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Waukesha County Veterans Services

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FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL BENEFITS UPDATE

NEWS UPDATE FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS



Mobile App Helps Veterans with PTSD

By Julia Hoffman, April 19, 2011 at 12:44 pm

The following information was found on the internet <http://www.blogs.va.gov/>



The wounds of war are often invisible. For example, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) affects a significant number of Veterans and can last for decades after a trauma. Unfortunately, PTSD is not suffered alone or without consequence. Work and social functioning are frequently impacted, leaving Veterans and their families with challenges that go far beyond the disturbing flashbacks and memories often depicted in movies.

The good news is that there are treatments for PTSD that actually work and are offered across VA and DoD treatment facilities. The bad news is that no matter how much we reach out to offer Veterans these effective treatments, some will never seek care. The reasons for this vary, but foremost among these is that PTSD is characterized by extreme avoidance. Many Veterans also have logistical problems getting to treatment because of their location, transportation options, work schedules, etc. Others fear stigma (being shamed or discriminated against) of having a PTSD diagnosis and receiving treatment.

Even for those Veterans who are able to overcome these barriers and enter treatment, there are many moments between therapeutic appointments when managing stress can be challenging.

Teams at [VA's National Center for PTSD](#) and [DoD's National Center for Telehealth and Technology](#) have collaborated to create a mobile phone application (app) to help Veterans and Service Members who have, or may have PTSD. The app, PTSD Coach, provides users with education about PTSD, information about professional care, a self-

assessment for PTSD, opportunities to find support, and tools that can help with managing the stresses of daily life with PTSD. Tools are based on evidence-based PTSD treatment and range from relaxation skills and positive self-talk to anger management and other common self-help strategies. Users can customize tools based on their preferences and can integrate their own contacts, photos, and music.

Most people who carry smart phones have them within reach and on all the time. The goal of this new app is to take education, skills training, and support to Veterans wherever they are, whenever they need it. Plus, Veterans who are concerned about stigma can use the tool in complete anonymity.

It is hoped that this app provides Veterans with PTSD a new way to build the skills needed to improve life for themselves and their families. For Veterans in treatment already, PTSD Coach can help with coping between sessions. For Veterans not yet in treatment, PTSD Coach provides tools for managing stress and helps them to understand their difficulties better and learn more about PTSD treatment.

PTSD Coach can be downloaded for free from the [iTunes App Store](#) on iPhone, iPod Touch, or iPad. It will also be available for Android phones later this Spring. More apps will also be rolled out soon, including the PTSD Family Coach for family members of Veterans with PTSD. For more information on this app, please see the [National Center for PTSD website](#).

Julia Hoffman is a Clinical Psychologist with VA's National Center for PTSD.



COMMENTARY CORNER
By: Tom Ludka, Veterans Service Officer

MEMORIAL DAY

Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations, that we have forgotten, as a people, the cost of a free and undivided Republic. — *John A. Logan*

WAUKESHA COUNTY RESIDENTS KIA IN IRAQ OR AFGHANISTAN

Brown	Scott	U.S. Army	SGT	33	Brookfield	05/18/2007
Frost	Christopher	U.S. Air Force	SSG	24	Waukesha	03/03/2008
Hidalgo	Daren	U.S. Army	1LT	24	Delafield	02/20/2011
Howard	Merideth	U.S. Army	SFC	52	Waukesha	09/08/2006
Mueller	Christopher	CIA Operative		32	Waukesha	10/25/2003
Opicka	Dean	U.S. Marine Corps	LCPL	29	Waukesha	04/14/2008
Schram	Matthew	U.S. Army	MAJ	36	Brookfield	05/26/2003
Warner	Richard	U.S. Marine Corps	LCPL	22	Waukesha	12/13/2004
Warns	Bobby	U.S. Marine Corps	CPL	23	Waukesha	11/08/2004
Witmer	Michelle	U.S. Army	SPC	20	New Berlin	04/09/2004

Once a year we, are asked to take time out to remember our fellow citizens who gave their lives in service to our country. Who performed their duty in spite of their personal hardship, political viewpoint or inconvenience. In our increasingly secular world, the idea of dying for a cause or a principle may seem archaic, worthless or meaningless. Yet once a year we are asked to remember those who no longer have a voice because they did just that. No one in their right mind glorifies or honors war! We honor the virtues of the men and women who gave their all so that others are free and can make the most of their freedom. We ask our service members to live and die not for a president, governor, or a specific religion but for an idea - freedom. In return, we are asked to remember their sacrifice and live a life worthy of that sacrifice.

Memorial Day, formerly Decoration Day, was created in 1868 by John Logan who was the Commander-in-Chief of the great veteran’s organization the Grand Army of the Republic. Eventually, the federal government would declare it a national holiday. The day was set aside as a day of mourning and activities, church services, parades, poems, songs, speeches and the decoration of graves of veterans were all part of the community observance. We have diminished the emphasis as a day of mourning and changed it to a three-day weekend to shop, open the cottage and begin the summer. We are definitely enjoying the freedom bought for us in blood, pain, suffering and tears. Let us not forget how we got here.

Those of us who have lost a friend or family member in the service to our country can never forget or completely express the inner sorrow. Nothing seems worse than to lose a love one this way and have our fellow citizens be ambivalent and apathetic. Memorial Day is that one public day, as a community, we say thanks and can take at least a few minutes out of our day to attend a civic observance. Take the time to remember the price of your three-day weekend.

LOCATED AT:
 Human Services Center
 500 Riverview Ave Rm G138
 Waukesha WI 53188-3680
 Phone: 262-548-7732
 FAX: 262-896-8588
 TTD: 262-548-7311
E-Mail:
tludka@waukeshacounty.gov
 or
vetserve@waukeshacounty.gov
Web Page:
www.waukeshacounty.gov/veterans/

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Waukesha—Cutler Park Rededication Ceremony Saturday, September 10, 2011

The following information was received from: <http://www.va.gov/opa/ssrel/>

This year begins the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. There are approximately 1,000 Civil War Veterans buried in Waukesha County. They influenced many aspects of our culture. The creation of the national soldiers homes, requirements to have an American flag in schools, churches and other public buildings, the creation of the state veteran's homes, the expansion of benefits to veterans, widows and orphans and the creation of Memorial

Day are all achievements attributed to this group of veterans. During the fiftieth anniversary of the start of that war, Waukesha veterans erected a monument in Cutler Park as a reminder to future generations of their service. The City of Waukesha will honor that service with a Rededication Ceremony Saturday, September 10, 2011 at 2:00 P.M. in Cutler Park, 321 Wisconsin Ave. Waukesha. Come and help celebrate the 100 Year Anniversary of the Civil War Monument in Cutler Park and the principles of the Grand Army of the Republic of Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.

September 11th Memorial—Lisbon Town Hall Park

The following information was received from: Douglas J. Brahm, Chief, Lisbon Fire Dept.

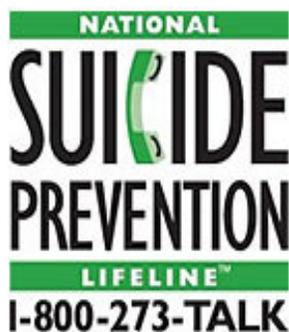
Lisbon is developing a Memorial to the civilians, firefighters, police officers and those in uniform whose lives have been taken by terrorists. The centerpiece of the Memorial will be an actual piece of steel from the World Trade Center. (You can view the steel by contacting Fire Chief, Doug Brahm at 262-538-3902). While the Memorial will have a September 11th focus, it is our hope it will promote a sense of pride and patriotism for visitors. A larger artist rendering of the Memorial and other related information is on display at the Lisbon Town Hall. Multiple individuals, businesses, and organizations have already made significant initial donations, but we need help from the others in the greater community to make this Memorial a reality. We only have a limited amount of time to reach our fundraising goal (\$50,000+) to assure the Memorial will be completed prior to September 11, 2011. Volunteering your time and expertise to the project is also welcomed. All donations are appreciated.

Those giving \$100 or more will be recognized with a personalized Memorial brick. Additionally,

there are \$250 tree sponsorships available, \$500 larger-memorial brick paver sponsorships, and marquee plaque recognition for those giving \$3,000 or more, as well as other sponsorship opportunities available at other various donation levels. Donations are tax deductible. Please call John Greiten at 262-246-7266, Joe Klemm at 262-246-3416 or Matt Gehrke at 262-719-0000 for additional information or to discuss other related opportunities. Please join us at the unveiling of the memorial on Sunday, September 11, 2011, the 10th anniversary of 9/11/01.

Donations can be sent to the Lisbon Town Hall at the following address. Checks should be made payable to "Town of Lisbon" and include "911 Memorial" on the memo line.

Lisbon Town Hall
911 Memorial Fund
W234 N8676 Woodside Road
Lisbon, WI 53089



It takes the courage and strength
of a warrior to ask for help....

If you're in an emotional crisis
Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
"Press 1 for Veterans"

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Disability.gov—Veterans & Service Members Update: *Stay Connected with The National Resource Directory*

The following information is from: david.rueth@dva.state.wi.us

Dear Subscriber to Disability.gov:

We'd like to bring to your attention a valuable resource for Veterans and Service Members. The National Resource Directory (NRD) connects wounded warriors, Service Members, Veterans, and their families with those who support them. It provides access to services and resources at the national, state and local levels to support recovery, rehabilitation and community reintegration. Visitors can find information on a variety of topics including benefits and compensation, education and training, employment, family and caregiver support, health, homeless assistance, housing, transportation and travel and other resources.

10 Ways to Stay Connected with the National Resource Directory

1. Keep your family, friends and colleagues up to date on programs and services helping Veterans, Service Members and their families by suggesting that they [subscribe](#) to National Resource Directory email updates.
2. Become a part of the growing National Resource Directory family on [Facebook](#).
3. Get news and information about resources delivered directly to your desktop when you subscribe to the National Resource Directory's [RSS \(Really Simple Syndication\) feed](#).
4. Find programs and services near you by visiting the National Resource Directory's [Information by State](#) section.
5. Spread the word about the National Resource Directory by putting a [link](#) on your website or blog.
6. Recommend a resource, organization or program in your community that you think should be included on the National Resource Directory through [Suggest A Resource](#).
7. View automatically updated resources available in your state directly on your own website or blog by adding the National Resource Directory's [State Widget](#).
8. Become a member of the National Resource Directory's [LinkedIn group](#) and connect with people who share your interests and concerns.
9. Stay up to date on news and events of interest to Veterans and military families by visiting the National Resource Directory's [In The News](#) page.
10. Visit the National Resource Directory's [Facility and Records Locator](#) page to find the locations of VA facilities and Social Security offices, as well as locations and contact information for military installations and VA records and military personnel records.

Frank Buckles, Last Known U.S. Doughboy, Dies Advocate for National World War I Memorial in D.C.

The following information is from: http://www.va.gov/Media_Relations@dva.state.wi.us

WASHINGTON (Feb. 28, 2011)—Frank Woodruff Buckles, who lied about his age to enlist in the Army in 1917 and became the last known U.S. veteran of World War I, died on February 27, 2011 at the age of 110.

"We have lost a living link to an important era in our nation's history," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "But we have also lost a man of quiet dignity, who dedicated his final years to ensuring the sacrifices of his fellow 'Doughboys' are appropriately commemorated."

Burial with full military honors will be held at Arlington National Cemetery. Details about the funeral are expected to be released soon.

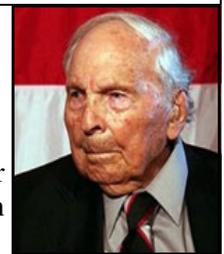
A long-time resident of Charles Town, West Virginia, where he had a farm, Buckles was born in Bethany,

Missouri. He enlisted shortly after his 16th birthday and served in France and Germany.

At the start of World War II, he was a civilian working with a steamship company in the Philippines. He was imprisoned in a Japanese prisoner of war camp for three and a half years.

In his later years, Buckles became an advocate for the expansion of a little-known memorial to World War I Veterans from the District of Columbia into a national memorial.

More than 4,700,000 Americans served in the military during World War I. About 53,000 died of combat-related causes, while another 63,000 deaths were listed as non-combat.



New and Enhanced VA Benefits Provided to Caregivers of Veterans

The following information was found at: <http://www.va.gov/opa/ssrel/>



WASHINGTON (Feb. 9, 2011)—The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is launching the first of a series of new and enhanced services supporting family caregivers of seriously ill and injured Veterans. In May 2010, President Obama signed the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 legislation authorizing VA to establish a wide range of new services to support **certain caregivers of eligible Post 9/11 Veterans.**

"Caregivers make tremendous sacrifices every day to help Veterans of all eras who served this nation," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "They are critical partners with VA in the recovery and comfort of ill and injured Veterans, and they deserve our continued training, support and gratitude."

"DAV is happy to hear that caregivers of Veterans are getting additional support and services to care for our Nation's heroes and unprecedented new services for our most recent severely ill and injured," said David W. Gorman, executive director of the Washington Headquarters of the Disabled American Veterans. "We understand there are challenges to implementing the new law; including ensuring that critically ill and injured Veterans of all eras are similarly supported."

In addition to the new benefits and services for **eligible Veterans who were disabled in the line of duty since Sept. 11, 2001 (Post 9/11 Veterans)**, VA will also begin providing enhanced benefits and services to caregivers of Veterans of all eras who are already enrolled in VA care, including:

- ◆ Access to VA's toll-free Caregiver Support Line: 1-855-260-3274,
- ◆ Expanded education and training on caring for Veterans at home,
- ◆ Other support services such as counseling and support groups and referral services; and
- ◆ An enhanced website for caregivers.

Some of the new benefits of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act are

restricted by law to the caregivers of the **most seriously ill and injured Post 9/11 Veterans.** Those additional benefits include:

- ◆ A monthly stipend,
- ◆ Health care coverage,
- ◆ Travel expenses, including lodging and per diem while accompanying Veterans undergoing care,
- ◆ Respite care; and
- ◆ Mental health services and counseling.

VA will take the opportunity to report to Congress in the future on the feasibility of expanding the enhanced services to family caregivers of Veterans of all eras.

While some of these enhanced benefits are available now, many of the other significant newly-enacted benefits will require the issuance of regulations. These additional benefits include monthly stipends, pay for travel costs, medical coverage, training, counseling and respite care designed to prevent institutionalization of Veterans whenever possible. The law requires detailed regulations for determining eligibility, designating and approving caregivers, and providing stipends and health care coverage to primary family caregivers. The complex process required to implement these regulations will provide Veterans, caregivers and the general public the opportunity to provide comments before those regulations are finalized.

"VA has supported caregivers of Veterans of all eras for almost eight decades," said Deborah Amdur of VA's Care Management and Social Work Service, "and we know from our experience and research that Veterans are best served when they can live their lives as independently as possible surrounded by caring family and friends."

Each VA medical center has designated caregiver support coordinators who will assist eligible Veterans and caregivers in understanding and applying for the new benefits. VA also has a Caregiver Support Web page, www.caregiver.va.gov, which will provide general information once final regulations are published.

Veteran Borrowers in Delinquency—Quick Reference

The following information was found on the internet <http://www.va.gov/opa/ssrel/>



General Guidance—The US Department of Veterans Affairs urges all veterans who are encountering problems making their mortgage payments to speak with their servicers as soon as possible to explore options to avoid foreclosure. Contrary to popular opinion, servicers really do *not* want to foreclose because foreclosure costs a lot of money. Depending on a veteran's specific situation, servicers may offer any of the following options to avoid foreclosure:

- ◆ Repayment Plan – The borrower makes regular installment each month plus part of the missed installments.
- ◆ Special Forbearance – The servicer agrees not to initiate foreclosure to allow time for borrowers to repay the missed installments. An example of when this would be likely is when a borrower is waiting for a tax refund.
- ◆ Loan Modification - Provides the borrower a fresh start by adding the delinquency to the loan balance and establishing a new payment schedule.
- ◆ Additional time to arrange a private sale – The servicer agrees to delay foreclosure to allow a sale to close if the loan will be paid off.
- ◆ Short Sale – When the servicer agrees to allow a borrower to sell his/her home for a lesser amount than what is currently required to payoff the loan.
- ◆ Deed-in-Lieu of Foreclosure - The borrower voluntarily agrees to deed the property to the servicer instead of going through a lengthy foreclosure process.

Access our website at www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/veteran.asp for additional information on VA loans and to watch videos of veterans who have completed the workout options listed above.

Servicemembers Civil Relief Act—Veteran borrowers may be able to request relief pursuant to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA). SCRA is intended to ease the economic and legal burdens on military personnel during their active service. In order to qualify for certain protections available under the Act, the borrower must request protection under the Act, and the loan must have originated prior to the current period of active military service. SCRA may provide for a lower interest rate, or prevent foreclosure or eviction up to nine months from period of military service.

Assistance to Veterans with VA-Guaranteed Home Loans—When a VA-guaranteed home loan becomes delinquent, VA provides supplemental servicing assistance to help cure the default. The servicer has the primary responsibility of servicing the loan to resolve the default. However, in cases where the servicer is unable to help the veteran borrower, Loan Guaranty has Loan Technicians in eight Regional Loan Centers and two special servicing centers who take an active role in interceding with the servicer to explore all options to avoid foreclosure.

Veterans with VA-guaranteed home loans can call (877) 827-3702 to reach the nearest Loan Guaranty office where loan specialists are prepared to discuss potential ways to help save the loan.

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans—

Veterans who feel they may be facing homelessness as a result of losing their home can call (877-424-3838) or go to www.va.gov/HOMELESS/NationalCallCenter.asp to receive immediate assistance from VA.

Assistance to Veterans with non-VA Guaranteed Home Loans—

For a veteran or service member who may have obtained a conventional or sub-prime loan, VA has a network of eight Regional Loan Centers and two special servicing centers that can offer advice and guidance. Borrowers may visit VA's website at www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans or call toll-free (877) 827-3702 to speak with a VA Loan Technician. However, unlike when a veteran has a VA-guaranteed home loan, VA does not have the legal authority to intervene on the borrower's behalf. It is imperative that a borrower contacts his/her servicer as quickly as possible.

VA Refinancing of a non-VA Guaranteed Home Loan—

Veterans with conventional home loans now have new options for refinancing to a VA-guaranteed home loan. These new options are available as a result of the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008. Veterans who wish to refinance their subprime or conventional mortgage may now do so for up to 100 pct of the value of the property, which is up from the previous limit of 90 pct.

Additionally, Congress raised VA's maximum loan guaranty for these types of refinancing loans. Loan limits were effectively raised from \$144,000 to \$417,000. High cost counties have even higher maximum loan limits. VA County Loan Limits can be found at www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans. These changes will allow more qualified veterans to refinance through VA, allowing for savings on interest costs and avoiding foreclosure. A VA refinancing loan may help a veteran who is facing a big payment increase.

Other Assistance for Delinquent Veteran Borrowers—

If VA is not able to help a veteran borrower retain his/her home (whether a VA-guaranteed loan or not), the HOPE NOW Alliance may be of assistance. HOPE NOW is a joint alliance consisting of servicers, counselors, and investors whose main goal is to assist distressed borrowers retain their homes and avoid foreclosure. They have expertise in financial counseling, as well as programs that take advantage of relief measures that VA cannot. HOPE NOW provides outreach, counseling and assistance to homeowners who have the willingness and ability to keep their homes but are facing financial difficulty as a result of the crisis in the mortgage market. The HOPE NOW Alliance can be reached at (888) 995-HOPE (888-995-4673) or by visiting www.hopenow.com.

For more information go to www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans or call (877) 827-3702

VA Publishes Final Regulation to Aid Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange in Korea

The following information was found on the internet <http://www.va.gov/opa/ssrel/>

WASHINGTON—Veterans exposed to herbicides while serving along the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in Korea will have an easier path to access quality health care and benefits under a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) final regulation that will expand the dates when illnesses caused by herbicide exposure can be presumed to be related to Agent Orange.

"VA's primary mission is to be an advocate for Veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki "With this new regulation VA has cleared a path for more Veterans who served in the demilitarized zone in Korea to receive access to our quality health care and disability benefits for exposure to Agent Orange."

Under the final regulation published today in the Federal Register, VA will presume herbicide exposure for **any Veteran who served between April 1, 1968, and Aug. 31, 1971, in a unit determined by VA and the Department of Defense (DoD) to have operated in an area in or near the Korean DMZ in which herbicides were applied.**

Previously, VA recognized that Agent Orange exposure could only be conceded to Veterans who served in certain units along the Korean DMZ between April 1968 and July 1969.

In practical terms, eligible Veterans who have specific illnesses VA presumes to be associated with herbicide exposure do not have to prove an association between their illness and their military service. This

"presumption" simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits and ensures that Veterans receive the benefits they deserve.

Click on these links to learn about Veterans' diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure www.publichealth.va.gov/PUBLICHEALTH/exposures/agentorange/diseases.asp at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/diseases.asp and birth defects in children of Vietnam-era Veterans VA encourages Veterans with covered service in Korea who have medical conditions that may be related to Agent Orange to submit their applications for access to VA health care and compensation as soon as possible so the agency can begin processing their claims.

Individuals can go to website <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/AO/claimherbicide.htm> to get a more complete understanding of how to file a claim for presumptive conditions related to herbicide exposure, as well as what evidence is needed by VA to make a decision about disability compensation or survivors benefits.

Additional information about Agent Orange and VA's services for Veterans exposed to the chemical is available at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange

The regulation is available on the Office of the Federal Register website at <http://www.ofr.gov/>.

VA Extends Post-Incarceration Health Care Measure Would Help Reduce Repeat Offenses

The following information was received from: <http://www.va.gov/opa/ssrel/>

WASHINGTON (March 30, 2011)—The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will extend health care to eligible Veterans in halfway houses and other temporary, post-incarceration housing under a new program aimed at cutting back on repeat offenses.

"There's hard evidence that lack of access to health care, including mental health care, for newly released inmates is a factor in people becoming homeless or returning to prison and jail," said Jim McGuire, director of VA's Veterans Justice Outreach Programs. "These are Veterans who otherwise qualify for VA health care."

A long-standing rule has barred VA from providing health care to Veterans for whom another federal, state or local government has an obligation to provide

health care. Frequently, that means inmates of prisons and jails.

Under the changed rule, that prohibition would be amended and VA would be allowed to provide health care to Veterans in halfway houses and other temporary, post-incarceration housing.

An Urban Institute study in 2008 found that good health care in the first months of community reentry played a key role in easing readjustment and reducing recidivism.

About 29,000-56,000 Veterans are released annually from state and federal prisons, and at least 90,000 Veterans are released each year from city and county jails, according to Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics.

VA Health Care—Changes in Insurance Billing for Prescriptions

The following information was found on the internet <http://www.va.gov/opa/ssrel/>

Change in the amount VA bills your prescription: Guided by VA's mission of providing exceptional health care that improves your health and well-being, VA is implementing a new billing process to be more in line with industry standards that enables VA to better serve you (our Veterans).

If you have an outpatient prescription filled on or after March 18, 2011 for a nonservice-connected condition, you will see a change in your Explanation of Benefits (EOB) from your insurance company. VA will bill the actual cost of the prescription plus an administrative fee that will be adjusted annually. Instead of seeing only a flat \$51 charge on your EOB from your insurance company, you will now see the actual cost of the drug plus the administrative fee. The total charge on your EOB may change based on the cost of the medication and quantity filled.

Copayments: VA will continue to charge a fee for each 30 day or less supply of medication provided on an outpatient basis for non-service connected conditions. Copays are adjusted annually and are currently \$8 or \$9 depending on your eligibility category.

If you are copay exempt (which means you do not pay a copay) you will remain copay exempt. If you are copay required (which means you pay a copay) you will continue to be required to pay a copay. This billing change will not affect your copay requirements. VA will continue to credit

your account dollar-for-dollar based on the amount your insurance company pays VA for your prescription. In many cases reimbursement paid by your insurance company will cover your copays. You will be responsible for the remainder of your copay.

Commonly Asked Questions

Why does my EOB look different? Currently, VA bills your insurance company a flat fee of \$51 regardless of the drug or amount dispensed. Under the new process, VA will bill the actual cost of each drug for the quantity dispensed plus an administrative fee. This new amount is what you will see on your EOB, rather than the \$51 you have seen in the past. The effective date for this change is March 18, 2011, for Outpatient prescriptions filled on or after that date.

How will the new billing process affect my copay? The change will not impact how VA processes and offsets your copay. When VA receives payment from your insurance company, VA offsets your copay dollar-for-dollar. As long as a payment equaling your copay is received, you will not be charged a copay. If your insurance company pays VA an amount less than your copay, then you will receive a bill for your copayment.

If you need more information, please call 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

111 Years of Navy Submarine Service / Marines Launch E-Newsletter

The following information was received from Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West

111 Years of Navy Submarine Service—Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following Submarine birthday message to the Fleet April 11:

"For 111 years, our Submarine Force has been protecting America's interests around the world, underway at sea on ships that sink by design, operating independent for weeks and months in the depths over the vast expanse of hydro-space. U.S. submarines are tasked with a range of missions including the collection of vital intelligence, operating as part of carrier strike groups, and defending our nations interests forward deployed.

At the heart of these operations, onboard every submarine is a finely tuned crew of expert submariners and operators. It takes significant dedication and teamwork to maintain these ships, keep them at sea operating and accomplishing the Navy's mission. Those deployments and missions would not be successful without this team of Undersea Warriors we call submariners.

Let's not forget the submarine team ashore who work tirelessly to keep our submarines ready for tasking and on point. The submarine headquarters staffs ashore (Force, Group and Squadron), the nation's two submarine tenders,

service support commands, and training commands, these organizations do the hard work it takes to prepare and deploy these ships into harm's way. They ensure we provide the support our combatant commanders require and continue to prove that our great Navy is a Global Force for Good.

Thank you, submariners, for what you do every day and for your continued service and dedication to our nation and our Navy.

Happy Birthday Shipmates! Going Deep...Dolphin 36 ... HOOYAH!

NAUS salutes the Nation's submariners past and present. Takes something special to serve on a ship that is designed to sink! BZ to all Bubbleheads!!! (Navy term describing submariners.)

Marines Launch E-Newsletter—The Marine Corps Connection (MCC) is a new weekly e-newsletter to assist readers to keep current on the latest headlines and events involving the entire Marine Corps family. You can sign up to receive it at <http://marines.mil/community/Pages/MarineCorpsConnectionNewsletter.aspx>.

Upcoming Changes to the Post-9/11 GI-Bill

The following information is from the Waukesha County Veterans Service Office



The Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2010 was recently signed into law. This page lists changes to the GI Bill made by this law.

Effective August 1, 2009, but not payable until October 1, 2011

Expands the Post-9/11 GI Bill to include Active Service performed by National Guard members under title 32 U.S.C. for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the National Guard; or under section 502(f) for the purpose of responding to a national emergency.

Effective March 5, 2011

Limits active duty members to the net cost for tuition and fees prorated based on the eligibility tiers (40%-100%) previously established for Veterans.

- ◆ Same limitations apply to transferee spouses of active duty servicemembers

Effective August 1, 2011

For Veterans and their transferees - simplifies the tuition and fee rates for those attending a public school and creates a national maximum for those enrolled in a private or foreign school

- ◆ Pays all public school in-state tuition and fees;
- ◆ Private and foreign school costs are capped at \$17,500 annually;
- ◆ The Yellow Ribbon Program still exists for out-of-state fees and costs above the cap.

For Active Duty Members and their transferees - creates a national rate for those active duty members enrolled in a private or foreign school pursuing a degree

- ◆ Pays all public school in-state tuition and fees;
- ◆ Private and foreign school costs are capped at \$17,500 annually

Allows VA to pay MGIB (Chapter 30) and MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606) 'kickers', or college fund payments, on a monthly basis instead of a lump sum at the beginning of the term

Prorates housing allowance by the student's rate of pursuit (rounded to the nearest tenth)

- ◆ A student training at a rate of pursuit of 75% would receive 80% of the BAH rate

Break or interval pay is no longer payable under *any* VA education benefit program unless under an Executive Order of the President or due to an emergency, such as a natural disaster or strike.

- ◆ This means that when your semester ends (e.g. December 15th), your housing allowance is paid for the first

15 days of December only and begins again when your next semester begins (e.g. January 10th) and is paid for the remaining days of January.

- ◆ Students using other VA education programs are included in this change. Monthly benefits will be pro-rated in the same manner.
- ◆ Entitlement that previously would have been used for break pay will be available for use during a future enrollment.

Allows reimbursement for more than one "license or certification" test (previously only one test was allowed).

- ◆ However, entitlement is now charged

Allows reimbursement of fees paid to take national exams used for admission to an institution of higher learning (e.g., SAT, ACT, GMAT, LSAT)

Allows those who are eligible for both Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Chapter 31) benefits and Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) benefits to choose the Post-9/11 GI Bill's monthly housing allowance instead of the Chapter 31 subsistence allowance.

NOAA and PHS personnel are now eligible to transfer their entitlement to eligible dependents

Effective October 1, 2011

Allows students to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill for -

- ◆ Non-college degree (NCD) programs: Pays actual net cost for in-State tuition and fees at public NCD institutions. At private and foreign institutions, pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees or \$17,500, whichever is less. Also pays up to \$83 per month for books and supplies.
- ◆ On-the-job and apprenticeship training: Pays a monthly benefit amount prorated based on time in program and up to \$83 per month for books and supplies.
- ◆ Flight programs: Per academic year, pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees assessed by the school or \$10,000, whichever is less.
- ◆ Correspondence training: Per academic year, pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees assessed by the school or \$8,500, whichever is less.

Housing allowance is now payable to students (other than those on active duty) enrolled solely in distance learning. The housing allowance payable is equal to ½ the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents.

- ◆ The full-time rate for an individual eligible at the 100% eligibility tier would be \$673.50 for 2011.

Allows students on active duty to receive a books and supplies stipend.

HERE'S TO THE HEROES

Purple Heart—New Criteria Application Information

The following information was received from: hrc.tagd.awards@conus.army.mil

FYI "HRC TAGD Awards"

hrc.tagd.awards@conus.army.mil 4/4/2011 1:18 PM

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: FOUO

Sir,

At this time the change in regulation awarding the Purple Heart for **TBI/Concussions** has not been made official. However, you will find below the basic criteria we are distributing to Active, Retired and Veteran Soldiers

Thank you for your service to our Nation.

V/r,

Timothy J. Barnard

Guidance:

Active Duty: In accordance with AR 600-8-22, paragraph 2-8.j.(3), a request for award of the Purple Heart must be submitted through the Soldier's chain of command to the approval authority. Requests must include a documented description of the qualifying incident and evidence of medical treatment pertaining to the wound. A wound is defined as an injury to any part of the body. A physical lesion is not required, however, the wound for which the award is requested must have required **treatment by a medical officer and records of medical treatment for wounds or injuries received in action** must have been made a matter of official record. Requests for awards must include the following documentation as applicable:

- ◆ Form 4187 (Personnel Action)
- ◆ Current Chain of Command endorsement through the first general officer in the chain of command
- ◆ Deployment orders

- ◆ Officer Record Brief/Enlisted Record Brief; DA Form 2-1, 2A, 2B or 2C
- ◆ DA Form 2823 (Sworn Statement) from at least two Soldiers who participated in the same action and personally saw the circumstances under which the Soldier was wounded
- ◆ Casualty reports
- ◆ Unit serious incident reports
- ◆ SF 600 (Chronological Record of Medical Care)



The medical records provided must support the diagnosis of a concussion or mild Traumatic Brain Injury while in conflict with enemy forces.

Veterans: For Overseas Contingency Operations Veterans the required documentation is the same with the exception of the 4187. There is an additional requirement of providing a DD Form 214 (Report of Separation). Veterans do not have to go through their former chain of command but can apply directly to the Awards and Decorations Branch.

Veterans of prior wars must still provide medical documentation that was made a matter of official record showing treatment of wounds caused as a direct result of enemy action. Examples include Unit Morning Reports, Surgeon General Hospital Admission Listings, medical documentation submitted to the VA in support of a claim, eyewitness statements, copies of Western Union Telegrams reporting injury and the like.

Application may be made to: U.S. Army Human Resources Command, AHRC-PDP-A, 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408

Join a Veteran's Service Organization !

The following information is from Waukesha County Veterans Service Office

Preserve your benefits, teach patriotism to our youth, build camaraderie, and help your fellow veterans. Join a veteran's service organization. Stop making excuses and do it NOW!

The contacts for the Veterans Service Organizations (VSO's) in Waukesha County are listed below.

 <p>American Legion Fred Schutz 262-337-0321</p>	 <p>Disabled American Veterans Clarence Stoel 262-542-0081</p>	 <p>Marine Corps League Joe Deloria 262-544-9581</p>
 <p>Military Order of The Purple Heart Rick Cherone 262-786-9663</p>	 <p>Veterans of Foreign Wars Steven Lee 262-695-7494</p>	 <p>Vietnam Veterans of America John Margowski 414-235-9218</p>

Wisconsin POW/MIA National Balloon Launch

The following information was received from: Jeff Doc Dentice www.war-veterans.org/Wlaunch.htm



MEMORIAL DAY

May 30, 2011

14th Annual

Wisconsin POW-MIA National Balloon Launch

NEW LOCATION

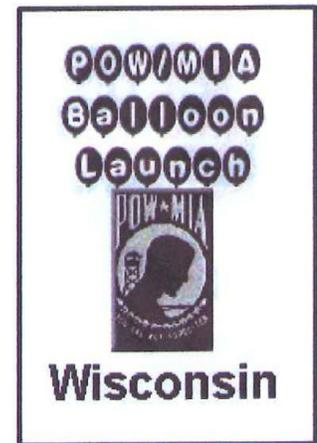


VFW Post 8343

Wind Lake, Wisconsin
Veterans Memorial Grounds
1 Block North of Old Kellys Bleachers
Next To Badlanders Pub & Grill

Everyone Is Invited

Food Available
On The Grounds 11am - 4pm
Beverages Available
On The Grounds 10am - 5pm



Memorial Day Ceremony - 2:45pm
POW-MIA Balloon Launch - 3pm

Music - VFW Vets Tent
Memorial Brick Info - Honor A Vet

Make sure to bring along your chairs and blankets to watch the Balloon Launch

Visit the Launch WebSite for more Information
www.war-veterans.org/Wlaunch.htm

Sponsor's needed to keep the POW-MIA Launch going!
Any Donations Gratefully Appreciated

Jeff Dentice (Doc) Founder/Coordinator
Email: docdentice@wi.rr.com
414-218-3030



Wisconsin Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness

The following information from <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov/>

(MADISON)—Are you and your family ready for storms? Tornadoes and Severe Weather are guaranteed in every Wisconsin spring and summer. Preparing now could save your life and the lives of loved ones.

April 11-15, 2011 is Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week in Wisconsin. The campaign is to remind people of the dangers associated with tornadoes, thunderstorms, flooding and hail and to encourage citizens to take protective safety measures. A statewide drill is planned for Thursday, April 14 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The drill will be an ideal opportunity for schools, businesses and individuals to practice safe procedures for severe weather and to learn more about severe weather including:

- ◆ Wisconsin averages 21 tornadoes annually.
- ◆ In 2010, 46 tornadoes in Wisconsin were confirmed by the National Weather Services, the second greatest yearly number on record. Fortunately, no one was killed but 22 were injured and the tornadoes caused nearly \$30 million in property damage.
- ◆ The peak tornado season in Wisconsin is April to August, but tornadoes can occur any time of year, like the January 7, 2008 tornadoes in Walworth and Kenosha Counties.

- ◆ Tornadoes can occur anytime, day or night, but are most frequent between 4pm and 9pm.

Wisconsin Emergency Management, ReadyWisconsin and the National Weather Service have planned a series of special efforts to promote storm safety including:

- ◆ PSA Campaign: A TV public service campaign with tornado survivors urging everyone to have an emergency weather radio.
- ◆ Survival Stories: Other real Wisconsin survivors share their tornado stories on the ReadyWisconsin website.
- ◆ Ready Radio Days. ReadyWisconsin teams up with the National Weather Service and TV stations across the state to promote the use of emergency weather radios.
- ◆ ReadyWisconsin Trivia Challenge: Answer a question for a chance to win an Emergency Weather Radio. Go to: <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov>

Additional maps and information are also posted at <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov>. If you need further information, please contact your county emergency management director, National Weather Service or Tod Pritchard at tod.pritchard@wisconsin.gov or 608-242-3324.

Memorial Day Events—Monday, May 30, 2011

The following information is from the Waukesha County Veterans Service Office

Waukesha—Memorial Day observance will begin at 8:00 A.M. with the River Service in front of Lee Dreyfus State Office Building (141 NW Barstow St) at the Fox River Dam. The Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary will be in charge of the service. Chaplains from the Auxiliaries will give their respective Memorial Day Prayers. There will be the massing of colors, casting flowers on the water, rifle salute and “Taps” will be played.

The parade line-up will begin at 9:30 A.M. on Baxter Street by the D.F. Schuetze Building. The parade will start at 10:15 A.M. and proceed down Baxter to Buckley Street. Turn left and go to west Main. Then turn right onto Main and go thru downtown to Maple Ave. Go south on Maple and end at Cutler Park.

The program in Cutler Park will begin around 11:00 A.M. following the parade.

Dousman American Legion Post 405 will be hosting a Memorial Day Ceremony at Cory Park (Main Street)

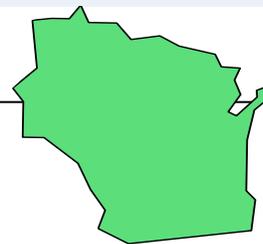
At 11:00 A.M. they will march about two blocks from the Post (111 Grove St) to the Park.

The Ceremony will be followed by food, drink and an auction/raffle.

Gen. John Logan, General Order No. 11, 5 May 1868

“...gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with choicest flowers of springtime let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us as sacred charges upon the Nation’s gratitude, —the soldier’s and sailor’s widow and orphan.”

NEWS UPDATE FOR STATE BENEFITS



Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Using Technology to Reach Vets in New Ways

The following information is from wdva.media.relations@dva.state.wi.us

(MADISON)—The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) has created new outreach tools designed to make it easier for Wisconsin veterans of all ages and eras to learn about important developments and issues that may affect them. The Wisconsin Veterans Registry and the WDVA Facebook page are new approaches to reaching the state's more than 417,000 veterans.

“These are new ways to make it easier for service members to stay up to date on important issues,” says Ken Black, WDVA Secretary. “It’s our job to help veterans connect with the benefits and services they have earned, and we’re focused on bringing new ideas and new technology to bear on that challenge.”

Newly-returned veterans are often busy reintegrating back to civilian life. Over time, older veterans may become less connected to service-related news and updates. The voluntary registry helps overcome these challenges by delivering key information directly to veterans via email. Using Facebook as another way to connect delivers good information to veterans, and, perhaps more importantly, allows them to connect with each other through the popular social media site.

Wisconsin Veterans Registry

The service is an email registry that sends automatic updates whenever significant developments occur on health issues, hazard exposures and state and federal benefits and services. Veterans can find a link to sign up for the free registry at the WDVA website: www.WisVets.com.

The type of information that the Wisconsin Veterans Registry is designed to disseminate can be extremely important. For example, last year the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced key rule changes that provide easier access to entitlements for Vietnam Veterans exposed to Agent Orange. The registry is designed to deliver information on health issues, including Agent Orange, Depleted Uranium, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD); changes to state programs and services such as the Wisconsin GI Bill and the property tax credit for disabled veterans; and important federal notices on veterans issues.

The Wisconsin Veterans Registry is open to all Wisconsin veterans, their family, friends and anyone concerned about veterans issues. Veterans are encouraged to sign up for the Wisconsin Veterans Registry to begin receiving updates immediately. Updates will occur only when new information is available.

WDVA on Facebook

With over 500 active users in less than a year, WDVA’s use of Facebook is a growing success. Posts to the social media site include upcoming events, announcements and news items from around the state. Veterans are welcome to post their own messages and events, provided they comply with a basic usage policy.

For more information about the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, please visit www.WisVets.com, or call WDVA toll-free at 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387).

Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove to Make Remodeling Improvements this Spring

The following information is from: wdva.media.relations@dva.state.wi.us

(MADISON)—The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) is announcing that in May 2011 building improvements will begin in Fairchild Hall, an assisted living facility at the Wisconsin Veterans Home, Union Grove.

The renovations will include improvements in members’ rooms, ceiling tile and lighting upgrades, and remodeling of the dining room and patios. Members have been personally notified that they will be temporarily relocated within Fairchild Hall. “In order to properly care for our veterans living in these facilities, the renovations

must be completed one unoccupied wing at a time, so the temporary relocation of our members will be in the best interest of our members’ care,” said Reid Aaron, the home’s new Commandant.

“These building improvements will provide an even more ‘home-like’ environment for our veterans and their spouses. Overall, these changes are a value-added benefit for everyone,” said Brian Marshall, Division Administrator, Wisconsin Veterans Homes.

For information about the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove, see www.WisVets.com/Homes.



Veterans Affairs Secretary Black Resigns Donna Williams to be WDVA's New Acting Secretary

The following information is from wdva.media.relations@dva.state.wi.us

(MADISON)—WDVA Secretary Kenneth B. Black submitted his resignation, effective April 1, 2011, to Board Chair Dan Naylor.

Secretary Black's letter stated, "This letter confirms that I am resigning as Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. It has been my honor and privilege to work for the veterans of the state.

In his response to Secretary Black, Mr. Naylor wrote, "I have received your letter of resignation effective April 1, 2011 and accept it on behalf of the Board of Veterans Affairs. I appreciate your efforts on behalf of Wisconsin's veterans during your time as Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, and I wish you the best in your future endeavors."

Under the Board's Rules of Procedures, Deputy Secretary Donna Williams becomes the Acting Secretary. She currently serves as the Deputy Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Williams, a combat

veteran, retired from the United States Army at the rank of Colonel after 29 years of service. She has served in numerous leadership positions from Platoon Leader to Brigade Commander. Ms. Williams is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College, Air Command and Staff College, Joint Forces Staff College and the Army War College. Additionally, she has completed Airborne and Air Assault Schools. Ms. Williams received her Bachelor's Degree from Ripon College as a Distinguished Military Graduate and her Master's Degree in Business Administration from Golden Gate University.

The Board of Veterans Affairs looks forward to working collaboratively with Acting Secretary Williams when she assumes her new duties on April 1st, as well as the Department's dedicated staff in our continuing mission of serving the veterans of Wisconsin and maintaining Wisconsin's comprehensive veteran's benefits and programs in a cost-effective manner.



A group of veterans, family and community leaders working to open a *Dryhootch* in Waukesha WI
http://dryhootch.org/group/dryhootchwaukesha?xg_source=activity

Location: [Waukesha WI](#)

Email Contact: waukesha@dryhootch.org

Phone Contact: (262) 366-4716

Mailing Address: Dryhootch of Waukesha County
P. O. Box 1172
Waukesha, WI 53187-1172



August 12, 13, 14, 2011 Iola Vintage Military & Gun Show

The following information is from Iola Vintage Military & Gun Show / Old Working Wheels

WHEN: August 12—14, 2011

WHERE: Iola Old Car Show Grounds
Iola WI

ADMISSION: Adults—\$6.00
Children 6 to 12—\$4.00
Children Under 6—FREE

PARKING—FREE

Enter the grounds through Gate #6,
located on Highway 161

Historical Vehicles & Memorabilia with Vintage Tractors & Equipment.

ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Machines are in operation
- ◆ Blood Drive on Saturday
- ◆ Battle Reenactments
- ◆ Parade of Military Vehicles
- ◆ Genuine G.I. Breakfast of S.O.S.
- ◆ Speakers

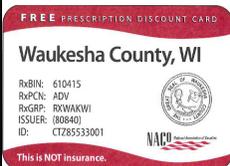
FOOD SERVICE

- 11:00 A.M.—9:00 P.M. - (Friday)
- 7:00 A.M.—9:00 P.M. - (Saturday)
- 7:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M. - (Sunday)



Sponsored by: Iola American Legion,
Waupaca VFW, Iola American Legion
Auxiliary, Waupaca VFW Auxiliary

NEWS UPDATE FOR THE LOCAL AREA



Waukesha County Launches Prescription Discount Card that can be Used by All Residents **Discount Cards Offering Average Saving of 24% Off Retail Price**

The following information was received from Julianne Klimetz—County Executive's Office.

WAUKESHA, Wis.—Waukesha County launched today a discount card program to help consumers cope with the price of prescriptions. The County is making free prescription drug discount cards available under a program sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo) that offers average savings of 24 percent off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs.

The cards may be used by all County residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage and are accepted at approximately 80 County pharmacies. A national network of more than 60,000 participating retail pharmacies also will honor the NACo prescription discount card.

“Waukesha County is proud to be one of the counties nationwide participating with NACo,” said County Executive Dan Vrakas. “The NACo prescription discount card offers significant savings for the uninsured and underinsured residents of our County and even those fortunate to have prescription coverage can use the card to save money on medications that are not covered by their health plan. Best of all, there is no cost to county taxpayers for NACo and Waukesha County to make these money saving cards available to our residents.”

Residents can visit www.caremark.com/naco to print an identification card and use it immediately at any participating pharmacy. Cards will also be available at various County offices including the

Register of Deeds, the Health and Human Services Building, the Aging and Disability Resource Center, the Treasurer's, County Executive's, Clerk of Court's, and County Clerk's Offices and libraries throughout the County. County residents can call toll free 1-877-321-2652 or visit www.caremark.com/naco for assistance with the program.

“Using the NACo prescription discount card is easy,” Vrakas said. “Simply present it at a participating pharmacy. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card at any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance.”

The program is administered by CVS Caremark.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county government in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,068 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.

Military / Veterans Family Day at the Milwaukee County Zoo

The following information was received from: <http://www.va.gov/opa/ssrel/>

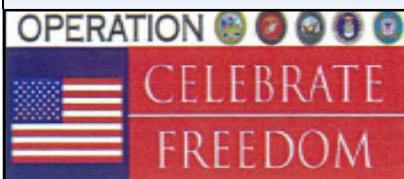
Enjoy free admission to and parking at the Milwaukee County Zoo—Sunday, July 3, 2011 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Tickets are required for entry and will be available for immediate family **only**, with a limited number of 10 tickets per family.

Admission tickets will be available from June 1st—July 1st. Tickets can be picked up at your local County Veterans Service Office (CVSO).

Contact your local CVSO for details on ticket pick up.

Don't miss the Supermarket of Veterans Benefits at the US Bank Gathering Place from 9:00 A.M. to 4 P.M. This is a one-stop shop where veterans can learn about getting the benefits they deserve. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Dept. of Veterans Affairs and the Milwaukee County Veterans Service Office. Bring your DD214.



**Sullivan, WI—2nd Annual
“A Salute to Service and Sacrifice”
Armed Forces Day May 21, 2011**

The following information was received from: Kent Koebke, 920-206-8022

Our Mission:

This is a community event to salute and show appreciation to all who are serving or have served in the United States Military and their families for the sacrifices they have made on behalf of our Country. This 2nd annual event will be held on Armed Forces Day, May 21, 2011, at Veterans Memorial Park, 408 Grove St., Sullivan, WI. The not-for-profit, independent committee exists to provide an enjoyable day of celebration for all military personnel, veterans families and friends, while offering entertainment, food, beverages, and camaraderie. In addition, we will be assisting the Veterans Memorial Park in Sullivan in completing its Veterans display. The event is also open to the public who wish to attend and show appreciation to our service members.

Our Goals:

1. Provide an enjoyable family oriented celebration for all veterans, service members, family and friends.
2. Welcome and honor the most recent returning military personnel
3. Provide returning service personnel knowledge and resources through County Veterans Service Officers and other Veterans organizations.
4. Raise funds through the business community, raffles, sales at the event, auctions, etc.
5. Raise funds to complete Veterans display at Sullivan Veterans Memorial Park.
6. Donate any remaining funds to help the returning veterans and families in need through charitable veteran's organizations. Last year we donated to the following organizations:
 - ◆ Jefferson County Veterans Service Office
 - ◆ Waukesha County Veterans Service Office
 - ◆ Dodge County Veterans Service Office
 - ◆ Dane County Veterans Service Office
 - ◆ Walworth County Veterans Service Office
 - ◆ Rock County Veterans Service Office
 - ◆ Veterans United for Veterans

- ◆ Sullivan Veterans Memorial Park
- ◆ Badger Honor Flight
- ◆ Stars and Stripes Honor Flight
- ◆ Dryhootch.org—Waukesha County
- ◆ Jefferson County VA Medical Transport Van Signs

How you can help:

Small gifts, large gifts...in-kind donations, monetary donations, or volunteer time...these ALL make a difference and give us a chance to give back to those who have sacrificed so much for all of us. In return for your donation, we will be promoting your business.

- ◆ List your company name/logo on our website
- ◆ Listing your company name/logo on our Power-Point presentation during the event
- ◆ Inviting you and your co-workers to our event

This committee is dedicated to raising funds through generous, charitable donations from individuals, communities, and corporations to support our cause. Each and every committee member and all workers are volunteers and every penny we receive will be used to support this great project.

Please join us for this day of recognition and celebration as we welcome home those recently returned from deployment and salute all military personnel. Thank you in advance for your generous, charitable donation.

Hope to see you there!

*Kent Koebke, Senior Adviser
Madison Area Technical College
Watertown, WI - 920-206-8022*

Please contact Kera for donations
or more information at:
Phone—920-541-3334

donate@operationcelebratefreedom.org

Visit our website at:

www.operationcelebratefreedom.org

**America is #1
Thanks to Our Veterans**

