

# Loss of Birth, Wed Licenses No Deterrent

JUNEAU, ALASKA April 2, 1974 — David A. Andrus, director of the Veterans Administration Regional Office in Juneau, advises veterans not to allow loss of a birth certificate or marriage license to deter them from applying for benefits.

Andrus cited a regulation in effect since October 1971 under which less formal proof of marriage and birth are acceptable in establishing claims for higher benefits.

"A veteran's or widow's certified statement of marriage is sufficient on applications for compensation and education benefits for veterans, widows and orphaned children, provided neither he nor his wife has been married before, and VA has no contradictory information on file," he explained.

The director noted that a certified statement now is acceptable regarding birth of a child of a veteran's marriage and as proof of age and relationship in disability cases.

"Before the regulation change," Andrus pointed out, "VA required all statements of marriages and births to be supported by formalized documentary evidence."

Certified statements also are sufficient in death cases where a claimant's statements corroborate those of a veteran in connection with a claim for any VA Benefit, he added.