

## Could You Be Eligible for a VA Pension and Not Even Know?

I've heard it time and time again during my years of assisting Veterans, their surviving spouses and their adult children: Military service changes you. It changes your mind, your heart, and the way that you interact with the world and people around you. Once you have served defending our nation, you never go back to who you were before your service. Never. Once a soldier, always a soldier. (Or an Airman, Marine, Seaman, etc.).

As an Accredited Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Agent, I am charged with the duty of making sure the military veterans that cross my path are aware of all potential benefits that they may be eligible to receive due to their time in military service. I'm consistently astounded at just how many veterans (or their surviving spouses) do not realize that they could qualify for monthly income or even paid home health care due to their declining health.

Veterans with active duty service of just

90 days (and only 1 of those days during a declared wartime) could qualify for income or services to help them remain in their homes as long as possible. It can even help to pay for assisted living or nursing home care if that is their need. Unfortunately, most veterans or their surviving spouses are unaware of these potential benefits, or, in some cases, feel guilty about seeking them out.

I have heard veterans say things like, "I know that other people probably need it more than I do" or "I didn't serve to get something in return, I did it because it was the right thing to do." These statements, while admirable, often deter veterans from seeking out the help that our nation's VA program can give them to help pay for care that they desperately need to "age in place".

If you are a veteran, the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran, or the family member of a veteran who could benefit from additional funds to help pay for the care that he

or she needs, please contact an accredited agent to discuss the possibilities of obtaining these benefits.

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### Yvonne & Mary —Continued from page 21

life. I see color where color hasn't been before.

"I found myself now looking at things more closely," she said. "I think it's developing a way of thinking that I wouldn't have done without painting. It's a hobby, but it's a hobby that drives me, a hobby that causes me to still learn."

Rummage has chosen to stay busy, whether it's messing with an old Beetle or Alfa Romeo, or running a bed and breakfast in the Hayden House. She's currently on the Lewisport City Council.

"I learned from my mother to always have a project of some kind," she said.

The problem with many seniors, she said, is "people quit having projects, quit having something, whatever it might be, something else to do."

No age is too old to try new things, she said, or to get out and enjoy life.

"I've heard too many people say, 'Well I'm too old, I can't do that,'" she said.

"My mother didn't travel until she was in her '70s because she was afraid to fly," she said. "(Then) she had to fly out to Utah because my uncle was having surgery and she learned it didn't kill her.

"Well after that she went to England, she went to Hawaii twice, and she went to the Holy Land. And she died when she was 84. So from 72 to 84 she did that many major trips, for somebody that doesn't fly."

There's too much in the world that's interesting to just sit home and do nothing, she said.

"I think people are afraid to follow their curiosity," she said. "Personally I think people need to get over being afraid."

"Don't let yourself get so scared that you don't want to do something or try something," she said.

And for those who worry that they might get sick or need help while they're out exploring, she said that's no excuse either.

"They have doctors everywhere," she said. "Doctors are going to take care of you wherever you are."

"Just be willing to take advantage of an opportunity when it comes along," she said, "and don't give an excuse that you can't."

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# Attention Veterans!

Many veterans or their surviving spouses are eligible for a monthly cash payment to help offset their care costs!

It's not as simple as just signing up for this program - we know how to help you to qualify - call us today for your **FREE consultation!**

Check out our actual client testimonials at 

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**Nicole Hawkins**  
VA Accredited Benefits Agent

