

following corporate sureties has been approved effective this date: Hartford Casualty Insurance Company, Hartford Fire Insurance Company.

Authorized facsimile signature on file for: James M. Gorman, Attorney-in-fact.

The corporate sureties have provided the Customs Service with a copy of the signature to be used, copies of the corporate seals, and certified copies of the corporate resolutions agreeing to be bound by the facsimile signatures and seals. This approval is without prejudice to the sureties' right to affix signatures and seals manually.

Dated: January 19, 2000.

Jerry Laderberg,

Chief, Entry Procedures and Carriers Branch.

[FR Doc. 00-1683 Filed 1-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0114]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a previously approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on the information needed to determine a veteran's marital status.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before March 27, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0114" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C., 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: Statement of Marital Relationship, VA Form 21-4170.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0114.

Type of Review: Extension of a previously approved collection.

Abstract: VA Form 21-4170 is used to develop the evidence necessary to make a determination as to whether a claimed common law marriage can be recognized by VA.

Without this information, VA would have no means of determining the proper marital status of the veteran.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 3,000 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 15 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6,000.

Dated: December 23, 1999.

By direction of the Secretary.

Sandra McIntyre,

Management Analyst, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 00- 1716 Filed 1-24-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0321]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a previously approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments for information needed for a veterans service organization to represent a claimant in the prosecution of a VA claim.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before March 27, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0321" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C., 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative, VA Form 21-22.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0321.

Type of Review: Extension of a previously approved collection.

Abstract: The form is used by VA beneficiaries to appoint any one of a number of recognized service organizations to represent them in the prosecution of their VA claims. The information is used to determine who has access to the beneficiary's claim file. In addition, it determines who has the right to receive copies of correspondence from VA to the beneficiary. Title 38, U.S.C. 5902 (b)(2), provides that VA may recognize

representatives of service organizations to assist beneficiaries in the prosecution of VA claims, but that no individual shall be recognized unless such individual has filed a power of attorney, executed in a manner prescribed by VA.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 27,083 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 325,000.

Dated: December 23, 1999.

By direction of the Secretary.

Sandra McIntyre,

Management Analyst, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 00-1717 Filed 1-24-00; 8:45 am]

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