



# ATOMIC VETERAN'S NEWSLETTER

NAAV WEB Site - [www.naav.com](http://www.naav.com)

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REMEMBER ME? By David C. Graham [from "Dear Abby"]

Hello. Remember me? Some people call me Old Glory, others call me the Star-Spangled Banner, but whatever they call me, I am your flag, the flag of the United States of America.

Something has been bothering me, so I thought I might talk it over with you - because it is about you and me.

I remember some time ago, people would line up on both sides of the street to watch the parade, and naturally I was leading every one, proudly waving in the breeze.

When your daddy saw me coming, he would immediately remove his hat and placed it against his left shoulder so that his hand was directly over his heart - remember?

And you, I remember, were standing there, straight as a soldier. You didn't have a hat, but you were giving the right salute. Remember your little sister? Not to be outdone, she was saluting the same as you with her right hand over her heart - remember?

What happened? I'm still the same old flag. Oh, I've added a few more stars since you were a boy, and a

lot more blood has been shed since those parades of long ago.

But now, somehow, I don't feel as proud as I used to feel. When I come down your street, you just stand there with your hands in your pockets. You may give me a small glance, and then you look away. I see children running around you shouting; they don't seem to know who I am.



I saw one man take his hat off, then he looked around, and when he didn't see anybody else take off their hat, he quickly put his on again.

Is it a sin to be patriotic today? Have you forgotten what I stand for, and where I have been? Anzio, Guadalcanal, Korea and Vietnam!

Take a look at the memorial honor rolls, and see the names of those patriotic Americans who gave their lives to keep this republic free. When you salute me, you are actually saluting them.

Well, it won't be long until I'll be coming down your street again. So when you see me, please stand straight and place your hand over your heart, and I'll know that you remembered. I'll salute you by waving back!

Commander's Corner

I would like to thank the many members that sent in their dues. July is the beginning of our fiscal year so if you do not have 7/1/00 after your name - dues are due. And as the fiscal year is here it's time for our financial report as of June 17, 1999. Our General Account had \$6,266.93 and our Life Account has \$17,386.90. The Life Account, which is our back bone, was turned over to me by, then Treasurer, Zeke Baranek. That amount was \$15,265.58. That was 2 1/2 years ago. We have tried not to use it too much and as a result it has grown. We must stay financially sound and try to live within our budget. This is my objective. We are hoping with our next donation drive that we will be able to finally get some new computer and office equipment, which we sorely need. In the past, many of our members were very generous and it was nice to know that you cared enough to donate as you did. I thank you all wholeheartedly.

I was recently viciously attacked by two members that took exception to the reporting in my last column, and also our hard working Editor. All I can say to each is - give us a "raise" and we will do better. As I have said many times before, fight the government not us. We are on your side - working without pay - for your benefit. Have I made myself clear to these two people? Nuff said [for those that don't understand the above, we officers do not get paid for our services]!

We have been in touch with Joan McCarthy in regards to getting legislation passed for Bronchiolo Alveolar Carcinoma. We need all of your help and support in getting passage of S-1087, sponsored by Senator Tim Hutchinson of Arkansas. S-1087 will add Bronchiolo Alveolar Carcinoma to the list of cancer on PL 100-321.

HR 609, sponsored by Congressman Chris Smith of New Jersey, was passed by the House of Representatives on June 29, 1999. S-1087 is the companion bill sponsored by Senator Hutchinson. The telephone number for Senator Hutchinson is 1-202-224-2353. Ask for Lisa Smiltcamp. We need your state US Senators to co-sponsor S-1087. This bill has been a long time in coming and we need all your support to help push it through. Please do your part. We have done ours. One word in closing, I have known Joan McCarthy since approx. 1981 when she started the New Jersey Chapter of NAAV. Her husband, Tom, was stricken at an early age with Bronchiolo Alveolar Carcinoma and died. Joan, the wonderful person that she is, raised her children and went on with life, always fighting for the Atomic Veteran, along with her quest for justice for her husband and family, ever striving for recognition of Bronchiolo Alveolar Carcinoma. She suffered a "burnout" in the eighties but is back better than ever. So let's all help this fine lady, mother and crusader, reach her goal that she has fought so long for. Let's help the many widows in NAAV whose husbands have died from Bronchiolo Alveolar Carcinoma. If

**Atomic Veterans  
Newsletter**

The *Atomic Veteran Newsletter* is published quarterly and is the official newsletter of the National Association of Atomic Veterans.

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NAAV fiscal year starts on 7/1. This is the date when members dues who pay annually are due. Look at the Label which is used on letters and newsletters to you. After your name is the date you are paid up to. Example: 7/1/98 or 7/1/99.

The material in this newsletter is protected. No part of it may be used without prior permission.

Letters to the Editor and Articles must be signed to be published. Name withheld upon request.

NAAV reserves the right to edit and publish material submitted. Articles on atomic testing, other radiation-risk activities, biological effects of exposure to ionizing radiation, the politics and history of military and civilian exposure, accounts of personal experiences, cartoons, photographs, poems, essays and other material will be considered for publication.

The views and opinions of contributions do not necessarily represent those of the National Association of Atomic Veterans.

Send submissions, address changes, letters, inquiries, reunion information, dues payments, donations, sales orders to: NAAV P.O. Box 2558, Ventnor, NJ 08406-0558.



Commander's Corner [Cont'd]

we work together we can achieve our goals in spite of the pessimists.

There has been a lot of activity on the news front in the last few months for some reason. The media from Japan, Germany, Korea and the USA have all expressed a desire to do some documentary type TV shows about the exploits of the Atomic Veterans at the Nevada Test Sites. So if you get a call from them, try to help them as all the publicity cannot do us any harm. This may be our year to explode on the TV and Movie Screens.

To our State Commanders: in the last issue of the news letter I requested resumes and pictures so we could possibly feature them in future issues. I have had a large response from you and would like to hear from the rest of you.

Respectfully,

Rudy Florentine  
National Commander

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**From the Editor & Assistant:**

For those persons who have never made a mistake we all applaud you, so please be tolerant of those of us who have.

I fought in the "front lines" in two different "conflicts" to give our citizens the right to speak their minds, as well as other privileges. For those who may have a grievance(s) with me, or my assistant, please be man or woman enough to address them to us directly (criticism have been very low, favorable very high) - by telephone (but only during reasonable hours - consider the potential time change), Fax or e-mail. You may also submit them in writing for inclusion in our "Soap Box" section as well as other articles and items you feel are of interest. In fact, we would like more of these from members. Under the agreement with the National Commander when discussing taking over the Newsletter as editor and the creation of same, I told him I would but had ideas for the publication, many of which had been expressed by members whom I have been in contact with across the U.S.. The National Commander submits his "Corner" along with other items such as memorials, changes, letters, reunions, etc. Please do not pick on him for publishing's for which he may not know of as he does not know of all in the Newsletter until he receives a printed copy of what is sent to the printer on CD and Hard Copy. All other mentions are from articles, Internet efforts of Dale, letters, faxes and e-mail's from members, etc. Any of our opinions are not necessarily sanctioned by NAAV. So, if you want to "blast" the editor and assistant editor, do your home work first and be prepared to "receive back" as you may "dish out" as you will find that I may not be as diplomatic as the National Commander. Constructive criticism we will always entertain along with suggestions submitted to change same. You, as a paid

up member, are allowed to express yourself. Our efforts should be devoted to "the cause" in a "unified manner", not "fighting amongst ourselves." **We should all be unified", not "fractured."**

Please understand that our **remuneration** from this organization with it's ??million dollar budget?? is at the lowest ebb possible. **For the record**; since becoming a member of the Board of Directors last November I have not [and will not] submitted any invoice for remuneration for telephone & fax, mail, and any other to NAAV. Further, neither Dale or I have submitted invoices to NAAV for costs (CD production for each newsletter, CD copy for the NAAV web site, telephone, faxes, e-mail, etc. "sends & receives", costs for shipping the newsletter materials to the Printer, Web site, NAAV Office, etc.). If any of you have a desire to take over these duties, under the current conditions, then please feel free to contact the National Commander in this regard.

**Again - Let's All get "unified."**

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H. R. 1286 Cosponsors

Ed. Note: As of July 28, 1999 there were only 29 cosponsors listed for Rep. Lane Evans H. R. 1286 on the "Thomas" internet site. Listed below are the cosponsors as of this date with party affiliation and date they became cosponsor. These, we think, are very fine people. Those not on this list, we are not so sure about. We don't think the "Justice for Atomic Veterans Act" is a partisan issue. It looks like we need let our Representatives know this.

- |                                    |                                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Rep. Shelley (D) 3/25/99           | Rep. Bob Filner (D) 3/25/99          |
| Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D) 3/25/99    | Rep. Corrine Brown (D) 3/25/99       |
| Rep. Collin Peterson (D) 3/25/99   | Rep. Julia Carson (D) 3/25/99        |
| Rep. Silvestre Reyes (D) 3/25/99   | Rep. Ciro Rodriguez (D) 3/25/99      |
| Rep. Ronnie Shows (D) 3/25/99      | Rep. John Olver (D) 3/25/99          |
| Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D) 3/25.99   | Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D) 3/25/99    |
| Rep. Barney Frank (D) 3/25/99      | Rep. Millender- McDonald (D) 3/25/99 |
| Rep. Robert Underwood (D) 3/25/99  | Rep. Gerald Kleczka (D) 3/25/99      |
| Rep. Martin Frost (D) 3/25/99      | Rep. L. Roybal-Allard (D) 4/14/99    |
| Rep. Eva Clayton (D) 4/14/99       | Rep. Carolyn Kilpatrick (D) 4/14/99  |
| Rep. Henry Waxman 4/14/99          | Rep. Neil Abercrombie (D) 4/14/99    |
| Rep. Ralph Hall (D) 4/21/99        | Rep. Ted Strickland (D) 4/21/99      |
| Rep. Gary Ackerman (D) 4/28/99     | Rep. Frank Mascara (D) 5/10/99       |
| Rep. William Jefferson (D) 5/24/99 | Rep. Michael Capuano (D) 6/22/99     |
| Rep. Benjamin Gilman [R] 7/14/99   |                                      |

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"Smart people speak from experience; smarter people, from experience don't speak."

"No one ever choked to death from swallowing his pride."

"That which is striking and beautiful is not always good, but that which is good is always beautiful."

Editors' Platform:

**NAAV WEB Site - [www.naav.com](http://www.naav.com) -**

For those members who have access to the Internet, please check out the NAAV WEB Site. This site was created and maintained by Laimon Godel, Jr. [Nephew of Rudy Florentine]. The latest NAAV Newsletter can be "down loaded" as well as other information. The site contains "links" to other Atomic Veteran Sites.

**For those who send me FAX's & E-mail's:** I am still active in my business, which requires some travel in the Western US. So, if I do not respond immediately please rest assured that I will respond as soon as I return. I welcome these communications.

**Not an Excuse, but an Explanation:** in finalizing the last edition with the inclusion of the "Commander's Corner" at the last minute, produce the CD, get the package off to the printer, finalize other business information and leave on a business trip the next day, apparently left out an Editorial Comment regarding the "late Scoop" [which was caught later by Dale - plus some others] explaining that final "passage as a Law" had not been accomplished. Please read on.

### How A BILL BECOMES LAW [from 106th Congress Directory]

**Introduction:** Anyone may draft a bill; however, only members of Congress can introduce legislation, and by doing so become the sponsor(s). There are four basic types of legislation: bills, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions, and simple resolutions. The official legislative process begins when a bill or resolution is numbered -- H.R. Signifies a House bill and S. A Senate bill -- referred to a committee and printed by the Government Printing Office.

**Step 1. Referral to Committee:** Bills are usually referred to standing committees in the House or Senate according to carefully delineated rules of procedure.

**Step 2. Committee Action:** When a bill reaches a committee it is placed on the committee's calendar. A bill can be referred to a subcommittee or considered by the committee as a whole. It is at this point that a bill is examined carefully and its chances for passage are determined. If the committee does not act on a bill, it is the equivalent of killing it.

**Step 3. Subcommittee Review:** Often, bills are referred to a subcommittee for study and hearings. Hearings provide the opportunity to put on the record the views of the executive branch, experts, other public officials, supporters and opponents. Testimony can be in person or submitted in writing.

**Step 4. Mark Up:** When the hearings are completed, the subcommittee may meet to "mark up" the bill, that is, make changes and amendments prior to recommending the bill to the full committee. If a subcommittee votes not to report legislation to the full committee, the bill dies.

**Step 5. Committee Action to Report A Bill:** After receiving a subcommittee's report on a bill, the full committee can conduct further study and hearings, or it can vote on the subcommittee's recommendations and any proposed amendments. The full committee then votes on its recommendation to the House or Senate. This procedure is called "ordering a bill reported."

**Step 6. Publication of a Written Report:** After a committee votes to have a bill reported, the chairman instructs staff to prepare a report on the bill. This report describes the intent and scope of the legislation, impact on existing laws and programs, position of the executive branch, and views of dissenting members.

**Step 7. Scheduling Floor Action:** After a bill is reported back to the chamber where it originated, it is placed in chronological order on the calendar. In the House there are several different legislative calendars, and the Speaker and Majority Leader largely determine if, when, and in what order bills come up. In the Senate there is only one legislative calendar.

**Step 8. Debate:** When a bill reaches the floor of the House or Senate, there are rules or procedures governing the debate. These rules determine the conditions and amount of time allocated for debate.

**Step 9. Voting:** After the debate and the approval of any amendments, the bill is passed or defeated by the members voting.

**Step 10. Referral to Other Chamber:** When a bill is passed by the House or the Senate it is referred to the other chamber where it usually follows the same route through committee and floor action. This chamber may approve the bill as received, reject it, ignore it, or change it.

**Step 11. Conference Committee Action:** If only minor changes are made to a bill by the other chamber, it is common for the legislation to go back to the first chamber for concurrence. However, when the actions of the other chamber significantly alter the bill, a conference committee is formed reconcile the differences. If the conferees are unable to reach agreement, the legislation dies. If agreement is reached, a conference report is prepared describing the committee members' recommendations for changes. Both the House and the Senate must approve of the conference report.

**Step 12. Final Action:** After a bill has been approved by the House and Senate in identical form, it is sent to the President. If the President approves of the legislation he signs it and it becomes law. Or, the President can take no action for ten days, while Congress is in session, and it automatically becomes law. If the President opposes the bill he can veto it; or, if he takes no action after the Congress has adjourned its second session, it is a "pocket veto" and the legislation dies.

**Step 13. Overriding a Veto:** If the President vetoes a bill, Congress may attempt to "override the veto." This requires a two thirds roll call vote of the members who are present in sufficient numbers for a quorum.

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As was pointed out in our "Late Scoop" of Vol. 20 No. 1 and by National Commander Rudy Florentine in Vol. 20

EDITOR'S PLATFORM [Cont'd]

No. 2 Senator Wellstone's' Amendment # 27 was added to S-4 that will surely pass the full Senate in one form or another. **However, If Congressman Lane Evans' "Justice for Atomic Veterans Act of 1999" [HR-1286] does not pass the House of Representatives all that was gained is lost. For it to become a law that would add 3 more cancers to the presumptive list [or the 10 named in HR-1286 and the original S-1385] it must first pass the full House vote. Then go to a joint House and Senate Committee to decide on its' final form. Then it must be signed into law by the President.**

We still have a long ways to go.

By House rules, the House of Representatives and its Committees adopt an oversight plan that is directed at those matters most in need of oversight within the next two years. We seem to be a **very low priority** in this plan by the Veterans Affairs Committee. This Committees' Oversight Plan that was adopted Feb. 3rd calls for the Benefits Subcommittee to review the problems facing veterans exposed to ionizing radiation in the summer of 2000. That is a long time to wait. Maybe this is one of the reasons that Rep. Lane Evans hasn't been able to get his "Justice for Atomic Veterans Act of 1999" scheduled to be heard on the floor of the House this year. It was sent to the Benefits Subcommittee and seems to be buried there. At this time this bill has 27 cosponsors. Unless we all write letters to our Representative or call them and convince enough of them to support this bill, it will stay buried in committee. We will have lost another year - and how many Atomic Veterans? With all of the recent hoopla about the "Surplus", which appears to be gaining every day by reports, and the forthcoming Election Year, then it is time for US to get after the Administration, our Representatives & Senators, and those who are "running for office" to get with the program and give "Justice to Atomic Veterans & their Survivors." Our cause is just "a drop in the bucket" compared to others being considered. We also need to insist that our Elected Officials "***be committed***" [currently & running for office] to "***establish and maintain adequate funding for the VA at high acceptable levels - now and in the future***" in order to fulfill the "past promises made by the US Government to those who have served." We need to contact ALL INVOLVED and receive their commitment in writing and to hold same over their head in the future.

### **The way we see it**

Dick and Dale

We would suggest that **every time that any Atomic Veteran writes to or speaks with our Senators or Representatives that we include something to the effect of --"NTPR of Threat Reduction Agency should be legislated out of existence and use the \$ 7.3 million per**

**year saved, for medical care and compensation for Atomic Veterans."**

**The hearing by the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee 21 April 1998 for S-1385 and S-1822 was 2 ½ hours of absolute proof that-**

**[1] Dose estimates by NTPR, Nuclear Test Personnel Review of [first] Defense Nuclear Agency [then] Defense Special Weapons Agency [and now] Defense Threat Reduction Agency are wrong and useless. Not one of the five on the Scientific Panel would defend these dose estimates.**

**[2] VA must use these useless dose estimates to decide claims for any radiogenic illnesses that are not already presumptive.**

**[3] Congress made these guidelines and only Congress can change them.**

[4] Testimony entered into the Congressional Record by Dr. Rosalie Bartell and William J. Brady of the Scientific Panel and Albert [Smoky] Parrish of the Veterans Panel show that NTPR has spent more money to prepare these worthless dose estimates to deny veterans claims than it would cost to grant every claim that has been filed under PL 98-542.

[5] Testimony by Dr. Richard B. Setlow, who was Chairman of the Oversight Committee of the Crossroads Study pointed out that the Crossroads Study was useless for determining cancer rates in Atomic Veterans. It only showed how many died from cancer. VA has used this study to show low cancer rates in Atomic Veterans. This must stop and only congress can stop it.

Though few in congress seem aware of these facts, they were given proof that all radiation induced illnesses must be made presumptive. Even with all the proof that they had, the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee cut the 10 cancers/conditions included in Senator Paul Wellstones' S-1385 down to 3, citing high costs as the reason. To do away with NTPR would more than pay for the full 10 named in S-1385.

We must convince each of our elected members of the Senate and House that we, and the large veterans organizations that have taken up our cause, will settle for nothing less than **all radiation induced illnesses be made presumptive.** We must inform them that we are watching their votes on veterans legislation and if they vote in our favor we will support them. If they vote against us, we will work very hard to see that they are not reelected. We must not fall for the boasts of these phonies when they brag that they have increased the VA funding by \$1.7 billion above what the President called for. That will only pay for the automatic pay raises for VA employees. The \$3.5 billion

EDITOR'S PLATFORM (Cont'd):

increase called for in the independent budget by AMVETS, DAV, VFW and PVA is what is needed after the 4 years of the flatline budget VA has had. Let's stop blaming VA, NTPR and DNA and blame the ones who are really responsible for all this, Congress and the President. They have betrayed us and we should let them know that we know. \* \* \* \* \*

We have had communication with: Albert G. "Smoky" Parrish, of the "US Army 216th Chemical Service Company" who has compiled a book of experiences of the personnel who participated in the monitor, mapping and decontamination during Operation Tumbler/Snapper [Nevada] in 1952. In the book, are factual writings [I plan to publish some of these in future editions] by different persons regarding their duties, exposures and other. Within these, is pointed out **the fact** that [by admission of the manufacturer] most, if not all, of the film badges issued, used and subsequently read into "official records" [those being utilized in Dose Reconstruction] were in error. This book was entered into the "official records for the S.1385 hearing." Albert G. "Smoky" Parrish, P.O. Box 236, Hackensack, MN 56452. [Ed: on how many other Operations might these "bad" film badges been used and that erroneous data utilized for Dose Reconstruction? Why the Administration(s), Representatives & Senators, who have allowed the VA to rely on the Dose Reconstruction Data in the granting of claims, treatment, etc. when such has been "proven to be false information", and continue to allow the NTPT to continue to exist, and the VA allowed to continue utilizing this "false information", reflects the "I don't care" attitude most of them apparently have for Atomic Veterans, at least by me. I do not blame all Representatives & Senators for there are those who continually back legislation for our cause. I suspect that most are not well informed, are more inclined to "go with the status quo", or - perhaps, do not have the guts to make their actual view on their respective floors, or in roll call votes, or by withholding their views in order to procrastinate further - which, in my view, is the reason behind "further studies" being requested. We are paying these folks to perform the "business of this country" in a timely manner, with bi-partisanship, which our "leaders" seem to have totally forgotten in their monetary bids from special interests.] **And have voted themselves another 3.4% raise - this without positive performance of truly addressing the Main Issues of Concerns of the Taxpayers.** \* \* \* \* \*

**Reported on TV and various News Publications (7/16/99):**

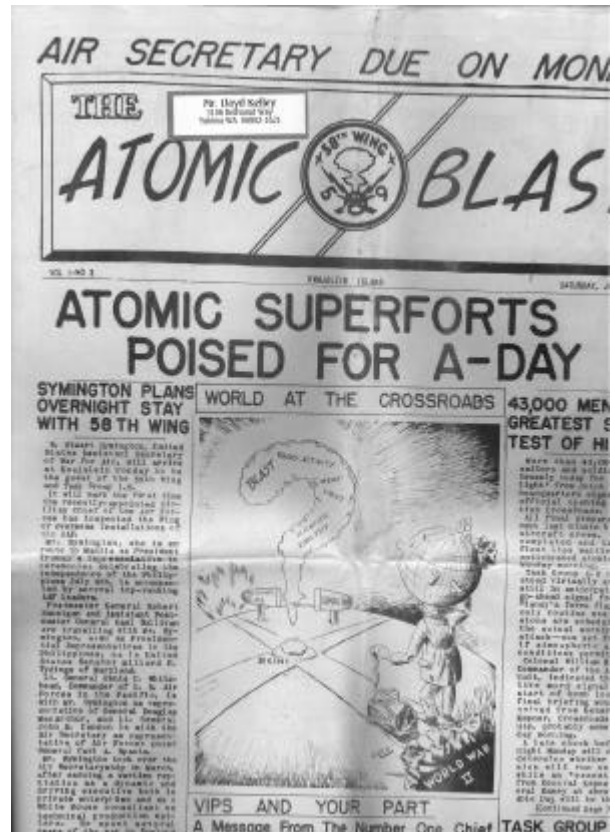
AP Article in part: Government To Compensate Nuke Workers for Illnesses. The government acknowledged for the first time Thursday that thousands of workers were made sick while making nuclear weapons and announced a plan to compensate many of them for medical care and lost wages. Congress must still approve the compensation, which would end years of litigation over claims by the workers that they became sick while employed by private contractors at federal nuclear weapons facilities during the Cold War.

"The U.S. Government is acknowledging that we made a mistake.... We need to right this wrong," Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said, in announcing the compensation plan after years of government rejection of the health claims. [Secretary Richardson, while a member of Congress (NM), introduced the Legislation for a Medal for Atomic Veterans.]

These folks had a choice of where, and under which conditions they performed. **We did not!** So, we are ignored again.

\* \* \* \* \*

Remember this? Courtesy of LLOYD KELLEY.



**INFORMATION:****Medical Claim Upheld**

My name is Ed Kulko and I am an Atomic Veteran from Wilmington, DE. I was in the Army from September 1956 to June 1959 with 12 ½ months spent on Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands. I was there during Operation Hardtack and witnessed 18 nuclear explosions. Through the Freedom of Information Act I was told I received 770 Whole- Body Gamma MREM. I'm sure this number was understated due to the fact that when the badges reached a certain level they were replaced were replaced with new ones.

In the early 1980's I was contacted by the VA to go to the Wilmington, DE Hospital and sign the Nuclear Registry and get a medical examination. After my tests were completed I was told all my medical benefits would be on a no fee basis, so naturally I took advantage of the offer.

Everything went fine until 1994 when I went to Wilmington VA hospital with pneumonia. I had such a severe strain of pneumonia that the doctor called my wife during the night and said I was in very bad shape. I was in the Intensive Care Unit for ten days. The diligent care of the doctors, nurses and other staff literally saved my life. As I was waiting to be discharged for pneumonia my final examination showed that I now had a heart condition. I was sent to the Philadelphia VA Hospital for a procedure. At this time the question came up on whether or not I was entitled to no cost medical treatment. After many discussions between the Philadelphia VA and the Wilmington VA they came to the conclusion that I was eligible under the Agent Orange - Radiation Exposure Act.

Everything went fine until a couple of years ago when I started getting billed for treatment and prescriptions. After numerous calls protesting the bills I requested a hearing and filed a claim for benefits.

On May 6, 1999 I had a telephonic conference with a Review Officer from the Philadelphia Regional Office of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs and employees of the Wilmington, DE Regional Office. At this meeting I requested continuing my medical treatments and receiving my prescriptions on a no fee basis. My treatments are for a heart condition, diabetes, borderline blood disorder and respiratory condition that I feel were due to radiation exposure.

The Review Officer informed me that if there is medical evidence showing that my conditions were radiation related under 38 CFR 3.3 11[B][4] my claim would have to be submitted to medical doctors for review. Also and VERY IMPORTANT, if a claim is based on a disease other than one of those listed in paragraphs [B][2] or [B][3] of this section, the VA shall nevertheless consider the claim. Service connected claims must be made to the Regional Office of the VA; medical treatment can be handled through your local VAMC.

I spoke to the Patients Right Advocate and the Veterans Benefits Manager who were absolutely essential and exceptionally helpful

in my retaining my benefits. **THE VA DOES HAVE SOME GOOD AND HELPFUL EMPLOYEES.** The Benefit Manager personally took my medical records to my Primary Physician for reviewing.

My Primary Physician agreed that my medical conditions were related to radiation exposure and signed the necessary documents to that effect. Therefore my medical treatments and prescriptions will continue to be on a no fee basis.

I am very thankful for the help from the Wilmington VA employees. If it weren't for them I would have had a long and hard struggle.

I feel if you have a strong conviction that you are right, are well prepared and show confidence, you will get the benefits deserving of being an Atomic Veteran. I would also like to thank Dale Howard, the New Mexico State Commander, for his knowledge and help in preparing to fight for my rights.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATOMIC VETERANS**

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June 1, 1999

Board of Directors  
National Association of Atomic Veterans  
P.O. Box 2558  
Ventnor, NJ 08406-0558

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have been trying to make contact with Rudy Florentine and others members of the board to pass on good news. I am enclosing cover letter from award granted to me. If anyone is interested as to how I was able to win, feel free to contact me. The VA has a weakness and its time the Atomic Veterans started winning for a change. There are less than 1% of over 210,000 atomic veterans that can be accounted for today. Doesn't that make anyone think? I am one of 5 of 3,000 used in Operation Teapot.

For more information please contact me any time at my address, phone or fax.

Your Missouri State Commander Paul J. Birdsall, RR 5 Box 522, Carthage, MO 64836 is no longer at the 417-358-3439 and has not been for several years.

Please pass a copy of this letter on to Charles McKay or send me his address and phone. I very much want to contact him.

Respectfully,  
John D. Fatino  
P.O. Box 202, Preston, MO 65732 Phone:417-722-4762



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I would like to suggest that [for those who have access to PC's] those Directors, State & Area Commanders, Reconstruction Coordinators and Others who have a Fax Number and e-mail address furnish and allow same to be published. I believe this information would help in dispensing and receiving information at low cost. This would especially assist the State & Area Commanders in communicating with their respective members [Editor: Please see notice on State & Area Commanders last page.]

Claude Burpee, Commander - State of Tennessee

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My name is Scott Paterson. I am a writer. I have worked in the entertainment industry for years.

I have begun a screen play on the story of the atomic vets. First of all, let me be clear first of all about my motivation. I am not interested in making a "Bruce Willis" movie. I am not interested in sensationalizing any aspect of the story of what they and their families went through.

I simply want to help make it known to the general public what happened and the sacrifices that you undertook and the price you paid.

The bottom line is I don't care to make cent of this. This is a cause that I am committed to helping in any way that I possibly can.

I am a Canadian, however in no way am I interested in slamming the people of America. I have many relatives in the states, including my sister and have great love of the people to the south I simply want to tell your story.

Please remember my government was involved in this testing as well as yours.

My screenplay attempts to weave a story of a general, a reporter, a scientist, a soldier and his fiancée.

I ask anyone's help who might have an interesting story in reference to happenings around the testing the conditions, the humor of the men etc.. Anything will help.

Also I have many questions. If people would respond, I will pass on my list of questions to you through email.

If you have any questions please get back to me as soon as possible. Thanks you very much.

Scott Paterson, email: scott.paterson@sympatico.ca

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### **Cold War Veterans Certificate**

Veterans and War, Navy or Defense Department civilians can apply for a certificate honoring them for their parts in winning the Cold War. You are eligible for the certificate if you served between Sept. 2, 1945 and Dec.

26, 1991. You must present proof of service. **Don't send an original document. It will not be returned.** Send a copy or FAX it.

#### *Sample letter for applying for certificate*

From: Joe Blow  
P. O. Box 000  
Anytown, Anystate 00000

To: Cold War Recognition  
4035 Ridge Top Road  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030-7445

Please send me a Cold War Recognition Certificate for my service to the United States government during the authorized period of Sept. 2, 1945 to Dec. 26, 1991.

Enclosed is a copy of source document with my Social Security Number/Service Number/Foreign Service Number, which verifies my service during the Cold War Era. I understand that the enclosed copy of source document will not be returned.

Please mail my Cold War Recognition Certificate to the following address:

Joe Blow  
P. O. Box 000  
Anytown, Anystate 00000

Submission of this Request confirms my faithful service to the nation during the Cold War Era. If my service was in the Armed Forces, I further certify that my discharge was honorable or general under honorable conditions. If I served as a federal civilian employee, I further certify that the character of my service was honorable.

Sincerely,

Joe Blow  
Mail to the inside address listed in the sample letter or FAX to  
703-275-6749

\*\*\*\*\*

### **VHA Directive modifies restrictions on VA Physicians to provide opinions for VA patients**

This Directive establishes nationwide policy permitting VHA healthcare providers, when requested, to express opinions and to complete forms for VA patients with respect to patients health, employability, degree of disability and requirements for licensing such as for the operation of motor vehicles.

This new policy modifies the restrictions on VA physicians defined in M-1, Part I, Chapter 9, section 9.50. It states "Restrictions on the ability of VA healthcare providers to express opinions and to complete forms for VA patients are inconsistent with the goal of VHA to provide comprehensive care and place a serious burden on veterans who depend on VHA for their care. The new policy must, however, be implemented in a way that avoids conflict and ambiguity with the role of VHA in the official process that determines eligibility and the extent of disability for purposes of VA claims adjudication."

If you ask your VA doctor for his/her written opinion you will be



asked to sign a statement like the following. I understand that my VA doctor's opinions are not "official" VA decisions regarding whether or not I will get other VA benefits. They may, however, be considered with other evidence when decisions are made at a VA Regional Office that specializes in benefit decisions. \* \* \* \* \*

Oversight Plan for 106th Congress

By House rules, the House of Representatives and its Committees adopt an oversight plan that is directed at those matters most in need of oversight within the next two years. We seem to be a very low priority in this plan by the Veterans Affairs Committee. You might be interested in the House, Veterans Affairs Committee, Oversight Plan that was adopted Feb. 3rd. The one thing that bothered me most about it was that the Benefits Subcommittee doesn't plan to review the problems facing veterans exposed to ionizing radiation until the summer of 2000. That is a long time to wait. Maybe this is one of the reasons that Rep. Lane Evans hasn't been able to get his "Justice for Atomic Veterans Act of 1999", HR 1286, scheduled to be heard on the floor of the House this year. I have been trying to find out if this oversight plan would kill HR 1286 for this year [as well as Senator Wellstones' amendment that was added to S-4 and passed]. May 20th I asked a member of Rep. Heather Wilson's Albuquerque Staff if she would check this out for me. She said that she would. I must also be a very low priority with her because I haven't heard anything from her yet. \* \* \* \* \*

How Many Military Veterans in the 106th Congress?

According to http://doc.cq.com/election/oncongress/veterans.htm there are 43 veterans in the Senate [Not too bad] and 136 in the House [Not too good]. We shouldn't make too big a deal about this though. Some of the strongest veterans advocates in both the House and Senate are not veterans and some of the worst voting records on veterans legislation belong to some of the veterans in this Congress. \* \* \* \* \*

MEMORIAL TO OUR FALLEN COMRADES

In the past few months we have lost three of our State Commanders who were diligent workers for the Atomic Veterans cause. They will be sadly missed. They were : Alaska State Commander James J. McLaughlin, Maine State Commander Philip R. Sharpe, Louisiana State Commander Bernard Chapman. I personally lost my great shipmate from Louisiana , James Davis, from the USS Jack Miller. Other Atomic Veterans that passed away were. Pery F. Waggoner from ID Max R. Morgan from CA John W. Evans from NY Huey M. Royer From LA Bernard W. Stephens from Ohio Albert R. Lubbers from SD May God bless you all and I salute you, one and all. National Commander Florentine MEMORIAL Word has just been received that our past chairman of the board, Russell Jack Dann has passed away. Russell was a

leader in the Atomic Veterans fight for justice. He testified in Washington on behalf of Atomic Veterans and served on the NAAV board of directors and was elected their chairman. He also served as Commander of the Disabled American Veterans Military Radiation Chapter # 68. In 1987 a book "Atomic Soldiers" and a TV movie "Nightbreaker" Starring Martin Sheen were written and released reflecting his experiences as an Atomic Veteran. Russell Jack Dann's name will rank up there with all the rest of the great patriots that fought for the Atomic Veteran.

Russell Died July 9, 1999. He was 62. Much too young. We all can pay our respects to Russell by carrying on his fight for justice for the Atomic Veteran and his family. Marjorie, you have our deepest sympathy.

The Board of Directors of NAAV We Thank the following for their generous donations to NAAV

- Harold Joecke Richard Martinez Albertha M. Forbes
Leon P. Ebert Robert Blout Marvin R. Davis
Roberta Bell Hershel C. Burd Dr. Kathy Platoni
Peter Verchinski Earnest H. Nelson Joseph M. Keller
J. A. Brettell Vincent. C Woychowski Peter Dale
Genevieve Dale Joseph Thornton Nancy Perkins
Walter Hooke Edward E. Decker Thomas M. Mckeon
Marjorie Dann

Anyone remember this? Courtesy of Lloyd Kelley.

THE ATOMIC BLAST SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 1946
WNEY, LEMAY HERE FOR TEST
ATHER CENTRAL LDS A DAY REINS
Chaplain's Corner
STRATEGIC AND TECHNICAL AIR CHIEFS ARRIVE
FASTEST 'EYES' TO WATCH ATOM BLAST

The "SOAP BOX"

From: LLoyd D. Kelley, 3106 Redwood Way, Yakima, WA 98902

Mr. Dick Conant - Dear Sir:

I am sending the enclosed "newspapers" for your perusal. I brought them home from Operation Crossroads 53 years ago.

I was a PhM 3/c and Master at Arms in the Surgery at US Naval Base Hospital 21 NAVM 824 on Kwajalein. They were too brown for Photo copying - s I would dearly love to have them returned.

I am sure NAAV can find some interest in the articles.

Sincerely, LLoyd D. Kelly

[Ed. Thank you for the opportunity to look over these papers which were of special interest to Dale Howard and myself as we were both on Kwaj for Operation IVY in '52. We are making copies and will definitely return them. We will also place some of the "high lights" from them in some future editions.]

\*\*\*\*\*

Letters July 1999

Dear Rudy,

First wanted to advise of address change: Ed Franklin -3057 Meridian Way, Atwater, CA 95301. Recently returned from the second reunion the Marine Detachment , USS Curtis AV-4. We had men serve on Green House, Ivy, Castle, Surfboard, Wigwam, Redwing, and Deep Freeze II.

We have contacted over 100 former detachment members and are still looking for a few good men. We recently developed a web site, enclosed, thanks to George Kelly.

At our last reunion, in Las Vegas, a bus load of Atomic Vets toured the Atomic Testing Grounds, that are located near Las Vegas. We are planning another reunion, but the date has not been set. For further info, contact George Kelly through email at: [geonet@sprintmail.com](mailto:geonet@sprintmail.com)  
Thanks

Ed Franklin

"AE" SAILORS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter Editor  
NAAV  
P. O. Box 2558  
Ventnor, NJ 08406-0558

Mr. Dick Conant,

I am currently President of the AE Association and the 1st Vice President of the USS Ingaham Association. I was aboard the USS Ingraham, DD-694 when it participated at Operation Crossroads.

The purpose of this letter is to ask permission to reprint the " Are you an Active Member?" in our Association newsletters. It really brings up a point that needs attention.

I await your response, Sincerely

Jerry King, President

Letter to Congressman

July 8, 1999

Representative John Sweeney  
437 Cannon House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H. R. 1286

Dear Congressman Sweeney:

Confirming a telephone conversation with your office on June 26, 1999 it is requested that you cosponsor H. R. 1286 relative to Atomic Veterans.

During the years 1980 to the present there have been many occasions that in person or written requests were made to your predecessor and other members of the House and Senate New York delegation to provide assistance for Atomic Veterans and in each instance support was forthcoming.

It is certainly hoped that you will follow such cooperation. I always find it of interest how some members of Congress give "patriotic" speeches on any occasion in support of the military but once their war assignment is completed memories are short.

Most of the WW II Atomic Veterans I was privileged to serve with are those responsible for the Democracy you now enjoy and espouse. I certainly hope that it will be possible to notify the organizations listed that you are indeed a cosponsor of H. R. 1286 of March 25, 1999.

Walter G. Hooke  
Vet USMC Occupation of Nagasaki  
Oct. 1945 - Feb. 1946

\*\*\*\*\*

Remember this? Courtesy of LLoyd Kelley.



State & Area Commanders:

<u>Alabama</u>	10482 Chaney Ave.	Paul J. Birdsall	704-847-8835
O.T. Weeks	Zion, IL 60099	RR 5 Box 522	<u>North Dakota</u>
300 Pineapple Hwy	847-623-8936	Carthage, MO 64836	Raymond A. folkestad
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Mena, AR 71953	William D. Cummins	Rudy Florentine	Portland, OR 97203
501-394-2896	2422 N. Ft. Thomas	126 N. Avolyn Ave.	503-289-2720
<u>California</u>	Ftt. Thomas, KY 41075	Ventnor City, NJ 08406	*Roger Reppeto
Vacancy	606-781-4715	609-822-9714	38569 Weirich Dr.
<u>Colorado</u>	<u>Louisiana</u>	*Joseph Iacangelo	Lebanon, OR 97335
Vacancy	Vacancy	P.O. Box 273	541-259-3656
<u>Connecticut</u>	<u>Maine</u>	Bradley Beach, NJ 07720	*James L. Bradley
Jerry Stoddard	Vacancy	908-458-4893	339 Alameda
P.O. Box 2332	<u>Maryland</u>	*James J. Nash	Klamath Falls, OR 97601
Manchester, CT 06045-2332	Charles R. McKay	21 Ironwood Way	541-884-3253
860-646-7710	304 Marlinspike Rd.	Little Falls, NJ 07424	<u>Pennsylvania</u>
<u>Delaware</u>	Severna Park, MD 21146	201-256-4147	Herbert L. Stradley
Edward M. Kulko	410-647-8268	<u>New Mexico</u>	2517 Dunks Ferry Rd.
4500 Roslyn Rd.	<u>Massachusetts</u>	Glen D. Howard	Bensalem, PA 19020
Wilmington, DE 19804	Ronald T. Benoit	7 Peach Blossom Rd.	215-638-2521
302-994-8590	RR3 Box 3141	Los Lunas, NM 87031	<u>Rhode Island</u>
<u>Florida</u>	Holland, MA 01521	505-865-8138	Ronald T. Benoit
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813-845-4274	6451 Theisen Rd.	Albuquerque, NM 87105	<u>South Carolina</u>
<u>Georgia</u>	Elmira, MI 49730	505-877-3707	Edward Vic Fenton
Kenneth P. Price	616-546-3629	*Ted Garcia (South)	656 Boulevard St. NE
2326 New Statenville Hwy	<u>Minnesota</u>	4075 Windridge Circle	Orangeburg, SC 29115
Valdosta, GA 31601	Kenneth D. Fink	Las Cruces, NM 88012	803-534-7707
912-244-7327	1223 225th Ave.	505-382-1899	<u>South Dakota</u>
<u>Hawaii</u>	Currie, MN 56123	<u>New York</u>	Janet Leih
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<u>Idaho</u>	<u>Mississippi</u>	889 Randell Rd.	Canton, SD 57013-0164
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7200 Court Ave.	*Charles I. Jenkins	518-393-3907	<u>Tennessee</u>
Boise, ID 83704	111 Jenkins Rd.	*William D. Nelson	Claude R. Burpee, Sr.
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<u>Illinois</u>	601-825-8264	Rye, NY 10580-4006	Maryville, TN 37803
Aubrey F. Biggs, Sr.	<u>Missouri</u>	914-967-6273	615-984-8646
		<u>North Carolina</u>	<u>Texas</u>
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			210-696-6708
			*Edward R. Zeek
			5820 Vista Clara

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Spokane, WA 99205

West Virginia

Donald R. Tennant  
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Fairmont, WV 26554  
304-363-0895

Wisconsin

Norman Dukes  
200 Lake Dr.  
S. Milwaukee, WI 53172-1236  
414-762-0192

Wyoming

Vacancy

Notice: We would like to publish the Fax #'s & e-mail addresses for all of the Board of Directors, State & Area Commanders, as well as Reconstruction Coordinators who have same in order that Members, State & Area Commanders may communicate with each other in a timely manner at low cost on issues. For those of you who are interested, please send them to the Editor at: see newsletter front cover.

Reconstruction Coordinators:

**Volunteers** are needed to serve as Reconstruction Coordinators for nuclear bomb tests and other radiation-risk activities not listed including Naval nuclear propulsion workers; medical radiation workers; industrial radiation workers; DoD support of

nuclear weapons development; Naval radiation waste workers; nuclear maintenance workers and handlers; nuclear accident responder; underground nuclear test program participants; nuclear cleanup workers from Eniwetok and Johnson Atolls; air crew. The above exposures were determine by the Veterans Affairs Committee on Environmental Hazards, August 1993, in response to a Congressional Mandate in PL 102-578. Call NAAV at 1-800-784-NAAV.

Buster/Jangle:

Wesley E. Curtis  
3329 Santa Clara SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106  
505-256-1993

Castle:

Keith W. Dallman  
68 Elmore St.  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
413-532-8613

Crested Ice:

Gregory H. Maas  
367 Wilshire  
Park Forest, IL 60466  
708-747-1883

Crossroads:

Boley Caldwell III  
2310 Apollo Way  
Mesquite, TX 75150  
214-279-3018

Eniwetok Cleanup:

Rich Doherty  
P.O. Box 14  
S. Easton, MA 02375  
(Write for information)

Dominic I & II:

John H. Watkins  
P.O. Box 991  
Leicester, NC 28748  
704-649-1095

Hardtack I:

Joseph J. Jahoda  
86 Surrey Lane  
Tenafly, NJ 07670  
201-568-0945

Hardtack II:

John H. Watkins  
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Leicester, NC 28748  
704-649-1095

Hiroshima/Nagasaki:

East Coast -  
Robert Orr, USMC  
565 King St.  
Northumberland, PA 17857  
West Coast -  
Victor Tolley

72 Leewood,  
Aptos, CA 95003  
408-684-2039

Ivy:

John J. Sheridan  
1 Possum Path  
Coram, NY 11727  
516-589-5514

Plumbbob:

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Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734

POWS:

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Oakley, KS 67748  
913-672-4446

Greenhouse:

Robert Campbell  
7 Vester St.  
Portland, ME 04104  
207-773-9594

Maintenance & Weapons Handling:

Billy Newsom  
Box 1514  
Antioch, TN 27011  
615-361-8940

Miami Moon &

Foreign Tests:  
Edmond Burke  
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Norwalk, CT 07851  
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Sandstone:

Gordon L. Gilchrist  
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EAU Claire, WI 54703

Tumbler/Snapper:

John Primiano  
524 Beech Tree Ct.  
Danville, VA 24541  
804-822-2515

Ranger:

Jerry D. Schultz  
12470 Lower River Rd.  
Grants Pass, OR 97526  
503-479-2049

Teapot:

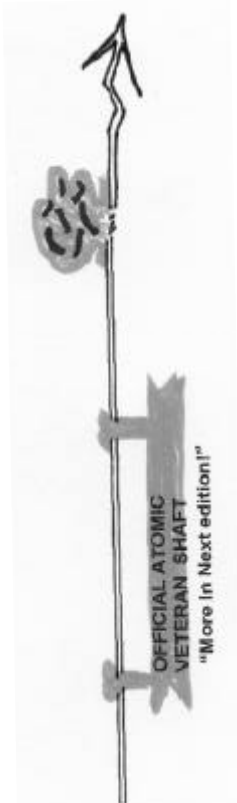
Walter C. Levine  
P.O. Box 468  
LaFollette, TN 37766  
615-562-1742

Trinity:

David P. Randolph  
5124 Woods Resorts  
Hedgeville, WV 25427  
304-754-9738

Wigwam:

Richard M. Moeseer  
4475 E. Spanish Moss Ln.  
Flagstaff, AZ 86004-7590  
520-526-8831





***National Association of Atomic Veterans  
Membership Application***

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
2. Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_
3. Tp( ) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX( ) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_
4. Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_  
Service # \_\_\_\_\_ SSN \_\_\_\_\_
5. Ship, Marine & Army Divisions & Units, Air Force Squadrons, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Place and conditions under which you were exposed to radiation \_\_\_\_\_
7. Illnesses that may have been caused by your exposure to radiation \_\_\_\_\_
8. Illnesses and birth defects of children and grandchildren, if any \_\_\_\_\_
9. Claims filed with VA? When? \_\_\_\_\_ if denied, explain why  
and send copy of VA's denial letter \_\_\_\_\_
10. Reasons for filing claims \_\_\_\_\_
11. If atomic veteran related to you is deceased; please send copy of death certificate with  
Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_ Cause of Death \_\_\_\_\_  
Illnesses that preceded death \_\_\_\_\_
12. Name, address and telephone number of person who filled out this form if different from  
above: \_\_\_\_\_
13. I give NAAV permission to publish any of the above information:  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
14. NAAV may also publish my name, address and telephone number:  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues \$15.00. Life Memberships \$200.00, payable in quarterly installments of \$25.00 or more. Do not send cash. Make check or money order payable to NAAV and send to: NAAV, P.O. Box 2558, Ventnor, NJ 08406-0558.

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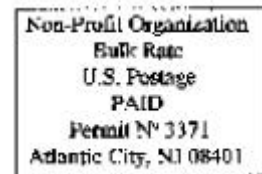
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Address Correction Requested



**Dated Material**