



2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Chapter,

Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA)

WEBSITE: www.2-1-196th.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/2-1-196th



Volume 9

“A Soldier Once And Always”

June 2019

Commanders Corner: Summer is around the corner and I hope you and your families had a beautiful and safe month of May. Of course, this includes attending Memorial Day activities around the 27th. Please remember those comrades of 2nd BN 1st INF that did not make it back from Vietnam as well as any losses the battalion has suffered during the current conflict.



I will still bring up the two Veterans Reunions coming up this year that 2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Regiment veterans attend. As an association, we are a Chapter under the Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA) who will be having their 2019 Reunion, 2-6 October 2019 at the Crown Plaza Providence/Warwick (Airport) at 801 Greenwich Ave, Warwick, RI 02886. See the ADVA website for additional information: <https://americal.org/cmsaml/index.php/reunions.html>.

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association is having their 2019 Reunion, 22-25 August 2019 in Lombard, IL, at the Westin Hotel (west of Chicago). See: <https://www.196th.org/reunion2001/reunionp.htm>. If you can attend either of these, I'll see you there.

On a personal note, our youngest son Matt who is an infantry SFC has assignment orders for the summer, to report to the Warrior Prep Center which supports the RANGER School at Fort Benning, GA. So, Lari and I will be able to visit him, Kim, Madie and Maci in Georgia. God bless you and your families, and hope you have a great beginning of summer. Remember our collective extended family, those Americans serving in our Armed Forces all over the world, and especially to the memories of those that gave the ultimate sacrifice. By the way, Jesse Mendoza sends this message; We received an Email From Robin Gobble Thanking the Chapter for the money that was sent as a donation to Stan's Desorda's daughter. A few members sent me extra money to go along with the Chapter donation. She thanks everyone for their generosity; God Bless you all and thank you. Jesse Mendoza Sec/Treas.

Got a comment, idea or complaint, contact me at Commander.2.1.jgw@gmail.com.

John
Commander

Keep safe and may the bond of battle never be broken!



PASSING THE BUCK/THE BUCK STOPS HERE

Most men in the early west carried a jack knife made by the Buck knife company. When playing poker it is common to place one of these Buck Knives in front of the dealer so that everyone knew who he was.

More US Troops from Korean War Identified from 55 Boxes of Remains Returned by North Korea:

The U.S. military says it has identified the remains of three more Americans killed during the Korean War, even as efforts to recover additional remains have stalled amid souring relations with North Korea. One family has been notified and notification of the other two families is pending, Lt. Col. Ken Hoffman, spokesman for the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency, said Tuesday. One set of remains has been identified as those of Army Cpl. Charles S. Lawler, a member of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. The DPAA said in a statement that Lawler, whose hometown was not provided, had been engaged against enemy forces near Unsan, North Korea, and was reported missing in action on Nov. 2, 1950. So far, six Americans have been identified from 55 boxes of what North Korean officials said were remains. U.S. officials have estimated that between 50 and 100 individuals could likely be identified, with about 80 of them expected to be Americans and the others South Koreans fighting alongside U.S. forces. Earlier this month, as tensions between the U.S. and North Korea spiked again, the Pentagon said it had suspended its efforts to arrange negotiations on recovering additional remains of American service members killed in the North during the Korean War. Since the February summit, however, the Trump administration has made no discernible progress toward a deal on eliminating the North's nuclear weapons. Although the remains recovery effort is technically separate from the nuclear talks, it appears to have become entangled in the broader disagreement between Washington and Pyongyang over nuclear weapons and other efforts to improve relations.

ADVA 2019 National Reunion: The 2019 National Reunion dates have been set and Registration forms are available in the latest issue of the Americal Journal and on our WEBSITE. The location is Newport, RI and the dates are October 2-6, 2019. Headquarters hotel is the Crown Plaza Providence/Warwick. Reunion guests can stay at a price of \$109.00 per night plus tax. Reservations can be made by calling 401-732-0261. Remember to tell the reservation clerk that you are attending the 2019 ADVA Reunion. The Reunion code is ADV Tours have been scheduled for Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

196th LIB Reunion: Some members will also be interested in attending the 196 LIB National Reunion that will be held at the Westin Lombard Yorktown Center, 70 Yorktown Center Lombard, IL August 21-25, 2019. The Brigade holds its Reunion every 2 years. Activities have been scheduled by the Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. You can make reservations for this reunion electronically at www.afrr-reg.com/196lib2019. Due date for registration is July 24, 2019.

When you wake up in the morning, pray to ask God's guidance for your purpose, today.

Fellow Chapter Members: Our web site has been updated with the preliminary 2019 ADVA reunion information; it will be held in Rhode Island near Providence, Rhode Island. In 2020, the 2/1 Chapter will be hosting the ADVA Reunion in Indianapolis and we are currently working on getting all of our ducks in a row. Although, we are still in the beginning stages of planning the event, we are making some headway as to what we would like to offer. We are working with an organization named “Visit Indy” which is a group that helps plan events and promotes tourism in Indianapolis. This is the organization that spearheaded the Super Bowl in Indy, the service is free and they have great contacts throughout the city regarding hotels, transportation, etc.

I have just signed a contract with the Wyndham West Hotel which has an excellent location near the airport and the interstates that converge in Indy. After gathering some proposals from some area hotels with facilities capable of handling our event, I feel we have negotiated a very reasonable room rate in comparison to projected 2020 average rates in the area. The hotel has more than adequate facilities to provide us with what we need and the staff is friendly and courteous.

I have also contacted an RV/Camper facility with utility hook-ups. It is near the host hotel and reservations will be available at a reasonable rate prior to the reunion. I think we will also be able to provide transportation to/from the reunion hotel from the RV park. As far as I know this would be a first for our reunions and hopefully draw in some members that otherwise might not make the trip. Indianapolis is an excellent location with multiple main interstate highways connecting to the hub of the city and a large international airport only 7 miles from the downtown area.

Indianapolis devotes more acreage to honoring our nations fallen than any other U.S. city and is second only to Washington, D.C. in the number of war memorials. The American Legion Mall in downtown Indy contains the American Legion National Headquarters, Indiana World War Memorial and Museum (honoring Indiana men from WWI), and the WWII, Korean and Vietnam memorials are all within the mall area. University Park is a block away featuring a beautiful 5 level fountain and various statues of past prominent Americans. A few blocks away are the Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial, Soldiers and Sailors Monument and Civil War museum, USS Indianapolis Memorial and the 9/11 Memorial. The large Circle City Mall is located just southeast of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Another major attraction projected as one of our tours will be the Indianapolis 500 Speedway and Museum.

Jack Head, the ADVA Executive Council Recorder, and I got together at the Kokomo reunion last year and came up with what we think is a workable game plan regarding the event and some ideas that would make it a memorable experience for all involved. Jack’s idea regarding providing an RV park is, hopefully, just the tip of the iceberg on providing some innovative experiences for the 2020 reunion.

As with every successful event, the smoothness of the operation depends on volunteers. We will need help in handling the manning of the registration check-in, the general hospitality room and our 2/1 Chapter hospitality room among other things. Specific volunteer assignment requests will be honored if possible. Otherwise, volunteers will be placed where the greatest need is at the time. The more persons we have, the less amount of time will be needed by individual volunteers. Since our chapter is the main sponsor, I hope some of you will pitch in to help. As usual, Jesse Mendoza has volunteered himself and Eileen to take care of the hospitality room but, I’d like to get a few people to spell them from time to time so they can enjoy the reunion along with

everyone else. They usually don’t get a lot of free time away from the hospitality room so let’s give them a break in 2020 and, I’m sure, some help would also be appreciated at this year’s reunion. I know this seems far away at this point but, the sooner we get everything in place, the smoother our reunion will function. Any and all suggestions are welcomed; just send me an email. I hope to see as many of you as possible at Providence this year and, especially, at Indy in 2020. Thanks,

Chuck Holdaway, Chairman 2020 ADVA Reunion

Internment for Julius Deriscavage: On July, 15, 2019, B 2/1, 196th infantry man, Julius “Ju-ju” Deriscavage will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery. Ju-ju, a Silver Star recipient for his heroic conduct at the battle of Tam Ky in 1968, was one of the founding members of our chapter and served as an At-large chapter council member for several years. He devoted his time, ideas, opinions, and money for the betterment of the chapter throughout his membership and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. A memorial tribute will be put on by his family on July 14th at 105 Fardale St., SE, Vienna, VA, 22180. If you would like to attend, please contact Dave Kalinock at (703)346-2342 or dkalinock@aol.com so planning may be made regarding attendance numbers. Vienna is located near Arlington Cemetery and is a convenient area to stay if you are planning to attend Ju-ju’s services..



President Trump Nominates Patrick Shanahan as Next Defense Secretary: Pres. Donald Trump has chosen Patrick Shanahan, an industry veteran who was thrust into the Pentagon’s top spot after Jim Mattis resigned, is the president’s official pick as the next Secretary of Defense. In a statement, White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said Shanahan’s nomination was “based on his outstanding service to the country and his demonstrated ability to lead” the Defense Department. He has served as acting Defense Secretary since Jan. 1, 2019. Shanahan took to thank the president for his confidence. “If confirmed by the Senate, I will continue the aggressive implementation of our National Defense Strategy,” he wrote. “I remain committed to modernizing the force so our remarkable Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines have everything they need to keep our military lethal and our country safe.” Shanahan, 56, spent decades at Boeing before he was picked in April 2017 by Trump to serve as Mattis’ Deputy Secretary of Defense.

America’s World War II vet Bob Maxwell, the Oldest Medal of Honor Recipient, Dies at 98: World War II veteran Bob Maxwell has died in Oregon more than seven decades after saving his squad mates. He was 98. The death was confirmed by U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, a Republican from Oregon, who said Maxwell represented the “best of what Oregon and America have to offer.” Maxwell earned the nation’s highest military honor while fighting in Besancon, France, on Sept. 7, 1944. The bomb severely injured him, but a blanket saved his life by absorbing some of the impact. He was also awarded two Silver Stars, two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star and two French combat awards — the French Croix de Guerre and the Legion d’Honneur — for his service in World War II. Prior to throwing himself on the grenade, Maxwell sustained a leg injury in Italy in January 1944 while maintaining telephone wires under intense artillery fire. He spent several months in a hospital in Naples, returned to his unit and was sent to France. After the war, Maxwell became a car mechanic and taught classes on auto repair and service at a Bend high school and two community colleges.



2/1 LOCATOR

** Send your locator notices to **Locator c/o P.O. Box 2639 Key West, FL 33045**, or jhughesgroupins@aol.com. – email. Okay to include photo, name / nickname, rank, home origin if known, and time of Vietnam service.

Rolling Thunder to Mark Final Memorial Day Event: The spectacle of hundreds of thousands of motorcycles roaring their way through the streets of Washington, D.C., to Memorial Day events as part of the annual Rolling Thunder veterans tribute will be a thing of the past after this year. Former Army Sgt. Artie Muller, a 73-year-old Vietnam veteran and co-founder of Rolling Thunder said logistics and costs of staging the event for Memorial Day were getting too out of hand to continue. The ride had become a tradition in D.C. since the first in 1988. Muller, who served with the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam and runs the event out of his home in Neshanic, New Jersey, said it costs about \$200,000 to stage Rolling Thunder, which draws riders from across the nation. Muller also said riders have increasingly complained of harassment by Pentagon security and the Washington, D.C., police.

The Pacific Push: New rotation, thousands more soldiers heading to the region as the Army readies for a new kind of fight. The Army is growing its force in the Pacific region, keeping rotational forces there longer with plans to increase the number of soldiers they send, and soon beginning a new division-strength rotation with thousands of soldiers going for short-term deployments. And they're not going to Korea. They are sweeping to the South China Sea and surrounding areas, all in an effort to expand the Army's presence in containing a resurging China and multiply forces in a hard-to-reach area. They're finding their way on missions that look much different than past deployments that involved vehicle patrols around remote bases and acting as police for tribal conflicts. Instead, they're manning and moving missile defense systems that scoot around and between small island strongholds, throwing wires to run communications across vast expanses of ocean or opening ports at waterfronts so that munitions, food and medicine can reach those in the direct fight should China's moves escalate into violence. And that role differs not only from the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and special operations forces-led counterterrorism missions of recent years. It will be a different role than the Army performs anywhere else, and it might be a model for the future of near-peer fights.

Fort Bragg Air Assault School Announces Closure: The DeGlopper Air Assault School on Fort Bragg is shutting down, officials announced. "The decision to close the school involves funding and the reduction of borrowed military manpower on Fort Bragg,". "We are honored and privileged to have trained some of the most professional and lethal soldiers in the U.S. Army." A spokesman for the 18th Airborne Corps, which the school falls under, said the decision was made this week by Lt. Gen. Paul LaCamera, commander of the 18th Airborne Corps. A page for the school on Fort Bragg's website states its purpose has been to "train soldiers in the conduct of air assault operations, sling load operations, rappelling operations from an aircraft and through mental and physical training to develop their leadership, self-confidence and aggressive spirit." Officials recommended those wanting to attend air assault school consider the Sabalauski Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; the Warrior Training Center at Fort Benning, Georgia; or the Light Fighter School at Fort Drum, New York.

Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.

Explosive-sniffing Dogs Trade Ruff Life for Cushy Retirement: Not all veterans walk on two legs. The State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement has been overseeing a program that trains military dogs to detect explosive devices such as mines and improvised explosive devices. Dozens of canines have been sent to places like Iraq and Syria to sniff out explosives, and their efforts have helped make those areas safer for humans and animals alike. Three of those dogs just returned to the U.S. from Iraq and are currently being rehabilitated for adoption by a nonprofit partner of the State Department that teaches service dogs how to be house pets once they are retired from duty. "These dogs have served our citizens, our first-responders, our soldiers, our men and women on the front line," said Kristen Maurer, Mission K9 Rescue's president and founder. "They're out there saving lives every single day. They've done this their whole lives, and it's their time to retire and our time to give back to them." The three dogs in question — Der, Rhino and Rambo, all of who happen to be four-year-old Belgian Malinois — are all currently enjoying their own 30-by-30 plots of land on Mission K9 Rescue's ranch in Houston. The goal is to get them ready for adoption as quickly as possible.



Army Beginning to See Payoff from New Recruiting Strategy: Army Recruiting Command officials said recently that the service is starting to see results from the new recruiting strategy it launched last year. In October, Army senior leaders pledged to increase recruiting efforts in 22 major cities after the service missed its recruiting goal for the first time since 2005, falling roughly 6,500 recruits short. The effort has involved senior leaders meeting with city officials, as well as adding hundreds more recruiters to beef up the service's recruiting force -- on the ground and across social media. Recruiting is now up in 18 of the 22 focus cities, according to Army Recruiting Command (USAREC) figures for April. "Recruiting is up 27 percent in Minneapolis over this time last year, New York City has improved 19 percent and Baltimore is up 17 percent," according to the release. Until this year, recruiting success typically seen in the rural South was not shared by the big cities, the release states. "We're trying to bring a lot of balance to our recruiting effort and focus in on the largest metropolitan areas in the country," Under Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy said in the release, adding that the effort involves meeting with city officials and educators to help build new relationships. At a Baltimore meeting, officials opened up all 43 of the city's recreation centers to recruiters, the release states. "It was a great meeting because it opened doors," Col. Amanda Iden, commander of the Baltimore Recruiting Battalion, said in the release. Recruiting Command has identified 65 different types of neighborhoods, or "segmentations," based on demographic data from the last U.S. census, the release states.

Granville Coggs, a Tuskegee Airman and Renaissance man, dies at 93: Granville Coggs, who was one of the nation's first black military pilots during World War II, died at the age of 93 in San Antonio after a bout of pneumonia. Coggs served in the U.S. Army Air Corps and was a member of the Tuskegee Airmen from 1943 to 1946. He then went on to become a doctor, invented a non-invasive patented device for breast cancer detection, played and sang with a variety of musical groups, and was a gold medalist in the Senior Olympics. He met his wife, Maud, during his military training when she was a Tuskegee Institute student, and the two were married for 73 years. He retired from the Air Force Reserve in 1985 as a lieutenant colonel.

WW II Plane Rescued from Bone Yard to join D-Day Anniversary: Filled with paratroopers, a U.S. warplane lumbered down an English runway in 1944 to spearhead the World War II D-Day invasion with a message for Adolf Hitler painted in bright yellow across its nose: "That's All, Brother." Seventy-five years later, in a confluence of history and luck, that plane is again bound for the French coast for what could be the last great commemoration of the allied battle to include D-Day veterans, many of whom are now in their 90s. Rescued from an aviation bone yard in Wisconsin. After Air Force historians in Alabama realized its significance, the restored C-47 troop carrier that served as a lead aircraft of the main invasion force will join other vintage planes at 75th anniversary ceremonies in June. After flying over the Statue of Liberty on May 18, the plane embarked for Europe with other vintage aircraft along the same route through Canada, Greenland and Iceland that U.S. aircraft traveled during the war. There, it and other flying military transports are expected to drop paratroop re-enactors along the French coast at Normandy. "It's going to be historic, emotional," said pilot Tom Travis, who will fly That's All, Brother to Europe for the event. "It'll be the last big gathering."



Pentagon to put up Shelter for at Least 7,500 Migrants: The Pentagon says it will build temporary shelter at the U.S.-Mexican border for at least 7,500 adult migrants who have been turned over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody. The Pentagon announced that the Department of Homeland Security made the request, and it was approved by Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan. The military will not operate the camps. The Pentagon says the military will lend tents to DHS and put them up at several sites in Texas and Arizona. The cost and timeline for constructing the temporary shelter will be determined after the Pentagon conducts site assessments over the coming two weeks. The camps will be in the Tucson and Yuma areas of Arizona and in Tornillo, Donna, Laredo and Del Rio in Texas.

AArmy Black Knights Receive Trophy From POTUS: The Army football team has now made its second consecutive trip to the White House to accept the trophy from President Donald Trump. Prior to 2018, the last time Army won the Commander in Chief's trophy was 1996. The Commander in Chief's Trophy has been awarded annually to the Service Academy football team that has won the series between the other academies since 1972. In its almost 50-year history, the CIC trophy has been awarded to Air Force 20 times, Navy 15 times, and Army 8 times.



A man called his mother in Florida ,

"Mom, how are you?"

"Not too good," said the mother. "I've been very weak."

The son said, "Why are you so weak?"

She said, "Because I haven't eaten in 38 days."

The son said, "That's terrible. Why haven't you eaten in 38 days?"

The mother answered, "Because I didn't want my mouth to be filled with food if you should call."

World War II Airman to be Buried June 5 in California: A 21-year-old New York airman who died in World War II will be buried in Southern California 75 years after his bomber crashed in the Pacific. A Memorial Service for Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Vincent J. Rogers Jr. will be held June 5 at the Riverside National Cemetery, according to The Press Enterprise. Rogers' remains were accounted for on March 21, according to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. On Jan. 21, 1944, Rogers was an assistant radio operator for the 38th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 30th Bombardment Group, stationed at Hawkins Field, Betio Island, Tarawa Atoll, Gilbert Islands, when his B-24J bomber crashed in shallow water shortly after take-off. The squadron's physician witnessed the crash and immediately waded into the water. He was able to rescue three members of the 10-man crew. The other seven crew members perished in the crash. Their remains were subsequently recovered from the wreckage and buried on the island in a temporary cemetery. Following the war, the U.S. Army's 604th Quartermaster Graves Registration Company conducted remains recovery operations on Betio between 1946 and 1947. Those efforts led to the recovery and identification of three of the seven deceased crew members from the B-24J. The AGRC also consolidated all the remains from isolated burial sites into a single cemetery called Lone Palm Cemetery. The remains of the other four crewmembers from the B-24J bomber were believed to be among those moved, however Rogers' remains were not identified and he was declared non-recoverable.

More US troops from Korean War Identified from 55 Boxes of Remains Returned by North Korea:

The U.S. military says it has identified the remains of three more Americans killed during the Korean War, even as efforts to recover additional remains have stalled amid souring relations with North Korea. One family has been notified and notification of the other two families is pending, Lt. Col. Ken Hoffman, spokesman for the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency, said Tuesday. One set of remains has been identified as those of Army Cpl. Charles S. Lawler, a member of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. The DPAA said in a statement that Lawler, whose hometown was not provided, had been engaged against enemy forces near Unsan, North Korea, and was reported missing in action on Nov. 2, 1950. So far, six Americans have been identified from 55 boxes of what North Korean officials said were remains. U.S. officials have estimated that between 50 and 100 individuals could likely be identified, with about 80 of them expected to be Americans and the others South Koreans fighting alongside U.S. forces. Earlier this month, as tensions between the U.S. and North Korea spiked again, the Pentagon said it had suspended its efforts to arrange negotiations on recovering additional remains of American service members killed in the North during the Korean War. Since the February summit, however, the Trump administration has made no discernible progress toward a deal on eliminating the North's nuclear weapons. Although the remains recovery effort is technically separate from the nuclear talks, it appears to have become entangled in the broader disagreement between Washington and Pyongyang over nuclear weapons and other efforts to improve relations.

***HOGWASH *** In the old days steamboats carried both people and animals. Since pigs smelled so bad they would be washed before being put on board. The mud and other filth that was washed off was considered useless "hog wash".

Army Master Gunner Grads are getting a Uniform Badge: Graduates of the Army's Master Gunners Course will now be awarded a "Master Gunner" badge to graduates of the seven schools, and is retroactive to October 1975, according to Milper message 19-144. The badge represents a high level of technical competence and a detailed understanding of a projectile producing system that [aids] a command in planning, resourcing, training and executing a gunnery program designed to enhance the combat effectiveness and lethality of a maneuver force. Graduates of the following — put on by the U.S. Army Field Artillery, Armor, Air Defense Artillery or Infantry schools, or the Aviation Center of Excellence — can pin one on to the left side of their combat, service and dress/dress mess uniforms:

Field Artillery Master Gunner Course.

Master Gunnery-M1/M1A1 Tank Course.

Infantry Fighting Vehicle Master Gunner Course.

Avenger Master Gunner Course.

M1A2 SEP Master Gunner Course.

Stryker Master Gunner Course.

Patriot Master Gunner Course.

Enlisted soldiers must have the A7, A8, J3, K7, K8, R8 or T4 additional skill qualifiers, while warrant officers require the H8. The infantry school is the proponent for the badge. Once prototypes are finalized, it'll take about 60 days to get the decorations into clothing and sales stores. The earliest target date for that is Aug. 15. The badges will also be in the Defense Logistics Agency System's supply chain, but assigning it a stock number and building up an inventory can take about a year, so that process will finish no earlier than August 2020. To request a retroactive award, soldiers must submit a packet through the commandant of the corresponding school, and include a DA Form 4187 with the course name, class number and graduation date, as well as copies of the graduation certificate, order for the ASI, a copy of their student training record and their Soldier's Record Brief.



Compensation for Asbestos Exposure: Mesothelioma is a rare form of cancer that primarily affects the lining of the lungs. Approximately 2,000 to 3,000 cases of mesothelioma are diagnosed each year in the United States. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), there are currently 25 million living veterans who have served in the Armed Forces; hundreds of thousands, if not millions of these living veterans were exposed to toxic asbestos-containing materials during military service. The online Mesothelioma Center offers free assistance with filing VA claims and can make the process much easier. The Veterans Assistance department offers extensive experience in filing VA claims and can help any veteran coping with mesothelioma. As is the case in practically all asbestos and mesothelioma lawsuits, a claim is filed against the manufacturers of asbestos products, not employers that used asbestos products without knowledge of the hazardous effects. Aside from filing a claim against the asbestos manufacturer responsible for exposure, ailing veterans do have the legal option to seek assistance through The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). Veterans are permitted to apply for VA benefits for asbestos-related diseases, but illnesses such as mesothelioma are not always recognized by the VA as a "service-connected" medical condition, which makes it extremely difficult to claim and receive benefits. The resources at Asbestos.com offer assistance, free of cost, to veterans applying for benefits. The Mesothelioma Center has knowledgeable veterans on staff that can make the process easier and help receive benefits from the VA system. For more information, please call 800-615-2270.

Inspection Reveals Missing, Inaccurate Headstones at Military Cemeteries: The Pentagon needs to establish an overall set of rules for 36 cemeteries run by the military service branches to avoid mistakes in record-keeping that can result in missing headstones and wrong dates of birth and death, according to a report from the Defense Department's Inspector General. At the F.E. Warren Air Force Base cemetery in Wyoming, two grave markers were missing. And two more were missing at the United States Naval Academy cemetery in Annapolis, Maryland, the report said. In all, 108 "discrepancies" from among 4,141 gravesites inspected were found, with issues noted at 14 of the 16 military cemeteries visited by IG inspectors. The discrepancies underlined the main finding of the 53-page report: "regulations and guidelines governing cemetery administration, operations, maintenance, and inspections were inconsistent across the services." The problem, inspectors determined, was the lack of an overall "DoD-wide policy governing the operation and management of Military Cemeteries." The service branches manage a total of 36 military cemeteries, the report said. The Army manages 26 military cemeteries as well as the two national cemeteries at Arlington National Cemetery and the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, which were addressed in a separate IG report. The Navy and Air Force are responsible for five cemeteries each, the report said. For the report, IG officials said visits were made to 11 military cemeteries run by the Army, two by the Navy and three by the Air Force. The report found that officials responsible for the cemeteries "in some instances did not ensure proper placement of gravesite markers or verify that information on the markers corresponded to burial records, update their cemetery system of record after each burial, or verify that gravesite locations were correct in their system of record." The report also cautioned that "a lack of complete gravesite accountability could prevent family members, or other interested persons, from finding specific gravesites."



VA Independent Living Program: The Independent Living program is to make sure that each eligible veteran is able, to the maximum extent possible, to live independently and participate in family and community life increasing their potential to return to work. Services may include the following:

Assistive technology

Specialized medical, health, and / or rehabilitation services

Services to address any personal and / or family adjustment issues

Independent living skills training

Eligibility Requirements; Primarily for veteran's whose service-connected disabilities are so severe they are currently unable to pursue an employment goal. How Is The Determination Made? When a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) determines that employment goals are not currently feasible. An evaluation of the veteran's independent living needs will be conducted. The VRC and veteran will work together to identify the veteran's needs. Together they will determine services required to address the identified needs. An individualized Independent Living Program will be written providing the services necessary to meet the veteran's identified needs. Referral to specialized rehabilitation facilities and/or for consultation with other rehabilitation professionals may be necessary in the development and implementation of a veteran's ILP. For more details about eligibility or how to get started see a certified Veterans Service Officer (VSO) in your area.

Old age is having a choice of two temptations and choosing the one that will get you home earlier.