



**National Association
of
Atomic Veterans, Inc.**



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by:

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The National Association of Atomic Veterans was Incorporated in 1979, as a nonprofit veterans service organization for the primary purpose of giving America's Atomic Veteran's a single voice platform to express their frustrations related to their inability to obtain service connected compensation and fair treatment from the Dept. of Defense (D.O.D.) and the Dept. of Veterans Affairs (D.V.A.) The secondary purpose is to assist Atomic Veterans in securing the necessary information required to file claims for service connected disabilities, and to assist them in gaining access to their local V. A. health facilities.

Additionally, and within the last 36 months, N.A.A.V., Inc. Directors, Officers and State Commanders have been instrumental in securing survivor's benefits for several widows of deceased Atomic Veterans, in keeping with current Congressional guidelines governing the awarding of such benefits.

There are some questions related to the accuracy of the number of America's military veterans who have been exposed to ionizing radiation from atomic weapons tests while serving their country. The D.O.D. and D.V.A. has officially estimated that there were approx. 410,000 military personnel exposed to some degree of atmospherically dispersed ionizing radiation particles dispersed by above ground and underwater tests from 1945 through 1962.

In 1984, the U. S. Congress chartered the Veterans Affairs Committee on Environmental Hazards (V.A.C.E.H.,) in accordance with P.L. 98-542, to determine the number of additional military personnel who may have been exposed to ionizing radiation from continued testing programs after 1962.

As a matter of sheer interest, it is well to note that from July, 1945 to September, 1992 the United States sponsored 1,149 atomic device detonations.

In accordance with P.L. 102-578, the V.A.C.E.H. issued a report in 1993 indicating that there were an additional 543,000 military personnel exposed to some degree of ionizing radiation particles, while participating in post atomic weapons test activities, from November 09, 1962 to September 23, 1992. It is also estimated that there may even be several thousand additional veterans exposed to post test residual radiation particles while on various maneuvers in and around nuclear weapon detonation test sites.

These collective studies would suggest that more than 1 million U.S. military veterans may be suffering from the long term effects of ionizing radiation induced mutants that are slowly changing and altering their internal body chemistry and processes, with deleterious end results. The levels of frustrations and anger that was exhibited by America's Atomic Veterans in 1979 have, to this date, not diminished for a host of reasons.

For the last 45+ years, the U. S. Congress, in concert with the Dept. of Defense and the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, has commissioned numerous panels & advisory boards, and has hired a host of Contract Consultants, for the purposes of developing a methodology to properly recognize and address the monetary and medical needs of America's Atomic Veterans.

Most of these board members, scientific advisors, contract consultants and select opinion shapers had two things in common. They all possess impeccable credentials and impressive bios.

To America's sick and aging Atomic Veterans, however; these credentials and bios are shallow and totally meaningless, and while they continue to slowly waste away, from radiation induced illnesses, the learned consultants continue to generate theoretical opinions and hypothetical scenarios, all of which have consistently denied the Atomic Veteran his or her fully earned recognition and benefits.

The only meaningful credential that is of any value to America's Atomic Veterans, is their inability to physically display the Badge of Courage they so nobly earned for standing in harm's way and in the face of an invisible enemy while performing their sworn duty to protect the National Security and to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.

While performing these assigned duties, their bodies were invaded and penetrated by an enemy that would continue to have compound adverse effects on their internal chemistry and bodily processes for the rest of their un-natural lives. This enemy would also invade and have adverse effects on the health of a large percentage of their children, and in many cases, their grand-children and even great grand-children. The enemy I refer to is ionizing radiation induced mutants, which has had, and continues to have, a profound effect on the natural life expectancy of America's 1 million Atomic Veterans.

After careful review of the comments listed in the "Radiation Dose Reconstruction Report To Congress," submitted to the 108 U.S. Congress by the D. O. D. & the D. V. A. on June 03, 2004 (in compliance with Public Law 108-183,) I and my colleagues can now fully understand why only 50 of approximately 280,000 claims submitted for service connected radiation induced illnesses, were approved by the system.

In fact, after being exposed to the complexities of the system, I am utterly amazed that 50 of these claims actually made it through the maze of theoretical assumptions and radiation exposure projection models.

Since Atomic Veterans were standing in the presence of ionizing radiation particles, without proper protection, I like to compare the process of arriving at theoretical exposure level assumptions to standing in the rain without a raincoat.

The D.T.R.A. would have to agree that you were, indeed, standing in the rain. However; their theoretical model might well indicate that it cannot be proven that you got wet enough, while standing in the rain, to be officially classified as being wet enough, while standing in the rain. This would accurately describe a classic catch 22 situation.

Parenthetically, Dose Reconstruction is a catch 22 situation, denying Atomic Veterans access to a realistic and believable service connected compensation process.

So as to not lose sight of the root purpose of why we are gathered here today, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few milestone events that occurred in the lives of America's Atomic Veterans, from 1945 to 1967. These highlights will also be a tribute to Atomic Veterans who have since died from radiation exposure events, without receiving proper recognition for their sacrifices on behalf of their own country.

July 16, 1945

Operation "TRINITY" test "Gadget"

In the desert of Alamogordo, New Mexico, the Manhattan Project gave birth to the world's first Atomic Bomb. This was also the first event resulting in the atmospheric dispersion of atomic radiation particles. And, it was also the first day that America's Atomic Veterans were exposed to ionizing radiation.

Military and civilian personnel present at this event were not issued any protective clothing, and only a few were issued RAD badges.

August 6, 1945

The City of Hiroshima, Japan was destroyed by the first Atomic Bomb dropped on enemy soil during an act of war.

August 9, 1945

The City of Nagasaki, Japan was destroyed by the second Atomic Bomb dropped on enemy soil during an act of war. The Empire of Japan would surrender, unconditionally, just 28 days after the "Trinity" test in New Mexico.

August 17, 1945

Occupation forces liberate American's from a Prisoner of War Camp on the outskirts of, what was left of, the city of Nagasaki, Japan.

September 1945

Additional U. S. Military personnel are ordered to enter the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan for the purposes of occupation and damage assessment.

The majority of those who participated in these exercises have since developed cancers and other illnesses associated with their exposure to airborne radiation particles and other "hot zone" materials in and around "surface zero" of both cities.

As a note of interest, in October, 1945 the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission, (A.B.C.C.) primarily composed of scientists and technicians from the original Manhattan Project, were tasked with visiting Hiroshima and Nagasaki for the purposes of determining the actual destructive factors of the atomic bombs detonated over both cities. These scientists were equipped with Radon calibrated Geiger Counters, which were considered, at that time, to be top of the line instruments.

They recorded approximately 30r in and around the Nagasaki area, and a slightly lower level in and around Hiroshima. A copy of their report can be made available from N.A.A.V. Inc. upon request.

June 30, 1946

Operation " CROSSROADS "

There were 41,000 military personnel and 150 civilian scientists and technicians gathered at Bikini Atoll, in the Marshall Islands, for the two Crossroads tests. The first test was an air drop that missed the target by 1,200 yards. The second test was a detonation 90 ft beneath the surface of the lagoon.

Almost all of the military participants have (to date) developed radiation induced health issues. Many of these victims were tasked with post test cleanup duties, their bodies absorbing radiation particles from sensing devices and "hot" debris, while others were exposed to the radiation from animal specimens retrieved from test ships and vessels in and around the lagoon.

April 14, 1948

Operation " SANDSTONE "

Enewetak Atoll, in the Marshall Islands, was chosen as the site for Sandstone shots X-ray, Yoke and Zebra.

I received a photo from a crewmember the B-29 assigned to cloud sampling duties for all three tests. The photo shows all crewmembers lined up in front of their aircraft, while a technician checks each one with a Geiger counter.

The aircraft name " OVEREXPOSED " was clearly visible just above the nose identification number.

January 27, 1951

Operation " RANGER "

The Ranger operation marked the first of several series of tests that resulted in the atmospheric release of ionizing radiation at the Nevada Test site.

Subsequent atmospheric release tests were performed at Nellis Air Force Base, Yucca Flats, Frenchman's Flat, Phaute Mesa, Rainier Mesa, and Fallon Nevada.

The Ranger series also marked the first use of " U. S. Trench Troops " as test monitors, some of whom were only 6,000 ft. from surface zero. These troops were not issued or equipped with radiation exposure protective clothing, and a large percentage were not issued RAD badges.

Most of these military test subjects, who are still alive, are suffering from a host of radiation induced health issues, and have been referred to as " America's Atomic Test Guinea Pigs."

February 25, 1954
Operation " CASTLE "

At Bikini Island, there were six atomic weapons tests, from February, 1954 to May, 1954. Several of these were thermo-nuclear device detonations. The total yield of all six tests was 41.37 megatons. This is equivalent to 41,370,000 tons of high yield explosives !

Shortly after the Castle series of tests, a Japanese fishing fleet harvested 450 (metric) tons of radiated Tuna, causing the U. S. to ban all fish imports from Japan for one year. It is unclear as to the disposition of these radiated Tuna within the Japanese homeland seafood marketplace.

May 14, 1955
"Operation " WIGWAM "

On this day in 1955, 25 Navy vessels, 5 Scripps Institute research vessels, 35 Military surveillance and monitoring aircraft, 6,700 military personnel and 120 Scripps scientists & technicians converged at a designated spot in the Pacific Ocean, southwest of San Diego California, for Operation Wigwam.

The Wigwam operation Director was Dr. Alfred Folke, a U. S. Navy explosives expert assigned to the Scripps Oceanographic Institute, in San Diego, Ca. The Co-Director was Rear Admiral John Sylvester, who was also Commander of Naval Task Group 7. Cmdr. Roger Revelle, a Navy expert in the Oceanographic aspects of atomic testing, was The Scripps Scientific & Technical team leader.

All ships and monitoring devices were carefully positioned in this spot of ocean to detonate a 30 kiloton, plutonium core fusion bomb, for the purposes of assessing the destruction and radiation effects on submarine hulls pre-positioned at various distances, and depths from ocean zero. I was one of the crewmembers assigned to the Navy Vessel that was tasked with towing the bomb when it was detonated.

Seconds after the final countdown, a one and half mile area of ocean erupted, dispersing 331 billion cubic feet of highly radiated seawater in all directions, as the fireball-bubble rapidly rose to a height of 12,000 feet.

Several Navy and Scripps research vessels, in close proximity to the center of eruption, were completely inundated by the resulting 1,200 ft. tidal surge, causing severe damage to superstructures, while destroying deck machinery , communication equipment and ships hydraulic systems.

After the ocean settled back to near normal, our vessel was tasked with the retrieval of approx. 40 radiation sensing pods, (RAP's) These RAP's were placed on the ship's fantail and along the port side main deck, adjacent to the ship's Galley and crew's Mess hall.

Within 12 hours the Scripps scientists, assigned radiation monitoring duties aboard our vessel, declared the Galley and Mess hall off-limits to all ship's personnel, because of dangerously high levels of radiation that penetrated the bulkhead between the main deck and the cooking and dining spaces.

Twenty four hours after the initial test detonation, a 9,900 foot diameter of highly radiated ocean surrounding surface zero, identified by the Scripps scientists as the post test " hot spot, " began to drift slowly to the southwest.

Navy vessels, with Scripps scientists aboard, were tasked with tracking and monitoring the slowly drifting hot spot, taking periodic samples of radiation readings at various ocean depths. On the 41st day of tracking and monitoring, radiation levels, at all depths, began to diminish to, what was then considered to be non-critical levels.

There is no way of knowing how many tons of migrating fish passed through the " hot spot," or how many of these fish were harvested and served to the American, or Latin American public.

Prior to the Wigwam test, Scripp's technicians quietly placed several airborne radiation monitors from the California / Mexico border, south of San Diego, to the City of Oceanside, north of San Diego.

The monitors in the greater San Diego area measured higher than normal levels of radioactivity over the city four days after the Wigwam test. Radioactivity readings continued to shy-rocket, to levels twenty times above the normal background levels, over the next nine days. None of the San Diego residents were aware of these developments, and this information remained top secret until several years ago.

After the test, one of the highly radiated submarine hulls was placed onto a barge, and a Navy Auxiliary vessel was tasked with towing the barge to Long Beach harbor. While traversing rough seas, just off Catalina Island, the barge capsized and the " hot " submarine hull was scuttled in a prime sport fishing area.

Orders were then issued to the towing vessel to sink the barge with 40mm cannon fire in the same general area. The possibility that radioactive contamination effected these waters, just off the California coast, cannot be discounted, although it has not been addressed by any of the declassified charts of the region. Checks of navigational charts (up to 1980) failed to show a sunken submarine or the barge.

In the late 1960's, however; a sports diver, who was also a crewman assigned to the Navy vessel that lost the submarine hull, reported seeing the hull in the same general area where it was sunk.

After receiving several inquiries about the sinking of a radiated submarine hull, just off the coast Catalina Island, the official response of the U. S. Navy was no response at all.

The Official D. O. D. position paper (de-classified several years after the event) paints a very mild picture of limited radiation exposure risks associated with Operation Wigwam, and makes no mention of any post event radiation concerns, nor does it mention elevated levels of radiation in and around San Diego, just days after the test.

When I prepared the first draft of this presentation, I was tempted to pay individual tribute to a host of Navy personnel who participated in the Wigwam test, and whose lives have been shortened by the cancers and health issues precipitated by their exposure to ionizing radiation particles, however; I decided to mention only one specific case of interest to these proceedings. That first list included several of my shipmates.

Captain Richard Purdy was the Skipper of the U.S.S. Marion County (LST-975). The ship's bow doors and several pieces of deck machinery were severely damaged by the post eruption tidal wave. Faced with the inability to safely move his ship in a forward direction, Capt. Purdy had no choice but to traverse the 480 nautical miles back to Long Beach harbor in reverse. After the ship had docked in a classified area of the harbor, Capt. Purdy proceeded down the gangway to meet his wife.

When Purdy reached the bottom of the gangway, a technician from the Scripps Institute checked him for evidence of radiation. His wife was horrified, as she watched her husband return to the ship, because his shoes were to " hot " to allow him to leave the vessel. A few years of the Wigwam test Captain Purdy was diagnosed with leukemia and lung cancers. His current status is deceased.

I wonder if the Dose Reconstruction people can determine, with any degree of believability , what that radiation count was on Capt. Purdy's shoes. I also wonder if the Dose Reconstruction people can determine, with any believable degree of accuracy, the amount of radiation exposure absorbed by all of the brave sick and deceased servicemen & technicians who participated in Operation Wigwam.

May 28, 1957
Operation " PLUMBBOB "

From May 28, 1957 to March 14, 1958 the Plumbbob series of tests included 33 fission weapon device detonations at Yucca Flats and Frenchman's Flat, Nevada. I received a photo of members of the 11th Airborne, who were air dropped over a surface zero " hot spot " less than one hour after a test detonation. The photo clearly shows the paratroopers walking through the smoking ruins.

Additional photos, from previous post test events at the Nevada test site, would suggest that walking through the smoking ruins of ground zero, shortly after a test blast, was considered to be standard procedure, for after effects purposes , by the D. O. D.

None of the soldiers in any of the photos, seen walking through smoldering ruins, were wearing any visible protective clothing, nor were they wearing any breathing apparatus. And without a doubt, all either inhaled or ingested free-floating ionizing radiation particles, or " hot " dust particles kicked up by their boots.

July 17, 1962
Operation " SUNBEAM "

At Phyute Mesa, Nevada, the D. O. D. and the Army tested a the Mark 54 (150mm) " Davey Crockett " Rocket Propelled Nuke, mounted in the rear of a Jeep. The code name assigned to this test was " Little Feller I. " The Army also had a 120mm version of this same weapon, that was ground fired from a recoilless rifle.

The 35 lb. fission core device detonated 2 miles downrange of the firing point, with the explosive force of 44,000 lbs. of explosive. This would be the last atmospheric test of an atomic weapon on American soil.

November 4, 1962
Operation " FISHBOWL "

The last U. S. sponsored atmospheric test in the Pacific ocean was a high altitude rocket propelled detonation code named " Tightrope. " It was a thermo-nuclear weapon launched from a firing pad on Johnston Island, Southwest of Hawaii, designed to measure the effects of electro-magnetic pulse generated by a thermo-nuclear detonation, on radio waves and high frequency communications transmissions.

An earlier test of a 1.4 megaton thermo-nuclear weapon, detonated 480 nautical miles above Johnston Island on July 09, 1962 interrupted radio signals, from Hawaii to Australia, for several days after the test.

Although the U. S. had now gone underground with their atomic testing program, in keeping with the Atmospheric Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, I must mention, as a matter of sheer interest, that three of the U. S. sponsored tests that were performed within the State of Mississippi.

October 22, 1964
Operation " WHETSTONE " - test Salmon

December 03, 1966
Operation " LATCHKEY " - test Sterling - I & test Sterling - II

These three fission devices were detonated in a shaft penetrating a salt dome on the outskirts of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Documents indicate that there were 90 civilian contractor compensation claims filed for illnesses attributed to post test radiation exposure. Of those 90 claims, only 1 was approved.

In this case, the approval ratio of the Contractor claims was 89:1 If we apply this ratio to the number of claims filed by America's Atomic Veterans, versus the number of approvals to date, the D. V. A. should have approved more than 3000 of those claims, rather than a paltry 50.

Additionally, and most insulting to America's Atomic Veterans, was the act of President Clinton, who with the stoke of his pen, amply compensated all Government Contractor employees who worked at the nuclear weapon materials plant in Paducah, Kentucky, without question, without means weighted formulas and without review from the D. T. R. A.

This system of unfairness continues to promote gross injustice to all of America's Atomic Veterans. In light of these issues, it would seem that the Congress of the United States refuses to adequately address the issues, or act to correct such injustices.

The situations I describe are only a scratch on the surface of the total danger faced by America's Atomic Veterans, most of whom are now aging and slowly wasting away from the effects of radiation induced mutations inflicted upon their body mechanisms. In a large percentage of these cases, visible signs of radiation induced illnesses are just now being properly diagnosed, 50 years after the exposure events.

America's Atomic Veterans do not have the luxury of waiting another five to ten years for the Congress of the United States to fix or repair an existing system that continues to deny them their rightful recognition for being wounded by an invisible enemy while honorably serving their country.

It is their collective feeling that the deck has been stacked against any reasonable chance of fair treatment, for several reasons, including, but not limited to, the following.

- 1. Atomic Veterans were sworn to secrecy, and told straight up that discussing their experiences with anyone, including family members, could result in their spending several years in a federal prison. It was only just recently that former Secretary of Defense, William Perry, released these men and women from their oaths of silence.**
- 2. The availability of their individual RAD badge readings were, in most cases, and still is, unavailable or non-existent. The personal RAD badges, that were made available, registered much higher exposure limits at the actual detonation event, than the "official" D.T.R.A. dose re-constructed assumptions that were subsequently submitted to the Atomic Veteran, and to the Dept. of Veterans Affairs.**

It is highly suspect that the "official" D.T.R.A. reconstructed radiation exposure levels associated with Atomic Veteran's compensation claims, are always just below the threshold level required for Service Connected Disability Compensation.

- 3. The Atomic Veteran's DD-214 discharge document did not mention any connection with atomic weapons testing, therefore the veteran had no written proof that would convince the D. V. A. of his or her participation in such events.**
- 4. The current list of "Presumptive" radiation induced illnesses, that the D. V. A. is supposed to recognize for service connected compensation purposes, without dose reconstruction documentation, is not a minor roadblock, it appears to be a massive, multi-tiered concrete wall.**

The intent of the "presumptive illness" list was for the purposes of "assuming" that if you were present at any atomic weapon test, which resulted in the atmospheric dispersion of ionizing radiation particles, and you were diagnosed with any of the (21) illnesses on the current presumptive list, then there will be no need to question the degree of your radiation exposure from said event.

So, if you went ashore at Hiroshima or Nagasaki, or if you participated in any of the atmospheric or underwater tests resulting in atmospheric dispersal of radiation particles, or if you were a part of the Flintlock Test (in 1965) or the Mandrel Test (in 1969), both of which were at Amchitka, Alaska, and you developed any of the 21 illnesses listed as "presumptive," the D. V. A. must assume, without question, that the cause of your illness was the result of your being present at these events.

This was supposed to be a simple method of dealing with questionable service connected situations. However; the hundreds of thousands of Atomic Veterans who are qualified to receive the intended benefits, are still having a hard time convincing anyone within the Federal Government hierarchy, including the D. O. D. and the D. V. A., that he or she qualifies for any service connected benefits.

Implementing the “ good deed “ wishes of Congress is often left to third party Contractors, with absolutely no first hand background experience related to the actual events and issues, nor do they have a clear understanding of the after effects of the issues, none of the current “ experts of record “ were on site participants in an actual atomic weapon detonation event.

In my travels across the country, I have found that many key personnel at most V. A. medical facilities have no idea that there is an Ionizing Radiation Registry, nor what the purpose of such a Registry is all about.

The vast majority of Physicians assigned to V. A. medical facilities do not clearly understand what ionizing radiation induced mutants are, or the long term effects of such mutants on the human mechanism.

Additionally, I have been told by several V. A. medical facility personnel, that it is difficult to understand the current V. A. rules as they apply to the acceptance, disposition and treatment of America’s Atomic Veterans.

It is a known medical fact, that a wound inflicted by the bullet or a piece of shrapnel from an enemy weapon, in the majority of instances, will not inflict further damage to the health of the wounded, after the fact.

A bullet or shrapnel wound is easily recognizable , and there is no doubt that the wound exists, or where it exists, nor is there any doubt about the prescribed method required to treat and heal such wound.

It is a proven scientific fact that most health issues, precipitated by the inhalation or ingestion of ionizing radiation particles, are forever and cannot be reversed, causing health issues to continue to surface as long 60 (or more) years after the exposure events.

These wounds are not easily recognizable, not easily or accurately diagnosed, and the D. T. R. A. casts serious doubt that any such wound was actually precipitated by a radiation exposure event. It is also a known fact, that a bullet or shrapnel wound, suffered on the field of battle, will not effect the health of the children born to the those who were the recipient of such wounds.

It is a proven scientific fact that mutations of the reproductive processes will effect the health of a large percentage of children born to Atomic Veterans, and even into the third generation.

The National Association of Atomic Veterans, Inc. has, since 1979, developed and maintained a medical database of those members who elected to submit their illness histories for such purposes. In submitting this data, most of these veterans included comments about their children born with deleterious and suspicious health anomalies.

It was discovered that approx. 18% of the children born to Atomic Veterans can be classified as “ Genetically Impaired Offspring. “ When comparing the N.A.A.V. medical database results to the total estimated number of Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation, it would suggested that there were approximately 180,000 Genetically Impaired Offspring born to America’s Atomic Veterans. An accurate estimate of the number of third generation G. I. O. born to Atomic Veterans is not readily available.

While on a business trip to Northern England and Scotland, just after the Russian power plant melt-down at Chernobyl, I happen to notice that all of the sheep, along the country roads that I traveled, had a large red spot on their flank. Later that evening, over dinner, I asked about the red spots on all the sheep.

The following was the reply from a Medical Doctor who was dining at the table next to ours, and who happened to over-hear my conversation about the effects of radiation exposure on America’s Atomic Veterans.

He related that the northern portion of England and all of Scotland were in the path of the Chernobyl radiation fallout pattern. Given this, and the fact that most of the sheep were harvested for wool and food stock, to be distributed to large part of Europe, the U. K. Scientific community decided that all sheep exposed to the fallout pattern must be marked with a red spot on their flank, and that no mutton was to be sold as food stock.

It was also decided that all second generation sheep would then be marked with a different color spot on their flank, and no mutton was to be sold as food stock. And, accordingly, all third generation sheep would then be marked with a third color spot on their flank, and no mutton was to be sold as food stock. Only fourth generation sheep could then be harvested for their wool and the mutton could then be sold as food stock.

It would seem, from the good Doctor’s explanation, that the U. K. scientists know much more about the harmful effects of the genetic impact of ionizing radiation mutants on first, second and third generation offspring, than our own Governmental Agencies or Scientific community may be willing to admit.

In a statement recognizing July 16, 2002 as “ National Atomic Veteran’s Day of Remembrance,” President George W. Bush compared America’s Atomic Veterans, exposed to nuclear radiation, as being just as gravely wounded as a veteran hit by an enemy projectile; both of whom were wounded while standing in harm’s way to protect the national security and freedoms of the citizens of the United States of America.

America’s Atomic Veterans firmly believe the President’s statement was both compassionate and accurate, and offer their thanks for his personal interest in the general welfare of all military personnel, those currently in uniform, all veterans of past conflicts, and veterans of the U. S. atomic testing programs.

Additionally, all of America’s Atomic Veterans grieve for those who were so amply rewarded by the U. S. Government, and the outpouring of contributions from the American public, after loosing their loved ones during the terrible events of September 11, 2001.

The U. S. Congress was quick to open the taxpayer purse strings, for ample reparations, and without question, since this was fresh in the minds of all Americans.

It is, however; an established fact that the experiences and plight of America's Atomic Veterans was kept secret, and unknown to the general public. If the American people were to be fully informed of this sterling example of how Congress has continued to drag their feet in addressing the life and death issues of Atomic Veterans, they would be totally and completely outraged.

It is also an established fact that America's Atomic Veterans are still lying mortally wounded and slowly dying on their "home front" battle field, with no visible hope of, being properly recognized, medically assisted or amply compensated, without question, for their continued sacrifices, on behalf of the citizens of their own country.

They must continue to rely upon those of us who may wish to listen, and who may also wish to care. Until this situation is rectified, each day in the life of an Atomic Veteran, without proper and adequate recognition, will continue to be a sad day for all of America.

The key issue, of major concern to America's Atomic Veterans, is post exposure radiation induced mutations, regardless of how small the exposure dose is considered to be by the Dose Reconstruction calculation process.

It is the firm belief of the National Association of Atomic Veterans, Inc., and other Veteran's Associations as well, that funding Dose Reconstruction was and continues to be a total waste of Taxpayer funds, as the results cannot be fully and accurately substantiated, nor can they be verified as being realistically believable.

It is also the firm belief of N.A.A.V., Inc. that all Atomic Veterans, regardless of whether they are currently suffering from health issues that may be associated with their exposure to ionizing radiation, or not, should be immediately placed in the same D. V. A. medical care group as those veterans who were awarded the Purple Heart, without hesitation, without limitations, and without means weighted restrictions.

Perhaps the U. S. Congress would rather wait until America's last Atomic Veteran has expired, without compassion, without recognition, without compensation, and without.

Atomic Veterans from Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand, who participated in U. K. sponsored weapons tests, were issued an Atomic Veteran Service Medal. These Radiation Exposure medals are viewed by the recipients as their equivalent of our Purple Heart, and rightfully so.

It is our hope that this Veterans Advisory Board will convey these remarks and the deep concerns of America's Atomic Veterans to the Congressional Committee for which it has been established.

It is also our hope that the Congressional Committee, exploring the need to abolish dose reconstruction, will fully recognize the years of suffering experienced by America's Atomic Veterans, who have not only been burdened with the monetary responsibilities of having to fend for themselves, but who have also, in a large percentage of instances, been burdened with the monetary responsibilities of having to fend for the needs of their Genetically Impaired Offspring as well.

These are America's Cold War Warriors, who continue to sacrifice themselves, from day to day, for the sake of their country, years after being released from their military obligations.

They are all hopelessly trapped in a twilight zone of Congressional procrastination and political indecisiveness'.

I think it is time for a major change on their behalf. Is America really listening ?

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