

THE PROSTHETIC REPRESENTATIVE

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A small corps of 86 dedicated employees has become the most important "key" in the VA Prosthetic and Sensory Aids program. These men are our prosthetic representatives.

Early in 1946, it was decided that some one person in each major field station must be given the specific job of carrying the new VA prosthetics program directly to disabled veterans. Such responsibility could not be given to the already overworked doctors, and clerical personnel could not be expected to assume the required responsibilities. In addition, because of the tremendous public relations impact of this special group of seriously disabled veterans, it was felt that the person responsible for the prosthetics program at a field station should be one who could thoroughly understand and appreciate the problems of overcoming a physical handicap. It was therefore established as policy that all employees appointed to such field positions must have a permanent disability and must have successfully demonstrated their ability to wear and use a major prosthetic device.

Because it was initially thought that the duties of these employees would be primarily limited to furnishing information to veterans requiring prosthetic appliances, the positions were established as contact representatives (prosthetic), utilizing the existing standards for contact representative, and the positions were first assigned to the Contact Divisions of VA regional offices.

It soon became evident that this organizational assignment did not permit the full utilization of these employees, since their greatest value could be realized only by having them closely associated with the medical staff. To correct this deficiency, on July 8, 1947, all contact representatives (prosthetic) were transferred to Medical Divisions in regional offices; a Prosthetic Applicants Unit under supervision of the Chief, Professional Section, was established in each regional office Medical Division, and a Prosthetic Appliances Section was set up in the medical service of each branch office.

With the elimination of branch offices in 1950, the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service established positions for prosthetic field super-

visors in each of the newly established area medical offices. These employees are now classified as prosthetic representatives and assigned as area chiefs, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service, in each of the seven area medical offices except St. Louis, where the position is presently vacant.

The area chief, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service, is fully responsible to the area medical director for the effective and efficient supervision of all Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service programs and activities located within the jurisdictional limits of the area medical office. In its broadest aspects, this position involves area-wide responsibility for stimulation, evaluation, and coordination of these operational elements in serving the needs of veterans. This position also includes area-wide responsibility for protecting the interests of both the VA and its beneficiaries. To fulfill this duty, the area chief must ascertain and assure that the highest possible quality of service and workmanship is maintained by the numerous dealers, or other sources, through which a multitudinous variety of orthopedic appliances, prosthetic appliances, sensory aids, anatomical restorations, equipment for the blind, and medical accessories is obtained.

In the broad field of continuing prosthetics research sponsored by the VA, the area chief is also responsible for coordination of specific research projects, field testing programs, and interrelated activities within the area.

Positions of prosthetic representative are now established in each regional office Medical Division, in each VA outpatient clinic, in the Veterans Benefits Office, and in 40 hospitals and centers having active outpatient clinics. Certain other hospitals and centers with large prosthetic patient loads should consider the advantages of establishing such a position to improve their prosthetics services to patients and to assist their medical staffs with the numerous problems encountered in this specialized field.

In most instances the prosthetic representatives assigned as chiefs of prosthetic and sensory aids services are generally responsible, under professional supervision, for the development and conduct of the overall prosthetics program at their respective stations. In answer to many inquiries, a current alphabetical list of all prosthetic representatives employed in area medical offices and other VA field stations follows. It is interesting to note that of the 86 men listed here all, except one, have some permanent prosthetic disability and wear or use a prosthetic device. A total of 10 prosthetic representatives have lost both legs, and 5 others have lost both arms. All but six are married, and only five have never been married. Seventy-four of the 80 married men have children, with a grand total of 213—averaging 2.8 children

per man. The largest family in the group is one with 9 children, and 37 of the men have 3 or more children.

The average age of these 86 employees is 45.2 years, ranging from 38 to 56. Only 16 of the group (19 percent) are 50 years of age or older, but only 5 (6 percent) are under age 40. All 86 employees are veterans who entered the Armed Forces as enlisted men. Twenty-six of them became officers before discharge or retirement, and two of them attained the rank of major. These 86 employees have a total of 998 years experience in the VA prosthetics program—for an average of 11.6 years each. Forty-two (almost 50 percent) have 15 or more years service in the program.

Primarily as a result of the dedicated interest of these prosthetic representatives in the welfare of prosthetically disabled veterans, the highly sensitive VA prosthetics program is conducted throughout the field with a bare minimum of complaint and criticism and at a total average annual cost of only \$33 per patient served.

PROSTHETIC REPRESENTATIVES ON DUTY AS OF FEB. 1, 1964

AMBROSE, Meredith J.....	VAC, Togus, Maine
AMICI, Louis J.....	VAOPC, Philadelphia, Pa.
BAKER, Voigt W.....	AMO, St. Paul, Minn.
BARGER, Everett F., Jr.....	VAH, Oklahoma City, Okla.
BASS, Henry C.....	VARO, Baltimore, Md.
BEATON, Donald F.....	VAC, Cheyenne, Wyo.
BECKER, David J.....	VAOPC, Boston, Mass.
BLAIR, Griffith C.....	VARO, St. Petersburg, Fla.
BLANK, William L.....	VARO, Roanoke, Va.
BOULDIN, William R.....	VAOPC, Philadelphia, Pa.
BRAY, Phillip R.....	VARO, San Francisco, Calif.
BURCH, Raymond E.....	VAC, Boise, Idaho
CHUPURDIA, Roddy.....	VAC, Los Angeles, Calif.
CURTIS, Russel J.....	VAH, St. Louis, Mo.
DeCHARLES, Roger Y.....	VARO, Indianapolis, Ind.
DeGROOT, Albert H.....	VAC, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.
DENNY, Otis N.....	VAH, Dearborn, Mich.
DEITZ, Arthur H.....	VAH, Seattle, Wash.
DONOVAN, James A.....	VARO, Atlanta, Ga.
DUNBAR, William F.....	VAH, Albuquerque, N. Mex.
FEIG, Julius.....	VARO, New York, N.Y.
FINK, James H.....	VAH, Huntington, W. Va.
FLINN, Robert W.....	VARO, Providence, R.I.
FLOWERS, James F., Jr.....	VAH, Dallas, Tex.

TALLEY: Prosthetic Representative

FORTNER, Will M.....	VAH, Kansas City, Mo.
GAUGHAN, Elmer M.....	VAH, Omaha, Nebr.
GEORGE, Donald L.....	VARO, Manila, P. I.
GIVENS, Charles N.....	VAC, Wichita, Kans.
GNADINGER, Paul G.....	VAC, Fargo, N. Dak.
GORLITSKY, Solomon.....	VAOPC, Brooklyn, N.Y.
GOSSELIN, William J.....	VAH, Manchester, N.H.
GOTO, Shigeru.....	VARO, Honolulu, Hawaii
GRIFFIN, Fred C.....	VARO, Winston-Salem, N.C.
GRIGG, Edward C.....	VBO, Washington, D.C.
HALL, James T.....	VAH, Houston, Tex.
HAMPER, Peter P.....	VAC, Fort Harrison, Mont.
HARRELL, William G.....	VARO, San Antonio, Tex.
HIGGINS, James C.....	VAH, Albany, N.Y.
HOLSBERG, Wilfred G.....	AMO, Boston, Mass.
HOPF, Albert C.....	VARO, Newark, N.J.
INDEST, Robert L., Jr.....	VAH, New Orleans, La.
JOHNSON, Clark E.....	VAC, St. Paul, Minn.
JOHNSON, James D.....	VARO, Louisville, Ky.
JONES, Archie A.....	VARO, Lubbock, Tex.
JUNE, Clarence L.....	VAOPC, Los Angeles, Calif.
KAY, Robert B.....	AMO, Atlanta, Ga.
KENNY, James T.....	VAH, Coral Gables, Fla.
KEY, James T.....	VARO, Montgomery, Ala.
KING, James B.....	VAH, Wilmington, Del.
KOLPACKOFF, Terence, Jr.....	VAOPC, Brooklyn, N.Y.
LOMBANO, Frank A.....	VAH, Batavia, N.Y.
LOPATEGUI, Bartolome.....	VAC, San Juan, P.R.
MACBIRD, Harry D.....	AMO, San Francisco, Calif.
MACDONAGH, Michael S.....	VAH, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
MAKABE, Wilson H.....	VARO, San Francisco, Calif.
MARCHETTI, Nello.....	VAC, Los Angeles, Calif.
MARCHINGTON, Ray H.....	VARO, Portland, Oreg.
MAYO, Sidney E.....	VAC, Jackson, Miss.
MAYROSE, Cyril J.....	VAC, Des Moines, Iowa
MAZZARISI, Frank P.....	VARO, St. Petersburg, Fla.
MCCARTHY, John C.....	VAOPC, Boston, Mass.
MCCARTHY, Leonard J.....	AMO, Trenton, N.J.
MCCAY, Bruce B., Jr.....	VAH, Denver, Colo.
MILLER, Jack.....	VARO, Newark, N.J.
MIRABELLA, Joseph R.....	VAH, Newington, Conn.
MOORE, Jesse L.....	VAH, Nashville, Tenn.
NIGH, Harry H., Jr.....	VAH, Phoenix, Ariz.
NORTH, John W.....	VAH, Seattle, Wash.

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NORTON, Orville M.....	VAH, Salt Lake City, Utah
OSBORNE, Andrew J.....	VAOPC, Los Angeles, Calif.
PFIRRMANN, Karl B.....	VAH, Cincinnati, Ohio
PIETRASIK, Leonard A.....	VAH, Chicago, Ill. (W/S)
RUZIKA, Edward F.....	VAOPC, Los Angeles, Calif.
SMYTH, Hugh T.....	VARO, Pittsburgh, Pa.
TOMASHEWSKI, Edward P..	VAH, Chicago, Ill. (W/S)
TUSIA, Benedict F.....	VARO, Muskogee, Okla.
VOSS, Robert F.....	VARO, Milwaukee, Wis.
WALLACE, Robert W.....	VAH, Little Rock, Ark.
WASHBURN, LaRue.....	VAC, Shreveport, La.
WATSON, John.....	VAC, Reno, Nev.
WEYRAUCH, Kenneth A.....	VAH, Buffalo, N.Y.
WHITESIDE, Edward J.....	VARO, Syracuse, N.Y.
WHORTON, Blaine H.....	VARO, Columbia, S.C.
WING, Roy A.....	VAH, Cleveland, Ohio
WOOD, Brennan C.....	VARO, New York, N.Y.
ZUIDEMA, Albert S.....	AMO, Columbus, Ohio