

the 12 percent of base pay provision be retained. In the future, the basic allowance should be adjusted in accordance with any increase in the appropriate service rank pay.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6

The Commission recommends payment of a career service type benefit at the same rates as those in the DIC program to survivors of veterans who at time of death, due to causes unrelated directly or indirectly to service, were receiving compensation for a total disability which was permanent in nature and so rated for 20 years or longer.

Background to Recommendation:

The underlying purpose of the compensation program is to make up for loss of a veteran's earning capacity due to service-connected disability. In death cases, service-connected benefits are intended to provide support to the widow, children, or parents of a veteran whose death was related to service or to service-connected disability.

In cases where total disablement has existed for 20 years or more, it is clear that the veteran has little opportunity to provide for the care of his family after his death. He has not been able to earn entitlement to Social Security or other plans which would normally contribute to the support of dependents. If his death is not related to service or to his service-connected disability, the veteran's family is not eligible for any death benefits, except perhaps pension. It is therefore recommended that a career service type benefit be established at the same rates as those in the DIC program to be paid in any case in which a veteran was receiving or was entitled to receive compensation for service-connected total disability which was permanent in nature and so rated for 20 years or longer, and death was not the result of service or misconduct.