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***If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?***

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2-28-2011  
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This is concerning Michael Garcia and Agent Orange Exposure while stationed in Guam.

As a boy I grew up in Rockaway, NY. I attended public schools and graduated from Far Rockaway High School in 1965. I had a normal childhood with no major illnesses or nominal childhood illnesses except colds and a tonsillectomy. After graduating from High School I entered the U.S. Air Force October 6<sup>th</sup> 1965. I did Basic Training at Lackland Air Force base in Texas. After Basic Training I went to Chanute, Illinois in 1966 for Jet Mechanic training for approximately 5 months then was transferred to material specialist at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska 1966-1967. I married my wife (Barbara Nell Garcia) of 43 years May 19, 1967 while in Nebraska. In September or October of 1967 I was deployed to Anderson Air Force base in Guam. While stationed in Guam I worked on the air field or tarmac in the 3902 Supply Squad (SAC). I supplied air planes with parts, containers, and whatever was needed. I can remember seeing storage drums and barrels with chemical labels around the base. I also remember seeing dead grass from spraying herbicide agents. In December 1967 my wife came to Guam and was 7 months pregnant with our first daughter (Denise Garcia). She was born February 17, 1968 at the Naval Base Hospital in Guam. She became pregnant again with our second daughter (Karen Garcia). In October of 1968 my wife almost miscarried our second daughter and was in the Naval Hospital for a few days and was told while in the hospital of the increased number of miscarriages and still births by other females living on the base. At which point I was sent back to Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska. Our second daughter was born in Offutt hospital on February 25, 1969. I was discharged honorably from service October 1969. I moved back to Rockaway, NY with my family after being discharged from the military and began working for the U.S. Post Office and then Norelco for a few years. I then secured a job with the NY City Transit Authority and was employed with them until I retired 23 years later in 1997. In 1999 I moved to Quinlan, Texas with my wife. I was a healthy adult and not exposed to any chemicals after leaving the military.

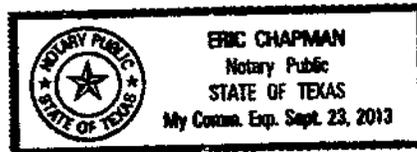
On July 4<sup>th</sup> 2001, I became very ill and was rushed to the hospital with kidney failure at which point was placed on dialysis (7 treatments). A kidney biopsy was performed and I was diagnosed with highly aggressive B cell Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma Stage 4 cancer. I was also diagnosed with Type II diabetes. I received a course of intethecal chemotherapy and was in remission for approximately one month when I relapsed and had surgery to remove a two cancerous masses to my left cheek and left testicle. I was then transferred to Texas Oncology for further chemotherapy, radiation and Stem Cell transplantation in August 2002. I am currently free of cancer but due to treatments needed I have permanent damage. I have since been diagnosed with Liver Cirrhosis (inflammation) with only 10%

function of my liver due to treatments, severe neurological dysfunction (including depression, irritability, memory loss, problem solving deficits, attention deficits, personality changes, etc.), abdominal pain (kidney and liver), peripheral neuropathy (numbness, tingling, pain to upper and lower extremities), hands trembling, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, amber urine, rash, headaches, dizziness, increased weakness/fatigue, hyper somnolence, shortness of breath and hearing loss. I am in the end stages of liver cirrhosis (encephalopathy). I have increased levels of ammonia systemically due to the decreased function of my liver which causes even further neurological dysfunction causing my family to rush me to the emergency room several times with critically high ammonia levels. The cirrhosis has lead to portal hypertension, development of several large varices (increase risk of hemorrhage if ruptured) and a pulmonary shunt causing shortness of breath and inability to convert oxygen. I am only able to walk very short distances with the use of a cane. I am wheelchair bound 75% of the time. I am unable to function without assistance with activities of daily living (standing, walking, feeding myself, toileting, bathing, dressing etc.).

Thank you,

Michael Garcia

*Michael Garcia*  
02-28-2011



*Eric Chapman*  
28<sup>TH</sup> OF FEB, 2011