

# Vets' Employment, Education Rights Discussed By Official

(Ed. Note: This is the second in a series of articles dealing with veterans' rights and benefits by Mrs. Mary E. Goforth, Kings Mountain USES representative.)

Recently, in the first of the series of articles dealing with the veterans returning from the war, I gave a general outline of the problems connected with the program dealing with veterans and their rehabilitation and return to civilian life and civilian activities.

If our purpose now is to go into more detail on the benefits available for World War II veterans, particularly those dealing with employment and education under the GI Bill of Rights and other legislation.

In this beginning, we should like to remind you that the United States Employment Service, with the Veterans Employment Service operating in and through its offices has one principal function in connection with the program for returning veterans. That is to find for them suitable and satisfactory jobs.

Every USES office in North Carolina has been designated as a Veterans Information Service Center and in those offices may be found Veterans Employment Representatives and other trained personnel ready and waiting to assist and advise with veterans, including disabled veterans, in finding suitable and appropriate employment, in the light of the veterans' capacity, education and training.

In addition, these trained workers are prepared to give the veterans information on other phases of the veterans program, assist them in any kind of problem, and refer them to the proper agencies for the benefits available for them. In North Carolina we have about 90 of these local USES offices, in addition to about 110 itinerant points which are visited on regular schedules, usually weekly by representatives of the local USES offices. These representatives are prepared to offer services desired to all veterans who will meet them on these schedules. Of these 200 points of contact in North Carolina, one is located in Kings Mountain on S. Cherokee street. A visit is made to Grover on Wednesday of each week at 2:30 P. M.

Most of the benefits to which a veteran is entitled are based on the condition that he has served satisfactorily in the armed forces for at least 90 days, or has served less than 90 days and has been discharged for disability due to service and was in service after Sept. 16, 1940.

If a war veteran wants to return to the job held on a permanent basis immediately before entering the armed forces with a private employer or with the Federal Government, he is entitled to get that job back or one substantially equivalent to it in every respect if he meets these conditions:

- (a) If he completed his military service satisfactorily.
- (b) If he is qualified to handle the duties of the position.
- (c) If he applies for reemployment within 90 days after his discharge; and
- (d) If the employer's circumstances have not changed so as to make reemployment impossible or unreasonable.

A veteran who meets these conditions has the right of reemployment and cannot be dismissed without cause for a period of a year. Any difficulty under this provision should be reported to the Selective Service Local Board.

If a veteran wants a new job or has not previously held a job, he should visit the U. S. Employment Service office which serves his area, or meet the representative of that office on his regularly scheduled visits to the nearest point. The USES offices have information on types and locations of all jobs available for veterans and can counsel and advise veterans on the most suitable and satisfactory jobs.

If a veteran was a Federal Civil Service employee when he entered the armed forces, he is entitled to his old job or to one "of like seniority, status and pay." Such veterans are advised to apply to the agency where they were employed within 90 days of their discharge. If any difficulty is experienced in being reinstated, such veterans should go to the nearest office of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, or to their Selective Service Local Board.

Veterans who did not have Civil Service jobs before entering the armed forces and who wish to obtain them after discharge, should apply to the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington, 25, D. C., or to the nearest office of the Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners. They may be found in any Civil Service office in the area. Recently discharged veterans are entitled to a number of special benefits in appointment to a Civil Service job and will be given

course was a continuation of a civilian course and which was pursued to completion or as a Cadet or Midshipman in a service academy) or was discharged or released from service because of an actual service-incurred injury or disability; and (c) if he starts such education not later than two years after discharge or the end of the war, whichever date is later.

If these conditions are met, the veteran is entitled to one year of school or college training or its equivalent in part-time study, if he desires a refresher or retraining course. In addition, if the veteran was not over 25 years of age when he entered the service, or if over 25 and can show that his education or training was interrupted or interfered with by his entrance into the service, and if he completes these courses satisfactorily, he will be entitled to additional education or training not to exceed the length of time he spent in active service after September 16, 1940, and before the end of the war (not including ASTP or Navy College Program.) This additional course of education or training may not exceed three years.

The veteran may select his own course at any educational or training institution which is on the list ap-

proved by the Veterans Administration and which accepts him as qualified to undertake the course selected.

This list of institutions includes public or private, elementary, secondary, or other schools furnishing education for adults; business schools and colleges; scientific and technical institutions, regular colleges, vocational schools, junior colleges, teachers' colleges, normal schools, professional schools, universities, and other educational and training institutions, including industrial establishments providing apprentice training or other training on the job.

The Veterans Administration will pay to the educational or training institution the customary cost of tuition, and such laboratory, library, infirmary, and similar fees as are customarily charged. It may also pay for books, supplies, equipment, and such other necessary expenses as are generally required by other students in the institution. Such payments shall not exceed \$500 for an ordinary school year.

The Veterans Administration will also provide a subsistence allowance of \$50 a month if the veteran has no dependents; or \$75 a month if he has dependents.

Apprentice training, learning a new trade by a period of work on the job in industrial plants approved for such training, is available for returning veterans in nearly all of the more than 30,000 apprentice-training programs in the United States. Veterans may be employed as apprenti-

ces and be paid while they learn, getting not only a steady job but training which prepares them for highly skilled jobs. Further information on this type of training is available at the nearest U. S. Employment Service office or at the nearest office of the Veterans Administration.

Vocational Training is also available for returning veterans. Veterans with service-connected disability, which results in an occupational handicap, can undoubtedly be taught a new type of work in which the disability will not be a disadvantage. Veterans may take training in college, business or trade schools, or on the job with business firms.

Tuition, books, supplies and equipment will be provided at Government expense. During training, if the veteran's pension is less than \$92 a month, it will be increased to that amount, if he is single; if he is married, his pension during his training period will be \$103.50 a month with an extra \$5.75 a month for each child and \$11.50 a month for each dependent parent.

For vocational training for veterans with service-connected disability they should apply to their nearest Veterans Administration office, their nearest U. S. Employment Service office, or to the county or city superintendent of schools.

If the veteran's disability is not service-connected, or occurs after he left the service, and constitutes a vocational handicap, he may apply to the State Board of Vocational Educa-

tion for guidance and special training. If in financial need, other services available include medical treatment, hospitalization, maintenance, and transportation during training, education, supplies, occupational tools and equipment. Disabled dependents may also be entitled to vocational rehabilitation under this program. Veterans are asked to visit their near-

est U. S. Employment Service office if they need help in getting in touch with Vocational Education or Vocational Rehabilitation officers.

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