

several important changes to disability compensation benefits. Among them are provisions that will extend monthly disability allowances, vocational training, and health care to women Vietnam veterans' children who are born with certain medical conditions. These women veterans made huge sacrifices to protect our freedom, and it is only just that their children with resulting medical conditions be compensated. Similar benefits are currently afforded to such children who were born with spina bifida, but this Act will expand benefits beyond that one condition.

This legislation also enhances benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II who currently receive disability compensation and burial benefits at a rate equal to one-half the rate that U.S. veterans receive. It reinforces the long-overdue step taken by the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001, that authorizes the payment of these benefits at the full rate to Filipino veterans who have become U.S. citizens or are permanent residents and reside in the United States. In addition, this Act extends to these veterans the eligibility for burial in national cemeteries.

These benefits are just a few examples of the effects that this comprehensive bill will have on improving benefits and services for our veterans. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I am pleased to sign S. 1402. We are indebted to our veterans for the contributions that they have made to protect our security and well-being.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 1, 2000.

NOTE: S. 1402, approved November 1, was assigned Public Law No. 106-419.

Statement on Signing Legislation on the Appointment of the Inspector General of the Tennessee Valley Authority

November 1, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law S. 1707. This bill provides that the Inspector General of the Tennessee Valley Authority

is to be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Current law provides for the appointment of the Inspector General by the Authority's Board of Directors. Under this legislation, the appointment of the Authority's Inspector General would be made consistent with the appointment of inspectors general at other large agencies. This is an appropriate change.

This bill also authorizes the establishment within the Department of the Treasury of a forensic laboratory to provide services to the Federal Government's Offices of Inspectors General. In implementing this legislation, my Administration will take care both to avoid duplication with other, ongoing forensic activities, and to ensure effective and efficient coordination and cooperation with existing Federal forensic laboratories, such as those operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Secret Service, and the Postal Service.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 1, 2000.

NOTE: S. 1707, approved November 1, was assigned Public Law No. 106-422.

Statement on Signing the National Transportation Safety Board Amendments Act of 2000

November 1, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law S. 2412, the "National Transportation Safety Board Amendments Act of 2000." The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent agency charged with determining the probable cause of transportation accidents and promoting transportation safety. This Act will enhance transportation safety by authorizing appropriations for the NTSB to investigate accidents, conduct safety studies, evaluate the effectiveness of other transportation accident prevention programs, and coordinate Federal assistance for families of victims of catastrophic transportation accidents.

The Act will further advance transportation safety by prohibiting the disclosure of information from cockpit video recorders, or