



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Benefits Administration
Regional Office**

DON [REDACTED]

VA File Number
27 [REDACTED]

Represented By:
GORDON A GRAHAM
Rating Decision
08/30/2022

INTRODUCTION

The records reflect that you are a Veteran of the Vietnam Era. You served in the Army from June 3, 1970 to December 6, 1971. You filed a new claim for benefits that was received on August 16, 2022. Based on a review of the evidence listed below, we have made the following decision(s) on your claim.

DECISION

1. Service connection for major depressive disorder is granted with an evaluation of 100 percent effective August 16, 2022.
2. Entitlement to special monthly compensation based on housebound criteria being met is granted from August 16, 2022.

EVIDENCE

- VA Form 21-526EZ Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation





- Benefits, received August 25, 2022
- VAMC (Veterans Affairs Medical Center) treatment records, Puget Sound VAMC, for the period February 2, 2009 to August 12, 2022
- Disability Benefit Questionnaire, Mental Disorders, conducted August 26, 2022
- Disability Benefit Questionnaire, Medical Opinion, conducted August 26, 2022

REASONS FOR DECISION

1. Service connection for major depressive disorder as secondary to the service-connected disability of bilateral retinal detachment.

Service connection for major depressive disorder has been established as related to the service-connected disability of bilateral retinal detachment. (38 CFR 3.303, 38 CFR 3.310)

The effective date of this grant is August 16, 2022. Service connection has been established from the day VA received your claim. When a claim of service connection is received more than one year after discharge from active duty, the effective date is the date VA received the claim. (38 CFR 3.400)

An evaluation of 100 percent is assigned from August 16, 2022.

We have assigned a 100 percent evaluation for your major depressive disorder based on:

- Anxiety
- Chronic sleep impairment
- Depressed mood
- Difficulty in adapting to stressful circumstances
- Difficulty in establishing and maintaining effective work and social relationships
- Disturbances of motivation and mood
- Intermittent inability to perform maintenance of minimal personal hygiene
- Mild memory loss
- Total occupational and social impairment

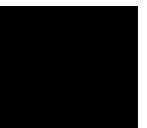
The overall evidentiary record shows that the severity of your disability most closely approximates the criteria for a 100 percent disability evaluation. (38 CFR 4.7, 38 CFR 4.126)

This is the highest schedular evaluation allowed under the law for major depressive disorder. (38 CFR 4.125, 38 CFR 4.126, 38 CFR 4.130)

There is no evidence of record that shows that you are unable to manage your financial affairs. (38 CFR 3.353)

2. Entitlement to special monthly compensation based on housebound.

Entitlement to special monthly compensation is warranted in this case because criteria regarding



housebound have been met. (38 CFR 3.350)

The effective date of this grant is August 16, 2022. Service connection has been established from the day VA received your claim. When a claim of service connection is received more than one year after discharge from active duty, the effective date is the date VA received the claim. (38 CFR 3.400)

REFERENCES:

Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Pensions, Bonuses and Veterans' Relief contains the regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs which govern entitlement to all Veteran benefits. For additional information regarding applicable laws and regulations, please consult your local library, or visit us at our website, www.va.gov.

