

RECOMMENDATION NO. 72

The Commission recommends that wartime veterans benefits be extended to Mexican Border veterans.

Background to Recommendation:

The extension of all wartime benefits to veterans of service in the Vietnam Era establishes the principle of according wartime status to veterans of service during undeclared warlike activities.

Veterans of the Mexican Border Campaign, which extended from January 1, 1911, to April 5, 1917, were moved to a foreign country and subjected to hostile fire in a necessary military campaign to contain aggressiveness by a foreign force. Therefore, the Commission recommends that the full range of wartime benefits be extended to veterans of Mexican Border service, as defined in 38 U.S.C. 901(c) with reference to eligibility for burial flags, and to their survivors.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 73

The Commission recommends that a study be made to determine the efficacy of authorizing the Veterans Administration to pay all military retirement benefits, and, the equity of permitting concurrent payment of VA disability compensation and retired pay for military personnel, based on longevity.

Background to Recommendation:

Disability compensation is a benefit intended to compensate a veteran for the reduction in civilian earning capacity from injuries or diseases attributable to his service in the Armed Forces and is determined solely upon the severity of ascertainable residuals. Military retired pay, based on longevity, is computed on the serviceman's length of service and attained rank. Where service related disablement also exists, his retired pay is further computed using an alternative formula which considers the degree of disablement and the serviceman is awarded the greater of the two benefits.