



**WARREN COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS**

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To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter to be added to testimony for the PA Senate hearing on Veterans Affairs.

As the Senate considers the states direction on the care of its Veterans I urge you to always keep in mind that these men and women have always been willing to if needed sacrifice themselves for our freedoms and deserve the best from this Country and from the State of Pennsylvania.

As a County Veterans Service Officer I have dealt with a lot of Veterans who need assistance applying for their service connected disabilities as well as other benefits that they are entitled to. In addition to the Veteran we also have an obligation to the Widow and to the surviving children of veterans.

It takes years of training and hands on to develop the knowledge necessary to help these individuals. As a Veteran Service Officer you have to learn how to think outside the box.

I am going to describe briefly one such incident.

I had the surviving spouse of a Korean War Veterans in my office whose husband had just passed away and she didn't know if there was anything available to her but she didn't know how she was going to make ends meet with the loss of income.

The Veteran was service connected for his knee however he passed away from hypertension I had her go back to his Doctor and ask if the knee condition had any contribution to his hypertension. The Dr. gave a report that due to his knee condition he was unable to walk any distance and was completely unable to exercise which caused weight gain resulting in high blood pressure which he passed away from.

With this evidence we submitted to the VA a request to consider his death service connected which they did and she now receives a monthly compensation as well as prescription care.

This case and those like it show the need for trained dedicated individuals to assist our veterans with there claims. Assistance must be more that handing out form and saying fill these out, we are the individuals who are supposed to be helping with those forms we are the ones who should be striving to become subject matter experts

Very Respectfully

Edgar B. Burris Jr.  
Director