

Do you know of someone who needs nursing home or nearly full-time, home care? If you do, and if they fall into the eligibility requirements below, please contact me! There is a VA program, called Aid and Attendance (A & A), which provides monthly financial help to **wartime veterans** or their surviving spouses who require long term care. I've got a list (from the VA) that explains which years of service are considered wartime and which are not. You don't need to have served in a combat zone or anything like that. Call me, and I can explain.

Qualification for A & A is *income-based*, with those who have the greatest financial need taking priority. This special pension benefit is for eligible veterans, is not dependent on service-related injuries, and can help pay for: *in-home care, assisted living, or nursing home care.*

To qualify for the VA's A & A program, you must be a wartime veteran who has at least 90 days of active military service, served at least one day during a period of war, and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Wartime veterans who entered active duty on or after Sept. 8, 1980, (officers as of Oct. 16, 1981) must have completed at least 24 continuous months of military service or the total period for which they were ordered to active duty.

*Applicants must be incapable of self-support and be in need of regular personal assistance.* The veteran or surviving spouse must require the aid of another person to perform functions of everyday living. This would include activities such as bathing, feeding, dressing, toileting, transferring, and assisting in the adjustment of prosthetic/orthopedic devices. It might also include situations such as the inability to protect against hazards in the environment, being bedridden, blindness, various forms of dementia, or residency in a nursing facility due to mental or physical incapacity.

Things won't happen real fast, as applications can take a fairly long time to process and we'll need to have physicians sign statements regarding an individual's needs, etc. So, if you do know of someone who can use this help, please let me know, and I can follow-up on it.

As a reminder, if you really want to see me, it is best to call and make an appointment. I'm usually in the Roseau office all day Tuesday and Wednesday, Thursday until noon or so, and Friday until noon. But, there are times when I'm gone to training or otherwise out of town, and I hate to see you make a trip to the court house for nothing, so please call first! Office: 463-3308. Cell: 218-242-0886.

Got your Support Our Troops license plates yet?

Over and Out!