

VVA CHAPTER 1069 BENEFITS PRESENTATION, 4/10/2019

Item #1: Proposed Debt collection (Payday Loans & Auto Title Loans) reforms for Veterans.

A new survey, conducted through a partnership of the United Way of Central Texas, Texas Appleseed, and United Way of Greater Houston, offers a snapshot of the impacts of payday and auto title lending on Texas veterans. The survey found that veterans get caught up in payday and auto title loans at much higher rates than the general population. 45% of the veterans surveyed indicated using a payday or auto title loan and 24% used the loans more than once per year, compared to 7% of adult Texans. Use the 1st link below to read the survey summary report. Use the 2nd link below to read the complete detailed survey report.

<http://www.vva1069.org/wcvso/pdf/harmfulloansinfo-3-12-2019.pdf>

https://www.texasappleseed.org/sites/default/files/ThankYouForYourService_March%202019.pdf

Item #2: VA will NOT appeal court's decision to provide health care for "Blue Water Navy"

The Department of Veterans Affairs will not appeal a January court ruling that ordered it to provide health care and disability benefits for 90,000 veterans who served on Navy ships during the Vietnam War, likely paving the way for "Blue Water Navy" sailors and Marines to receive Agent Orange-related compensation and VA-paid health care benefits. VA Secretary Robert Wilkie told members of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on Tuesday that he will recommend the Justice Department not fight the decision, handing a victory to ill former service members who fought for years to have their diseases recognized as related to exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange. Use the link below to visit the Military.com website and read the complete article. Use the link below to visit the Military.com website and read the complete article.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/03/26/va-drop-fight-against-blue-water-navy-veterans.html>

Item #3: Adding four new conditions to the list of qualifying diseases tied to Agent Orange exposure; Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, Hypertension and Parkinson's-like symptoms.

Several years after a scientific body recommended that the Department of Veterans Affairs consider adding four conditions; bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, hypertension and Parkinsons-like symptoms, to the list of qualifying diseases tied to Agent Orange exposure for Vietnam Veterans. Affected veterans may soon find out whether they are eligible for disability compensation and VA health care. During a Senate Veterans Affairs hearing Tuesday on the VA budget, Dr. Richard Stone, the executive in charge of the Veterans Health Administration, said a decision on the three illnesses likely would come in the next 90 days. Use the link below to visit the Military.com website and read the complete article.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/03/26/va-announce-decision-new-agent-orange-presumptive-conditions.html>

NOTE: Use the link below for more information residing on our chapter website, regarding this handout.

<http://www.vva1069.org/wcvso/wcvsohandouts.html#Handout4-10-2019>

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