



Warren County Veterans Service Officer's Report for December 2010
1340 State Route 9 Lake George, NY 12845 ☼ Phone: 518-761-6342 Fax: 518-761-7683
Denise A. Di Resta at direstad@co.warren.ny.us

VA Launching New Personalized Veterans Health Benefits Handbook

WASHINGTON (Nov. 18, 2010) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is piloting new, personalized Veterans Health Benefits Handbooks. The handbooks are tailored to provide enrolled Veterans with the most relevant health benefits information based on their own specific eligibility. In essence, each handbook will be written for the individual Veteran.

"These handbooks will give Veterans everything they need to know and leave out everything that doesn't apply to them," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "Our Veterans will now have a comprehensive, easy to understand roadmap to the medical benefits they earned with their service."

In addition to highlighting each Veteran's specific health benefits, the handbook also provides contact information for the Veteran's preferred local facility, ways to schedule personal appointments, guidelines for communicating treatment needs and an explanation of the Veteran's responsibilities, such as copayments when applicable.

"Enhancing access isn't just about expanding the kinds of services VA provides. It also includes making sure we do everything we can to ensure Veterans have a clear understanding of the benefits available to them so they can make full use of the services they have earned," Shinseki said.

The new handbooks will initially be available only to certain Veterans in Cleveland and Washington, D.C., areas. Following the pilot phase, full implementation is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2011 for across the county.

For additional information, go to www.va.gov/healtheligibility or call VA's toll-free number at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

Retroactive Stop-Loss Pay Going Unclaimed:

The White House along with DOD and VA are trying to reach tens of thousands of former servicemen and women who were **Stop-Lossed between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009**. The government owes them **\$500** for every month they were involuntarily extended beyond their normal separation date. The only requirement is the veterans must apply for the money ***before Dec. 3, 2010***. Thousands have already applied and received an average payout of nearly \$4,000. For more information or to apply for the Stop-Loss reimbursement, go to www.defense.gov/stoploss.



Have a Healthy & Happy Holiday Season