

Did You Know?

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That maybe two months ago I was discussing a recent law change which would affect many veterans. As I said, these law changes do not come out too often, so I wasn't expecting to devote another article to that topic for quite some time. However, lo and behold, Public Law 116-283 was also recently signed into law and it has a major change to the list of presumptive conditions linked to Agent Orange. Here are the new additions to that list, which currently include diabetes, prostate cancer, coronary artery disease and Parkinson's Disease.

The first one is **HYPOTHYROIDISM** (underactive thyroid). It is a condition in which your thyroid gland does not produce enough of certain crucial hormones. **HYPOTHYROIDISM** does not cause noticeable symptoms in the early stages.

The second one is **BLADDER CANCER** which is an extremely dangerous type of cancer and often leads to death.

The third one is **PARKINSONISM**. It is any condition that causes a combination of the movement abnormalities seen in Parkinson's disease — such as tremor, slow movement, impaired speech, or muscle stiffness — especially resulting from the loss of dopamine-containing nerve cells (neurons). So, if you have not been officially diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease but have the early symptoms, you may qualify.

Let's refresh your memories. If you served in Vietnam, or within 12 miles of the coast anytime between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975, the VA presumes your exposure to Agent Orange. If you served extremely near the DMZ in Korea between September 1, 1967 and August 31, 1971, or within 12 miles off the coast, or at certain bases in Thailand, the VA would also presume your exposure. One day in any of these areas is usually enough, you did not have to do a full tour.

Please bring this up at your next Post, District or Division meetings. If anyone has been diagnosed with the above, a VA claim should be started. Also, I am sure we have many veterans who have passed away before this law change due to one of

these new conditions, especially the bladder cancer. If they left a surviving spouse, minor or severely disabled child, they may also qualify and should file.

For a complete list of the current Agent Orange conditions and other info, you can go to the following websites of the VA:

[https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.
asp](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp)

<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5388>

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A good lawyer knows the law. A great lawyer knows the judge.