

Veterans Corner  
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Restoration of Entitlement DIC

A formerly re-married spouse may be restored to the status of surviving spouse of a military member who died of service-connected causes to retain their dependency and indemnity compensation for the purpose of DIC, education benefits, and have home loan guarantee. To re-instate their DIC benefits contact the Saratoga County Veterans Agency at 884-4115.

Remarried Widows May Qualify for Benefits

Until recently, survivors were forced to forfeit their Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) if they remarried. The Veterans Benefits Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-183), enacted late in 2003 provides relief for some widows/widowers.

The measure allows survivors of military members who die/dies of service-connected causes to retain their DIC benefits if they remarry after the age of 57. To reinstate the DIC benefit contact Bob Mitchell with any questions at 884-4115.

False Claims Would be Punishable

“Imposters are on the rise,” FBI Special Agent Thomas A. Cottone, Jr., said. “If this bill ends up becoming law, it will make it easier to prosecute phony vets and assess greater penalties. Our real veterans deserve this.”

Cottone was referring to S. 1998, the Stolen Valor Act of 2005, which the Senate unanimously approved on September 7, 2006. It would extend current law to include false claims of receiving “any decoration or medal authorized by Congress for the armed forces or any of the service medals or badges.” It also increases penalties for violations if the offense involves a Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, Navy Cross, Silver Star or Purple Heart.

“Many phony vets I come across make false, grandiose claims, but with current law, I can’t do anything if they are not wearing the medal,” said Cottone, who noted that his father served in combat in WWII. “It is absolutely disgraceful to falsely claim valor in combat. For those who actually earned those awards, it was a defining moment in their lives. When individuals wear prestigious medals they did not earn, they are stealing the valor, honor and respect of those who performed courageous acts.”

## Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

PTSD was significantly higher after duty in IRAQ (15.6% to 17.1%) than after duty in Afghanistan (11.2%) or before deployment to Iraq (9.3%). The rate of PTSD in Vietnam by comparison, is about 15%.

To help GI's get the assistance they need to deal with emotional disorders caused by combat, authors of the study concluded that the military should focus on outreach, education and changed in health care delivery. This would include Improving mental health services in primary care clinics and providing confidential counseling. The Army offers six confidential counseling sessions through its Army One Source program at [www.armyonesource.com](http://www.armyonesource.com).

Some of the symptoms of PTSD are drug, alcohol, Spouse or girlfriend abuse and nightmares, just to mention a few. If you know a vet with some of these symptoms you should encourage them to visit the nearest VA Clinic or call Bob Mitchell, Director of the Saratoga county Veterans Service Agency at 884-4115 for more information.