**Swan Song**

This will be my last report as your ALRDOC Safety Officer. I can’t tell you how much disseminating information to you and our fellow veterans has meant to me.

I know I’ve helped some of you because you’ve contacted me and thanked me for the information and for that, I am grateful.

One last time I’m going to ask you to sign up with the VA and see your local VSO.

It took me 40 years to finally learn I was eligible for healthcare benefits from the VA and another 5 years to know I was eligible for disability benefits due to accidents that occurred while I was in the service and my exposure to Agent Orange while in Viet Nam.

The Pack Act and Dole Act have made sure post 911 veterans receive the benefits they are entitled to. The only problem is you must get them! You can’t receive them if you don’t ask for them.

Most times you’ll be rejected, don’t get discouraged, resubmit and if denied again, resubmit and go to the judge assigned to your case (it will be virtual). If your VSO says your claim is valid, you’ll win. I know, been there, done that.

If I can every be assistance with any service-related claim, you’ve got my number.

Ride Safe, George

George W. Smith

ALRDOC Safety Officer