



**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

251 N MAIN ST  
WINSTON-SAL NC 27155

August 12, 2009

SAMUEL HARGROVE  
[REDACTED]  
HENDERSON NC 27536

In reply, refer to:  
C#: [REDACTED]

Dear SAMUEL HARGROVE,

According to records of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), you have a diagnosis of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). This letter tells you about VA disability compensation benefits that may be available to you.

**Service-Connected Disability Compensation for ALS**

VA published a new regulation, 38 CFR 3.318, that provides the development of ALS at any time after military discharge may establish service connection for that disease if the veteran had active, continuous service of 90 days or more. Because of your diagnosis of ALS, you may be entitled to compensation from VA. *There are no provisions for payment of benefits prior to September 23, 2008, which is the effective date of the regulation.*

**How to Apply for Disability Compensation**

You can apply online (<http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp>) or submit VA Form 21-526, *Veterans Application for Compensation and/or Pension*, to your nearest VA regional office. The form is available from VA's website (<http://www.va.gov/vaforms>) or by calling the toll-free number below.

If you previously applied for compensation, you can reopen your claim by submitting a written request (a new application form is not required) to the VA regional office. Be sure to include your full name, VA file number, and/or your Social Security number.

For more information or to request an application, call toll-free, 1-800-827-1000. (The Telecommunications Device for the Deaf number is 1-800-829-4833.) You may also visit VA's website (<http://www.va.gov>) or send an electronic inquiry (<https://iris.va.gov>).

Sincerely,

K. PFANZELTER  
VETERANS SERVICE CENTER MANAGER