



The Swamp Fox

VFW Post 4667 Newsletter

December 2004

Commander	James Haulsee
Sr. Vice Commander	Porter Heath
Jr. Vice Commander	William Falke
Quartermaster	William Sword
Adjutant	Cecil Carter
Chaplain	Bill Baldwin
Judge Advocate	John Thompson
Surgeon	Edward Kuhn
Trustees	Cecil Carter
	Roger Haulsee
	Roy R. McNeil



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Lifetime Membership Fees

<u>Attained Age</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Through 30	\$245.00
31-40	\$235.00
41-50	\$215.00
51-60	\$195.00
61-70	\$165.00
71-80	\$125.00
81 and over	\$85.00

See Bill Sword for details

COMMANDERS CORNER

My Fellow Comrades,

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, may each of us pause and thank God for the freedom we have and pray for those who have fought for that freedom. Please keep our troops in your prayers and ask God for their safe return. Often, it seems as if younger generations have forgotten the sacrifices that thousands of Americans have made to keep this great nation and all its' citizens free. As we work in our community, let us share our experiences so that our service and sacrifices will not be forgotten. May we be ever thankful for all the blessings that have been bestowed upon us.

As we come to the Christmas season, I hope each of us finds the joy and peace in Christ that the shepherds and wise men discovered so long ago. May the New Year bring peace and joy to our lives. May God bless each of you and your families and this great nation.

I thank all of you for the many hours of work and sacrifice you have contributed to the work of the VFW. With you continued support, our posts and all its' community programs will continue to be successful. - James D. Haulsee, Commander

TAPS

It is sad to report that the below comrades have departed our ranks and gone before us to join that last great encampment of our Supreme Commander. We extend our heartfelt condolences to their loved ones.

06-09-04 C	Harrington, R.(Bob) H. Jr.	307 West Main St.	Marion
06-15-04	West, William C.	1148 Zion Hill Rd.	Marion
06-20-04 L	Karriker, Ray Lee	1212 South Fork Rd.	Marion
07-06-04 L	Burkett, Oscar J.	290 Burgundy Lane	Rural Retreat
07-10-04	Snow, James Kyle	352 Page Town Rd.	Saltville
07-31-04	Ratcliffe, George W.	430 Pearl Ave.	Marion
08-07-04	Harris, Junior C.	149 Copenhaver St.	Marion
08-15-04	Dillman, S. Clifton	418 Snider Branch Rd.	Marion
09-03-04 L	Lowe, Harrington Jr.	1998 Saintclair Creek Rd.	Chilhowie
09-05-04 L	Mays, Sidney F.	PO Box 537	Chilhowie
09-26-04	Olinger, James A.	PO Box 212	Chilhowie
10-10-04 L	Tilson, Garland S.	1286 Stoney Battery Rd.	Marion
10-17-04	Coalson, William L.	15607 Monticello Dr.	Bristol
10-31-04 L	Blevins, Willard W.	1973 Highway 16	Marion
11-12-04 L	Miller, Franklin B.	1489 E. Lee Hwy	Chilhowie

HOW TO SIGN UP NEW MEMBERS

First, find out if the veteran is eligible. If you have a question on eligibility, call the Post Home at 783-7971.

Second, explain benefits of belonging to VFW such as:

- ✓ 12 free meals,

- ✓ 12 copies of VFW magazine,
- ✓ free accident insurance,
- ✓ helping with Post projects, veterans fellowship,
- ✓ and our Post Service Officer who will work with you on veteran's benefits.

Third, you get all the above for only \$15 a year. Where else could you find a bargain like this? Effective January 1, 2005 annual dues will be \$20.00.

Only a veteran has earned the right to belong to the VFW. We are proud of our motto: "*We honor the dead by helping the living.*" If you know of a veteran that is not a member, please make an effort to sign them up. You can pick-up a membership application at our next meeting.

DONATIONS

Since July 1st the following donations have been made to our communities:

Marion Civitan Club	Fish a-Roma	\$500.00
Marion Senior High School	FBLA Yearbook and V/M Program	\$1,500.00
Settlers Museum		\$1,000.00
Smyth Career and Technology Ctr.	National Leadership Conference	\$300.00
Smyth County Social Services	Summer Camp	\$400.00
Mountain C.A.P.	School Program	\$300.00
Smyth County Association Retarded	Citizens Summer Program	\$400.00
Marion Senior High School	Quarterback Club	\$500.00
Chamber of Commerce	Christmas Program	\$500.00
Marion Senior High School	Band Boosters Club	\$300.00
Percy N. Bolton	Veterans Day Carnival	\$300.00
Marion Downtown Redevelopment	Christmas Float	\$500.00
U. S. Army Reserve Center	Going Away Dinner for Troops	\$600.00
Main Street Mission	End of School Party	\$100.00
American Diabetes Association	In Memory of Roy Karriker	\$30.00
Wellmont Hospice	In Memory of J. Snow	\$30.00
American Heart Association	In Memory of J. Harris	\$30.00
Disabled Veterans		\$200.00
McClure Cemetery Fund	In Memory of H. Lowe	\$30.00
Marion Lifesaving Crew	In Memory of Mrs. McNeil	\$30.00
Marion Lions Club		\$200.00
Area Children	Halloween Candy	\$75.15
Marion Little League	Billboard	\$100.00
Branson Kenan	Radford University	\$1,000.00
Jenna Johnson	VA Highland Comm. College	\$1,000.00
Candance Mercer	VA Highland Comm. College	\$1,000.00
Sara Stump	VA Highland Comm. College	\$1,000.00
Christina Williams	University NC Wilmington	\$1,000.00
Emily Kirby	Virginia Tech	\$1,000.00
	Total:	\$14,475.60

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Harry C. Anderson	James R. Bishop	Robert M. Cantor
Jennifer L Clark	Randall W. Cline	John F. Copenhaver
Billy Cornett	Jim S. Crewey	Robert L Fenner
Graham E. Heninger	Stacie L. Kinser	Raymond C. La Ber
Marc G. McClellan	Barry M. Ratihn	Henry B. Robinson Jr.
Robert A. Ross	Cecil M. Shreeves	John R. Shupe
Roy D. Sullivan	Robert S. Tilson	Ronald D. Vernon

DISTRICT MEETING

The Ninth District meeting will be held at Francis Marion Post 4667 on January 23, 2005. Registration is from 10:30 AM to 12:00 Noon. The meeting will start at noon.

BINGO WORKERS NEEDED

- 1). Money donated to our communities comes from Bingo.
- 2). Bingo players make Bingo possible.
- 3). VFW volunteers run Bingo night.
- 4). **No new VFW volunteers to help with Bingo, then number 1) could be significantly impacted!**

Volunteers are needed to help with Bingo night PERIOD!!! Please take a close look at your schedule and see if you can't spare one Saturday night once a month. We are losing Bingo workers and desperately need more volunteers. See John Thompson or Quartermaster Bill Sword to volunteer.

POST CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 12th at 2:00 PM. All community members are welcome to attend. Come on out and join in - bring the children and grandchildren for a fun afternoon. Each child attending will receive a present.

BURIAL AND PLOT-INTERMENT ALLOWANCES

What Is A VA Burial Allowance ?

A VA burial allowance is a partial reimbursement of an eligible veteran's burial and funeral costs. When the cause of death is not service-related, the reimbursement is generally described as two payments: (1) a burial and funeral expense allowance, and (2) a plot interment allowance.

You may be eligible for a VA burial allowance if:

- ✧ you paid for a veteran's burial or funeral **AND**
- ✧ you have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased veteran's employer **AND**

- ✧ the veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- ✧ the veteran died because of a service-related disability **OR**
- ✧ the veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death **OR**
- ✧ the veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay **OR**
- ✧ the veteran died in a VA hospital or while in a nursing home under VA contract, or while in an approved state nursing home.

Service-Related Death. VA will pay up to \$1,500 toward burial expenses for deaths prior to September 10, 2001. For deaths on or after September 11, 2001, VA will pay \$2,000. If the veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of moving the deceased may be reimbursed.

Nonservice-Related Death. VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses, and a \$150 plot interment allowance for deaths prior to December 1, 2001. The plot-interment allowance is \$300 for deaths on or after December 1, 2001. If the death happened while the veteran was in a VA hospital or under contracted nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting the deceased's remains may be reimbursed.

How Can You Apply ?

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Allowance. You should attach proof of the veteran's military service (DD 214), a death certificate, and copies of funeral and burial bills you have paid. For More Information Call Toll-Free 1-800-827-1000 or visit <http://www.cem.va.gov>

COLD WAR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

In accordance with section 1084 of the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of Defense approved awarding Cold War Recognition Certificates to all members of the armed forces and qualified federal government civilian personnel who faithfully and honorably served the United States anytime during the Cold War era, which is defined as Sept. 2, 1945 to Dec. 26, 1991.

The United States Army serves as the executive agency for the Cold War Recognition Program. Cold War Recognition Certificates are available to qualified individuals at no cost.

Who is eligible? All members of the armed forces and federal government civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945 to Dec. 26, 1991. Individuals requesting a certificate will certify that their character of service was honorable. Acceptable supporting documentation for proof of service is any official government or military document with recipient's name, Social Security Number or Military Service Number or Foreign Service Number, and date of service.

Certificate Application. To apply for a certificate you must have been a U.S. government employee during the period of the Cold War.

Mail or fax the application to the Cold War Office along with your supporting document to:

CDR, AHRC
Cold War Recognition, Hoffman II
Attn: AHRC-CWRS, 3N45
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332-0473

Or

Fax to 1-800-723-9262

An acceptable supporting document includes any official government or military document that contains the recipient's name, Social Security Number or Military Service Number or Foreign Service Number, and a date showing at least one day of service during the Cold War era (September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991).

Frequently Asked Questions

Is this for real? Yes. In the 1998 Nation Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of Defense approved awarding Cold War Recognition Certificates to all members of the armed forces and qualified federal government civilian personnel who faithfully and honorably served the United States any time during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945, through Dec. 26, 1991.

Applicants must certify that their service was "faithful and honorable", and they must supply a copy of a supporting document, which proves that they served during the Cold War era. The certificate may be awarded posthumously to those whose relatives apply on their behalf.

There is no charge for a Cold War Recognition Certificate. Note that no medal has been authorized or issued for Cold War Recognition.

The program is scheduled to run for 10 years, so there is plenty of time to send in your request and supporting document.

Who is eligible for a certificate? Anyone who worked for the U.S. Government at any time during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945 through Dec. 26, 1991, is eligible, provided their service to the country was faithful and honorable.

National Guard and Reservists are eligible.

Contractors and volunteers are **not** eligible.

Those who are currently active duty military or civilian employees of the U.S. government are also eligible if they had at least one day of service during the Cold War era.

How do I request a certificate? Fill out the application at:
<https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/tagd/coldwar/default.htm>

Mail or fax to the Cold War Office with your proof of service. An acceptable supporting document includes any official government or military document that contains the recipient's name, Social Security Number or Military Service Number or Foreign Service Number, and a date showing at least one day of service during the Cold War era (September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991).

If you do not have internet access you may submit a signed and dated letter containing the same information as the application (full name, address, identification including type (SSN, MSN, or FSN), applicant name if different from recipient, and email address (if available)). You must include the phrase "I confirm my faithful and honorable service to the nation during the Cold War Era."

How do I print the application? The application form permits on-screen entry of your request information but must be printed.

What kind of supporting document is acceptable? Any document which shows that the intended recipient was a U.S. government employee during the Cold War era will be accepted as proof. The document must contain the name of the recipient, the Social Security Number or Military Service Number or Foreign Service Number which was included in the request for the certificate, and a date showing at least one day of service within the range of Sept. 2, 1945 and Dec. 26, 1991.

Examples of acceptable documents include a Leave and Earnings statement, DD214 or other Discharge Paper, or SF50 (Civilian Personnel Action Form.)

Please send a copy of your supporting document, DO NOT SEND the original document. Original documents cannot be returned.

What is a Military Service Number or a Foreign Service Number? Military Service Numbers (MSN) were issued to members of the armed forces before Social Security Numbers (SSN) were used to identify personnel. The changeover to Social Security Numbers occurred in the late 1960's, so many retirees who are eligible for the certificate may have only a Military Service number on their supporting document.

The Foreign Service Number (FSN) is used to maintain records for foreign nationals employed by the US government and who do not have Social Security Numbers.

The certificates will be mailed to the address provided.

DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC)

What is DIC? DIC is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of a:

- Military service member who died while on active duty, OR
- Veteran whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease, OR
- Veteran whose death resulted from a non service-related injury or disease, and who was receiving, or was entitled to receive, VA Compensation for service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling

- * for at least 10 years immediately before death, OR
- * since the veteran's release from active duty and for at least five years immediately preceding death, OR
- * for at least one year before death if the veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999.

Who are eligible survivors for DIC? The unremarried surviving *spouse* if he or she:

- validly married the veteran before January 1, 1957, OR
- was married to a service member who died on active duty, OR
- married the veteran within 15 years of discharge from the period of military service in which the disease or injury that caused the veteran's death began or was aggravated, OR
- was married to the veteran for at least one year, OR
- had a child with the veteran, AND
- cohabited with the veteran continuously until the veteran's death or, if separated, was not at fault for the separation, AND
- is not currently remarried.

The surviving *child(ren)* if he or she is:

- unmarried AND
- under age 18, or between the ages of 18 and 23 and attending school.

(Note: Certain helpless adult children are entitled to DIC. Call the toll-free number below for the eligibility requirements for those survivors.)

The surviving *parents* may be eligible for an income-based benefit. See our fact sheet, Parents' DIC, or call the toll-free number below for more information.

Can DIC be restored for a surviving spouse who remarried? Yes. DIC can be restored if the remarriage ended in death, divorce or annulment.

Also, a surviving spouse who remarries *on or after* attaining age 57, and *on or after* December 16, 2003, can continue to receive DIC.

However, a surviving spouse who remarried *before* December 16, 2003, and *on or after* attaining age 57, must apply no later than December 15, 2004, to have DIC restored. VA must deny applications received after that date.

How much does VA pay?

The basic monthly rate of DIC is \$967 for eligible surviving spouses. In some cases, VA can pay more; for example, because of dependent children. Call the toll-free number below for information about rates paid to eligible children. [NOTE: When the surviving spouse is eligible for payments under the military's Survivor Benefit Program (SBP), only the amount of SBP greater than DIC is payable. If DIC is greater than SBP, only DIC is payable.]

What is the application process?

First-time applicants should complete VA Form 21-534 (*Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child*) and submit it the VA regional office serving the applicant's area. The process is simpler on requests for restored DIC. Call the toll-free number below for information about supporting materials that VA may need, special instructions on requests for restoration of DIC, location of VA regional offices, and information on other VA benefits and services. For More Information, Call Toll-Free 1-800-827-1000

DEATH PENSION BENEFITS

What Is Death Pension ?

Death Pension is a benefit paid to eligible dependents of deceased wartime veterans.

Who Is Eligible ?

You may be eligible if:

- the deceased veteran was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, **AND**
- he or she served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a period of war time. However, 38 CFR 3.12a requires that anyone who enlists after 9/7/80 generally has to serve at least 24 months or the full period for which a person was called or ordered to active duty in order to receive any benefits based on that period of service. With the advent of the Gulf War on 8/2/90 (and still not ended by Congress to this day), veterans can now serve after 9/7/80 during a period of wartime. When they do, they generally now must serve 24 months to be eligible for pension or any other benefits. But note the exclusions in 38 CFR 3.12(d), **AND**
- you are the surviving spouse or unmarried child of the deceased veteran, **AND**
- your countable income is below a yearly limit set by law

INCOME LIMITS (EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2003)

<i>If you are a...</i>	<i>Your yearly income must be less than...</i>
Surviving spouse with no dependent children	\$ 6,634
Surviving spouse with one dependent child	\$ 8,686
(Add \$1,688 to the limit for EACH additional child)	
Housebound surviving spouse with no dependents	\$ 8,109
Housebound surviving spouse with one dependent	\$10,157

Surviving spouse who needs aid and attendance with no dependents	\$10,606
Surviving spouse who needs aid and attendance with one dependent	\$12,654
Surviving child (no eligible parent)	\$1,688

Note: Some income is not counted toward the yearly limit (for example, welfare benefits, some wages earned by dependent children, and Supplemental Security Income)

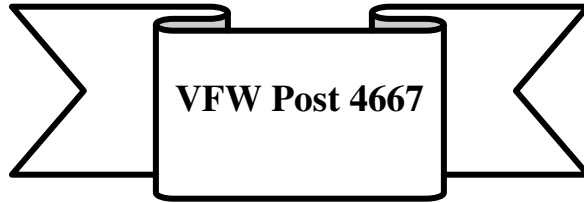
How Much Does VA Pay ?

VA pays you the difference between your countable income and the yearly income limit which describes your situation (see chart above). This difference is generally paid in 12 equal monthly payments rounded down to the nearest dollar. Call the toll-free number below for details.

How Can You Apply ?

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-534, Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Or Death Pension by Surviving Spouse or Child. If available, attach copies of dependency records (marriage & children's birth certificates).

For More Information Call Toll-Free 1-800-827-1000



VFW Post 4667 meets the first Thursday of each month at our Post Home on Goolsby Street. Our fellowship and meal begins at 6:15 PM with the business meeting starting at 7:00 PM. All members are encouraged to attend meetings to learn about the VFW, keep informed on local veteran's affairs, learn how we can help our community, and enjoy fellowship.

The Swamp Fox is published in March, July, and December. We welcome letters or recommended articles to be included. Letters and/or articles must be signed and include the writer's address and telephone number for verification purposes. Due to space limitations, letters should be brief and pertain to VFW activities, military news, or items of interest to veterans. Address letters to: FRANCIS MARION POST 4667, Attn: Swamp Fox Editor, P.O. Box 767, Marion, VA 24354.

The Swamp Fox is available at www.vfw4667.org. Comrade John Harmon voluntarily maintains the Post web site. All comments or recommendation pertaining to the site should be addressed to john.harmon@jharmon.com

***For an organization to be a
success, it takes a team effort***

***Be part of the team and
participate...***

FRANCIS MARION POST 4667

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Inc.

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DECEMBER 2004