



CARLTON COUNTY

VETERANS SERVICES

14 N 11TH ST. • Suite 120 • Cloquet, MN 55720

DUANE J. BROWNIE - CVSO

218-499-6838 Phone • 218-878-3294 Fax
duane.brownie@co.carlton.mn.us

ATTENTION "NAVY VETERANS", "BLUE WATER VETERANS WHO SERVED NEAR VIETNAM POSSIBLY EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE", & "SPOUSES/WIDOWS OF THOSE VETERANS"

As you may already know, there is new and exciting happenings in the world of Blue Water Navy Veterans and their potential to be approved for additional service connected benefits. On January 29, 2019 we received the information specific to an appellate case which overturns the Haas case. The following information has been refined for space:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -January 29, 2019

WASHINGTON - The National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) today hailed the decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in *Procopio v. Wilkie* which extends the presumption of Agent Orange exposure to all veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam, on land or on the territorial seas. "We are heartened that the Court's landmark decision today unequivocally rights a wrong that is a terrible injustice to all veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange in the waters of Vietnam," said NVLSP Executive Director Bart Stichman. "We are gratified to see that this decision recognizes the legitimacy of Blue Water Veterans claims for disability benefits related to Agent Orange." The Court explicitly found the error in the *Haas* decision and reversed it, uniformly confirming the "Republic of Vietnam" included its territorial sea. Haas is overruled."

What does this mean?

This case means that if you served aboard a Navy vessel that was within 12 nautical miles of the Vietnam coast, the VA should reopen your claim or consider you for service connection disability benefits under the Agent Orange Act of 1991. This also includes veterans who may have died as a result of medical conditions which were due to Agent Orange exposure and those medical conditions are listed on the veteran's death certificate.

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What should you do if you served during that time?

This case gives you the new evidence needed to reopen or file new claims. It allows you to fight to overturn VA decisions if you were denied benefits of service connection for conditions dealing with Agent Orange exposure. I have provided a list below of some of the medical conditions that may meet the requirement for this opportunity to file for service connected compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

- **AL Amyloidosis**
A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs
- **Chronic B-cell Leukemia's**
A type of cancer which affects white blood cells
- **Chloracne (or similar acne form disease)**
A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals
- **Diabetes Mellitus Type 2**
A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels
- **Hodgkin's Disease**
A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia
- **Ischemic Heart Disease**
A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain
- **Multiple Myeloma**
A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow
- **Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma**
A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue
- **Parkinson's Disease**
A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement
- **Peripheral Neuropathy, Early-Onset**
A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness.
- **Porphyria Cutanea Tarda**
A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas.
- **Prostate Cancer**
Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men
- **Respiratory Cancers (includes lung cancer)**
Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus
- **Soft Tissue Sarcomas (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)**
A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues

If you have any questions or need more information regarding on how to file these type of claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs, please do not hesitate to contact our office to schedule an appointment so that we can discuss this process further with you. Our office takes the approach, each claim which may have the potential of being granted not necessarily in the present but in the future is viable and should be submitted. All contact information is listed on the front of this letter. Please call and chat soon. Thank you.


Duane Brownie
Veterans Service Officer