

REPORT FROM THE VETERANS AGENT

The Veterans Service Office is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00 A.M. to 4 P.M., telephone number (508) 758-4100, Ext. 212.

The Veterans Service Office assists veterans and their dependents as stated in Chapter 114-Medical Benefits and Chapter 115-Ordinary Benefits under Massachusetts General Laws. The Agent, files claims, explores every avenue of resources and revenue available. For those unable to return to part or full-time employment due to age, physical or emotional disability, we seek to secure a degree of financial stability that will allow the individual to maintain one's self dignity. Our office continues to deal with people on an individual basis to see that they receive assistance when needed and help them to become self-sufficient in the shortest possible time.

The office processed numerous claims for federal benefits in 2009, including VA pensions, Discharge Requests to War Records, Educational Benefits, VA loans, VA Aid and Attendance, Requests for Medals, arranging honor guards for funerals, Iraqi bonus applications, annuity claims, VA license plate requests, and EVR verification forms.

The Agent and Secretary attended Chapter 115 training in February and received certification in April for the new web based VSMIS system through the Massachusetts Department of Veterans Services.

In conjunction with the Florence Eastman Post 280-American Legion, our office helped to arrange the annual Memorial Day in Mattapoisett and Rochester and the Veterans Day ceremonies in Mattapoisett .

In 2009, we have had several phone calls inquiring about sending cards and care packages to veterans who are currently serving in the military. If anyone has a relative or friend currently serving in the United States or abroad and would like them to receive a care package, please contact our office during the business hours listed above.

My thanks to Paula Butterfield, for her help in all matters concerning the veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

**Barry J. Denham, Veterans Agent
Towns of Mattapoisett & Rochester**