

NATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICE
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS



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SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

December 12, 1960

Mr. Hector Garcia, M.D.
% Senator Ralph Yarbrough
Federal Building
Austin, Texas

Dear Dr. Garcia:

Reference is made to our conversation of December 10, 1960. There is enclosed a copy of the letter of December 14, 1954, which was sent to the Manager of the San Antonio Regional Office by Ralph H. Stone, Deputy Administrator for Veterans Benefits.

This letter in my opinion was prepared for the sole purpose of taking veterans off the rolls. It will be noted in Paragraph #2 that the only reviews the Veterans Administration were making were of cases who were receiving running awards.

If the Veterans Administration had been interested in just seeing that proper rating action was taken on each case, then all cases would have been reviewed instead of just the ones that were drawing benefits.

It is my feeling that in many cases not only in the San Antonio Regional Office but in other Regional Offices in Texas, severance of service-connection has been made on difference of opinion and not clear and unmistakable errors.

We are having quite a problem in all Veterans Administration Regional Offices in Texas, because we must present the findings of the Medical Division of the Veterans Administration: Whether it be a physical examination or a report from a period of hospitalization. When the doctors of the medical division of the Veterans Administration does not show the true extent of a veteran's disabling condition, then it is quite difficult for our Service Officers to present the case to proper authorities of the Adjudication Division and secure favorable action.

I do not know whether doctors have been instructed not to find disabilities or not to show the disability as severe as it really is, but certainly the veteran is not receiving benefit of the doubt in the Medical Division of the Veterans Administration in my opinion.

The letter of December 14, 1954 certainly has not given the veteran a break in anyway. For instance: If the veteran was discharged in 1945 and is not notified until 1960 that a purposed severence is contemplated but that he will have 60 days to present evidence to show why the reduction or severence should not be placed into effect.

The veteran finds that it is very difficult to locate individuals who know when, where, and how he received an injury or when and where he suffered from a disease. So, if the veteran is not able to submit evidence exceptable to the Veterans Administration, the severence is placed into affect; and it is almost impossible to have the Veterans Administration to review a case and give favorable action on any evidence presented after a disease or injury has been severed.

Certainly reams of paper could be used in bringing out examples of cases that have suffered as a result of this letter. I have personally met with a group of Congressmen and presented a number of cases which gave specific examples as to how this particular letter effected veterans but still the review goes on. AND day by day, veterans are being taken from the rolls even though they have been on the rolls for some 10, 12, or 15 years.

I am indeed hopeful that some action can be taken to stop the present practice of reviewing these cases because as long as you have individual people sitting on the Rating Board who have the attitude that some of our Rating Board members have, we will continue to see the Veterans Administration sever disabilities that have previously been held as being incurred in/or aggravated by a veteran's period of active duty.

If I may be of further assistance in anyway, please do not hesitate to call on Me. With kindest regards, I am,

Very truly yours,



BILLIE L. DORRIS

bld/ajh

CC: To 3024 Morgan Avenue
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