

Post 171 Service Officer's Bulletin Board

NEW POST 9/11 GI Bill begins on August 1, 2009

In July of 2008 the Post-9/11 GI Bill was signed into law, creating a new robust education benefits program rivaling the Original WWII era GI Bill of Rights. The new Post 9/11 GI Bill, which goes into effect on August 1, 2009, will provide education benefits for officers and enlisted service members who have served on active duty for 90 or more days since Sept. 10, 2001. **These benefits are tiered based on the number of days served on active duty, creating a benefit package that gives current and previously activated National Guard and Reserve members the same benefits as active duty service members.** This benefit is also transferable to dependent family members.

The Department of Veterans Affairs currently accepting applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Once the VA has received your application they will determine your eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and issue you a Certificate of Eligibility. You can apply using the VA Form 22-1990. The form includes the instructions needed to begin the process. For more information call 1-888-442-4551 to speak with a Veterans Benefits Counselor for more specific information on your best benefits option.

Vets receiving VA Compensation and Pension to Receive \$250 stimulus payment

April 03, 2009

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The Veterans Affairs Department said Thursday it will issue a one-time payment of \$250 to qualifying veterans as part of its stimulus spending. The \$250 payments will be issued as early as June. To be eligible, a veteran must have received a qualifying compensation between November of last year and January. It is estimated that \$700 million will be spent on the payments.

FROM PRIOR REPORTs:

VA Home Loan Rules Change

Qualified veterans and active-duty military personnel have been able to buy a home for as much as \$417,000 without a down payment or private mortgage insurance for some time now. However the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae) has changed its rules to allow larger VA loans if the veteran or service member is willing to make a down payment of at least 25 percent of the portion of the home's price that exceeds \$417K. Veterans can learn more about VA Home Loans at <http://www.military.com/Finance/HomeBuying/>.

1. To register an Honoree in the WWII Memorial Registry go to the following link:
http://www.wwiimemorial.com/registry/edit/donor_nameaddr.asp

2. To Obtain a Presidential Memorial Certificate:

Eligible recipients, or someone acting on their behalf, may apply for a PMC in person at any VA regional office or by U.S. mail or toll-free fax. Requests cannot be sent via email. Please be sure to enclose a copy of the veteran's discharge and death certificate to verify eligibility, as we cannot process any request without proof of honorable military service. Please submit copies only, as we will not return original documents. The application for the PMC is made on VA Form 40-0247. Which may be downloaded at the following link:
<http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-0247.pdf>

3. To requested consideration for award of the Air Force Combat Action Medal (only for Air Force Personnel serving in combat after 9-11-2001). Active Duty and Active Reserve personnel should contact their flight personnel office. Discharged Air Force veterans must submit a packet request to the Board of Correction of Military Records. See a local service officer for assistance.

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