

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, NCA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of NCA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of NCA'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:* President Memorial Certificate (PMC), VA Form 40–0247.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900–0567.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* The PMC is a gold foiled-embossed certificate containing the Great Seal of the United States and bearing the President's signature. It is mailed to relatives and friends of deceased, honorably discharged veterans honoring their military service to our Nation. In most cases involving recent deaths, the PMC is automatically initiated for those eligible veterans buried in VA national cemeteries. The local VA Regional Office originates the application process without a request from the next of kin as part of processing death benefits claims.

The PMC Insert is not self-initiated by the general public/eligible recipients. There is no form or application that is used to initiate an original request. Original requests are normally in the form of letters and/or telephone calls from eligible recipients. The purpose of the PMC insert is to allow an eligible recipient, which includes the next of kin, other relatives or friends, *i.e.*, surviving spouses, sons, daughters, grandchildren, and others, to request additional certificates and/or replacements or corrected certificates upon receipt of the original PMC. Replacements are requested due to the PMCs being bent, water soaked, or other damaged during mail handling due to an incorrect name of the deceased veteran.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 1,479.

*Estimated Average Burden Per*

*Respondent:* 2 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 44,363.

Dated: October 23, 2003.

By direction of the Acting Secretary.

**Jacqueline Parks,**

*IT Specialist, Records Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 03–27726 Filed 11–4–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0377]

### 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 currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on information needed to repurchase a default loan.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before January 5, 2004.

**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 or *mailto:irmnkess@vba.va.gov*. Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900–0377” 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 (Pub. L. 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:* Claim for Repurchase of Loan (Chapter 37, Title 38 U.S.C., CFR 36.4600), VA Form 26–8084.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900–0377.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* VA Form 26–8084 is used to request repurchase of a loan. Under 38 CFR 36.4600(d), the holder of a delinquent vendee account, which has been guaranteed by VA, may request VA to repurchase a loan when it has been continuously in default for three months and the amount of the delinquency equals or exceeds the sum of two monthly installments.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 240 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 30 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 480.

Dated: October 23, 2003.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Jacqueline Parks,**

*IT Specialist, Records Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 03–27727 Filed 11–4–03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0406]

### 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 currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on information needed by lenders to determine whether any benefits related debts exist in the veteran-borrower's name prior to the closing of any VA-guaranteed loans on an automatic basis.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before January 5, 2004.

**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 or <mailto:irmnkess@vba.va.gov>. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0406" 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 (Pub. L. 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:* Verification of VA Benefit-Related Indebtedness, VA Form 26-8937.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0406.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* Lenders authorized to make VA-guaranteed home or manufactured loans on the automatic basis have been required to determine through VA

whether any benefits related debts exist in the veteran-borrower's name prior to the closing of any automatic loan.

Lenders may not close any proposed automatic loan until they have evidence from VA that there is no debt, or if a debt exists, or the veteran has agreed on an acceptable repayment plan, or payments under a plan already in effect are current. The form restricts information requested to only that need for the debt check and eliminates unlimited versions of lender-designed forms. It provides information advising the lender whether or not the veteran is exempt from paying the funding fee, which must be collected on all VA home loans unless the veteran is receiving service-connected disability compensation. This benefits the lender by streamlining the procedure to verify the veteran's receipt of compensation. VA Form 26-8937 is designed to assist lenders and VA in the completion of debt checks in a uniform manner.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 6,250 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per*

*Respondent:* 5 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* One-time.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 75,000.

Dated: October 23, 2003.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Jacqueline Parks,**

*IT Specialist, Records Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-27728 Filed 11-4-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission will hold a meeting on November 19-21, 2003, at the Hotel Washington, Pennsylvania Avenue at 15th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20004. The session on November 19 will begin at 10 a.m., and the sessions on November 20 and 21 will begin at 8:30 a.m. The sessions on November 19 and 20 will end at 5 p.m. The session on November 21 will end at 3:30 p.m. These sessions are open to the public.

The purpose of the Commission is to conduct an external assessment of VA's capital asset needs and to assure that stakeholder and beneficiary concerns

are fully addressed. The Commission is reviewing recommendations in the Draft National CARES Plan. The Commission will also consider recommendations submitted by veterans service organizations, individual veterans, Congress, medical and nursing school affiliates, VA employees, local governments, community groups and others. Following its assessment, the Commission will make specific recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the realignment and allocation of VA capital assets to meet the demand for, and to enhance, veterans' healthcare services over the next 20 years.

At the November 19-21 meeting, the Commission will be briefed on the CARES process and the results of implementing that process in VA's Veterans Integrated Service network (VISN) 12. The Commission will review the information received from nationwide site visits, public hearings, and various requests for data as well as information discussed in its regular public meetings. The Commission will engage in deliberations regarding the Draft National CARES Plan and its impact in the various markets.

No time will be allocated at these meetings for receiving oral presentations from the public. However, interested persons may either attend or file statements with the Commission. Written statements may be filed either before the meeting or within 10 days after the meeting and addressed to: Department of Veterans Affairs, CARES Commission (OOCARES), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Any member of the public wishing additional information should contact Mr. Richard E. Larson, Executive Director, CARES Commission, at (202) 501-2000.

Dated: October 29, 2003.

By Direction of the Secretary.

**E. Phillip Riggan,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03-27730 Filed 11-14-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Advisory Committee on Prosthetics and Special Disabilities Programs; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Prosthetics and Special Disabilities Programs will be held December 9-10, 2003, at VA