

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

January 7, 2021

JOSEPH FILSTRUP  
1321 BAIRD CT  
CONCORD, CA 94518

In Reply Refer To: 318/JUST CAUSE/LLG  
CSS 361 52 8653  
FILSTRUP, Joseph

Dear Mr. Filstrup:

We made a decision on your claim for service-connected compensation received on November 23, 2020.

This letter tells you what we decided. It includes a copy of our rating decision that gives the evidence used and reasons for our decision. We have also included information about what to do if you disagree with our decision, and who to contact if you have questions or need assistance.

**What We Decided**

We determined that the following service-connected condition hasn't changed:

Medical Description	Percent (%) Assigned
hearing loss, left ear	0%

**Service connection for Right Ear hearing loss is denied.**

Your compensation payment will continue unchanged.

We have enclosed a copy of your Rating Decision for your review. It provides a detailed explanation of our decision, the evidence considered, and the reasons for our decision. Your Rating Decision and this letter constitute our decision based on your claim received on November 23, 2020. It represents all claims we understood to be specifically made, implied, or inferred in that claim.

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## What You Should Do If You Disagree with Our Decision

If you do not agree with this decision, you have one year from the date of this letter to select a review option to preserve your earliest effective benefit date. The review options and their proper applications are as follows, for a(n):

- **Supplemental Claim**, complete **VA Form 20-0995**, *Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim*.
- **Higher-Level Review**, complete **VA Form 20-0996**, *Decision Review Request: Higher-Level Review*.
- **Appeal to the Board**, complete **VA Form 10182**, *Decision Review Request: Board Appeal (Notice of Disagreement)*.

Please see the enclosed VA Form 20-0998, *Your Rights to Seek Further Review of Our Decision*. It explains your options for an additional review. You may obtain any of the required application by downloading them from [www.va.gov/vaforms/](http://www.va.gov/vaforms/) or by contacting us. You can also learn more about the disagreement process at [www.va.gov/decision-reviews](http://www.va.gov/decision-reviews). If you would like to obtain or access evidence used in making this decision, please contact us as noted below. Some evidence may be obtained by signing in at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

## What Is eBenefits?

eBenefits provides electronic resources in a self-service environment to Service members, Veterans, and their families. Use of these resources often helps us serve you faster! Through the eBenefits website you can:

- Submit claims for benefits and/or upload documents directly to the VA
- Request to add or change your dependents
- Update your contact and direct deposit information and view payment history
- Request a Veterans Service Officer to represent you
- Track the status of your claim or appeal
- Obtain verification of your military service, civil service preference, or VA benefits
- And much more!

Enrolling in eBenefits is easy. Just visit [www.eBenefits.va.gov](http://www.eBenefits.va.gov) for more information. If you submit a claim in the future, consider filing through eBenefits. Filing electronically, especially if you participate in our fully developed claim program, may result in faster decision than if you submit your claim through the mail.

## If You Have Questions or Need Assistance

If you have any questions, you may contact us by telephone, e-mail, or letter.

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<b>If you</b>	<b>Here is what to do.</b>
Telephone	Call us at 1-800-827-1000. If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the Federal number is 711.
Use the Internet	Send electronic inquiries through the Internet at <a href="https://iris.custhelp.va.gov/">https://iris.custhelp.va.gov/</a> .
Write	VA now uses a centralized mail system. For all written communications, put your full name and VA file number in the letter. Please mail or fax all written correspondence to: <b>Department of Veterans Affairs</b> <b>VA Fiduciary Intake</b> <b>P.O. Box 95211</b> <b>Lakeland, FL 33804-5211</b> <b>Toll Free: 1-888-581-6826</b>

In all cases, be sure to refer to VA file number 361 52 8653.

If you are looking for general information about benefits and eligibility, you should visit our website at <https://www.va.gov>, or search the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at <https://iris.custhelp.va.gov/>.

## **What is VA.gov**

VA.gov provides electronic resources in a self-service environment to Servicemembers, Veterans, and their families. Use of these resources often helps us serve you faster! Through the VA.gov website you can:

- Submit claims for benefits and/or upload documents directly to the VA
- Request to add or change your dependents
- Update your contact and direct deposit information and view payment history
- Track the status of your claim or appeal
- Obtain verification of military service, civil service preference, or VA benefits
- And much more!

Enrolling in VA.gov is easy. Just visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) for more information. If you submit a claim in the future, consider filing through VA.gov. Filing electronically, especially if you participate in our fully developed claim program, may result in a faster decision than if you submit your claim through the mail.

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We sent a copy of this letter to your representative, California Department of Veterans Affairs, whom you can also contact if you have questions or need assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Director

Enclosure(s): Rating Decision

VA Form 20-0998

Where to Send Your Written Correspondence

cc: CADVA