



CHAPTER I

Compensation for Service-Connected Disabilities and Death

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1

The Commission recommends that the basic compensation rate payable to the service-connected totally disabled veteran be increased by \$100 monthly.

Background to Recommendation:

The Disability Rating Schedule endeavors to evaluate the average impairment of earning capacities resulting in civilian occupations from service-related diseases or injuries.

A recent pilot study in connection with the Economic Validation of the Rating Schedule confirmed the unemployability of the totally disabled. The study indicated that the totally disabled veteran does not have the capacity to earn a living and must rely solely on disability compensation for his economic support.

Disability compensation at present rates of \$300 a month for total disability imposes a standard of living on totally disabled veterans which is much lower than that which they would have attained except for their service-connected disabilities, and much lower than the median national income level of wage earners. Therefore, in order to compensate the totally disabled at a rate which would more closely approximate their loss in earnings resulting from disabilities incurred in service, the Commission recommends that the