See If You Qualify for $75,000
If you or a family member have had internal cancer or leukemia within the last fifty years (even if family member is deceased) or if you get cancer and were physically present at either the Nevada test site / Mercury Nevada, Trinity test site / Los Alamos New Mexico, South Pacific / Marshall Islands, Bikini Atoll, Enewetak Atoll, Johnston Atoll, or Christmas Island, Pacific test site, or South Atlantic test site during one of the following atmospheric nuclear tests or within a 6 month period after said test.

• Trinity 1945
• Operation Crossroads 1946
• Operation Sandstone 1948
• Operation Ranger 1951
• Operation Greenhouse 1951
• Operation Buster-Jangle 1951
• Operation Tumbler-Snapper 1952
• Operation Ivy 1952
• Operation Ushot-Knothole 1953
• Operation Castle 1954
• Operation Teapot 1955
• Operation Wigwam 1955
• Operation Redwing 1956
• Operation Plumbob 1957
• Operation Hardtack 1 1958
• Operation Argus 1958
• Operation Hardtack 2 1958
• Operation Dominic 1 1962
• Operation Dominic 2 1962
• Operation Plowshare 1962

or were present during the underground testing on Amchitka Island, Alaska prior to January 7, 1974 you may qualify for $75,000 tax free.

(SOURCE: http://www.atomicveteran.info/)

Are You An Atomic Veteran?
An Atomic Veteran is defined in legislation as a Veteran who, as part of his or her military service:

• Participated in an above-ground nuclear test, 1945-1962; or
• Was part of the U.S. military occupation forces in/around Hiroshima/Nagasaki before 1946; or
• Was held as a POW in or near Hiroshima or Nagasaki (certain cases).

Atomic Veterans who have developed one of several specific cancers or nonmalignant conditions, may be eligible for compensation and/or free VA medical care. This compensation would be in the form of a partial or full service-connected disability allowance, including potential payments to your surviving spouse or children.

If you have developed a “presumptive cancer”, which is presumed to be due to radiation exposure during you military service, all you have to do is verify that you are an Atomic Veteran to be eligible for disability compensation. Your service connection is established without considering the dose received.

There are 21 presumptive cancers defined by law: leukemia (except chronic lymphocytic leukemia); cancer of the thyroid, breast, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, pancreas, bile ducts, gall bladder, salivary gland, urinary tract (kidneys, renal, pelvis, urethra, urinary bladder and urethra), bone, brain, colon, lung, and ovary; lymphomas (except Hodgkin’s disease); multiple myeloma; primary liver cancer (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated); and bronchio-alveolar carcinoma (a rare lung cancer).

(SOURCE: http://www.publichealth.va.gov/docs/radiation/atomic-veteran-brochure.pdf)

Other Diseases Associated with Radiation Exposure
If a Veteran who was exposed to radiation during military service (including "Atomic Veterans") develops one of the diseases listed below and meets other requirements, disability compensation may be provided on a case-by-case basis.

• All cancers
• Non-malignant thyroid nodular disease
• Parathyroid adenoma
• Posterior sub-capsular cataracts
• Tumors of the brain and central nervous system

Eligibility depends on how much radiation the Veteran received and other factors, such as the period of time between exposure to radiation and the development of the disease.

Surviving spouses, dependent children and dependent parents of Veterans who were exposed to radiation during military service and died as the result of one of these diseases may be eligible for survivors' benefits.

VA also will consider the possibility that other diseases not listed above were caused by radiation, if supported by medical or scientific evidence. To be eligible for compensation, VA must be able to establish that it is at least as likely as not that a Veteran’s disease was caused by his/her radiation exposure during service.

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
VA presumes amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) diagnosed in all Veterans who had 90 days or more continuous active military service is related to their service, although ALS is not related to radiation exposure.