

VWIN Mission Statement

We are an organization of American Veterans' Widows/ers (Survivors), reaching out to other Veterans' Widows/ers Statewide and overseas. Our mission is to:

- inform Survivors of benefits for which they might qualify
- help them gather needed documents to substantiate and submit their claims and direct them where to receive best attention
- keep them abreast of legislative changes and other news touching our benefits through quarterly newsletters, and
- give all veterans' survivors a sense of togetherness with other Veterans' Widows/ers



VWIN is a non-profit organization solely sustained by dues and donations.

Like a lighthouse, VWIN guides the destinies of Veterans' Survivors.

VWIN is vigorously pursuing the following goals

1. To ensure Survivors who qualify for both SBP and DIC benefits be allowed to receive both benefits without any offset.
2. To address the needs of those Survivors who do not qualify for either the Survivor Benefits Plan or Dependency Indemnity Compensation, and survive on less than \$1,300 total monthly income.
3. To amend the present requirement stipulating that a veteran be continuously rated 100% disabled for 10 years prior to death, in order for the surviving spouse to qualify for DIC.
4. To compensate Survivors of veterans who die from 100% disabilities rating incurred on active duty but are not qualified to receive the \$100,000 plus insurances death benefits allocated to survivors of those who die in Iraq & Afghanistan, with a \$250 monthly increase to their DIC benefits.
5. To encourage the Department of Defense to extend overseas Space-A travel to those Survivors who qualify for that distinction.
6. To obtain congressional support in order to have the "In Memory Plaque" on the Mall updated and given more prominence.
7. Finally, to be granted a national Day of Recognition for all Veterans' Widows and Widowers. So far, Colorado is the only state to enjoy this distinction.

VWIN Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Birth day (Month & Day): _____

VWIN membership runs March through February. Annual dues are \$18.00. Anyone joining after October 1, will only pay \$2 for each remaining month through February 28.

Make checks payable to: VWIN
Mail to:
Veterans' Widows/ers International Network, Inc.
Valeska Thompson, National Membership Chair
P.O. Box 441043
Aurora, CO 80044-1043

Tax deductible contributions are welcome.

Since its inception, VWIN has achieved and continues to:

1. Help many Survivors collect due benefits
2. Reached and maintains high levels of recognition among members of the of the U.S. Congress and military organizations.
3. Established a quarterly newsletter for the benefit of its members, in order to update them of latest news regarding our benefits.
4. Consistently and actively lobbies members of the U.S. House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs, in order to redress the inequities impairing our benefits.
5. And just recently, after 10 years of intense, relentless lobbying at every echelon, witnessed its number one goal; the creation of an exclusive office for veterans' survivors, become a tangible reality.

On January 20, 1998, VWIN started its campaign to promote the need for its number one goal, when it published a Resolution stating the reasons as to why an exclusive veterans' survivors' office should be created. At once, it began to approach military organizations and members of the U.S. Congress appealing for their support. Alas, no one paid heed until September of 2007, when members of the VWIN Council visiting of members of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs, struck gold when **Senator Mary Landrieu LA**, pledged to us in person, to introduce legislation destined to create an office solely dedicated to oversee Veterans' Survivors' Benefit Inquiries. (The full text of the VWIN Resolution can be read by logging onto our web-site at www.vetsurvivors.com.)

When **Senator Akaka HI**, introduced S Bill 3023 to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and enhance compensation and pension, housing, labor and education and insurance benefits for veterans, and other purposes, Senator Landrieu' Legislative Committee requested that a "desk" be granted them to introduce the section dedicated to the creation of an office of Survivors Assistance.

It took a whole year for Senator Landrieu's Legislative Committee to accomplish the deed, but on **10/10/2008, Senate Bill 3023 became Public Law 110-389**. Section 222 of that Law established **The Office of Survivors**. The actual establishment of the Office will fall under the new administration and newly nominated Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, General Ret. Shinseki.

VWIN Leadership

National Chairperson Edmée J. Hills

3657 E South Laredo St.
Aurora, CO 80013
vwin95@aol.com
Phone & Fax: (303) 693-4745

National Secretary

Leslie Tjarks
(303) 220-0189
ltjarks@earthlink.net

National Membership Chair

Valeska Thompson
(303-766-9708)
valthom@msn.com



**VETERANS'
WIDOWS/ERS
INTERNATIONAL
NETWORK, INC.**

(303) 693-4745
vwin95@aol.com
www.vetsurvivors.com