



*Rep. Rick Larsen*  
WASHINGTON'S SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

## BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS ACT

On June 25, 2019 the *Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act* became law. As a result, Blue Water Navy Veterans are now entitled to a presumption of service connection for conditions related to Agent Orange exposure as Vietnam Veterans that served on land or within inland waterways have been entitled to since 1991.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is preparing to process Agent Orange exposure claims for Blue Water Navy Veterans who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 - May 7, 1975.

Blue Water Navy Veterans and eligible survivors of deceased Blue Water Navy Veterans are encouraged to submit disability compensation claims for conditions presumed to be related to Agent Orange exposure. Under the new law veterans and survivors who were previously denied benefits can file a new claim.

### Qualifying Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions are:

- AL amyloidosis
- Chloracne, or other acneform disease consistent with chloracne
- Chronic B-cell leukemias
- Diabetes mellitus, Type 2
- Ischemic heart disease
- Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Hodgkin's disease
- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma
- Multiple myeloma
- Parkinson's disease
- Peripheral neuropathy, early onset
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Prostate cancer
- Respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea)
- Soft tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)

### How to file a claim for compensation if you qualify:

- Work with an accredited representative or agent. A directory of veteran service organizations can be found at [www.va.gov/vso/](http://www.va.gov/vso/)
- Apply online using [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).
- Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you. You can find your regional office at [www.benefits.va.gov](http://www.benefits.va.gov).

### What to include in your application:

- State on your application that you are filing for one of the presumed Agent Orange conditions.
- Include any evidence you have of service in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the required timeframe. Include, if possible, the name(s) of the ship(s) and the date(s) you crossed within 12 nautical miles of the Republic of Vietnam.
- Provide medical evidence showing a diagnosis of a current Agent Orange presumptive condition or list where you are being treated.

**NEED MORE INFO?**

If you have questions about the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, please contact my casework staff at 425.252.3188.