

THE DENTON COUNTY VETERAN

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Denton County was established by the Texas legislature on April 11, 1846

County Judge Mary Horn, Commissioner Cynthia White, Precinct 1;
Commissioner Sandy Jacobs, Precinct 2; Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Precinct 3;
Commissioner Jim Carter, Precinct 4

Serving the Veterans of Denton County



**Payments for Traumatic Injuries Begin Under New VA Insurance Program
December 20, 2005**

WASHINGTON – American troops and their families now have more financial security, thanks to the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) new Service members' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI) program. Prudential Financial Inc., the insurer under the program, began making payments under this new program.

The TSGLI payments, ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000, are made to service members who have suffered certain traumatic injuries while on active duty.

The new insurance program became effective December 1, 2005, and is designed to provide financial help to military families through extended periods of medical care and healing. Benefits are also payable retroactively to October 7, 2001 for service members and veterans who suffered certain traumatic injuries while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“Injured service members should be able to focus on their recovery and adjustment back to military or civilian life, as well as spending time with their families,” said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. “This new insurance program will help families focus on what’s most important without having to worry about financial difficulties.”

Officials with VA and the Department of Defense are continually working to identify eligible service members and veterans. Nicholson urged veterans with eligibility questions to visit VA’s website at www.insurance.va.gov or to call the Office of Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance at 1-800-419-1473 for more information.

The Department of Veterans Affairs administers one of the largest insurance programs in the United States, providing coverage for active duty and reserve military personnel, veterans, and their families, supervising programs that include more than seven-and-a-half million policies with a face value of more than \$1.1 trillion of insurance benefits.

People wishing to receive e-mail from VA with the latest news releases and updated fact sheets can subscribe at the following Internet address:

http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/opalist_listserv.cfm



VA's Online RX Refill Service the Right Prescription for Vets

Secretary Nicholson: Service is "Fast, Easy and Secure"

WASHINGTON – Tens of thousands of veterans are now receiving their prescription drug refills from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with greater convenience, speed and security, thanks to a new service available to veterans over the Internet.

More than 70,000 prescriptions have been refilled using the latest service added to VA's "MyHealthVet," the personal online health record system designed for veterans in the VA health care system. The prescription refill service began on Aug. 31.

"VA's MyHealthVet prescription refill service is proving to be extremely successful in providing America's veterans with fast, easy and secure access to their important medications," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "Given the overwhelmingly positive response VA has received to this initiative from our veterans, we anticipate that thousands more veterans will choose to take advantage of this convenient service."

The secure online prescription refill service has quickly emerged as one of the more popular features in the MyHealthVet system, which connects with VA's widely respected electronic records system. When a veteran orders a prescription refill, the request is routed to VA's computer system to be filled by one of the department's outpatient mail pharmacies. The refill is then sent directly to the veteran, eliminating the need for a trip to the pharmacy and a wait in line.

On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2005, MyHealthVet marked its second anniversary by adding three new health records that veterans can keep in a secure electronic environment and make available to VA health professionals nationwide – blood oxygen levels taken from a pulse oximeter, daily food intake in the Food Journal, and physical activity and exercise in the Activity Journal.

By last month, more than 100,000 veterans had signed up to use MyHealthVet, which is located on VA's Web site at www.myhealth.va.gov.

Among the services available to veterans, their families and VA care providers through the online personal record are the ability to track health conditions – entering readings such as blood pressure and cholesterol levels – and to record medications, allergies, military health history, medical events and tests. Veterans can also include personal information, such as emergency contacts, names of medical providers and health insurance information. They can access health information on the Internet from VA, MedlinePlus from the National Library of Medicine, and Healthwise, a commercial health education library.

Future expansion of MyHealthVet will allow VA patients to view appointments and co-payment balances, access portions of their medical records, and give access to their records to doctors, family members and others.



The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum (BSNM)

<http://www.buffalosoldiermuseum.com/index.html>

The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum (BSNM) a non-profit 501(c)(3) institution was founded in the year 2000 by a Viet Nam Veteran and African-American military historian, Mr. Paul J. Matthews. The museum's Historian is Dr. Franklin D.B. Jackson, a highly decorated Viet Nam veteran.

The Museum's Chief Docent is Trooper Arthur Joseph, a Silver Star recipient and author of the World War II book "Driving at the Edge of Death".

The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum a proud member of the Houston Museum District is the only Museum dedicated primarily to preserving the legacy and honor of the African-American soldier, in the United States of America.

Exhibit Hours:

Monday - Friday: 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Admission: Free to the Public up to 9 persons.

Groups of 10 or more... \$2.00 per person

The Beginning

African Americans have served proudly in every great American war. In 1866, through an act of Congress, legislation was adopted to create six all African American Army units. The units were identified as the 9th and 10th cavalry and the 38th, 39th, 40th, and 41st infantry regiments. The four infantry regiments were later reorganized to form the 24th and 25th infantry regiments.

These fighting men represented the first Black professional soldiers in a peacetime army. The recruits came from varied backgrounds including former slaves and veterans from service in the Civil War.

The Nickname

The nickname buffalo soldiers began with the Cheyenne warriors in 1867. The actual Cheyenne translation was Wild Buffalo. The nickname was given out of respect and the fierce fighting ability of the 10th cavalry. Overtime, Buffalo Soldiers became a generic term for all African American soldiers.

Military Assignments

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, the Buffalo Soldiers were assigned to the harshest and most desolate posts. Specific duties included subduing Mexican revolutionaries, outlaws, comercheros, rustlers and hostile Native Americans. Additional administrative duties included exploring and mapping the Southwest, and establishing frontier outposts for future towns.

The Buffalo Soldiers fought in the Indians Wars of the American West, Spanish American War of 1898, WWI and WWII.

(continued on page 5)



Military History

1775-1783 - Revolutionary War - Approximately 5,000 Blacks fought in the War of Independence. By mid-1778, each brigade in General George Washington's army averaged 43 Black soldiers.

1812-1815 - War of 1812 - Though blacks were barred from service for the first two years, at the war's latter stages they comprised 10% of naval crews.

1846-1848 - Mexican War - No Blacks fought in this war. It was fought by regulars and volunteers primarily from the rural South and Midwest.

1861-1865 - Civil War - Blacks made up 12% (178,895 men) of the Union Army and 25% (30,000) of the Union Navy. Thousands more served in service units as laborers and the like. Some 2,751 blacks were killed in battle; another 65,427 died primarily from disease.

1866-1891 - Indian Wars - The 5,000 blacks who served in the all-black 9th and 10th Cavalry and 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments constituted about 10% of the total troops who guarded the Western Frontier for a quarter century.

1898 - Spanish-American War - The four regular regiments fought in Cuba, making up about 12% of the forces on the Island. Another 2,000- 7.6% of all sailors-served in the Navy.

1899-1902 - Philippines War - In addition to the four Black regular regiments, two volunteer regiments composed of Blacks help wage this colonial campaign.

1916 - Mexican Punitive Expedition - The all-black 10th Cavalry comprised 12% of the forces sent in pursuit of Poncho Villa. The regiment suffered over half (10men killed) of the casualties sustained.

1917-1918 - World War I - Over 200,000 Black soldiers made it to France, equaling 9.2% of the American Expeditionary Force. Most were in support units. But the all-black 92nd and 93rd Infantry Divisions lost 773 killed in action (1.4% of U.S. total) and 4,408 wounded in action.

1941-1945 - World War II - Some 500,000 Blacks were stationed overseas, amounting to 4% of the 11 million Americans who served on foreign shores. About 10% of blacks were in combat units. The all-black 92nd Infantry was in Italy, and had 616 killed in action and 2,187 wounded. The 93rd Division was stationed in the South Pacific, losing 17 KIA and 121 WIA. There was also the black 366th Infantry (Separates).

During the Battle of the Bulge, 2,500 blacks were formed into all black Infantry platoons and attached to larger units. The famed 761st Tank Battalion spent 183 continuous days in combat in the European Theater, earning a Presidential Unit Citation. The 333rd Field Artillery bravely supported ground operations in France.

Three all-black air units flew overseas: 332nd Fighter Group, 477th Bombardment Group and the 99th Fighter Squadron. Sixty-six Black pilots were killed in action. A total of 140,000 blacks served in the Army Air Forces. Nearly 150,000 Blacks served in the Navy. Of the 12,000 Black Marines, 9 were killed in action.

1950-1953 - Korean War - About 195,000 Blacks were in Korea; comprising 13% of U.S. troops there. Some 3,223, or 9% of the total, were killed in action. Korea saw the end of segregated units in all armed forces.

1961-1973 - Vietnam War - Black Americans who served in Vietnam numbered 275,000 (10.6% of all forces). Hostile deaths were 5,711 (12.1% of the total) and non-hostile deaths came to 1,530.

1958-1989 - Expeditionary Campaigns - Blacks have served in all the armed forces deployments, under hostile conditions, for the past three decades. This includes the Dominican Republic (1965-1966), the Korea DMZ, Lebanon (1982-1984), Grenada (1983) and Panama (1989).

1991 - Persian Gulf War - Approximately 104,000 (24.5%) of the total troops deployed who served in Saudi Arabia were Black. Some 27 died during Operation Desert Storm, equaling 15% of the total U.S. deaths

Home Loan Guaranty Services

Veterans Benefits & Services

A Housing Assistance to Gulf Coast Hurricane Victims

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have amended the 1983 Memorandum of Understanding to allow VA to provide transitional housing to victims of the 2005 gulf hurricanes. The agreement permits VA to directly lease acquired properties to FEMA certified disaster victims. Available properties are located in the following 11 states Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

Disaster victims must apply to FEMA for rental assistance. FEMA will certify the applicant as eligible for rental assistance and advise the applicant of transitional housing available through Federal government agencies---including VA.

If you are a FEMA certified disaster victim, you may contact VA at 1-866-396-5362. You **must** have your FEMA certification available. VA will provide you with a list of properties, if any are available, in the area where you wish to live. Or, you may check on-line at www.ocwen.com. Look under VA Affairs Contract and select FEMA Rental Properties to determine if VA has properties available in the desired area. Make a list of the properties you would like to view and contact VA at 1-866-396-5362.

VA's property management contractor, Ocwen Loan Servicing, LLC, (Ocwen), will make arrangements for you to view the properties. Rental for all properties will be \$350 monthly plus utilities.

If you have **not** been certified by FEMA, please contact FEMA at 1-800-621-3362 for certification.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!!

The Lost Angeles Eligibility Center will cease operations effective January 1, 2006. All mailed applications for a Certificate of Eligibility for a VA home loan benefits will be processed by the

Mailing Address

VA Eligibility Center
P O Box 20729
Winston-Salem, NC 27120
1-888-244-6711
nceligib@vba.va.gov

Overnight Mail Address

VA Eligibility Center
251 North Main St.
Winston-Salem, NC 27155
nceligib@vba.va.gov

For Local Help

Denton County Veterans Service Office
1505 E. McKinney St. #183
Denton, TX 76209
940-349-2950
Fax: 940-349-2951
Monday through Friday
8:00 am to noon
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm



Celebrate! Holidays In The U.S.A.

Washington's Birthday *(Third Monday in February)*

Until 1971, both February 12 and February 22 were observed as federal holidays to honor the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12) and George Washington (Feb. 22).

In 1971 President Richard Nixon proclaimed one single federal holiday, the ***Presidents' Day***, to be observed on the third Monday of February, honoring all past presidents of the United States of America.

Please Note: The Federal statute designates this day as Washington's Birthday, President Nixon issued a proclamation declaring the holiday as "Presidents' Day" in 1971. President Nixon erroneously believed that a Presidential proclamation on the matter carried the same weight as an Executive Order.

Since that change in 1971, the common term has been "Presidents' Day".

