of the time.

My husband married before and had a messy divorce. So he never put me on the title to his home but left it to me in his will. Now that he passed away I was told I can't get the property tax exemption for service-connected disabled vets that he qualified for while alive. CORRECT, the spouses name must be on the title at time of death for the exemption to pass to the surviving spouse. (The American Legion is trying to get that state law changed).

Well that's all for now. Keep your cards and letters coming, and of course your e-mails and telephone calls. Remember the only dumb question is the one that was never asked.

**THIS THANKSGIVING LET US NOT ONLY THANK GOD
FOR ALL OUR BLESSINGS BUT ALSO OUR VETERANS
FOR ALL OUR FREEDOMS**