

## **VA BENEFITS FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR (POW)**

There have been more than 140,000 Prisoners of War since World War I. Currently, there are approximately 15,000 former POWs with service-connected injuries that are receiving compensation from the VA.

### **Regional Office Coordinator**

- There is a POW outreach coordinator at each of the Regional Offices. This contact will answer any questions regarding special benefits for POWs.

### **Disability Compensation**

Certain conditions are presumed service connected for former POWs.

- There are eight disabilities that are presumed service-connected, regardless of time in captivity:
  - Depressive Neurosis
  - Psychosis
  - Post-traumatic osteoarthritis
  - Anxiety
  - Cold Injury
  - Stroke
  - Heart Disease
  - Osteoporosis
- There are an additional eleven disabilities that are presumed service connected if the POW was held in captivity for more than 30 days.
  - Avitaminosis
  - Chronic Dysentery
  - Helminthiasis
  - Beriberi
  - Cirrhosis of the Liver
  - Irritable Bowel Syndrome
  - Malnutrition
  - Nutritional Deficiencies
  - Peptic Ulcer Disease
  - Pellagra
  - Peripheral Neuropathy
- Additionally, the evidentiary burden is reduced for combat veterans and POWs to prove service connection for disabilities.

### **Other Care**

- Former POWs are eligible for nursing home care, without regard to their ability to pay.
- Former POWs are eligible for needed dental care.
- Priority treatment for medical care.

### **Dependents of Former POWs**

- There are additional benefits available for dependents and survivors of Prisoners of War. These benefits include pensions, health care, education, and home loan benefits.
  - There are special provisions that allow dependents of former POWs to get these benefits that would not otherwise be eligible for.

For more information, you can visit the Department of Veterans Affairs' website:

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-pow.asp>