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If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?

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To CNN/ To whom it may concern:

It is a shame about the lady from Georgia, who was forced to resign, because the government didn't take time to listen to the whole speech. But, another sad story is the 1,400,000 disability claims pending at the VA, veterans who have been cast aside by our government. These veterans have had their claims pending for 7, 8, 9, 10 years and longer, and the VA will not recognize these claims. It's just delay, delay, delay. They stand up in front of the people of the United States, and say how proud they are of the veterans, but when it comes down to the real fact, they say they don't have the money to pay these veterans their claims. However, the VA just gave the 3,000 lawyers that they have a 9% pay raise. I don't know what amount of money in dollars and cents that amounts to, but that money could have gone to help pay some of these veterans. The VA is changing the rules of CFR 38, which is the 'Bible' for the VA. CFR 38.USC 501 part 3 adjudication S 3102 states that when the VA has NO evidence, the benefit of the doubt should go to the veteran. Also, CFR 38 asks for eye-witness letters, which the VA says will help your case, and the testimony is to be 'the truth' coming from another veteran who witnessed, but now they say these people are not 'professionals' and their testimony is no good. They testified of the presence, spraying, and storage of herbicides (Agent Orange) on the island of Guam during the Vietnam era. The VA says they have 'no records.' These records were destroyed back in the 1970's, so the benefit of the doubt should go to the veteran. There have been 6 other claims paid for Guam veterans in the last 5 years; these claims state that Agent Orange was on Guam. Yet, the VA says that they will go out and help get evidence for your case. Yet, they will NOT look at these other claims.

There are 156 Guam claims pending, just from the VA's changing of the rules of CFR 38. In these 156 claims pending, here is some of the evidence in these claims.

- Dow Chemical report stating that herbicides were put on Guam-report 2004
- EPA report stating 19,000 parts per million of Agent Orange present
- Sixteen Superfund cleanups millions upon millions of dollars US Government spent
- ASTDR-Federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
- 5 pictures of the barrels of Agent Orange stored on the tarmac on Andersen AFB
- Report of a study conducted by Dr. Luis Szyfres, a renowned MD/PhD and 20 of his colleagues on the contamination of Guam
- Newspaper clipping from the US Military Times stating the contamination of Guam
- CBS News report dated 2005 on the contamination of Guam

All of this evidence is presented by these 156 Guam veterans about the contamination of Guam. Guam was a major drop-off for the herbicides (including Agent Orange) and the rainbow of colors. It was stored, sprayed, and transported into and out of Guam during the Vietnam era. Following is a list of knowledgeable people about the facts that I have stated above:

• MSgt Ed Jackson-retired	topboom@msn.com	817-821-5483
 MSgt Leroy Foster-retired 	RetAirForceMan@aol.com	716-232-4001
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Larry Scott-editor VAWatchdog.com		
• Dr. Luis Szyfres – 13 various all on BlueWater.navy		
• John Paul Rossie–exec director of BlueWater.navy		
Van Sanderson	vancil47@charter.net	775-673-1322

There are somewhere between 250 and 300 Vietnam veterans dying each day, many of whom have lost their homes, cars and on the streets.

If there is anything that CNN can do to bring this to light to the American public, the 156 Guam claims is just a small step in getting the backlog moving. They are now starting on the Gulf War troops that are being delayed claims. Why should we, as some of the oldest claims, be made to wait while we are dying off. This is not fair for thousands of brave men and women who fought for this country.

Thank you very much,

Douglas L. Kelley

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