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CONTACTS: To help you obtain information about claims or other needs:

- **VETERANS CRISIS LINE:** Veterans and loved ones can call (800) 273-8255 24/7 and then press 1 with total anonymity to speak to a professional counselor. A Houston Vet Center counselor, **James Bailey**, is available in Don Montoya's office on Thursdays for veterans and their families. Call Don's office at (979) 532-1311 for an appointment to see James Bailey.
 - **Dwight Winkler:** Interim Wharton County Veterans Service Officer, 1017 N. Alabama Road, Wharton, TX 77488; (979) 532-1311; don.montoya@co.wharton.tx.us; **OFFICE HOURS:** M, TUES, THUR (Wharton), 8:00a.m.-11:30 & 12:00 noon-4:30 p.m.; FRI (Wharton), 8:00a.m.-11:30 noon by appointment only & 12:00 noon-4:30 p.m. (Administrative time); On WED (El Campo library), 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 - **Vanessa Hicks-Callaway:** (Congressman **Blake Farenthold's** Veteran Advocate), (361) 894-6446, Vanessa.Hicks-Callaway@mail.house.gov. **NOTE:** Vanessa Hicks-Callaway will work with you on any other government agency.
 - **Matt Minor:** (Texas State Representative **Phil Stephenson's** Veteran Advocate), (281) 232-7900, Matt.Minor@house.state.tx.us
 - **VA COMPLAINT HOTLINE:** New VA complaint hotline number is (855) 948-2311. Be courteous and be able to answer WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, and WHY about any "wrong doing at the VA."
 - **NEW VA PHONE NUMBER TO CALL 1-844-698-2311:** This new national toll-free number is a go to source for Veterans and their families who do not know what number to call at the VA. It is identified at the VA as myVA311.
 - **Texas Veterans Commission (TVC):** To check on a claim when the TVC is your representative for the claim you have submitted call (713) 383-2756, prompt 1.
 - **VVA Chapter 1069 VSO's Webpage:** <http://www.vva1069.org/vso.html>
- 1. RECEIPT OF YOUR 1095-B:** The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires the VA to notify Veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system during the previous year by sending IRS form 1095-B to the Veteran. The form documents the period of coverage for 2017. KEEP THE FORM IN YOUR THREE RING BINDER. (Source: VA Form 1095-B, VA, Rec'd 01/25/2018)

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2. **SUMMARY OF BENEFITS LETTER:** If you are receiving disability compensation from the VA, you should have received a letter from the VA that states the letter is a **summary of your benefits**. The letter has your benefits on the front and definitions on the back such as service-connected disability and non-service connected disability as well as the Periods of War. (Source: VA letter received 01/29/2018)

3. **FREE FLU SHOTS:** Veterans enrolled in the VA Health Care System are eligible for a free flu shot at Walgreens. Call 1-800-925-4733 to locate a participating Walgreens near you. I have the voucher on my table that you need to complete to be eligible for the shot. The free flu shot program runs through March 31, 2018.

4. **PAYMENT DATES 2018:** VA compensation benefits are paid one month in arrears. This means that benefits for a particular month are paid the first business day of the next month. When the first business day of the month falls on a non-business day or a holiday, VA benefits will be distributed on the last business day prior to the first of the month.

- February 2018 will be paid on March 1, 2018
- March 2018 will be paid on **MARCH 30, 2018**
- April 2018 will be paid on May 1, 2018
- May 2018 will be paid on June 1, 2018
- June 2018 will be paid on June 29, 2018
- July 2018 will be paid on August 1, 2018
- August 2018 will be paid on August 31, 2018
- September 2018 will be paid on October 1, 2018
- October 2018 will be paid November 1, 2018
- November 2018 will be paid November 30, 2018
- December 2018 will be paid December 31, 2018