

# Officials encourage veterans to sign up for benefits

Alaska Veterans in Anchorage may lose more than \$8,100 each in education benefits.

Many post-Vietnam veterans, while on active duty, contributed up to \$2,700 into the Veterans Educational Assistance Act program. In order to qualify for benefits, they must sign up within 10 years after being discharged from active duty service.

According to John J. Conway, director of the Anchorage Veterans Administration Regional Office, more than 269,000 eligible veterans nationwide have yet to sign up.

"We do not know exactly how many Alaskan veterans may be eligible," Conway said. "Some of them

may have simply forgotten that they signed up for this program in the first place. Some may have changed their minds and do not realize that they can apply for reimbursement of their contribution.

"Either way, it would be a shame for a veteran who could benefit from this program to lose out because the time limit elapsed before he or she applied."

Veterans who would like some information on their eligibility for this or other VA programs should call 271-2222 or toll-free 800-478-2500 between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 4:15 p.m.