

NEWS

FOR VETERANS

BVA—Still A Beacon For Blinded Veterans

(NAPSA)—With its mission to help blinded veterans lead happy, productive lives, the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) is a beacon of light for blinded veterans and their families.

BVA can trace its beginnings back to World War II when a group of veterans who lost their sight in that war formed a brotherly union. Approximately 100 blinded veterans met on March 28, 1945 at 8:45 a.m. Before that day was over they had shaped, formed, created, and given a name to their brand-new organization, the Blinded Veterans Association.

Today, BVA, a nonprofit association chartered by Congress, is a strong organization with more than 9,500 members. All legally blinded veterans are eligible for membership and there is no charge for any of the services provided by BVA.

These services include full-time field representatives in various parts of the country who give advice and help with claims. Regional groups offer emotional support, friendship and opportunities for recreation and socializing. Nearly every state has at least one of these groups.

The *BVA Bulletin* informs blinded veterans of national and local legislation that might affect them; past, present and upcoming events within the national organization and what BVA is doing to help blinded veterans in general. It also serves as a forum for blinded veterans to express themselves on issues and concerns.

BVA also supports, both verbally and financially, programs



Help is available for more than 50,000 men and women in the U.S. who are unaware they're eligible for special services and benefits.

that instill self-confidence, self-esteem, a sense of accomplishment, and opportunities to associate with other blinded veterans. The TEE Golf Tournament and the Winter Sports Clinic are the most significant.

The organization has a presence and voice in the Nation's Capital with Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs. BVA's president testifies annually before the U.S. Congress on behalf of blinded veterans and national headquarters is able to keep members apprised of significant issues affecting them nationally.

BVA is not a government entity and is funded through the generous contributions of countless Americans who remember the sacrifices of our nation's blinded veterans. BVA is currently seeking more than 50,000 men and women in the United States who are unaware they are eligible for special services and benefits. For more information, call 1-866-322-4500 or visit www.bva.org.