## **VA Eligibility Changes For** Former POW's

The American Red Cross, nationwide, at the request of the Veterans Administration, is in-volved in comprehensive outreach activities to all former prisoners of war (POW's).

This cooperatve effort is a direct result of the recent signing by the Presi-dent of Public Law 97-37, known as the "Former Prisoner of War Benefits Act of 1981." The new law expands VA eligibility for many thousands of former prisoners of war of all eras.

The former POW incarceration period was reduced from six months to thirty days, and a presumption of service connection established for certain disabilities resulting from malnutrition.

In addition, service connected benefits were allowed for psychosis and anxiety states regardless of when first shown unless the specific mental illness can be clearly attributed to another cause that intervened between the period of POW incarceration and the present time.

The legislation also mandates that former POWs are to be provided both inpatient and outpatient treatment on a priority basis and that a special advisory committee be established to address the concerns of the affected group.

Former POWs should contact their local Red Cross chapters immediately so they may learn about the expanded benefits to which they are entitled. Each former POW in touch with this Red Cross chapter in the next few weeks will be contacted directly by a representative of the VA beginning mid-January 1982.

The deadline former POWs to contact the Durham Red Cross Chapter is January 8, 1982. Contacts may be made by calling the office, 489-9707 or visiting the Chapter located at 1000 E. Forest Hills Boulevard.

## **Awards Program Slated For Orange County Activists**

An Awards Program, sponsored by the Northern Orange Black Voters' Alliance for Political Progress, is scheduled for December 19, at 7 p.m. at Mount Bright Baptist Church in Hillsborough. Awards will be presented to community leaders and businesses in northern Orange County who have given outstanding services and contributions to politics.

Guest speaker for this occasion will be Mrs. Carolyn Coleman, North Carolina NAACP Field Director.

Refreshments will be served. There is no admission charge.

## **Applications** Available For **Unexpired Civic** Committees

The City of Durham is seeking applications of interested citizens to fill

interested citizens to fill unexpired terms on the Housing Authority and Board of Adjustment.

The unexpired term on the Housing Authority will expire on Setember 28, 1985. The unexpired term on the Board of Adjustment will expire on July 1, 1982.

Application forms may be obtained from the City Clerk's office, 101 City Hall Plaza, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The application is used by a committee of the City Council in determining who to recommend to who to recommend to Council for appoint-



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