

**V*A FACTS

Q -- My husband died on September 8, 1978. I would like to install a marker of my own instead of one supplied by VA. I have been told there has been a change in the law and that I might receive an allowance to apply to the cost of a stone I purchase. Is this true?

A -- To be eligible for the marker allowance, burial must have taken place on or after October 18, 1978, the effective date of the law. The VA will pay up to \$50.00 toward the cost of a marker.

Q -- I obtained a VA guaranteed home loan in 1973 and sold the home on an assumption contract in 1977. The buyer still owns the home and is paying on the original VA guaranteed mortgage. Can I get another VA guaranteed loan now?

A -- Possibly. Since 1973 the maximum VA loan guaranty entitlement has been increased to \$25,000 from \$12,000. Although the entitlement you used in 1973 is still committed on your prior loan, you can use part of your increased entitlement to purchase a new home under the VA program if you can locate a lender willing to make a loan with that amount of entitlement.

Some 231 U.S. veterans of the Spanish-American War are alive. Over 392,000 American servicemen took part in that conflict which lasted from 1898 to 1902.

Of the 30 million living U.S. ex-servicemen, nearly 90 percent had military service during periods of armed hostilities.

Toll free telephone service is available to Veterans Administration regional offices in fifty states. Some 24 million callers will receive help and information from VA this year.

The largest state in the nation has the smallest veteran population. Alaska is home to some 41,000 of the nation's 30 million veterans.

California leads the nation's Vietnam Era veteran population with 990,000, followed by New York, 610,000; Texas, 507,000; Pennsylvania, 493,000; and Ohio, 446,000. The Golden State also leads the nation in total veteran population with 3.3 million. New York, again, is second with 2.5 million residents who once served in the military.

The last Civil War veteran died in 1959, yet the Veterans Administration provides benefits for 245 widows and helpless children of Civil War veterans.

The Veterans Administration's work-study program is open to veterans attending college full-time under the GI Bill. Students can earn a maximum \$725 per semester above their GI Bill allowance, by agreeing to work 250 hours at \$2.90 per hour.



**BLACK BACKING NEEDED
GIVE KENEDY FIVE**

Senator Edward Kennedy is certainly one of five leading candidates for chief executive of the country in next year's election. There are five congressmen calling for a draft Kennedy movement within the Demcratoc party.

They are Richard Ottinger of New York, Richard Nolan of Minnesota, Fortney Stark of California, Rhode Island's Edward Beard and Black American Congressman John Conyers of Michigan. More importantly there are at least five sound reasons for Senator Kennedy to receive support from Black America.

Black America has been abandoned by Carter after having carried him into the White House. Black voter support for the present White House went with a promise from the President to produce more jobs for the black community.

Collectively, Carter's administration has produced more jobs than ever before in the country, but black unemployment has been allowed to continue to rise.

There are more unemployed Black Americans today nearing the end of James Earl Carter's term of office than at the beginning. Black Americans do not need a long memory to make this one strike for someone else in the White House.

Bakke's case was not vigorously fought by the administration, allowing affirmative action programs to be demolished during Carter's tenure.

Inflation has been called by James Earl Carter as the nation's number one problem. It hits everyone, especially those on fixed incomes such as welfare and unemployment recipients.

Welfare roles are where people run to when there aren't any jobs, Mr. President. Putting one and a half million Black Americans in a double bind. Giving out welfare checks for the summer months will not make skill workers of young adults. CETA could be enlarged for skill job training and not cut as proposed by the President.

Poor people need health care, just like the rich. Senator Kennedy has sent ot the Senate a comprehensive national health care bill for all people. President Carter has placed himself on the opposite side of this bill. Black Americans are the largest minority of the medically uncared for in this country.

In the international area Carter has also undercut Black American interest. Under a long-standing policy government agencies must award contracts to domestic companies unless foreign concerns underbid them by at least six percent.

The agencies are required to favor small and minority domestic companies unless they are underbid by at least 12% and in the case of Defense Department contracts by 50%.

Now the Carter administration is offering to abolish this advantage in return for a pledge by the foreign governments to open up more business for big corporations. Coming right down to it, James Earl Carter could drive a Black American to a fifth.

JOKES HANG OUT HERE



My small grandson was dumbfounded when he found out I had no teeth of my own, but wore dentures instead.

That night as he was getting ready for bed, he remarked to his mother, "I'll bet Grandpa bought his new car with all the money he got from the Tooth Fairy!"

The music had just stopped at one of the new-style discotheques. As a young man started to walk toward the sidelines, a girl began to thank him for the dance.

"I wasn't dancing with you," the young man explained. "I was just trying to get past you to the coke machine."

Even after many years of marriage, my wife manages to astonish me with her personal brand of logic.

Recently I asked her to wash my quilted car-coat. "The washing instructions say it should be washed alone," she told me later, "so in order to save electricity and water, I'll wait till I have something else that has to be washed alone, and do them both together!"

Tom: "How did you get a ticket for this affair?"

Tim: "It's my brother's ticket."

Tom: "Where's your brother?"

Tim: "Home, looking for his ticket!"

The Personnel Manager said to the job applicant: "What we're looking for in this position is a man of vision. A man with drive, determination, and fire. A man who never quits. A man who inspires others.

"In short," he explained, "we need a man who can pull the company bowling team out of last place!"

A baseball scout found a remarkable prospect: a horse who was a pretty good fielder and could hit the ball every time he was up at bat.

The scout got him a tryout with a big-league team. First time up, the horse slammed the ball far into left field, and just stood there at the plate.

"Run!" the manager screamed. "Are you kidding?" said the horse. "If I could run, I'd be out at the track!"

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