

Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America Inc.



May – October 2016 National Service Officers Report Jose M. Garcia, PNC

You're Excellency Bishop Higgins, National Chaplain Msgr. Edward Coyle. National Commander Arminda Crawford., National Board of Officers, Department Commanders, Past National Commanders, and Past National Chaplains and membership present.

[Statement From VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald on Commission on Care Report](#) – September 1 2016, consistent with the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, the President's formal response to the Commission on Care was transmitted to Congress. As the President has said, "a sacred covenant exists between Veterans and this nation: servicemen and servicewomen take an oath to protect our country, and in turn, our nation pledges to take care of them when they leave the service. The Commission's work to evaluate the Veterans Affairs health care system is important in ensuring we keep our promise to our Veterans.

Having that statement made just reinforces what we NSO have been saying all along. Our system at times looks and acts like it broke and our nation pledges to take care of us comes to a question.

We as Service Officers experience those questions daily. Veterans ask us questions as it pertain to their claim or their medical problems etc. Common questions and concerns are easy to handle but questions as to why are really the hard ones. Those we don't have the crystal ball that lets us look in to it and fine the answer for our Veterans or Dependents.

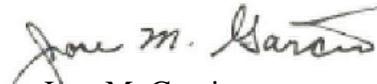
Our Service Officers deal daily with questions concerning health, finances, housing, education and the list is longer then most of us can relate to. When you speak to an accredited Service Officer that individual has spent countless hours in training and dealing with veterans who for the most don't understand the benefits system and he needs help. Most Veterans have no idea of what their benefits are. They have no understanding of the how the system operates. Their first thought is what can I get out of it. By the way this applies to his dependents also because they also fail to advise the dependents of the benefits. Which some poor Service is going to have to answer their questions because the veterans fail to let them know.

Our comments are addressed to you as the Veterans. What have you done to learn about your benefits? Do you rely on the Service Officer?

So here are some figures that may open your eyes:

We have over 160 accredited Service Officers across the United States and its possessions. They spent up to as much as 40 hours a week on assisting Veterans. They are the one who help bring benefit money into the community. That figure for our Catholic War Veterans for this year already is over 200 billion dollars in veteran's benefits. One of our officers has over 450 million. If you're looking for something to barge how about about try this. We are a service organization and 160 of our members are doing this for free and of their own time. Now let look are what you're doing. We ask you as our leaders what or how much time you spent doing your job as an officer of our organization. What activities has you unit done to help us earned our status as a service organization.

Thank You and God Bless



Jose M. Garcia
National Service Officer