



ATOMIC VETERANS

NEWSLETTER

ORVILLE & WANDA KELLY, Co-Founders

Dick Conant, Editor - Dale Howard, Assistant editor

N.A.A.V. Office, P.O. Box 1691, Los Lunas, NM 87031 Tp & Fx: 505-866-5332

E-M: commander@naav.com executivedirector@naav.com

treasurer@naav.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2002

VA Compensates More Veterans Exposed to Radiation

WASHINGTON - Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) Anthony J. Principi announced today the addition of five new cancers to the list of diseases presumed to be connected to the exposure of veterans to radiation during their military service. Veterans diagnosed with cancer of the bone, brain, colon, lung or ovary will have an easier time establishing entitlement to compensation for their illnesses beginning March 26, 2002.

“These veterans accepted the risks of duty and have borne the burden of their illnesses in service to our nation. They should not have to bear an additional and unequal burden to prove they deserve the benefits they’ve so rightfully earned. The new rules will not cure their cancers, but they will ease the burden of proof required to receive appropriate compensation for their disabilities,” Principi said.

The new rules apply to those veterans who participated in “radiation-risk activities” while on active duty, during active duty for training or inactive duty training as a member of a reserve component. The definition of radiation-risk activities has also been expanded to include service at Amchitka Island, Alaska, prior to January 1, 1974, if a veteran was exposed while performing duties related to certain underground nuclear tests. The new definition also includes service at gaseous diffusion plants located in Paducah, Ky., Portsmouth, Ohio and an area known as K25 at Oak Ridge, Tenn. The previous definition was limited to service members who took part in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki or onsite at atmospheric nuclear weapons tests, or American POWs interred in Japan during World War II. People in these groups are frequently called “atomic veterans.”

In 1988, Congress established a presumption of service connection for 13 cancers in veterans exposed to “ionizing radiation,” with later changes bringing the number to 16.

Atomic Vets 2/2/2/2

Under current statutes, the following diseases are presumed to be service connected if the veteran

TALL SHIP MODEL RAFFLE:

Don't forget to send your Tickets & Payments for Same. Drawing will be held during the next Conven- In Branson, MO.

If you need more Tickets please ask.

Also, contact other Organizations in your area about Their Participation. For more info on this subject, contact the N.A.A.V. Office.

Annual Convention:

The next Annual Convention will be held in Branson, MO. We do not have all of the details worked out at this time. Details will appear in the April newsletter. The Dates will probably be from July 15, 16, 17. This coincides with Remembrance Day of July 16. Make plans to attend. "Enjoy Branson Hospitality to Veterans."

Terry Brady (Director) is busy lining up Speakers of notoriety.

This meeting will take up the Constitution & ByLaws, a Re-written proposal, much simpler & geared to current times, to be voted upon by members present. Nominations & election results for Directors will take place.

Other subjects will be addressed.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS:

To continue the Maintenance of the Veterans Medical History DataBase & Construct & Maintain a Genetically Impaired Offspring DataBase. Software & Procedures will be furnished, as well as some monetary expense reimbursements.

Interested partys are requested to submit their proposals in writing to: N.A.A.V., P.O. Box 1691, los Lunas, NM 87031 OR via e-mail to: commander@naav.com.

Subject: Status of NAAV Finances As of 12/31/01

Checking Account--#1219346
 Balance as of 11/30/01 was \$ 1671.96
 Deposits 1900.00

Atomic Veterans Newsletter

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

N.A.A.V. Reserves the right to edit and publish material submitted. Articles on atomic testings, 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 The views and opinions of contributors do not necessarily represent those of the National Association of Atomic Veterans.

Memberships are: Annual - \$20.00 ["Dues Due Date is reflected on the Newsletter Mailing Label as: 01/01/02], Life - \$200.00 [may be paid in Quarterly Installments - Number of Payments Remaining reflected on Mailing Label as: LIFE-"X"']. WE DO NOT SEND NEWSLETTERS IF YOUR "DUES DUE DATE" IS SIX MONTHS PAST DUE. The Newsletter Returns are Costly! Please keep your Membership Data as up to date as possible and MAIL RETURNED NEWSLETTERS! Please remit Dues Payments to this Office.

Expenses	814.73
Balance as of 12/31/01	\$2757.23
Life Account--#1201727	
Balance as of 11/30/01 was	\$26402.90
Deposit--Interest Income	34.76
Balance as of 12/31/01	\$ 26437.66

participated in a radiation-risk activity: leukemia (other than chronic lymphocytic leukemia), cancer of the thyroid, breast, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, pancreas, gall bladder, bile ducts, salivary gland, or urinary tract, multiple myeloma, lymphomas (except Hodgkin's disease), primary cancer of the liver (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated) or bronchiolo-alveolar carcinoma. VA's changes ensure equity between veterans and federal civilians who may be entitled to compensation for these cancers caused by radiation under comparable federal laws such as the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) of 1990, as amended in 2000. Veterans or their survivors can file claims for compensation by contacting a VA regional office at 1-800-827-1000 or visiting VA's Website at www.va.gov.

#

From Dick: My understanding that the foregoing is issued as a Regulation, and as such, retroactive payments for awarded Claims under this Regulation will not prevail. I have an inquiry in to VA in Washington on this subject and awaiting a reply probably in week of Jan. 28 plus.

New Rules for Diseases Specific to Radiation-Exposed Veterans Questions & Answers

Q. What prompted VA to change these regulations?

A. VA made the changes to ensure the rules governing federal benefit programs were applied consistently and fairly and so veterans exposed to radiation during military service would have the same burden of proof for these five cancers as civilians covered under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA), as amended.

Q. What do these new rules mean for veterans?

A. It means veterans who participated in a radiation-risk activity, and is later diagnosed with one of the cancers on the list are presumed to have contracted their illness from that service-connected exposure and are eligible for disability compensation.

Q. How many diseases are on VA's list?

A. The addition of the five new cancers, bone, brain, colon, lung and ovarian, bring the total of presumptive diseases to 21.

Q. Who is covered by RECA?

A. RECA applies to certain residents of Nevada, Utah and Arizona who lived downwind from the Government's above-ground nuclear tests, underground uranium miners, and persons who participated onsite in an atmospheric detonation of a nuclear device and contracted a specified disease.

Q. How much will these changes cost in terms of benefits?

A. We estimate a total benefits cost of approximately \$769 million over 10 years.

Q. How about the administrative costs?

A. Based on workload projections, we estimate a cost of \$34 million over the 10-year period.

Q. How much disability compensation would a veteran exposed to radiation be eligible to receive?

A. Rates of compensation depend upon the degree of disability and follow a payment schedule applicable to all veterans. Disability ratings are in increments of 10%.

Q. What other services, in addition to the disability compensation, does VA offer these veterans?

A. Veterans are provided health care for their exposure-related illness without regard to age, service-connected status, or income level and no co-payments are required. In addition, VA maintains a registry program for veterans exposed to ionizing radiation, and veterans on the registry

are provided a complete physical examination. As of the beginning of 2000, nearly 22,000 veterans had received this special examination.

VA Media Relations / OPA (1/25/02)

From: "Evan Douple" <EDouple@nas.edu>

Dear Richard:

John Till and I have drafted a text for your use if the opportunity still exists for this.

Have you had your radiation dose reconstructed by DTRA? The National Academy of Sciences Committee to Review the Dose Reconstruction Program of DTRA would like to receive examples of correspondence from the VA or DOD/DNA/DTRA reporting your dose and explaining how your dose reconstruction was done. Please send a copy of this correspondence with any attachments to NAAV if you are willing for this to be used by the National Academy of Sciences Committee in their work. The Academy Committee is looking for this type of correspondence in their evaluation of the dose reconstructions. Please be sure to indicate that the Academy has your permission to use your correspondence as part of their public record.

Evan Douple [National Academy of Sciences-Coordinator to the Committee investigating the Accuracies & Inaccuracies of Dose Reconstructions by DTRA as a result of Senate Sub-committee Hearings under S.1385. Mr. John Till & Others from the Committee were at our Annual Convention in October, last.].

As time is of the essence, if any members desire to respond, please do so soon [the Committee's Recommendation Report goes to the Senate Sub-committee in March] so send copies of Items requested via Surface Mail directly to:

Dr. John Till

c/o: National Academy of Sciences
Board on Radiation Effects Research
HA-466
2001 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20007

This Committee has already caused DTRA to "re-think, and respond to DR requests by issuing Statements which are more "in depth" than in the past. Thanks for your participation. Dick, National Commander

Date: Tue, 15 Jan 2002 22:26:19 -0600

From: berniecl <berniecl@swbell.net>

Subject: Veterans History Project

If you are not aware of this project launched by Federal Law on Nov 11, 2000, go to website www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/ .

Dick the existence of this project should probably put in the next NAAV Newsletter. Bernie

To: RUCON1@juno.com
GovExec.com Today - January 15, 2002

4. VA partnership could result in landmark health care service By Marilyn Werber Serafini, National Journal

The Veterans Affairs Department is expected to soon form a landmark partnership with the private sector that would set a new precedent for delivering health care to veterans. If VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi approves the project, which he is expected to do, veterans in Colorado would get their surgeries and other care alongside civilians in a sparkling new state-of-the-art hospital that the VA would build jointly with the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. The department is viewing the collaboration with an eye toward other such joint ventures that would improve quality and reduce costs.

It's not as if Colorado's veterans dislike their autonomous health care network. Indeed, veterans have historically sought to maintain control over their unique care-delivery system. In 1992, Edward J. Derwinski, then VA Secretary, recommended opening several underused VA hospitals located in rural areas to poor civilians. Besieged by angry veterans, Derwinski eventually resigned.

But that was 10 years ago, before health care had become so expensive, and before the development of so much breakthrough--and costly--diagnostic and treatment equipment. It was also before many veterans hospitals started looking old and, some say, outdated.

Full story: < <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0102/011402nj2.htm> >
<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0102/011402nj2.htm>

KEEP US INFORMED of State/Area/VA Medical activities which you conduct and/or are involved in. we will be posting these in the new N.A.A.V. "YahooGroups" Section of the N.A.A.V. web site as they are received [by mail to the NAAV Office - by e-mail to commander@naav.com]. By observing what activities others are involved in, others can receive guidance & ideas for their areas.

We are seeking more VA Med Reps (one for each Med Facility is the GOAL). This Program is progressing well and has already benefited several Veterans. VA Med Facilities are becoming more familiar with their IRR [Ionizing Radiation Exposure Register].

BECOME INVOLVED. ASSIST YOUR FELLOW NUCLEAR VETS.

BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE YEARS 2000 -2002

National Commander

Richard U. Conant-Life
2424 Venetian Way SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico
87105-7236
Phone: 505-877-3707
Fax: 505-877-3707
E-M: commander@naav.com
E-M: rucon1@juno.com

Vice Commander-Merchandise Sales

Rudy J. Ritter
11214 Sageland
Houston, Texas 77089
Phone: 281-481-1357
E-M: rjritter@evl.net

Treasurer

Bernard E. Clark
2439 E. 47th Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74105-5173
Phone & Fax: 918-749-2034
E-M: treasurer@naav.com
E-M: berniecl@swbell.net

Executive & Legislative Director

Glenn Dale Howard - Life
7 Peach Blossom Road
Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031
Phone & Fax: 505-865-8138
E-M:
executivedirector@naav.com
E-M: leprechaun40@juno.com

Adjutant & Membership Director

William A. Harper - Life
9308 Navajo Place
Sun Lakes AZ. 85248
Phone: 480-895-0676
FAX: 480-895-0674
E-M. bharper@mindspring.com

Director at Large - Special Projects

Coordinator
Teriy T. Brady,
3842 Wesleyan Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4821
Phone: 907-333-9462
Fax: 907-333-9472
E-M: akatvet@pci.net

Director at Large - Overseer NSO Program

Claude R. Burpee Sr.,
2108 Chippendale Drive
Maryville, TN. 37803-2886
Phone: 865-984-8646
E-M: CBurpee@aol.com
Non-Director Assistants:

Legislative Liason-District of Columbia Area

Charles Charles R McKay
304 Marlinspike Drive
Severna Park, MD 21146-3309
E-M: gsnswim@hotmail.com
Advisor-Health Studies

OPEN

NAAV National Service Officer

Eric Robinson
861 Holloway Street
Alcoa, TN 37701
erobinson@nxs.net

Legislative Director

Mrs. Pat Broudy
PATBNAAV@aoI.com

State and Area Commanders
[If your State is not listed, we are seeking Persons willing to serve]

ALABAMA

STATE COMMANDER
Charles J. Lewis (LTC Ret)
214 Cherryhill Road
Enterprise AL 36330
PH -347-3329

ALASKA

STATE COMMANDER
William C. Cox
P.O. Box 670010
Chugiak AK 99567
PH 907-688-2509
avnut@bigfoot.com

ARIZONA

STATE COMMANDER
Carlos R. Contieras
202 Camino Del Varonil
Green Valley AZ 85614
PH 520-399-1664

ARKANSAS

STATE COMMANDER
Frederick Hensley
316 Polk Rd. 74
MENA AR 71953

PH 501-394-2896
Fehensley@voltage.net

CALIFORNIA

STATE COMMANDER
J. D. Hammond
6659 Huntington Dr.
San Bernadino CA 92407
PH 909-887-1784
JDugh@aol.com

AREA COMMANDER

Kenneth D. Hanrahan
7727 Highcliff Street
Rosemead, CA 91770-3040
PH 626-288-0988

AREA COMMANDER

Robert M. Campbell
8701 Mesa Rd. Sp 70
Santee CA 92071-3629
E-M: mapacambel@home.com

COLORADO

STATE COMMANDER
Bud Morley
20939 Woodside Lane
Parker CO 80138
PH 720-851-9785
FAX 720-851-9806
Budmorley@pcisys.net

CONNECTICUT

STATE COMMANDER
Jerry Stoddard
6 Falcon La.
Glastonbwy CT 06033
PH 860-633-5461
VP6VET@home.com

DELAWARE

STATE COMMANDER
Edward M. Kulko
4500 Roslyn Rd.
Wilmington DE 19804
PH 302-994-8590

FLORIDA

STATE COMMANDER
Bill Simkins
5628 Christianoy Ave.
Port Orange FL 32127
PH 386-322-2191
E-M: mrsimie@cfl.rr.com

AREA COMMANDER

Gerald H. Stone
5598 Whitney Dr. B-106
Del Ray Beach FL 33484
PH 561-496-6152

AREA COMMANDER

Carl Addison
2238 Virginia Ave.
Fort Myers, FL 33905
PH 941-694-9569

GEORGIA

STATE COMMANDER
Kenneth P. Price
2326 New Statenville Hwy.
Valdosta GA 31606

PH 912-244-7327
Ppprice@surfsouth.com

HAWAII

STATE COMMANDER
Charlie Clark
1245 Akele Street
Kailua, HI 96734
PH 808-262-7040
clarkc006@hawaii.rr.com

IDAHO

STATE COMMANDER
Henry L. Gimmel
7200 Court Ave.
Boise ID 83704
PH 208-375-0556
Hgimmel@micron.net

ILLINOIS

STATE COMMANDER
Aubrey F Biggs Sr.
10482 Chancy Ave.
Zion IL 60099
PH 847-623-8936
jkorpi1@home.com

INDIANA

STATE COMMANDER
James L. Phillips
605 West Main Street
Redkey, IN 47373-0412
PH 765-369-2891

KANSAS

STATE COMMANDER
Lewis E. Patton
10206 Rosewood
Overland KS 66207
1-800-898-4873

KENTUCKY

STATE COMMANDER
William D. Cummins
2422 N Fort Thomas
Fort Thomas KY 41075
PH 859-380-0915
Williamdc@fuse.net

LOUISIANA

STATE COMMANDER
Earl J. Brown
102 E. Winsor Drive
Thibodaux LA 70301
PH 985-446-1747

MAINE

STATE COMMANDER
Robert Campbell
43 Cumberland Ave.
Portland ME 04101
PH 207-773-9594
AVRI@worldnet.att.net

MARYLAND

STATE COMMANDER
Charles R. McKay

304 Marlinspike Rd.
Severna Park MD 21146
PH 410-647-8268
*12/28 thin 4/30 Florida
4425 Saxon Drive
New Smyrna Beach FL 32161
PH 904-409-7561
*Late May thru Sep. 20
P.O. Box 40
Salisbury Cove ME 04672
PH 207-288-4158
MASSACHUSETTS
STATE COMMANDER
Ronald T. Benoit
15 Brimfield Rd.
Holland MA 01521
PH 413-245-7819
AREA COMMANDER
Peter J. Thompson
23 Antigo Lane
Centerville MA 02632
PH 508-790-3159
MINNESOTA
STATE COMMANDER
James V. Hamann
P.O. Box 172
Dayton MN 55327-0172
PH 763-428-2046
MISSISSIPPI
STATE COMMANDER
Charles R. Jenkins
330 George Warren Rd.
Brandon MS 39042
PH 601-825-1303
MISSOURI
STATE COMMANDER
Darrell D. Robertson
501 West 3rd
Lamar MO 64759
PH 417-682-8665
PH 417-682-2628
Champsales@tiadon.com
NEVADA
STATE COMMANDER
Jack Nelson
1336 Sun Point Drive
Las Vegas NV 89108-0849
PH 702-646-9202
NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE COMMANDER
[Summer Address]
James J. Kelly
14 Lenzi Point
Barrington, NH 03825
PH & FX: 603-664-9978
[Winter address]
128 Gause Dr.
Venice FL 34293
PH 941-423-9302
Jjkellyvet@aol.com
NEW JERSEY
STATE COMMANDER

Rudy Florentine
126 N Avolyn Ave.
Ventnor N.J. 08406-2117
PH 609-822-9714
E-M: mflorentine@msn.com
AREA COMMANDER
James J. Nash
21 Iornwood Way
Little Falls NJ 07424
PH 201-256-4147
nash071202@aol.com
AREA COMMANDER
Bernard M. Rothenberg
106 Foxwood Road
Lakewood NJ 08701
PH 732-730-3720
NEW MEXICO
STATE COMMANDER
Dale Howard
7 Peach Blossom Rd.
Los Lunas NM 87031
PH 505-865-8138
Leprechaun40@juno.com
AREA COMMANDER
Richard U. Conant
2424 Venetian Way S.W.
Albuquerque NM 87105
PH 505-877-3707
rucon1@juno.com
NEW YORK
STATE COMMANDER
John Edwards
889 Randall Rd.
Niskayuna NY 12309
PH 518-393-3907
AREA COMMANDER
Thomas N. McKay
840 LaRue Road
Clifton Springs NY 14432
PH&FX 315-462-9272
E-M: mark1@fltg.net
OHIO
STATE COMMANDER
Theo (Ted) V. Bennett
5287 Millcreek Road
Kettering, OH 45440-2531
PH 937-438-8540
E-M: DelTech@worldnet.att.net
OKLAHOMA
STATE COMMANDER
Charles L. Bettis
6717N.W. 128TH Terrace
Oklahoma City, OK 73142
PH 405-722-2780
OREGON
STATE COMMANDER
Fredrick H. Schafer
290 Hiatt Street
Lebanon OR. 97355-4515
PH 541-258-7453
derf@dnc.net
AREA COMMANDER

Keith R. Whittle
7342 N Alma Ave.
Portland OR. 97203
PH 503-289-2720
Pdxavets@aracnet.com
AREA COMMANDER
Roger Reppeto
38569 Weirich Dr.
Lebanon OR 97335
PH 541-259-3656
Reppeto@dnc net
AREA COMMANDER
James L. Bradley
339 N Alameda Ave.
Kiamath Falls OR 97601
PH 541-884-3253
PENNSLYVANIA
STATE COMMANDER
Herbert L. Stradley
25 17 Dunks Feriy Rd
Bensalem PA. 19020
PH 215-638-2521
hls17@voicen.net.com
AREA COMMANDER
James Humphreys
903 Neshaminy St
Hulmeville PA 19047
PH 215-757-8640
Helen@goodwaygroup.com
AREA COMMANDER
John Sawyer
515 McKean St
Philadelphia PA. 19148
PH 215-467-9451
RHODE ISLAND
STATE COMMANDER
Ronald T. Benoit
15 Brimfield Rd
Holland MA 01521
PH 413-245-7819
AREA COMMANDER
Peter J. Thompson
23 Antico Lu.
Centeiville MA 02632
PH 508-790-3159
SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE COMMANDER
Edward Vic Fenton
656 Boulevard St. NE
Orangeburg SC 29115
PH 803-534-7707
vicivy3@Jbellsouthnet
SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE COMMANDER
Janet Leih
P.O. Box 164
Canton SD 57013-0164
PH 605-987-5070
leih@prontomail.com
TENNESSEE
STATE COMMANDER
William E. Griffis, Jr.

171 Plantation Road
Jackson TN 38305-2059
PH 901-668-0265
atomicvet38305@cbarter.net
TEXAS
STATE COMMANDER
R.J. Ritter
11214 Sageland
Houston TX 77089
PH 281-481-1357
rjritter@ev1.net
AREA COMMANDER
James A. Brettell
5512 Quail Creek Dr.
Tyler, TX 75703
PH -903-7044
jbrettellj@aol.com
AREA COMMANDER
Eldred R. Zeek
5820 Vista Clara
El Paso TX 79912
PH 915-8334)293
Bczeek@aol.com
AREA COMMANDER
Robert D. Stroup
108 E. Canyon View Circle
Ransom Canyon, TX 79366
UTAH
STATE COMMANDER
Robert C Carter
4609 Thornwood Ave
Taylorsville UT 84123
PH 801-268-1290
Recrown50@msn.com

TEST CONSULTANTS
[If you were a participant in
an unlisted Operation & desire
to serve, please contact us]
CRESTED ICE
Giegozy H. Maas
367 Wilshire jark
Forest IL 11694-0066
PH 708-747-1883
HARDTACK I
Joseph J Jahoda
86 Surrey Lane
Tenafly NJ 07670
PH 201-568-0945
HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI
EAST COAST
Robert Off
565 King Street
Northumberland PA 17857
PH 717-473-8845
CENTRAL
Eldred R. Zeek
5820 Vista Clam
El Paso TX 79912
P11 915-833-0293
bczeek@aol.com
WEST COAST

Victor Tolley
72 Leewood
Aptos, Ca 95003
PH 408-684-2039
PLUMBBOB
Charles J Lewis (LTC Ret)
214 Chenyhill Road
Enterprise AL 36330
CASTLE
Ronald L. Benoit
15 Briznfeld Rd.
Holland MA 01521
PH 413-245-7819
HARDTACK II
John H. Watkins
P.O. Box 991
Leicester NC 28748
PH 704-649-1095
DOMINIC 1&2
John H Watkins
P.OBOX 991
Leicester NC 28748
PH 704-649-1095
POWs
Henry R. Patton
517 Freeman
Oakley KS 67734
PH 913-6724446
SANDSTONE
Gordon L Gilchiist
2736 6th Street
Eauclaire WI 54703
PH 715-832-0584
TUMBLER/SNAPPER
John Primiano
524 Beech Tree Court
DanvilleVA24541
PH 804-822-0146
ja7prim@gamewood.net
GREENHOUSE
Robert Campbell
43 Cumberland Ave.
Portland ME 04101
PH 207-773-9594
AVRI@worldnet.att.net
TEAPOT
Bernard M. Rothenberg
106 Foxwood Road
Lakewood NJ 08701
PH 732-730-3720
TRINITY
David P Randolph
Woods Resorts
Hedgeville WV 25427
PH 304-754-9738
**MIAMI MOON &
FOREIGN TESTS**
Edmund Burke
14 Maurice Street
Norwalk CT 06851
PH 203-866-6292
edatomic@optonbne.net

WIGWAM
Richard M Moeser
4475 B. Spanish Moss Lane
Flagstaff AZ. 86004-7590
Ph 520-526-0309
rmmoesre@aol.com
**MAINTENANCE &
WEAPONS HANDLING**
Billy Newsom
Box 1514
Anlioch TN 37011
Ph 615-361-8940

**NAAV VA MEDICAL
CENTERS
AV REPs**

ARIZONA/Tucson
Carlos R. Contreras
202 Camino Del Varonil
Green Valley AZ 85614
PH 520-399-1664
CHICAGO/HINES
William Fish
17362 Bmok Crossing Court
Orland Park IL 60467
PH 708-479-0193
em: nukedapri853@aol.com
CHICAGO/MILWAUKI
Aubrey F Biggs, Sr.
10482 Chancy Ave.
Zion, IL 60099
PH 847-623-8936
**NEW
MEXICO/ALBUQUERQUE**
Glen Dale Howard
07 Peach Blossom Road
Los Lunas NM 87031
PH & FX 505-865-8138
leprechaun40juno.com
Richard U Conant
2424 Venetian Way SW
Albuquerque NM 87105
PH 505-877-3707
FX 505-877-2119
rucon1@juno.com
NEVADA
Jack Nelson
1335 Sun Point Drive
Las Vegas NV 89108-0849
PH 702-646-9202
WEST TEXAS/S. NM
Eldred R. Zeek
5820 Vista Clam
El Paso TX 79912
PH 915-8334293
Bczeek@aol.com
WISCONSIN/WAUKESHA
Robert Greene
1548 Cedar Lane
Waukesha WI 53188

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Tommy N.
Thomas-Helmet, CA
Kenneth E.
Jewell-Corinth, VT

Jess Williams
(Nagasaki)-OR
Clint Carter
(Crossroads)-OR
Clare Vandehey
(Crossroads)-OR
Joe Lines
(Hardtack)-OR
Don Townsend-MN

Date: Mon, 21 Jan 2002 20:16:34 -0800

Portland Area Atomic Veterans had another
sucessful meeting Jan 21 at the American Legion
Post 158 in Tigard Oregon.

30 folks were in attendance with about 25 or so
being atomic veterans.

Subjects covered were the passing of 4 of our
members. Celebration of Ivy and Tumbler/Snapper
military participation, short history, one
Tumbler/Snapper participant present, none from
Ivy.

Announcements by Fred Schaffer (Oregon State
Commander) and Keith Whittle (Portland Area
Commander.)

Invited VSOs were not present. (holiday).

Two new Crossroads fellows present.
Two son's of a deceased Hardtack veteran present.

Excellent lunch at 5.00 per head provided by Post
158 Womens auxillary. Keith Whittle

National Association of Atomic Veterans

The purchase of N.A.A.V. items contributes to our efforts to represent the needs of military veterans and civilians, who while in the course of carrying out their duties, in the best interest of protecting the national security of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA, participated in the manufacture, detonation, disassembly or destruction of nuclear, thermo-nuclear and hydrogen warheads, and who are experiencing deleterious health effects precipitated by their exposure to harmful ionizing radiation, and are currently in need of assistance in securing health benefits from the Veteran's Administration or other health provider institutions.

I. D. # Description and pricing information

- N-1-C** Atomic Bomb Auto Decal (4" round) with Atomic Veteran letters-Price each: \$3.00 plus \$1.00 post fee----- total - \$ 4.00
 - N-2-C** Atomic Bomb Auto Decal (4"x5") with Atomic Veteran letters-Price each: \$4.00 plus \$1.00 post fee----- total - \$ 5.00
 - N-4-S** Auto side window sticker "clear" with white NAAV lettering
Price each: \$4.00 plus \$1.00 post fee----- total - \$ 5.00
 - N-5-S** Auto windshield sticker "clear" - Atomic Soldier
Price each: \$4.00 plus \$1.00 post fee----- total - \$ 5.00
 - N-6-C** Atomic Bomb License Plate with Atomic Veteran lettering
Price each: \$10.00 plus \$ 1.50 post fee----- total - \$11.50
 - N-7-S** Atomic Soldier Shoulder Patch (3.5" round)
Price each: \$8.00 plus \$1.00 post fee----- total - \$ 9.00
 - N-8-C** Atomic Bomb Shoulder Patch (3.5" round)
Price each: \$8.00 plus \$1.00 post fee----- total - \$ 9.00
 - N-9-C** Atomic Bomb Sew-on Patch (2.5" round)
Price each: \$4.00 plus \$1.00 post fee----- total - \$ 5.00
 - N-10-S** Atomic Soldier Baseball Cap (blue only) + Atomic Veteran letters-Price each: \$12.00 plus \$2.00 post fee----- total - \$14.00
 - N-11-C** Atomic Bomb Baseball Cap (blue only) + Atomic Veteran letters-Price each: \$12.00 plus \$2.00 post fee----- total - \$14.00
 - N-12-S** NAAV Atomic Soldier Coffee Mug
Price each: \$7.00 plus \$3.00 post fee----- total - \$10.00
 - N-13-S** Atomic Soldier Lapel Pin
Price each: \$7.00 plus \$1.00 post fee----- total - \$ 8.00
 - N-13-C** Atomic Bomb Lapel Pin
Price each: \$7.00 plus \$1.00 post fee----- total - \$ 8.00
 - N-13-T NEW ITEM** - Atomic Bomb Bolo-Tie (2_Ç¥ Bomb Logo)
Price each \$ 15.00 plus 2.00 post fee----- total - \$17.00
 - N-14-C** Atomic Veteran Certificate "4 color" for framing & display
Price each: \$12.00 - post fee included----- total - \$12.00
- Note:** Please furnish the following information when ordering an Atomic

Certificate:

Service Branch - (unit "ship" "wing" etc.) test name - test date - test location

N-15-C Atomic Veteran Sponsor Certificate "4 color" for framing & display

This is a "donation only" item, with a minimum contribution of \$50.00

A certificate will be forwarded with a tribute to the donor, on behalf of N.A.A.V.

N-17-C Atomic Bomb T-shirt with Atomic Veteran lettering (blue only)

Price each: \$14.00 plus \$2.00 post fee----- total - \$16.00

Note: We have several "Guinea Pig" T-shirts available in various sizes that will be sold at a special price of \$ 8.00 each (including post fees.) Should we receive an order for a size that we do not have, the order will be filled with items of equal value.

Here's How to Order

1. Make a list of each item I. D. number
2. Show the quantity and price of each item I. D. selected
3. Add the prices and post fees to obtain the total order value
4. Add any contributions you may wish to donate to NAAV
5. If ordering an Atomic Veteran's Certificate, be sure to include the required information for design purposes:
Your name as you want it to appear on certificate.
Service branch / unit name or number / division name or number
Airforce wing and / or squadron etc.
Naval Ship name & hull number
6. If ordering an Atomic Veteran Sponsor's Certificate, please indicate and show name (as you want it to appear) city and state.
7. Forward your personal check, company check or money order to:

N A A V Quartermaster Stores

11214 Sageland

Houston, Tx. 77089

Phone: (281-481-1357)

Please allow three to four weeks for order to arrive.

If you have any questions, please phone, or e-mail: rjritter@ev1.net

" The National Association of Atomic Veterans Board of Directors considers all items advertised for sale bearing the " Official N.A.A.V. Logo " as proprietary in nature, and does not authorize the use of the

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Wisdoms from a long ago OKIE. If you want to become a true okie, you have to learn to say fahr, wahr, tahr, and hahr and then you can keep up with the best'em. bernie clark

Subject: The Wisdom of Will Rogers

Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier 'n puttin' it back in.

If you're ridin' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.

If you get to thinking you're a person of some influence, try ordering somebody else's dog around.

After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.

Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.

There's two theories to arguing with a woman. Neither one works.

If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop digging.

Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.

It don't take a genius to spot a goat in a flock of sheep.

The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it back in your pocket.

Don't squat with your spurs on.

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

Never miss a good chance to shut up.

Always drink upstream from the herd.

When you're throwin' your weight around, be ready to have it thrown around by somebody else.

National Association of Atomic Veterans Membership Application

- 1.Name:_____Spouse:_____Date:_____
- 2.Address:_____
- 3.Tp:_____E-m:_____Date of Birth: _____
- 4.Branch of service:_____
- 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? Yes__No__ 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 \$20.00 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:
National Association of Atomic Veterans
P.O. Box 1691
Los Lunas, NM 87031

Tp: 505-877-3707, Fx: 877-2119, em: commander@naav.com

(Cut and paste this form to your word processor and modify where space is needed.)

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
of ATOMIC VETERANS
P.O. Box 1691
Los Lunas, NM 87031**

DATED MATERIAL