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## Tips for Veterans to File Disability Claims

Lake County military veterans need to file a disability claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs in order to receive benefits for disabilities, diseases, or injuries which were incurred during or following military service. Following are three top reasons a veteran should file a VA compensation claim:

1. Compensation from \$115 to \$2,471 per month is payable to a veteran for service-connected disabilities, with additional amounts for statutory awards or certain multiple disabilities plus additional amounts for dependents in certain cases.
2. VA compensation is not subject to Federal or State taxes. Many states have special programs and benefits for veterans with service connected disabilities.
3. Filing a disability claim establishes a VA file, which will help expedite other claims and applications, which may be filed at a later date.
4. VA will consider a rating for all disabilities diagnosed and treated during the military service, when such disabilities are included within the claim.
5. If a service-connected disability worsens, VA will reconsider the rating upon receipt of medical evidence showing an increase in severity.
6. Certain chronic and topical diseases have presumptive periods ranging from 1 year to death. Service connection may be granted if diagnosed within the proper period and rated to a compensable degree of at least 10%.
7. If service-connected disabilities are rated at 60% or above, and the veteran is unable to work in his/her occupation due to the service connected disabilities, the veteran may be rated 100% by VA due to unemployability.
8. Veterans rated 10% or more service-connected and in need of training may apply for Vocational Rehabilitation Training (Chapter 31).
9. Filing a claim and establishing service-connected disabilities provide advantages in obtaining medical care at VA expense.
10. We strongly recommend that you seek professional assistance in filing your claim. You can obtain assistance free of charge, from Veterans Assistance Commission of Lake County, 20 S Martin Luther King Jr Ave, Waukegan or call 847.377.3344.