



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
New York Regional Office
245 West Houston Street
New York NY 10014

Michael C Avino
Northport, NY 11768

In Reply Refer To: Post Determination Team,
EXT 4877 / VM
CSS

Dear Mr. Avino:

We made a decision on your claim for service connected disability compensation.

In this letter we will explain:

- what is our decision,
- what are your non-monetary and monetary benefits,
- what we considered to make our decision,
- what you can do if you disagree with our decision, and
- what you can do if you have any questions concerning our decision.

What We Decided

We have granted your claim for service connected disability compensation due to the reasons stated below.

We found the following disability is service-connected.

1. We found your 10% disabling effective June 30, 2005.
2. We found your 10% disabling effective June 30, 2005.

Your overall or *combined* evaluation is 20% effective June 30, 2005. The percentages of your individual disabilities may not add up to your overall evaluation. We use a "combined rating table" to decide how disabled you are. The percentages in this table are set by regulation.

If You Need Medical Care

You can receive free medical care for any service-connected disability. You can apply for treatment at the nearest VA medical center. Take a copy of this letter with you.



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We did *not* find the following condition(s) to be service connected:

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Other Benefits**You may be eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) vocational rehabilitation.**

The enclosed VA Form 28-8890 explains this benefit. To apply, complete VA Form 28-1900, and return it to this office.

Since you have been rated for a new service connected disability, you may be eligible for government life insurance if you are in good health (except for any service connected conditions) and apply within two years of this notification of your disability rating. If you are totally disabled, you may be eligible to have your government life insurance premiums waived. You should receive an S-DVI package within two weeks. This package will contain information about the insurance and an application. If you do not receive an S-DVI package, please contact the Insurance Center to request additional information. Call the Insurance toll free number, 1-800-669-8477, or visit the Insurance web site, <http://www.insurance.va.gov>, for further information about Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance.

Your Monthly Compensation

Your monthly compensation is shown below. Please understand that the law (38 U.S.C. 5111) says payments must begin the first day of the month after you've become entitled to the benefit.

Starting July 1, 2005, you're entitled to **monthly *because*** we have granted a 20% compensation payment rate.

Starting December 1, 2005, you're entitled to **monthly *because*** of the annual Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) legislative increase.

We're paying you as a single veteran.

How We Made Our Decision

We carefully considered all the evidence we received, including the following:

- VA Form 21-526, "Veteran's Application for Compensation or Pension," received in our office on June 30, 2005;

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- Your service medical records for the period December 12, 1966 through February 9, 1971;
- [redacted] dated May 23, 2005 from [redacted] of Long Island;
- Correspondence mailed to you and dated August 25, 2005;
- Lay Statement dated August 23, 2005 from [redacted];
- Lay Statement dated September 4, 2005 from [redacted];
- Lay Statement dated August 31, 2005 from [redacted];
- Larkfield High School Health Record dated November 12, 1963;
- [redacted] Reports for the period September 9, 2005 through January 27, 2006 from the VA Medical Center in Northport, New York;
- VA [redacted] Examination dated January 27, 2006 from the VA Medical Center in Northport, New York; and
- VA [redacted] Examination dated February 2, 2006 from the VA Medical Center in Northport, New York.

We have enclosed a copy of your Rating Decision for your review. It provides a detailed explanation of our decision, the evidence considered and the reasons for our decision. You can find the decision discussed in the section titled "*Decision*." The evidence we considered is discussed in the section titled "*Evidence*." The reasons for our decision can be found in the portion of the rating titled "*Reasons for Decision*" or "*Reasons and Bases*."

If You Think We're Wrong

If you think our decision is wrong, you should write and tell us why. You have *one year from the date of this letter to appeal the decision*. The enclosed VA Form 4107, "*Notice of Procedural and Appellate Rights*," explains your right to appeal.

We've also attached a VA Form 21-8764, Disability Compensation Award Attachment--Important Information, which explains certain factors concerning your benefits.

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Direct Deposit

Your money may be deposited directly into your checking or savings account. This is the safest and most reliable way to get your money. To get more information about Direct Deposit, please call us at the toll free number below.

What If I Have Any Questions?

Your claim has been processed by the Post Determination Team. If you have any questions, you may call us and speak to a Veterans Service Representative in the **Public Contact Team** toll free at 1-800-827-1000 **extension 4877** from within New York State or you may call 1-212-807-7229 **extension 4877** from anywhere. If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the number is 1-800-829-4833.

If you call, please refer to your **VA file number 103 36 1577**. If you write to us, put your full name and VA file number on the letter. You can visit our web site at www.va.gov for more information about veterans' benefits.

A copy of this letter was sent to the Veterans of Foreign Wars because you appointed them as your representative. If you have questions or need assistance completing forms/claim, etc., you can also contact them.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Collorafi

Joseph Collorafi
Post Determination Team, EXT 4877
Chief, Veterans Benefits and Services Division

Email us at: newyork.query@vba.va.gov

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NOTICE: This Internet E-mail site is not secure. Be advised that information you send and receive over the Internet could be intercepted and read by individuals other than the intended recipient. VA will do its best to protect your privacy, but because VA cannot guaranty privacy in this medium, it is suggested that personal information be kept to a minimum. Responses that require a release of personal information will be mailed via U.S. Postal Service to your last address of record. If you have concerns about using this e-mail service, you should call our toll free number **(1-800-827-1000)** to speak with a Veteran Services Representative concerning your question or claim.

Enclosure(s): Rating Decision dated February 24, 2006

VA Form 28-8890

VA Form 28-1900

VA Form 21-8764

VA Form 4107

cc: Veterans of Foreign Wars (97)