

THOMAS R. JOYCE

Waitsfield, VT 05673

January 18, 1995

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Attn: ^F6^

RE: March in Washington, D.C. June 1st, 1995  
For Victims of Agent Orange / Dioxin Poisoning

I have been doing research on Vietnam Veterans who have been exposed to Agent Orange, most all of the Veterans who have contacted me are in really bad shape at such a young age. Symptoms are Peripheral Neuropathy, Degenerative Disc Disease, Respiratory problems, Birth Defects and even a tragic story of a Veteran who committed suicide about 2 months ago.

The Government and Chemical Companies are still covering up the real effects of Dioxin Poisoning that was sprayed and dumped on many of us Vietnam Vets.

We have been fighting for 'Our Benefit of Doubt' for a long time and the VA still has not given us our due Compensation. Our Constitutional Rights and our Due Process is being used against us by the VA.

A little History..... In 1933, F.D.R. passed the Economic Emergency Act of 1933 giving the Secretary of the V.A. unbridled power to do whatever he wants in a Veterans claim case, and totally hamstringing the courts of the United States. (See 211a). In 1935, the Supreme Court of the U.S. declared the Economic Emergency Act 1933 Unconstitutional, finishing it. But not for good. In 1940, Congress with the help of the service Organizations restored Section 211a to the Veterans Benefits Act of 1940 completely to the detriment of all America's Veterans depriving us of our Constitutional Rights and any Due Process that we may have had. This has remained up to the current day. Although Congress claims that they did away with 211a, they slyly installed 511a on the same day, which is word for word the same exact thing as 211a. Our service organizations (N.V.S.O.s) fully cooperated with the V.A. and Congress to betray our country's Veterans and turn us into third class citizens. The facts remain that if it weren't for this betrayal, they could never have gotten away with what was done with the Agent Orange and Dioxin situation. They could never have gotten away with the incredibly dismal 4% positive adjudication rate in service connected disability compensation cases at the V.A. nor could they have gotten away with special Bonus's for the V.A. rating Boards turning down perfectly Meritorious cases for the sake of speed and volume. (In fact, the Reagan Administration passed a law against

Bonus's like this for Board Members, however, these slickers, with the help of some very cooperative Congressmen made it legal to change board members to law members of which there is usually one on every board.)

The practice of doing Veterans out of their Benefits has become very pervasive over the years. The V.A. would give you figures that they adjudicate 11-12% of all Veterans claims in favor of the Veteran, however the V.A.C.O.L.s records, which can be viewed at the Library of Congress as well as accessed by computer a mere 4 and a fraction percent. to the disgrace of our entire country that we have let this happen in the United States of America.

We have an infectious Disease Endemic to Southeast Asia that has entered our country called MELIOIDOSIS. In its final stages, when it is accompanied by SEPTICEMIA (Blood Poisoning), it is 90% fatal. 9% of American personnel returning from Vietnam carried this Bacteria in their bloodstream. If the normal course of events were to follow, at least 260,000 Americans are infected with a strong possibility of 577,000. This Disease cannot be tested or screened for locally by hospitals or laboratories. American doctors will not recognize or be able to treat this disease. On February 16, 1982, a Blue Ribbon Panel of 5 Infectious Disease Specialists met at the V.A. central office to make recommendations on policy issues involving MELIOIDOSIS. They decided to sit on this "Hot Potato" and not inform Veterans so as they can be tested for this dread Disease. Why?????

I have many letters of Veterans, who have also signed a release form allowing me to use their stories for the media. If you would like these stories and any other Documents please feel free to call me, and I will do my best to provide you with the Information.

Enclosed you will find Documents on MELIOIDOSIS.

I understand that your Network may do a story on our plight for Agent Orange Issues that are not resolved as yet. This is why we (Victims of Agent Orange) are holding this march. We are tired of Government giving money (\$400 billion) to research, when in fact they could put that money to help the Victims. I also heard that you may interview several of us Veterans who are organizing this march. I have also enclosed a list of names and phone numbers where you may reach them.

Thank you for your time and understanding of this situation.

THOMAS R. JOYCE

cc: B. Barber  
B.F. Dodd  
R. Tyler  
A. Bernklau