



# News for U.S. Military Widows in Korea

From the Retiree Activities Office (RAO) at Osan Air Base

1. **Mr. Downing:** As most of you know, Mr. David Downing died on July 4, 1998. He was a truly good and kind man with a very large heart, ready to help everyone. I worked with Mr. Downing from December 1997, and I picked up all his files after he died. If you or someone you know was working with Mr. Downing to receive some benefits or solve a problem, please call the Retiree Activities Office (0333-661-1441) and tell me who you are and what you need. We can arrange to meet to continue working on your problem. My office is located in Room 110, Building 936, behind the Osan Base Exchange.
2. **Special SBP:** The U.S. government has authorized a special Survivor Benefit Program (SBP) for another category of spouses known as "Forgotten Widows." These are spouses married to military retirees who were receiving retired pay and who died before March 21, 1974. Another category is spouses of Reserve members eligible to receive retired pay, who died between September 21, 1972 and October 1, 1978. If you know someone in one of these categories who is not eligible to receive benefits from the VA, have them call the Retiree Activities Office.
3. **Meet Me on Saturday:** I know many people cannot visit the office when it is open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. In June, I started attending the quarterly Retiree Appreciation Day held at the Challenger Club. This is held the third Saturday of March, June, September and December, between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., and is open to anyone who has club membership. Since widows are eligible for free club membership, you should become a club member and start attending. They have free food, door prizes, and a social hour with reduced price drinks. For those who cannot or do not want to attend the Retiree Appreciation Day, I will be at the Challenger Club on the third Saturday of the other months – Jan-Feb, Apr-May, Jul-Aug, Oct-Nov – from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., or until there are no more visitors. These are open to everyone, and you don't have to be a club member. I will be at the Challenger Club on October 17 and November 21 to see how many people show up. If enough people visit, this will become permanent.

Mr. Roseboro, the Challenger Club manager, also tells me that many ladies from all over Korea attend the "Bingo Bash" on the first Saturday of each month, because the jackpot is very large. I will try to visit the club before bingo starts to meet and introduce myself to widows who are there.

4. **Mailboxes For Widows:** Do you know a widow who lives near a U.S. military post or base and does not have an APO mailbox? Widows are eligible to have a mailbox if there are boxes available. If you have tried to get a mailbox, but been turned down, please let me know. I will work with the 8<sup>th</sup> Army Postal Detachment to get mailboxes for as many people as possible. I am still trying to work out a way to mail newsletters to people who do not have an APO address.
5. **Direct Deposit:** Many ladies who can't get a Social Security Number are applying for an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) so that they can use Direct Deposit to have their check sent straight to the Credit Union. No more lost checks, money always available on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, withdraw money from bank machines any time and any place. Sound good? I can help you complete the form to get your own ITIN. Call me to make an appointment, and bring two types of identification (military ID card, Korean ID card, passport, or driver license). I can make your visit even shorter if you stop at your base or post legal office and have certified copies made of the identification, then bring the copies to me. Sometimes it can be very slow to make there here at the Osan AB legal office.

It takes about two months to get the ITIN back, and then you can open an account with the Credit Union. Once you open the account, I can receive the account information directly from the Credit Union and send the account information via e-mail to start Direct Deposit. If I receive the information no later than the middle of the month, your next check will go directly to the Credit Union.

Also, I want to thank the ladies who have passed the word to their friends about signing up for Direct Deposit.

6. **Restarting DIC:** If a widow who received Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from the VA remarries, and the second marriage ends due to death or divorce, the widow may be eligible to start receiving DIC once again. If you know someone like this, have them contact me for an appointment.
7. **Death Benefits for Widows:** This is an unpleasant topic that many people do not want to think about, but when you die, your family should know your personal desires. Did you know that you can be buried together with your husband in a military cemetery in the U.S.? Did you know that you are eligible for U.S. Mortuary Affairs services at Yongsan? Did you know that if you elect to be buried in the U.S., your body may be flown back to the U.S. West Coast on military aircraft at no cost? To take advantage of U.S. military mortuary services, you need instructions to your survivors to contact the nearest U.S. military installation when you die.

I can assist in contacting the local Casualty Assistance office, so be sure your family knows how to contact my office.

8. **Mailing List:** I have a list of about 125 widows, and information which Mr. Downing had maintained on many of these widows. Of these, 9 ladies without a social security number

have applied for an ITIN. There are 44 more ladies for whom I have no social security number and who may need an ITIN. It also will help me if I have your phone number, information on your family and the benefits you receive. In the next newsletter in December, I hope to be able to include an information sheet for you to complete and mail back to me. Having this information will help me to better help you.

JACK TERWIEL

RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE  
51 MSS/CVR  
UNIT 2097  
APO AP 96278-2097

**MPS**