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The Citizens Of Massachusetts Must Be Very Proud Of Their Anti-Veteran Senator!



The above picture taken in Iraq was in direct response to the UN-honorable senator from Mass who clearly thinks that only stupid people end up fighting for democracy and freedom in the United States Military! Shame On You Massachusetts!

Long-Term Care for Veterans

Submitted by Bob Childs

More senior Veterans are discovering a little-known benefit that helps pay for long-term care.

Called the "aid-and-attendance" pension benefit, it currently pays up to \$1,470 a month to a qualifying Veteran, \$945 a month to a surviving spouse, or \$1,743 a month to a couple to defray the expense of long-term care.

WHO CAN APPLY?

To qualify, Veterans must:

- Have served in wartime, they didn't have to see combat.

- Have no more than \$80,000 in assets, not counting the family home, car and personal possessions.

- Prove financial need, usually by demonstrating expenses exceed their income.

- Show they need someone to help with basic activities of living, such as bathing, grooming or eating.

Monthly benefit pays up to: - \$1,470 to a Veteran. - \$945 to a surviving spouse. & \$1,743 to a couple.

First, they don't have to exhaust their assets, as they must do before getting help from Medicaid with nursing home costs. A Veteran may have up to \$80,000, and a home, car and personal possessions are NOT counted.

Next, Veterans may be able to transfer assets, typically to their children, to reduce their net worth and qualify for the pension benefit. Anyone applying for Medicaid faces strict limits on asset transfers.

Finally, applicants usually can prove a financial need by showing their expenses exceed their income. That's a modest standard for people facing tens of thousands of dollars in long-term care costs annually.

Applications generally take four to six months for the Department of Veterans Affairs to process, assuming a senior has submitted all the required forms and answered all the questions. When people hear about Veterans benefits, they usually think of Veterans' hospitals treating service related injuries. Many don't realize the benefits extend far beyond that.

A particularly useful web site in learning about this benefit is: <http://www.Veteranaid.org/index.php>.

The site includes the forms and step-by-step instructions for application.

Clearwater Veterans Appreciation Day 2006

Photos by Tom LaPointe, VPN Staff



To see more of LaPointe's photo's of this event go to www.VeteransPostNews.com/CVAD01.htm



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Army Works To Halt Loss Of Officers

So many mid-level officers are leaving the Army under the strain of fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan that the Pentagon is worried it might not have enough generals 10 to 15 years from now.

Using aggressive incentives, the Army has slowed its loss of junior officers. Over the past year, 7.9 percent left. That's down from 8.5 percent in 2005 and below the 10-year average of 8.4 percent, said Col. Mark Patterson, Army deputy chief of staff for personnel.

The Army, though, is expanding. It's on track to add 30,000 troops over the next several years. The officer attrition rate will have to fall to 5 percent, said Patterson, for the Army to meet the growing demand for officers those increases will require.

"The question is are you keeping the future General Grants, the future General MacArthurs, the future General Eisenhowers, or are these people leaving? I don't know the answer to that," said Andrew Krepinevich, a West Point graduate who retired from the Army in 1993 after 21 years as an officer and now heads the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, a Washington defense policy research institute. "I suspect the Pentagon doesn't know, either."

The current number of lieutenants and captains -- what the Army calls company grade officers -- stands at 40,300. That needs to increase by 3,000 officers in the coming years to meet the goal of expanding the Army.

Traditionally, the Army has provided graduate school funding for about 400 mid-career officers each year. They will to add more as an incentive.

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