

Military Veterans of DML

We have a lot of veterans at the club. So, I'm providing you with some information on the Veterans Association (VA). If you have experienced problems in dealing with the VA don't feel like the Lone Ranger. Most vets that I have talked to have had some type of complication or problem getting help from the VA. An early response time on a claim is at least 1 year. In my case there has never been a problem with the medical staff but with administration and claim filing. There have been some new positive changes driven by our president, Donald Trump.

Some of my historical claim issue was resolved by US Rep Tim Murphy several years ago. Camera Bartolotta brought him to the club when she first threw her hat into the ring for the State Senate race in District 46. I asked Rep Murphy after our meeting if he could help resolve my claim problems. He did help significantly, via his staff, Caitlin O'Connor. She was thorough and professional! The major claim was resolved but there were three other outstanding issues that never got resolved. The VA indicated they were working on resolving the other claims. Caitlin no longer works for Rep Murphy. Contacts via his office last year were fruitless and his staff gave me the run around.

I decided to wait until after the election. It was a good move as our new president fulfilled a significant campaign pledge on resolving VA claim problems. His leadership has pushed through a bill he signed in June. It is called the "Accountability and Whistle Blower Protection Act". The bill was passed by Congress with wide margins. See the attached article on the bill.

Personally, I feel the bill is right on target. The problems have always been with the VA administration and claim process. Just recently in a VFW magazine I saw a "Veteran Complaint Line" set up by the

president. The number is 1-855-948-2311. I have not seen any info in our local media on the subject. The negative political bias is so bad in the media. The media just doesn't get it.

If you feel you need an Advocate to help you I would recommend the American Legion. I'm not a member but I am a 48+ year member of the VFW. The word among experienced vets is that the American Legion are the best advocates. The VFW needs to do a better job as advocates. My opinion!

So, when you get the chance tell your neighbors, friend and family to thank the president and GOP for helping us vets.

Ted Hildabrand, VP