



# GREETINGS!

As the new CVSO in Ozaukee County, it seems appropriate to first introduce myself. My name is Kevin Johnson. I am an Army veteran who served as an Intel Officer from 1995-2000.

I am honored to assume the roll of this office in serving the veterans of Ozaukee County. I would also like to thank my predecessor Ken Brown for a virtually seamless transition and for the many nuggets of wisdom he shared in the weeks before he retired. Ken left some great shoes to fill indeed; thank you Ken for your 15 years of service to this county and its veterans.

## HAPPY INDEPEDENCE DAY!

American servicemen and women all across the globe serve to support a vision that became a reality about 237 years ago. They are willing to spend the 4<sup>th</sup> of July away from their families so that we can be with ours. So, however you celebrate this 4<sup>th</sup> of July, please take a few moments to send a prayer of thanks; thanks for the vision of freedom realized by our forefathers and thanks to men and women of our Armed Forces for their service.

The following is some information about local parades and fireworks displays:

**CEDARBURG:** Parade begins at 10 a.m. at Fireman's Park and travels south along Washington Ave., ending at Spring St. Fireworks in Cedar Creek Park, 9:45 p.m.

**GRAFTON:** Parade starts at noon Sunday at 12th and Broad streets, running south to Lime Kiln Park. Fireworks in Lime Kiln Park, 9:30 p.m. Saturday.

**MEQUON:** Parade begins at 10:30 a.m. Saturday on Cedarburg Road near the Weyenberg Library, and proceeds north into Thiensville along Main St., turning



east on Freistadt Road, then south on Green Bay Road, ending at Elm St. Fireworks in Thiensville Village Park, dusk.

**PORT WASHINGTON:** Parade begins at 11 a.m. at City Hall and ends at Veterans Memorial Park. Fireworks in Rotary Park, dusk.

**SAUKVILLE:** Parade begins at 1 p.m., traveling on S. Main St. to E. Green Bay Ave. to N. Mill St., ending at Saukville Elementary School. Fireworks in Peninsula Park, dusk.

<http://www.jsonline.com/entertainment/29473869.html>

# PENSION ELIGIBILITY ISSUES

In these tight economic times I get a lot of questions regarding the VA Pension, sometimes called NSC Pension or Wartime Pension.

The first question is usually, 'Am I eligible?' Basic eligibility is based on an honorable discharge after at least 90 days active service, with at least one day during a wartime. You must also be age 65, or provide medical evidence indicating you are totally and permanently disabled from non-service connected disabilities, or be a patient in a nursing home, or be receiving Social Security Disability benefits. There are conditions which may lead to increased benefits. These depend on the level and type of the veteran's disability.

In addition to meeting the basic eligibility requirements, there is an income and net worth evaluation in order to receive this benefit. The best advice here is to make an appointment to see me.

One important point to remember is this benefit is intended to provide a safety net for those veterans who are

truly in need, not to provide an asset preservation scheme for wealthy veterans who simply do not wish to spend their hard-earned savings.

Here is a cautionary note. The U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging has discovered some organizations are misrepresenting themselves while helping veterans and survivors. Many of these organizations market financial products to enable claimants whose assets exceed financial thresholds to make it possible for them to qualify for Pension. These organizations often charge substantial fees for these products.

There is a Bill before the Senate Special Committee on Aging that may enact a 36-month look-back at your finances when applying for Pension. Use of some financial planning products could jeopardize not only your VA Pension, but possible Title 19 (Medicaid) benefits down the road.

Please call your local CVSO with questions regarding VA Pension or any other veterans' benefits.

## Property Tax Credit Update

In order to qualify for a property tax credit the veteran must be rated 100% service-connected disabled, or be rated IU (unemployable), or be the surviving (unremarried) spouse of a veteran that met this criteria.

The number of veterans taking advantage of this state benefit has continued to grow. In response, changes have been proposed to ensure it remains available for those who need it the most.

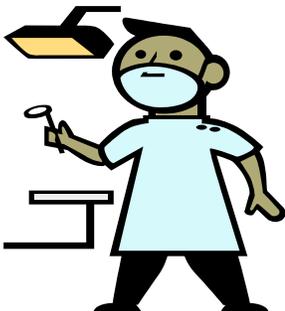
The Governor's budget currently includes a proposal to cap this credit at \$2,500 and add a means test.

As always, I will keep you posted regarding any changes.



## Hearing Aids, Eye Glasses and Dental Work

Our office is frequently asked whether veterans can obtain hearing aids, eye glasses and dental care from the VA.



The bottom line is IF a veteran does not have a service-connected disability that specifically relates to any of the above then the chances that the veteran will receive these services from the VA are mighty slim!

There are certain exceptions given for the extremely low income, and those whose VA doctor specifically recommends that the veteran receive

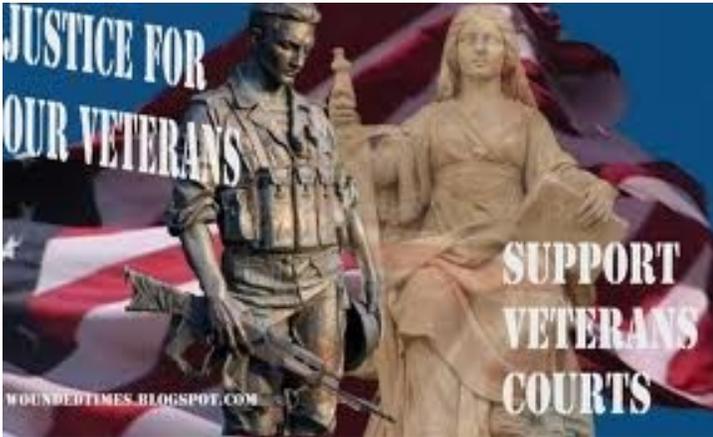
this type of care.

Those who WILL receive these services include those veterans who are rated at 100% permanent and totally disabled, as well as former POWs.

Hearing aids are available to any veteran who has obtained a 10% or higher service-connected disability rating for any condition.



# VETERANS COURT MENTOR TRAINING



Throughout the history of the U.S. Military, the sense of honor, duty, leadership, commitment and respect that veterans demonstrate has remained constant. Yet some vets face new battles – with addiction or mental health issues – when they return home. Veterans treatment courts were developed to give those who have served, and who reach the court system, a chance to undergo therapeutic rehabilitation outside of prison.

Veterans Court is a hybrid drug and mental health court that serves qualifying vets struggling with substance abuse, addiction and/or mental illness. It strikes the proper balance between the need to treat a veteran suffering from a substance abuse or mental health disorder with the need to protect community safety; between the need for effective treatment and the need to hold people accountable for their actions; between hope and redemption on one hand and productive citizenship on the other.

## VETERANS COURT NEEDS MENTORS

A volunteer veteran mentor, typically from the same military branch and Wartime Theater

as the defendant, is also part of the team. The mentor encourages, guides and supports the veteran throughout the court process, and will meet with the vet before and/or after appearances in court.

Mentors are an extremely vital component of Veterans Court.. Please consider serving again to support your fellow veterans as well as the community in which you live. Veterans Treatment Court needs your support to be successful. As on the battlefield, let us not leave any of our soldiers –or veterans– behind.



The Sheboygan Area Veterans Court will hold Mentor Training on Wednesday, June 26 and Thursday, June 28 from 5:00p.m. to 8:30p.m.

**Interested individuals should contact Jon Randall at 920-912-1049**



Ozaukee County  
Veterans Service Office

# VETERANS NEWS AND VIEWS

## In Memory Of Our Comrades



**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**

The following comrades have passed away since our last newsletter :

- |                   |                     |                     |                    |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Louis Tackes      | Fredrick Engelman   | John Godersky       | Harvey Beck        |
| Dale Brookhouser  | Harold Bates        | Glenn Hayes         | Michael Kallaur    |
| Edmund Parchim    | Cesar Maes          | Ralph Klopp         | Roland Strehlow    |
| Robert Armbruster | Edgar Wilde         | Emil Kark           | Earl Betzhold      |
| Eugene Birenbaum  | Wilbur Lee          | Seth Liebenstein    | Raymond Melger     |
| Thomas Voeller    | William Reinke      | Gary Jones          | Jerome Kroeger     |
| John Oelerich     | Jack Zamow          | John Torbeck        | Bruce Anderle      |
| Tom Lampman       | Thomas Butscher     | Paul Ponfil         | Norbert DeBroux    |
| Clairmont Krueger | Ralph Wegner        | Thomas Roy          | Alfred Meyer Jr    |
| David Kreklow     | Herbert Larson      | Roman Bladzik       | Danny Fullington   |
| Harvey Freitag    | Ramon Keller        | Rudy Scrimenti      | Robert Lippe       |
| Darrell Toshner   | Gerald Filo         | Clement McGraw      | Ervin Schlenvogt   |
| Alan Koepsel      | Joe Boehmer         | LeRoy Beischer      | Donald Stielow     |
| Luella Nichols    | Thomas Pabst        | Richard Szcerbinski | John Brannon       |
| Larry Ceretto     | Patrick Nelson      | Clayton Leque       | Daniel Grotkiewicz |
| Harold Henes Jr   | William Fleischmann | Milton Koch         | Austin Goodrich    |
| Charles Sandoval  | Clarence Schultz    | Ed Kaspar           | Robert Beckard     |
| Ronald Stich      | Howard Hoefs        | Ernst Behnisch Jr   |                    |
| Donald Cisewski   | Frank Kirschbraun   | Robert Buettner     |                    |
| Kenneth Schultz   | Laurence Kreuzer    | Lawrence Wakefield  |                    |
| Erwin Hollmann    | Glen Farrell        | Arthur Palleon      |                    |
| Oliver Karrels    | Bethel Purtell      | William Barber      |                    |
| Richard D Schultz | Fred Stieber        | Leonard Augustin    |                    |
| Wayne Horman      | Calvin Ford         | Robert L Zahren     |                    |

## Ozaukee County Veterans Service Office

121 W. Main Street  
Port Washington, WI 53074

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

Phone: 262-284-8326 or 262-238-8326

Fax: 262-268-7726

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.wi.us>

## THANK YOU!!!

To all those who dedicated their time and energy to place flags on the graves of our Ozaukee County Veterans in observation of Memorial Day.

**Special thanks** to: Chuck Ellmauer, Earl Putzbach, Don Race, Bill Prahl, Ernie Hadler, Clem Bichler, Bob Weyker, and Jim Arentz for directing this effort.

Sincerely,

Ozaukee County Veterans Services

