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Soldiers Re-enlist at Camp Liberty In Iraq



Soldiers with the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Division salute during a re-enlistment ceremony at Camp Liberty, Iraq, July 17, 2007. Defense Dept. photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. D. Myles Cullen

And Now, 21 Years Later, We Win?

Back in 1986 a suit was filed by Veterans against the VA for benefits to Veterans who suffered from chronic lymphocytic leukemia because of exposure to Agent Orange.

On July 19th, the US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, in a 3-0 decision, blasted the VA for its resistance to giving benefits.

In 1983, the VA had denied 7,709 of 9,000 claims filed on behalf of Vietnam Veterans. Thousands more claims were filed as the symptoms of Agent Orange sometimes did not appear for 15 to 20 years after exposure.

While this is a victory in the court system, and a victory for the men and their families who have suffered for more than two decades, it will have to be a wait and see period to find out if the VA will actually adjust the disability percentages and retro pay our Veterans, some for almost 30 years!

Veterans Post News Meet Supermen



Look, up in the sky, its a bird, no a plane, no its Superman, no its Supermen! Landing at the Tampa Convention Center on July 7th, these men of steel and thousands of other costumed crusaders convened for a convention of Anime enthusiasts.

More than 10,000 came by to meet their favorite anime characters, discuss strategies of design, dance, play music, sing, act, play video games, sword fight, paint, sew and so much more.

There were movies, shows, Rave Nights, flashing lights and more costumes. There was no alcohol, no drugs, no disorderly conduct and no arrests.

Senate Grabs VA Reform Lead

If there are silver linings behind the grinding sacrifice and heartbreak that the invasion of Iraq has brought to the U.S. military, one of them is likely to be comprehensive reform to the way disabled military members and their families are helped by the government before and after leaving service.

The Senate armed services and Veterans' affairs committees this month sprinted ahead of House colleagues, and ahead, too, of various commissions and task forces, in the race to do whatever seems right and affordable for America's Veterans, particularly wounded warriors.

The Veterans affairs committee, chaired by Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii), has approved legislation that would re-open the Department of Veterans Affairs health system to 1.7 million veterans in Priority Group 8, those who have adequate incomes and no service-connected ailments.

VA Secretary Resigns

At this point everyone not living in a cave knows that Nicholson has resigned and the politicians are split on whether he was a sinner or saint.



But since Nicholson was the former ambassador to the Vatican before being appointed to the VA secretary position, one wonders from which part of government they might choose the next secretary?

Worse case scenario would be a former IRS director, not fonda jane or John Kerry!

A Good Pitch For The Air Force



Col. Robert Thomas, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, meets with Bob Feller, World War II veteran and Major League Baseball Hall of Famer, before the Tampa Bay Devil Rays versus the New York Yankees baseball game at Tropicana Field in Saint Petersburg, FL, July 16. They each threw a ceremonial first pitch for Military Appreciation Day. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Rylan Albright)

General Wayne A. Downing 1940 - 2007



"U.S. Special Operations Forces join the nation and the family of Gen. Wayne Downing in mourning the loss of this great leader and soldier," said Adm. Eric T. Olson, the USSOCOM commander, about Downing's death. "His legacy in Special Operations is powerful and he holds a prominent place in our history."

Downing served in the Army for 34 years and served the nation in a number of different capacities after he retired from the military in 1996.

Downing was the former commander of Special Operations Command and Deputy National Security Advisor for Combating Terrorism, died early July 18 in his hometown of Peoria, Ill., at the age of 67.

He was promoted to four-star general in May 1993 and assumed command of USSOCOM, the joint headquarters for all U.S. Special Operations Forces, at MacDill AFB, FL. Gen. Downing was USSOCOM's third commander.

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