The American Legion

For God and Country

bulletin

National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
1608 K Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006
K. Robert Lewis, Chairman - Connecticut
Peter S. Gaytan, Director - Maryland

14-09 **June 8, 2009**

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
Stimulus Update

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has begun the notification process for veterans regarding one-time "stimulus payments" to eligible veterans provided for by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Certain veterans meeting the eligibility requirements listed below will begin to receive their payments in June.

The payment will amount to $250 and will be issued separately, *not* as an inclusion in the regular benefit payment. The method of delivery of payment will be via the same method the veteran currently receives payment, for example: a veteran who regularly receives their monthly benefit payment through Direct Deposit will also receive the one-time payment through Direct Deposit to the same account.

The Payment will *not* affect the sum of the veteran's regular VA benefit, nor will it be considered taxable income. However, for those individuals with debts to State or Federal agencies that require offset payments, the individual's payment will be offset to pay those debts and a separate notice will be sent through the Department of the Treasury.

Eligible veterans who have not received their benefit by June 10, 2009 should contact VA through one of the following methods:

- By internet—Send electronic inquiries through: https://iris.va.gov/
- Written mail—include full name and VA File number and mail to your local VA Regional Office
- Telephone—Call 1-800-827-1000 or for Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) call 1-800-829-4833

The criteria for eligibility are listed as follows:

> *(iii) VETERANS BENEFIT- A benefit payment described in this clause is a compensation or pension payment payable under—*
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> *(I) section 1110, 1117, 1121, 1131, 1141, or 1151 of title 38, United States Code;*
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> *(II) section 1310, 1312, 1313, 1315, 1316, or 1318 of title 38, United States Code;*
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> *(III) section 1513, 1521, 1533, 1536, 1537, 1541, 1542, or 1562 of title 38, United States Code; or*
>
> *(IV) section 1805, 1815, or 1821 of title 38, United States Code,*
>
> *to a veteran, surviving spouse, child, or parent as described in paragraph (2), (3), (4)(A)(ii), or (5) of section 101, title 38, United States Code,*

The law specified that the group eligible for these payments would be defined by those veterans in receipt of compensation and pension benefits during any of the months of November or December 2008, and/or January of 2009, as the law specified a three month period of eligibility.

The legislation also provides this benefit to citizens in receipt of certain Social Security benefits as well as those receiving benefits under the Railroad Retirement Benefit. Citizens are not entitled to receiving this benefit from multiple sources. If a veteran is also in receipt of one of these other benefits, the $250 payment will only be issued once.

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Rehabilitation Commission