

The Atomic Veteran is the official publication of the National Association of Atomic Veterans (NAAV), a non-profit corporation, made up of United States military veterans involved with atomic and thermonuclear testing and deployment, their families and friends. It is published four times per year as a newsletter. It is downloadable from the NAAV web site (www.naav.com) or available in mailed hard copy upon request. The current address for NAAV is P.O. Box 11517, Chandler, AZ 85248, Attention: Bill Harper, national commander. NAAV is chartered as a non-profit corporation in the State of Iowa. The U.S. Internal Revenue Service recognizes NAAV as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation. All financial donations to NAAV are deductible by the donor for income tax purposes. Orville and Wanda Kelly were the co-founders of NAAV

exposed to atomic weapons and nuclear radiation. Atomic Mirror's web address is (www.earthways.org/atomicmirror).

Both indicated that radiation sickness is not completely understood, especially the results of continued low doses. Physicians and scientists have studied, and some have determined, that many ill effects, far beyond the presumptive cancers declared by the U.S. government, can be caused by ionizing radiation.

Following questions from and answers to the audience, both organizations declared their intentions of cooperating with NAAV in seeking justice for Atomic Veterans and their families.

Jeff Trueman of the Veterans Equal Rights Protection Association (VERPA) explained the origin, and some of the effects, of the "Feres Doctrine" issued by the U.S. Supreme Court following World War II. The Supreme Court ruling makes it extremely difficult for a veteran or a veteran's survivors to hold the government or individuals responsible for negligence that results in damage.

"the Atomic Veteran seeks no special favor ... simply justice ... no amount of radiation is safe"

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VERPA (www.verpa.net) is sponsoring a nationwide petition and other actions, to overturn the "Feres Doctrine." Trueman explained it is not VERPA's desire to upset good military order and discipline, or reexamine events occurring in combat situations.

Rather, he stated, "It is VERPA's goal to give veterans and their survivors equal standing before the courts in matters of negligence."

NAAV has not taken an official position on this matter.

NAAV Opposes Dose Reconstruction

Delegates to the annual NAAV Convention unanimously voted to send a Resolution to the President of the United States and Congress opposing the Dose Reconstruction (DR) program that forces Atomic Veterans to prove the radiation doses received in order to perfect a claim against the government.

The Resolution supports the efforts by Rep. Patsy Mink of Hawaii to do away with DR. Rep. Mink's bill, HR 134 was not considered during the current session of Congress, and will have to be reintroduced in the next Congress.

NAAV and obviously Rep. Mink contend that DR is not a scientific or fair method of measuring individual radiation doses. In the first place, most personnel exposed to radiation were not provided individual dosimeters or film badges to record the radiation they were externally receiving. Also, such badges would not indicate the internal radiation resulting from breathing dust or contaminated dirt, or swallowing contaminated water,

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