

Compensation

The compensation program for service connected death and disability for all veterans or their dependents must be continuously revised to maintain an adequate standard of living, taking into consideration cost of living increases, loss of earnings growth capability and equitable adjustment of payments to widows or eligible dependents to sustain their rights through periods of changing status.

Specifically, the compensation programs must provide—

- (1) Compensation payments set well above the Government standards for other assistance programs.
- (2) An extra measure of compensation for disability due to combat or extra-hazardous service.
- (3) Automatic cost of living increases.
- (4) The vesting of permanent rights of widows
- (5) Special consideration for disability entitlement should be accorded all former prisoners of war.

Pension

The V.F.W. recognizes the principle of pensions for non-service connected disabled veterans in the conviction that they have made sacrifices in the national interest above and beyond that required of citizens who did not serve in the Armed Forces and that such military service performed by such veterans entitles them to financial aid.

Fairness requires substantial increases in income limitations to raise the program above the level of Government standards for other assistance programs, insurance against reduction or loss of pension from increases in Social Security and restructuring of both programs.

Specifically, the pension program requires—

- (1) \$600 to \$1,000 increases in income limitations.
- (2) Permanent protection against reduction or loss of pension from future social security and other retirement increases.
- (3) Restructuring of the pension programs by raising income limitations and pension payments with provision for minimum pension guarantee for those in lower income categories.

Veteran preference

Continued vigilance by V.F.W. to preserve veteran preference in employment.

GI bill

(1) The V.F.W. recommends that the rehabilitation assistance authorized for those who have served in the Armed Forces since January 31, 1955 be broadened to provide assistance commensurate with current economic conditions and provide one and one-half days education and training benefits for each day of military service.

(2) The widows and orphans of veterans who were killed or who were disabled in service should be eligible to receive career-oriented education training.

(3) The veterans GI loan program should be put on a permanent basis with provisions for restoring eligibility upon repayment of previous loans.

Cemeteries

The Executive Branch has run roughshod over the right of veterans to burial in a national cemetery. The Congress and the Administration have a moral responsibility to move ahead with a reasonable and equitable national cemetery program.

Specifically, resolution of the mounting crisis requires—

- (1) Transfer of jurisdiction over national cemeteries to the veterans affairs' committee in the House of Representatives.
- (2) A national cemetery system adequate to provide a national cemetery in every state.

Medical care

Medical care for veterans must be maintained at the finest and highest level possible.

Specifically, the V.A. medical program requires—

- (1) Upgrading of facilities and equipment.
- (2) Training, employment and retention of the finest medical and nursing personnel.