**What Every Veteran Should Know About Receiving Disability Benefits**

Military personnel make many sacrifices to protect our country, sometimes giving their lives. Veterans oftentimes give up their good health, even after they return home.

Individuals who experience medical conditions arising from service are eligible for disability benefits, but a number of myths make many veterans reluctant to claim them. Further, the process of receiving benefits is lengthy and confusing.
Let's get to three basic truths every veteran should know about disability benefits.

1. It's Possible Your Claim Will Be Denied

Do not assume because a claim was denied it has no merit. Many local offices reject up to 71% of their claims because of processing errors. Even without errors, denials are common.

A staggering number of cases are unfairly denied. It's an ongoing issue the VA is working hard to rectify.

If your claim was unfairly denied, file a Notice of Disagreement. You'll go through reviews until another decision is made.

2. Vets Can Claim Disability at Any Time

Thousands of veterans don't realize a condition was due to their service until years after the inciting incident. Furthermore, many assume they don't require benefits until their condition worsens.

Regardless of how long ago they served, veterans are permitted to file a claim for disability as long as they meet basic requirements. The issue that often arises with these cases is demonstrating a link between a veteran's disability and his or her time in service, as the evidence can be harder to provide years after.

3. Vets Have One Year to Dispute a Rating Claim

Unlike filling a claim, veterans have only a year to dispute a rating provided by the VA.

The VA determines ratings by addressing:

* Any evidence provided by you
* Mandated exams
* Federal data and information from other sources

The VA can require multiple reexaminations that can have a detrimental effect on your percentage, but these are usually reserved for individuals whose injuries may not be permanent.