



# 2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Chapter, Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA)

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Volume 8

“A Soldier Once And Always”

February 2018

**Commanders Corner:** Most of the Holidays are behind us and I hope that you had a great New Year, and realize a good 2018 start up. One of the things that continues to irk me is misguided talk about the Vietnam War. Although I haven't seen much of it, this past years Ken Burns' special on the Vietnam War appears enlightening. As a history major and student of war, I've spent some time studying the war. One of my late favorites was a book written by Colonel Bui Tin who was a North Vietnam Army officer and on General Giap's staff. Some of his comments are listed below:

"There is an alarming deterioration of traditional ethical, moral and spiritual values (and) confusion among the youth on whom the country's future depends."

"The roots of the Vietnam War — its all-encompassing and underlying nature — lie in a confrontation between two ideological worlds: socialism versus capitalism for some, totalitarianism versus democracy for others. It was a conflict born of the Cold War..."

"[The American anti-war movement] was essential to our strategy. Support for the war from our rear was completely secure while the American rear was vulnerable. Every day our leadership would listen to world news over the radio at 9 a.m. to follow the growth of the American antiwar movement. Visits to Hanoi by people like Jane Fonda and former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and ministers gave us confidence that we should hold on in the face of battlefield reverses. We were elated when Jane Fonda, wearing a red Vietnamese dress, said at a press conference that she was ashamed of American actions in the war and that she would struggle along with us."

"The conscience of America was part of its war-making capability, and we were turning that power in our favor. America lost because of its democracy; through dissent and protest it lost the ability to mobilize a will to win."

"We had the impression that American commanders had their hands tied by political factors. [US] generals could never deploy a maximum force for greatest military effect."

These are telling statements to the foolishness of our Congress in the late 1960s and early 1970s; and in how effective North Vietnamese propaganda was in shifting the beliefs of many American citizens about the war.

Remember our collective extended family, those Americans serving in our Armed Forces all over the world. Got a comment, idea or complaint, contact me at [Commander.2.1.jgw@gmail.com](mailto:Commander.2.1.jgw@gmail.com). Again, I hope all of you have a great 2018.

John

*Keep safe and may the bond of battle never be broken!*



**NFL Censored Veterans' Organization's Anti-protest Ad from Super Bowl Program:** Controversy about NFL players' protests during the national anthem has gone on this whole season, but it's now reached an unusual place; the official printed Super Bowl program. As per Leo Shane III of The Army Times, the AMVETS veterans' organization is decrying "corporate censorship" from the NFL for refusing to run an anti-kneeling ad they submitted for the Super Bowl program: *The ad, which would have cost the veterans organization \$30,000, features the tag "#PleaseStand" with a picture of service members saluting*



*the American flag and information on how to donate to the congressionally-chartered organization. Group leaders said NFL officials refused to include the ad in their Super Bowl publication, but did not issue a reason why. In a statement, AMVETS National Commander Marion Polk said the issue is one of fairness and respect. The NFL spokesman noted that*

*the program will include a similar ad from the Veterans of Foreign Wars that states simply "We Stand for Veterans." McCarthy said AMVETS was asked to consider changing their ad to read "Please Stand for Our Veterans" but did not reply in time for production deadlines. AMVETS national commander Marion Polk told Shane "We respect the rights of those who choose to protest, as these rights are precisely what veterans have fought and died to protect. AMVETS national commander Marion Polk told Shane "We respect the rights of those who choose to protest, as these rights are precisely what our members have fought — and in many cases died — for. But imposing corporate censorship to deny that same right to those veterans who have secured it for us all is reprehensible and totally beyond the pale."*

**Troops Will Get Paid this Week Despite Shutdown:** The good news for troops and furloughed government employees concerned about the ongoing government shutdown is that it won't stop their paychecks this week. After Friday, however, it's a different story. On Monday, tens of thousands of defense civilian employees reported to work only to be sent back home because of the ongoing government shutdown. Servicemembers are required to stay on duty, even though they won't be paid for work done during the shutdown.

**The Army's Ryan McCarthy Pulls the Plug on Bad Acquisitions:** There's something different about the Army these days. In a word, it is humility. The service does not have a flagship new weapon in the works, only minor modifications to existing systems. Its recent efforts to develop costly hardware have flopped. Its acquisition budget, relative to the Air Force and Navy, is expected to decline in the next decade. U.S. soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan now number in the thousands, not the scores of thousands. To be sure, with just over 1 million soldiers in the active and reservist Army, nearly a quarter of whom are deployed at any given time in some 140 locations worldwide, the Army cannot be called inactive. However, particularly when it comes to its organizations for procuring weapons, the Army is now looking mostly inward. The service is focused on making sure it undoes the bad habits that made earlier programs cost too much and take too long. Mark Esper, the recently confirmed Army secretary, and Gen. Mark Milley, the chief of staff, are ultimately responsible for how this process unfolds. But the top civilian leading the reappraisal and reorganization on a daily basis is a former Army Ranger named Ryan McCarthy, the service's undersecretary since August, who served as acting secretary for most of that time.

**A-10s Join Effort to Target Taliban Drug Factories in Afghanistan:** A squadron of A-10C “Warthog” Thunderbolt IIs deployed to this sprawling airfield in southern Afghanistan last week and has already started flying missions as part of a U.S. and Afghan air campaign targeting Taliban drug facilities. The \$19 million aircraft, beloved by ground troops and so far spared from Air Force efforts to ground them for budgetary reasons, will also support counterterrorism efforts. The deployment comes as U.S. Central Command realigns its aircraft, crews and other assets in the region, as the anti-ISIS campaign in Iraq and Syria winds down and as demand for precision strikes and close air support ramps up in Afghanistan under President Donald Trump's South Asia strategy. In addition to the A-10s, the U.S. has deployed MQ-9 Reaper drones to provide armed overwatch and surveillance, as well as HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters for personnel recovery and search and rescue. The A-10s are from the 303d Fighter Squadron and were sent to Afghanistan after their success in clearing out ISIS in both Iraq and Syria, Maj. Gen. James Hecker said. They arrived on Jan. 19 and flew their first missions within 24 hours, he said. The warplanes, which are armed with a 30mm cannon and can carry a payload of 16,000 pounds of munitions, dropped thousands of precision-guided bombs there.



**A Navy Seals Point of View:** I know the president was beaten up even on comments he made about Haiti, and I can speak firsthand about Haiti, because as a young Navy SEAL officer in 1994, Bill Clinton decides to invade Haiti. I was there. My SEAL team ended up sending two platoons, and we actually planned for 100 percent casualties, not from enemy fire, but because of the water quality. We had to swim ashore, and the water was so bad because there were two and a half million people with untreated sewage flowing right into the water that we were going in. We had to get so many shots, so many vaccinations, that none of us could donate blood for six years afterwards. So if the president says some places are shitholes, he's accurate. Literally.

**Philippine Scout, Army Veteran Shares Story of His Escape From the Bataan Death March:** Amado Ante enlisted with the Philippine Scouts in February 1941 at the age of 22. Just five months later, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a military order calling all organized military forces in the Commonwealth of the Philippines into active service of the United States Armed Forces. Just hours after the Pearl Harbor attacks, Japanese forces invaded the Philippines. Ante would deploy to Bataan in support of the fight against Japan. After months of fighting, Ante's unit had to retreat to the Bataan Peninsula. Ante's regiment was surrounded with nowhere to escape. To save lives, the commanding general surrendered the troops. Ante, along with approximately 75,000 Filipino and American Soldiers, was rounded up by the Japanese and forced to march some 65 miles from Mariveles, on the southern end of the Bataan Peninsula, to San Fernando. The men were divided into groups of approximately 100, and what became known as the Bataan Death March typically took each group around five to seven days to complete. The marchers made the trek in intense heat and were subjected to harsh treatment by Japanese guards. Ante had hidden a little sugar under his belt to sustain his survival. On the fifth day of the march, Ante was stricken with malaria. His feet were badly swollen, and he could no longer walk. When the Japanese guards were on relief duty, his fellow soldiers urged him to escape immediately or risk death. Ante's comrades pushed him into a ditch where he crawled into the bushes and laid low until dark. Later that night he was found by local civilians, who provided him with food, shelter and medical care. He stayed with them for three months until he was fully healthy. Ante reenlisted and joined the guerilla movement until General Douglas MacArthur's forces liberated the Philippines in 1945. Ante received various military medals including the Bronze Star. At the age of 99 on Nov. 10, 2017 Ante was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award in the United States. Ante receives care through the San Francisco VA Health Care System's home-based primary care program (HBPC). The program provides comprehensive care for Veterans with complex medical, social and behavioral conditions. Ante and his family have been complimentary of the care and services. “The HBPC program has been beneficial for my father; I'm certain it's added years to his already long life,” said Ante's son Steve. For the staff, it's an honor and privilege to care Ante and other Veterans. “My work is very meaningful to me,” said nurse practitioner Cindy Cosbey. “I am providing personalized primary care, with the goal of supporting our most fragile Veterans in their homes. I am so proud of my multidisciplinary team who work very hard on behalf of our Veterans.”



**Vince McMahon: 'Appropriate' for Players in New XFL to Stand for Anthem:** The new-look XFL will launch in 2020 without a political bent or a desire to pursue social justice issues, founder Vince McMahon announced recently, but its players will respect a “time-honored tradition to stand and appreciate” the national anthem. The head of World Wrestling Entertainment didn't offer specific conduct rules for the anthem during the news conference announcing the league. It was in line with the rest of the conference, with details like team locations, rules and broadcast partners to be determined. But McMahon said it would be “appropriate” for players to stand and that all players will adhere to league rules on the matter. Other league rules will bar players with criminal records from participating, he said.



**Horse Soldiers' go Hollywood: Behind the Scenes with '12 Strong':** More than 16 years and hundreds of deployments into the war in Afghanistan, the story of the first ground troops to strike back after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the U.S. is still a little-known tale. Or, at least, it was to many members of the cast and crew who are bringing it to life in “12 Strong.” Details of the mission first came to light in 2009, when author Doug Stanton published “Horse Soldiers,” so named for the equine transportation a team of 3rd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group operators rode into battle against the Taliban. On Friday, a Jerry Bruckheimer-produced epic based on the book hits theaters, with Chris Hemsworth starring as Capt. Mitch Nelson, commander of Operational Detachment Alpha 595. “In 2010, he introduced me to this script, and I was blown away,” director Nicolai Fuglsig told Army Times in a Jan. 6 interview. “So much so that I immediately went and bought Doug Stanton’s book, which blew me even more away.” If “Mitch Nelson” doesn’t sound familiar, that’s because it’s a pseudonym — the fictional Nelson and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hal Spencer, played by Michael Shannon, are covers for retired Lt. Col. Mark Nutsch and CW4 Bob Pennington, who asked Stanton not to use their real names when writing the book. Other team members’ names also were changed, though 3rd Battalion commander Lt. Col. Max Bowers and 5th Group boss Col. John Mulholland went public. “I never, ever heard about this. I couldn’t believe when I read it, that you had these modern American soldiers riding into battle, alongside these Afghan soldiers, and then on horseback — it was so ‘Lawrence of Arabia,’” Fuglsig said. A dozen Green Berets, as part of Task Force Dagger, dropped into Afghanistan and met up with ethnic Uzbek warlord Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum, who lent them some of the horses he and his men used to get around. The plan was to make their way to a Taliban stronghold in northern Afghanistan, as units in other parts of Afghanistan followed a similar plan to bring the regime to its knees. But ODA 595 knew very little about the al-Qaida network in the country, and not much more about the group of warlords who had been waging a decades-long fight against the Taliban. Marine Corps veteran Rob Riggle plays his former boss in “12 Strong.” (Warner Bros.) There, he served as a civil and public affairs officer with 3rd Battalion’s command group, under a now-retired Bowers. Not coincidentally, Riggle plays his former boss in “12 Strong.” “I had a script, I tried to extrapolate what I knew of the man, what I knew of the situation,” Riggle said. “We had a lot of meals together. I heard a lot of stories.” Set up in an abandoned Turkish high school, he recalled, news of Task Force Dagger’s success trickled in. In total, eight ODAs worked together in northern and southern Afghanistan to secure a Taliban surrender by December.

**Trump Appointee, Former Navy SEAL, Resigns After Deriding Military Veterans with PTSD:** An appointee of President Donald Trump has resigned from the federal agency that runs AmeriCorps after remarks he made disparaging blacks, Muslims, gays, women, veterans with PTSD and undocumented immigrants surfaced in the news media. Carl Higbie lasted less than six months as the chief of external affairs in the Corporation for National and Community Service. Higbie’s resignation, which was prompted after CNN unearthed the comments he reportedly made, comes amid increased scrutiny of the president’s appointees for racist or anti-Muslim statements made in the past. In November, the Department of Homeland Security’s Jamie Johnson, another Trump appointee, resigned after comments he made that linked blacks to “laziness” and “promiscuity” came to light. Last week, Pete Hoekstra, the new U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands after uproar over baseless anti-Muslim theories he had spread multiple times in past.

**The Army is working on big changes to your annual rifle qualification:** The Army’s rifle qualification course could become more realistic and challenging for soldiers across the force if a series of proposed changes is approved by senior Army leaders, Army Times has learned. The proposed changes, which will be tested next month by soldiers in the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, will push shooters to fire farther and faster than they do now. There is no date set yet for a final decision on these changes, but much of the data gathered so far is scheduled to be presented to the Army Munitions Requirements Council of Colonels in March. These proposed changes are all aimed at increasing soldier lethality and presenting a more realistic shooting environment based on what the Army has seen in 16 years of combat, said Brig. Gen. Christopher Donahue, commandant of the U.S. Army Infantry School. Donahue emphasized that the proposed changes are still in a draft phase, and more work will be done before any official changes, if any, are made to the rifle. Command Sgt. Maj. Martin Celestine Jr., the command sergeant major for the infantry school, said the focus of the proposed changes — which began with evaluations at the school a year ago — is to have soldiers “train how they fight” and not make the qualification more challenging just for the sake of it. “We replicate what we see in the operational environment,” Celestine said. “When you receive fire, you return fire, and you take cover,” Celestine said. While the qualification course could change, the marksmanship training that soldiers receive prior to qualification will remain identical, Celestine said. Over the past few years, more soldiers have qualified and more soldiers have reached higher levels of qualification in the current shooting system, in part because of the training, he said. “Everybody has shot better. But look at where we had the bar,” Celestine said. “So, we raised the bar.” The Army established its rifle qualification in 1955 but has since changed from a 7.62 mm rifle to a 5.56 mm weapon. That rifle has also changed, from the M14 to the M16 and variants of that rifle down to the current M4 carried by many soldiers. Soldiers have also added a scope, rather than shoot open sights. The original course had 40 stationary targets and 16 moving targets. Moving targets are only used in advanced marksmanship training now. The original course had shooters fire half their shots from a foxhole and half from the prone position.

**Thinking of Filing a VA Disability Compensation Claim?** Make sure you file it through the new Decision Ready Claim (DRC) Program. With DRC, you can get a decision on your claim in 30 days or less. Work with an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO) to determine if the DRC Program is right for you and your claim. Your VSO can then help you gather and submit all relevant and required evidence so your claim is ready for VA to make a decision when you submit it. If you plan to file any of the following types of claims, work with your VSO to file them as a DRC:

- **Direct Service Connection Claims:** Claims for a disability that was caused by or during your service.
  - **Presumptive Service Connection Claims:** Claims for a disability that VA automatically presumes to be service-connected based on unique conditions or situations you experienced during your service.
  - **Secondary Service Connection Claims:** Claims for a disability that you have as a result of another service-connected disability.
  - **Increased Disability Claims:** Claims for a disability you have a VA rating for that has gotten worse.
- Not planning to file a claim soon? Spread the word to your fellow Veterans, Service members and their families about the DRC Program to help them get faster decisions on their claims too. Learn more about the DRC Program, including eligibility requirements, what medical evidence you need to submit, and how to find an accredited VSO at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/drc.asp>.

**Not Just a Sidearm: Army's New Handgun Marks First Step to Changing How Soldiers Fight:** Other than a bayonet or hand-to-hand fighting skills, a pistol is the shortest of short-range weaponry a soldier might use in combat. And except for military police and special operations forces, the sidearm was a low priority for decades, taking the back seat to bigger systems such as vehicles, tanks and artillery. But after 16 years of war, much of that including close-quarters fighting, the Army and the other services are putting more weight behind improving all things infantry. And the handgun is one of the first, and most tangible, of those changes. No longer is it just a weapon of last resort or an item suited only for certain personnel who would rarely come in close contact with enemy fighters. From the pistol design, to the holster that carries it, to the bullet it fires, the M17 is an updated sidearm in every sense, showcasing most of the advancements in handgun technology made since the M9 was adopted more than 30 years ago. “This is an offensive capability,” said Daryl Easlick, deputy at the Army’s Maneuver Center of Excellence Lethality Branch. “It’s not a defensive weapon.” Though the handgun developments predate official reviews now being conducted to better train and equip the lowest-level tactical war fighter, it is a signal of a larger trend suddenly sweeping the services. And at least one vocal supporter says it’s about time.



**May the Deals be with You: Online Military Exchange Launches 'Toy Tuesdays':** Toy Tuesdays have arrived at ShopMyExchange.com, with deep discounts on certain toys and games. Savings begin Jan. 23, when the site will feature about 20 toys — including Star Wars, Marvel and Transformers action figures — with some items priced 50 percent below regular exchange prices. On Jan. 30, the shopping site will bring discounts of up to 60 percent on some Play-Doh items. The deals are on “select” items each week, not necessarily every item of those brands. The number of sale items will vary weekly, in the range of 10 to 50, said Conner Hammett, a spokesman for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. The deals are offered from 12:01 a.m. until midnight, local time, each Tuesday. Toy Tuesdays will continue through the end of the year, at the online site only. ShopMyExchange.com is open to all active, retired and veteran military members of all branches of service. Bargain hunters can explore the deals each week through a link on the front page of the site.

**Bye-bye, Blueberries — Green Type IIIs Now for Sale Everywhere:** Navy Working Uniform Type IIIs are now available for sale in all Navy Exchanges, nearly two-years earlier than originally planned. The Navy is scrapping the previously announced two-year phased rollout of the new green camouflage uniforms, which evidently have been produced quickly enough to stock the shelves of every store. The Type IIIs will also be available for purchase online at mynavyexchange.com by the end of January. What hasn’t changed is the date the Navy will make wearing the uniform mandatory, Oct. 1, 2019. Every sailor will be expected to have at least two sets of the new uniforms in their seabag. Until then, both the greens and the Type 1 “blueberries” can be worn. The service recently implemented a two-year increase in uniform funding for enlisted sailors to allow them to purchase one set of the new uniforms in each of the next two years. Officers will have to pay for the uniforms out of pocket.

**Woman I'd as Inspiration for Rosie the Riveter Dies at 96:** A woman identified by a scholar as the inspiration for Rosie the Riveter, the iconic female World War II factory worker, has died in Washington state. The New York Times reports that Naomi Parker Fraley died Saturday in Longview. She was 96. Multiple women have been identified over the years as possible models for Rosie, but a Seton Hall University professor in 2016 focused on Fraley as the true inspiration. James J. Kimble published his findings in the journal *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, saying a photo of Fraley at work was the basis for a widely seen poster of a woman flexing with the caption, “We can do it!” Fraley was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, she went to work at the Naval Air Station in Alameda, on the San Francisco Bay. She was among the first women to do war work there.



**Modernizing Infantry Marines:** Big changes coming as grunts take on more special ops-style missions: The Corps is on a major push to overhaul how its fundamental basic unit operates in battle — providing grunts with modernized equipment and new roles and responsibilities. After nearly 17 years of fighting in -war-torn regions like Iraq and -Afghanistan, the development comes as the lines between conventional infantry forces and America’s elite special operators have -increasingly blurred. In late December, Secretary of Defense James Mattis told reporters that conventional forces would start assuming greater roles in mission sets that were once the purview of special operations forces. In fact, that’s already happening. Conventional forces and special operators have been working side by side in places like Iraq and Syria. For example, in Syria, a small group of roughly 400 Marines deployed last year to back Syrian Democratic Forces fighting -Islamic State militants, providing 24-hour artillery and fires support. In Afghanistan, a small detachment of 300 Marines known as Task Force Southwest deployed last year to advise Afghan security forces in the volatile Helmand province — a mission set historically assigned to special operations forces.

**Army to Send Female Infantry, Armor Officers to 3 More Bases:** As female soldiers move into frontline combat jobs, the Army’s top leaders have decided to integrate female officers into infantry and armor brigades at three more military bases. The decision comes a year after the first women began enlisting in the ground combat units, and it will send female officers to Fort Carson in Colorado, Fort Campbell in Kentucky, and Fort Bliss in Texas. The increase means that there will be women in infantry and armor units at 45 percent of the Army installations that have combat brigades. Until now, the integrated units were only at Fort Hood in Texas and Fort Bragg in North Carolina. The expansion has been in the works for months, as Army commanders tracked how many female enlisted soldiers and officers chose the newly opened infantry and armor jobs. The numbers so far have revealed an unexpected trend: More entry-level female recruits are choosing the infantry, while female officers coming out of ROTC, West Point and the Army’s Officer Candidate School are choosing armor units.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration

## NCA Updates Memorialization Products



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration (NCA) values its partnership with you as we seek to honor the service of Veterans and their families with VA memorial benefits. We could not accomplish this task without your strong support. For that reason, we are sending you this message so that you can help us inform Veteran families of updated application and eligibility information for Government-furnished headstones, markers, or medallions for placement in private or local Government cemeteries.

Today, VA published a revised *VA Form 40-1330, Claim for Standard Government Headstone or Marker* and *VA Form 40-1330M, Claim for a Government Medallion for Placement in a Private Cemetery*. Both forms are now available on VA's website at [www.va.gov/forms](http://www.va.gov/forms). All other versions of the VA Form 40-1330 are obsolete. Please ensure the most current version dated December 2017 is submitted. For your convenience, we have included a direct link to both claim forms: <https://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-1330.pdf> and <https://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-1330M.pdf>

### Why Did We Change Our Forms?

The revision of the forms are primarily a result of two recent changes in the law:

#### Headstones and Markers

Under 38 CFR 38.600(a)(1) only the following individuals may apply for a burial headstone or marker:

- 1) a decedent's family member;
- 2) a personal representative;
- 3) a representative of a Congressionally-chartered Veterans Service Organization;
- 4) an employee of a state or local government whose official responsibilities include serving Veterans;
- 5) any individual who is responsible, under the laws of a state or locality, for the disposition of unclaimed remains or matters related to the decedent's interment or memorialization; or
- 6) any individual, if the dates of service of the Veteran ended prior to April 6, 1917.

Note: For a memorial headstones and markers that commemorate the memory of an eligible individual, the applicant must be a member of the decedent's family, 38 CFR 38.600(a)(2).

#### Medallions:

Public Law 114-315 authorizes VA to furnish a Government medallion in lieu of a traditional Government headstone or marker to Veterans **who served on or after April 6, 1917**, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

### What Was Changed On The Forms?

1. On the *VA Form 40-1330, Claim for Standard Government Headstone or Marker*, we updated the selection box for each eligible claimant (as identified under 38 CFR 38.600(a)(1)).
2. On the *VA Form 40-1330M, Claim for a Government Medallion for Placement in a Private Cemetery*, we updated our General Information Sheet to reflect that Veterans who served on or after April 6, 1917, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker are eligible for a Government medallion. Previously, only Veterans who died on or after November 1, 1990 were eligible for the Government medallion.

#### Additionally, both forms now:

- Ask for demographic information (which is optional) for statistical reporting purposes only,
- Allow claimants to request one or more Presidential Memorial Certificates, and
- Include a fax cover sheet with a checklist for convenience.

Thank you for your understanding regarding this matter. Should you have additional concerns regarding the headstone and marker, and medallion claim forms, please contact us using our Inquiry Routing & Information System <https://iris.custhelp.com>, so we can track inquiries and respond promptly. For information on VA burial benefits, visit <http://www.cem.va.gov> or call (800) 827-1000. Please look for our future e-mails on memorial benefits available for eligible Veterans and spouses. Also, please encourage your friends and colleagues to sign-up for notifications, future e-mail updates and information regarding VA memorial benefits through GovDelivery at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/usvanca/subscriber/new>