

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 58,628.*

#### Request for Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Dated: April 1, 2004.

**Vicki S. Thorpe,**

*Manager, Graphics, Printing and Records Branch.*

[FR Doc. 04-7846 Filed 4-6-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-39-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Bureau of the Public Debt

#### Proposed Collection: Comment Request

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently the Bureau of the Public Debt within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the Customer Satisfaction Survey.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before June 7, 2004, to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Bureau of the Public Debt, Vicki S. Thorpe, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328, or [Vicki.Thorpe@bpd.treas.gov](mailto:Vicki.Thorpe@bpd.treas.gov).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to Vicki S. Thorpe, Bureau of the Public Debt, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328, (304) 480-6553.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Voluntary Customer Satisfaction Survey to Implement Executive Order 12862.

*OMB Number:* 1535-0122.

*Abstract:* The information from the survey will be used to improve customer service.

*Current Actions:* None.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Affected Public:* Individuals.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 7,000.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 876.

#### Request for Comments

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Dated: April 1, 2004.

**Vicki S. Thorpe,**

*Manager, Graphics, Printing and Records Branch.*

[FR Doc. 04-7847 Filed 4-6-04; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Cost-of-Living Adjustments and Headstone or Marker Allowance Rate

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** As required by law, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is hereby giving notice of cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) in certain benefit rates and income limitations. These

COLAs affect the pension, parents' dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), spina bifida, and birth defects programs. These adjustments are based on the rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) during the one year period ending September 30, 2003. VA is also giving notice of the maximum amount of reimbursement that may be paid for headstones or markers purchased in lieu of Government-furnished headstones or markers in Fiscal Year 2004, which began on October 1, 2003.

**DATES:** These COLAs are effective December 1, 2003. The headstone or marker allowance rate is effective October 1, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul Trowbridge, Consultant, Compensation and Pension Service (212B), Veterans Benefit Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-7218.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under 38 U.S.C. 2306(d), VA may provide reimbursement for the cost of non-Government headstones or markers at a rate equal to the actual cost or the average actual cost of Government-furnished headstones or markers during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year in which the non-Government headstone or marker was purchased, whichever is less.

Section 8041 of Pub. L. 101-508 amended 38 U.S.C. 2306(d) to eliminate the payment of the monetary allowance in lieu of VA-provided headstone or marker for deaths occurring on or after November 1, 1990. However, in a precedent opinion (O. G. C. Prec. 17-90), VA's General Counsel held that there is no limitation period applicable to claims for benefits under the provisions of 38 U.S.C. 2306(d).

The average actual cost of Government-furnished headstones or markers during any fiscal year is determined by dividing the sum of VA costs during that fiscal year for procurement, transportation, and miscellaneous administration, inspection and support staff by the total number of headstones and markers procured by VA during that fiscal year and rounding to the nearest whole dollar amount.

The average actual cost of Government-furnished headstones or markers for Fiscal Year 2003 under the above computation method was \$112. Therefore, effective October 1, 2003, the maximum rate of reimbursement for non-Government headstones or markers purchased during Fiscal Year 2004 is \$112.