

number of hours worked and/or to report the date of termination.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households, Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions, and State, Local or Tribal Government.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 4,647 hours.

**Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:** 5 minutes.

**Frequency of Response:** Monthly.

**Estimated Annual Responses:** 55,786.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 14,770.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or copies of the form should be directed to Department of Veterans Affairs, Attn: Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, Telephone (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-4884.

Dated: December 16, 1996.

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson, Director,

Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 96-33079 Filed 12-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

**Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Office of Management, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, the Office of Management (OM) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on this information collection. This request for comment is being made pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Comments should address the accuracy of the burden estimates and ways to minimize the burden including the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology, as well as other relevant aspects of the information collection.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposal for the collection of information should be received on or before February 28, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Barbara Epps, Office of Management (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. All comments will become a matter of public record and will be summarized in the OM request for Office of Management and

Budget (OMB) approval. In this document the OM is soliciting comments concerning the following information collection:

**OMB Control Number:** 2900-0078.

**Title:** Request to Correspondent for Identifying Information, VA Form Letter 70-2.

**Type of Review:** Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

**Need and Uses:** The form letter is used to obtain additional information from a correspondent when the incoming correspondence does not provide sufficient information to identify a specific veteran. Failure to obtain this information may prevent VA from taking action on the correspondence.

**Current Actions:** The form letter is used by VA personnel to identify a specific veteran, determine the location of a specific file, and to accomplish the action requested by the correspondent such as, process a benefit claim or file material in an individual's claims folder. Completion of VA Form Letter 70-2 is voluntary and failure to furnish the requested information has no adverse effect on either the veteran or the correspondent.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 3,750 hours.

**Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:** 5 minutes.

**Frequency of Response:** On occasion.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 45,000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or copies of the form should be directed to Department of Veterans Affairs, Attn: Barbara Epps, Office of Management (045A4), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, Telephone (202) 273-8013 or FAX (202) 273-5981.

Dated: December 16, 1996.

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson,

Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 96-33080 Filed 12-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

**Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Office of Management, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent

burden, the Office of Management (OM) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on this information collection. This request for comment is being made pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Comments should address the accuracy of the burden estimates and ways to minimize the burden including the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology, as well as other relevant aspects of the information collection.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposal for the collection of information should be received on or before February 28, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Barbara Epps, Office of Management (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. All comments will become a matter of public record and will be summarized in the OM request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. In this document the OM is soliciting comments concerning the following information collection:

**OMB Control Number:** 2900-0025.

**Title:** Request for Consent to Release of Information, VA Form 3288.

**Type of Review:** Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

**Need and Uses:** The form is completed by veterans or beneficiaries to provide the VA with a written consent to release records or information. Use of the form ensures an individual gives an informed written consent for the release of records or information about himself/herself that is consistent with the statutory requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974 and the VA's confidentiality statute.

**Current Actions:** Veterans and their beneficiaries regularly request that copies of documents or information contained in their benefits or medical records be released to third parties, such as insurance companies, physicians and other individuals. The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C., 552a) and the VA's confidentiality statute (38 U.S.C., 5701) as implemented by 38 CFR 1.526(a) and 38 CFR 1.576(b) require individuals to provide written consent before documents or information can be disclosed to third parties not allowed to receive records or information under any other provision of law, i.e., routine use of a record in a system of records. VA Form 3288 contains the minimum information that must be provided in