



# HAPPY VETERANS DAY !

I trust that all of you are planning to attend a local Veterans Day celebration.

Veterans Day is a time to celebrate the lives of all of the veterans who are here with us today. It is a time to reflect not only on past sacrifices, but also on present accomplishments, in and out of the military.

Remember, your service experience is part of what makes you the person you are today!



## TAKE NOTE: UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

- October 3** VETERANS JOB FAIR, 750 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr., Milwaukee  
9a.m. to 1p.m.; free parking and free admission to Art Museum
- October 4** FISH BOIL, Grafton American Legion Post, 1540 13th Ave., Grafton  
4p.m. to 8p.m.; tickets \$15.00
- October 18** VETERANS APPRECIATION NIGHT, Grafton High School;  
4:30p.m. to 6:30p.m. Tailgate and Silent Auction  
6:30p.m. Presentation of Colors; National Anthem and ceremonial coin  
toss by Camp Hometown Heroes camper  
7:00p.m. Kick-Off; Grafton Black Hawks v. Milwaukee Lutheran
- November 10** SWING BAND CONCERT, First Immanuel Lutheran Ministries,  
W67 N622 Evergreen Blvd, Cedarburg;  
2p.m. Presentation of Colors; Living Word Lutheran H.S. choir; Concordia  
University Jazz Ensemble; Congregational Hymn Sing. For more info  
contact Carol at 262-243-4233 or [carol.lueders.bolwerk@cuw.edu](mailto:carol.lueders.bolwerk@cuw.edu)
- November 11** Veteran Day Assembly, Grafton High School, 8:20a.m. to 9a.m.  
Veterans Day Program, Port Washington H.S., time TBD

# STARS AND STRIPES HONOR FLIGHT

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As most of you are aware, our local chapter of the Honor Flight Network program, Stars and Stripes Honor Flight, continues to fly WWII and Korean War veterans out to visit Washington, D.C., and to view their memorials.

Our office routinely gets phone calls from veterans with questions about their Honor Flight applications. Please note, applicants are scheduled for flights on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you have questions regarding the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight program in general or concerning your application in particular, then please use the following **contact information:**

**Website:** <http://starsandstripeshonorflight.org>

**Email:** [contact@starsandstripeshonorflight.org](mailto:contact@starsandstripeshonorflight.org)

**Phone:** 262-238-7740

## GOING BACK TO SCHOOL? USE THE WI GI BILL

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Governor Walker signed the 2013-2015 biennial state budget into law on June 30, 2013. This new budget expands the eligibility for the Wisconsin GI Bill.

Under the old law, a veteran was not eligible for the Wisconsin GI Bill unless Wisconsin was listed as the home of record on the veteran's discharge papers.

According to the new law, a veteran must only establish 5 years of continuous residency prior to the semester he or she wishes to attend a University of Wisconsin System (UWS) or Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) institution.

The benefit is full remission (100% waiver) of tuition and fees for up to 8 full time semesters or 128 credits whichever is greater. The student is required to maintain a 2.0 grade point average in order to stay eligible for the benefit.

For more information please visit the WDVA website at: <http://dva.state.wi.us/Ben-education.asp#WIGI>

If you have questions or would like assistance completing your application, then please make an appointment to see me.

## AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND VA HEALTH CARE

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The *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*, sometimes called the *Affordable Care Act*, and sometimes called *Obamacare*, will not impact VA health care.

Veterans eligible for VA health care will remain eligible under current health reforms; nothing in the current legislation will affect veterans' access to the care that they currently are receiving. The legislation makes clear that the Department of Veterans Affairs will retain full authority over the VA health care system.

Furthermore, you meet the minimum coverage requirements of the *Affordable Care Act* if you are enrolled in VA health care, CHAMPVA or the Spina Bifida Health Care Program.

Please remember, that if you did not serve in Vietnam and you do not have a service-connected disability, then you must meet the "Means Test" requirements to enroll in the VA health care. The Means Test sets household income thresholds by geographic region for eligibility.

Current Means Test income thresholds for Priority Group 8 for a resident of Ozaukee County are:

Single Veteran: \$45,100

Married Veteran (no Children): \$51,535

Please contact the Veterans Service Office with any questions.

# Fully Developed Claim Incentive Enacted by Congress

Fully Developed Claims (FDCs) are claims for service-connected disability compensation that are submitted to the VA **with all supporting evidence necessary to decide the claim.**

The FDC program was initiated by the VA as an attempt to reduce the inventory of pending claims. When all of the supporting evidence is NOT submitted with a claim for disability compensation, the VA is legally required to attempt to obtain this information on the veteran's behalf.

However, often times this information (such as private medical records or employment records) is much more easily obtained by the veteran. Routinely, it is the VA's development efforts that slow the claims process. By submitting a claim together with all of the supporting evidence necessary to the decide the claim, the veteran can assist the VA in significantly reducing the processing time.

*Vets filing original FDC for service-connected disability benefits may be entitled to up to one year of retroactive disability benefits.*

Under a new law in effect from August 6, 2013 through August 5, 2015, veterans who submit an FDC for their very first claim for service-connected disability compensation

may be eligible for an additional year of retroactive disability benefits.

VA continues to implement other initiatives as well, including prioritizing claims more than one year old and mandating overtime for claims processors in the 56 regional benefits offices nationwide.

As a result of these initiatives, VA reports that the inventory of pending claims is lower now than it was in August 2011 with the number of claims that have been pending longer than 125 days reduced by 17% compared to the peak in March 2013.

## Are You Dedicated and Reliable?



Then **I WANT YOU** to drive. Ozaukee County provides an extremely valuable service by transporting veterans to the VAMC or CBOC for medical appointments.

The County reimburses our drivers for mileage and pays a small per-veteran stipend. However, I know that none of our drivers do it for the money.

Ask any of these guys why they do it and you will learn that they know what it means to be able to rely

on someone else, to know that someone else is there for you and has your back –no matter what.

If you are interested, consider riding along with one of our current drivers and find out firsthand why they do it. Contact the Veterans Service Office for more information.

**A HUGE THANK YOU!** to all of the individuals who have been willing to drive so that we can continue to provide this service for the veterans of Ozaukee County. Most notably, I would like to thank: Ron Kuta, Dave Shanahan, Steve Shock and Charley Watry.

## Emergency Care and the VA

I am frequently asked whether the VA will pay medical bills resulting from a veteran's visit to a private emergency room.

If your condition is life-threatening, then call 911 and seek medical treatment at the nearest emergency room (ER).

Contact the VA within 72 hours of arrival at the ER or once your condition stabilizes, whichever is sooner. This contact can be made by the veteran, a family mem-

ber or friend. The VA should be informed of the emergency and the services that you are receiving.

You do not need approval from the VA prior to seeking ER treatment unless your condition is not a medical emergency.

Once your condition stabilizes you must move to a VA medical center if a bed is available.



# OZAUKEE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

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Port Washington, WI 53074

County Administration Center  
Room 327  
Hrs: M-F 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

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Fax: 262-284-8330 or 262-238-8330  
Email: [kmcjohnson@co.ozaukee.wi.us](mailto:kmcjohnson@co.ozaukee.wi.us)

*We're on the Web*  
[www.co.ozaukee.wi.us](http://www.co.ozaukee.wi.us)

***Serving Those Who Served America***

Other links:

<http://www.va.gov>

<http://www.dvs.state.w.us>



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## VETERANS NEWS AND VIEWS

### In Memory Of Our Comrades



**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**

The following comrades have passed away since our last newsletter :

Donald Large

Ralph Vandebloom

Robert Eernisse

Jerome Kitzerow

Roman Schommer

Francis Kaiser

Howard Himsted

Otto Conrad

Frederick Reynolds

Gordon Krenn

Ray Styba

John Widstrand, Sr.

Gerald Herbst

Paul Hayden

Donale Roeber

Patrick Baggot

Paul Galles

Arnold Depies

Edward Rappold

Leonard Mentovay

Michael Melsheimer