



October 2014

YOU SHOULD KNOW

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Founding Member of

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Dear Oliveri,

One of our nation's most sacred promises to veterans is that we will take care of them if they are hurt in battle. But that promise is too often broken. As Veterans Day approaches on Nov. 11, we take a closer look at the issue of veterans' benefits.



THE DOCKET /

> #1 YOUTUBE SEARCHED
VIDEO FOR NEW YORK

Five Common Errors to Avoid When Filing Claims

Backlog Improves, But Vets Still Struggle for Benefits

Right now more than 240,000 veterans have been waiting longer than 125 days for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to review their initial requests for disability and pension benefits. Meanwhile, the wait is much longer for the additional 280,000 veterans and their families who were denied benefits and filed an appeal. So long in fact, some of them died waiting. Veterans shouldn't risk life and limb on the battlefield only to battle bureaucratic red tape right here at home.



"The common refrain we hear from many veterans is, 'Delay, deny, wait till I die,'" said Rep. Jeff Miller, chair of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

[Read more. >>>](#)

BY THE NUMBERS /

522,421
Waiting ...

Approximately 522,421 veterans are waiting to have their benefit [claims reviewed](#), down from 833,930 in July 2012. [Average wait time](#): 344 days.

19,500
... Dying

An estimated 19,500 [veterans died](#) while waiting for benefits from the VA in 2012, a sharp increase from 6,400 three years earlier. The VA has since [refused](#) media requests for updated numbers.

74%
Wrong

The Board of Veterans' Appeals considered 44,300 cases in 2012, overturning 28.4 percent of the VA's initial decisions while sending another 45.8

PERSONAL INJURY LAWYER

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percent back to the agency because of staff errors [PDF].

BOOKMARK FAVORITES /



Map Shows Claims Backlog Where You Live

Wondering how bad the claims backlog is where you live? This interactive map from The Center of Investigative Reporting shows real-time backlog data for 58 VA regional offices. [View map.](#)



PBS NewsHour Follows Vets in Fight for Benefits

Just back from combat, vets tell PBS NewsHour about facing a new battle at home: waiting for a year or more for VA medical claims to be processed. [View video.](#)



VA Videos Feature Step-by-Step Benefits Information

The VA home on YouTube features multiple playlists with how-to videos on the claims process and the full range of benefits available to veterans and their families. [View benefits playlist.](#)

Phone: (800)427-9546 or
(212)987-1100. [Continue reading.](#)



Odds, Ends and More

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