



Bloomington VFW Post 7539

www.vfw7539.org

July 17, 2026



Veteran Affairs: The Service Officer reported that [H.R.9237](#) / [S.4744](#), The **Take Care of America's Veterans Act**, would reduce future veterans' disability compensation for tinnitus and sleep apnea. The **Take Care of America's Veterans Act** would reduce future veterans' disability compensation on VA's Schedule for Rating Disabilities. The bill was rejected with a vote of 210-211. House leadership then pulled the bill from the floor. VFW leadership, and staff from at least 30 states converged on Capitol Hill and visited every congressional office to voice their opposition to Section 108 of [H.R.9237](#) / [S.4744](#). It was decided these benefits, tinnitus and sleep apnea, would not be taken away.

Our Post urged our members to call their Representative. Call the Capitol Switchboard and ask to be connected to your Representative's office. Sample Phone Script: I'm calling

to ask Representative _____ to vote NO on the **Take Care of America's Veterans Act**. While I support many of the bill's goals, it's wrong to reduce future veterans' earned disability compensation to pay for other veterans' benefits. Veterans should never be asked to fund veterans' benefits. Please vote NO on the **Take Care of America's Veterans Act**. Thank you for your time.

Service Officer: Our Service Officer reported that in the event of your passing if you have a 100% disability or 10 years of unemployment due to the disability, your spouse is eligible for DIC (**Dependency and Indemnity Compensation**). Your spouse is eligible if the Veteran had a VA disability rating of 100% (including for individual unemployability) for at least the 8 full years leading up to their death. A spouse can get an Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by a Surviving Spouse or Child (**VA Form 21P-534a**) to file for benefits.

If the Veteran's eligibility was due to a rating of totally disabling, they must have had this rating for at least 10 years before their death, or since their release from active duty and for at least 5 years immediately before their death. Also, for at least 1 year before their death if they were a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999.

For eligibility you will need to provide evidence with your claim including documents like military service records, doctor's reports, and medical test results. Make sure any surviving family member has your service records and can obtain them.

Reminder: The Judge Kendall VFW Post in Naperville will have a Service Officer present the first Tuesday of the month. For any veteran who requires assistance with benefits or enrolling in the veterans' health care system, an officer will be present to help answer any questions.

The officer will be available from 10a.m. - 2p.m.

Dates to remember:

August 2 Blood Drive St. Matthew's Church Glendale Heights 9 - 1p.m. Code 161D

September 12 SeptemberFest Old Town Park

September 19 Illinois National Home Day

October 6 Character Counts Honor Guard Old Town Park 6p.m.

The next Post meeting will be held on August 20 at the Bloomingdale Library.