

Vets Views draft 25 Jul 08

What was Red Leader doing on 27 July 1953? What were all of you Korean War era veterans doing? Yup, that was a good day when hostilities ceased over there. There's a good book about that war, *The Coldest Winter*, might want to read it (thanks Robert). It is pretty long, so start on it now.

Recently, the DoD provided new Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) guidance to the Services, implementing the law change that extended CRSC eligibility to members with less than 20 years of service who were retired for medical reasons or under the Temporary Early Retirement Authority (TERA) during the 1990s force reduction. I think we may have a couple in the county who could now qualify, so pass the word on this please.

The services began processing claims for the new eligibles on June 8. The process is not automatic and eligible members with combat/combat-related disabilities must apply through their Service CRSC office before they can receive any compensation. Call me, I can help with this. Compensation amounts vary based on several key factors, including rank, years of service, DoD and VA disability ratings, and the portion of the disability that's due to combat. Based on individual circumstances, retirees may receive CRSC awards that restore part or all their longevity-based retired pay. In certain other cases, they may see no change in their pay. If you've got a combat/combat-related disability--apply!

Want to go to Disneyworld this fall or winter? Stay at a nice place and get a deal on the price? Keep reading. Shades of Green® on WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort wants to extend a thank you to all veterans through the "Salute to Our Veterans" program.

Traditionally, Shades of Green has been available only to eligible Active and Retired Military, National Guard, Reserves, and Department of Defense and Coast Guard civilians. For the first time, Shades of Green is inviting all veterans who have been honorably discharged to spend a well deserved vacation at its spectacular 586 room resort. I can tell you, it's a nice place, we stayed there a few years ago. And yes, I did go on a couple of rides.

Reservations are available at Shades of Green any for January or September. You will need your DD 214. They also would be happy to assist in making reservations within the Disney area for other months of the year. For more information and links visit: www.shadesofgreenvets.org or call (407) 827-8387.

Anyone have a VA home loan? There are about 2.3 million home loans in effect. These homes were purchased through the VA's home-loan guaranty

program which makes home loans more affordable for veterans, active-duty members and some surviving spouses by protecting lenders from loss if the borrower fails to repay the loan. More than 90 percent of VA-backed home loans were granted without a down payment.

Recently many home owners have found it difficult to pay their mortgages, but quick intervention by VA loan counselors has reduced the number of veterans defaulting on their home loans. Depending on a veteran's circumstances, VA can intercede with the borrower on the veteran's behalf to pursue options – such as repayment plans, forbearance, and loan modifications—that would allow a veteran to keep a home.

These VA counselors also can assist other veterans with financial problems. To obtain help from a VA financial counselor, you can call VA toll-free at 1 (877) 827-3702. Got a computer? Information about VA's home loan guaranty program can be obtained at www.homeloans.va.gov.

Hey Bob, how's the temp down there in AZ?

Over and Out!