

RECOMMENDATION NO. 13

The Commission recommends that an aid and attendance in the amount of \$75 monthly be paid to DIC and death compensation widows with qualifying disablement.

Background to Recommendation:

The service-connected disability compensation program recognizes the need for additional allowances to help pay the costs resulting from unusually incapacitating residuals of diseases or injuries. One of the additional allowances provided is for residuals which necessitate the need of regular aid and attendance.

In 1951, an aid and attendance rate became payable under the nonservice-connected disability pension program. In 1967, PL 90-77 extended the aid and attendance allowance for the first time to widows of pensioners, at the rate of \$50 a month, upon establishing qualifying disablement. No extension of this benefit has yet been made to the widows of veterans who died from service-connected causes.

The Commission believes that widows of veterans who died from service-connected causes deserve treatment at least equal to that provided widows of pensioners. Therefore, we recommend that an aid and attendance allowance of \$75 a month be paid to the qualifying widows of veterans who died from service-connected causes.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 14

The Commission recommends an additional allowance within the DIC and Death Compensation programs of \$50 per month, and within the Death Pension program of \$35 per month for those widows who acquire a disability or disabilities causing them to become housebound.

Background to Recommendation:

The basis for widows' benefits rests in a tacit understanding between the veterans and the Nation that in the event of the death of a veteran, reasonable provision would be made for the needs of his widow. In both the disability compensation and pension programs additional amounts were first provided for those veterans whose disabilities required regular aid and attendance, and later, were provided in lesser amounts for those whose disabilities rendered them housebound. The aid and attendance feature has been added