

VVA CHAPTER 1069 BENEFITS PRESENTATION 9/9/2015

1. Dwight Winkler, 2254 CR 291, East Bernard, TX 77435; (979) 335-4464; E-mail lerwinkdd@aol.com OR Wharton County VSO Don Montoya (979)532-1311.
2. **SECONDARY-SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITIES:** Secondary service-connected disabilities are those that are developed as a result of, or were worsened by, an existing service-connected disability. **EXAMPLE:** A Vietnam veteran, "boots on the ground," was diagnosed with Type II diabetes (a presumptive disease) and peripheral neuropathy (a presumptive disease also that is damage to the veteran's nerves), both presumed to have been cause by exposure to AGENT ORANGE. A secondary service-connected disability to the TYPE II diabetes is **DIABETIC NEPHROPATHY**, a type of progressive kidney disease that occurs in about 40% of persons with diabetes. If you are a diabetic, you should talk to your doctor about the possibility of having the VA compensable disability **DIABETIC NEPHROPATHY**. If **YES**, contact me or another VSO and I will send you the Disability Benefit Questionnaire to have your doctor complete and then I wii assist you in filing a claim for disability compensation secondary to TYPE II diabetes.
3. **CAN ANY VETERAN SHOP AT A COMMISSARY?** Only active-duty service members, Guard and reservists, medical retirees, retirees, Gold Star widows, MOH recipients, 100 % disabled veterans and all of their respective dependents are granted commissary access.
4. **DOES A SPOUSE OF A VETERAN RECEIVE THE VETERAN'S DISABILITY COMPENSATION UPON THE DEATH OF THE VETERAN?** No, but the spouse may be entitled to (1) **SURVIVOR'S PENSION**, (2) **DEPENDENCY INDEMNITY COMPENSATION**, AND/OR (3) **BURIAL BENEFITS**, depending on certain eligibility requirements. Other benefits for the spouse **MAY** include **TAX EXEMPTION STATUS** for the homestead also.
5. **REQUEST FOR RECORDS:** In August 2013, after having several veterans come to my Wharton County Veteran Service Office to request service records and medical records, I decided to send off for my own records. I sent VA Form SF 180 to the Department of Veterans Affairs and received back my service records in about six weeks. In the packet of information from the VA was the statement "The original medical record needed to answer your inquiry is not in our files. Contact your nearest VA Regional Office to obtain your records." I finally got around to writing the Houston Regional Office in January 2014. I had forgotten about the inquiry until last week I got a **PACKET** in the mail from the VA. The information was 767 pages long and contained every medical record, every correspondence and every form I had ever submitted or received from the VA from 1973 until April of 2015. If you have not requested your service or medical records, you can contact me or any VSO.