



Veteran's Advocate

VETERAN SERVICES
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August 2012

Olmsted County Veteran Service Outreach Officer Amy Lindsay

First of all, I would like to introduce myself and inform you that I have started my new duties as the Olmsted County Veterans Services Outreach Officer.

I will be working out of the Veteran Services Office at 2100 Campus Dr. SE in Rochester. I will provide outreach to targeted demographics and also liaison with community and veterans organizations.

I am a service-connected, disabled veteran who served in the U.S. Army Military Police Corps and was stationed at Ft. Carson, Colorado. I deployed to Panama in 1990 and participated in the post-invasion Operation Promote Liberty.

I last worked as the Department Service Officer / Outreach Coordinator for the Disabled American Veterans. Prior to that, I gained six years of experience as a County Veterans Service Officer in both Rice and Ramsey Counties and was also employed by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs for four years.

I look forward to working with you in assisting the veterans and their dependents within Olmsted County.

I can be reached at the following phone number
507/ 328-6355 and email:
Lindsay.amy@co.olmsted.mn.us

Military Funeral Honors



There have been changes made to the Military Funeral Honor Guard Reimbursement Program. These changes can be found on the updated web-page located at: <http://www.mdva.state.mn.us/mfh/>.

Veteran Service Organizations which perform Honor Guard details can be reimbursed \$50 per detail from MDVA as outlined in Minn. Stat. 197.231. House File 1903 amended the language alleviating the priority of payments so that Veterans Service Organizations with charitable gaming can almost immediately receive their requested MDVA reimbursements based on funds available for that program. The effective date is July 1, 2012. (Chapter 149, HF 1903)

Previously all applications for the Honor Guard stipend went through the Minnesota National Guard; MDVA now has a separate application process. There are now two places to apply for potential Honor Guard reimbursements. Information for both the MDVA and National Guard programs are listed on the MDVA webpage.

Minnesota National Guard Stipend Information:
Where certain criteria are met, an additional stipend is available from the Minnesota National Guard Honors Program. This stipend must be applied for separately from the MDVA stipend utilizing a Standard Form 1164. For further information on this program please contact the Minnesota Army National Guard (ARNG) Military Funeral Honors Coordinator.
Minnesota National Guard Honors Program:
www.minnesotanationalguard.org/honorguard/

Contact this office with any questions



Olmsted County Veteran's Services

Medical Foster Home Program

The Minneapolis VA Health Care System is pleased to announce the development of the Medical Foster Home Program (MFH). MFH is a voluntary program that offers safe, long-term care in a home like setting. MFH is an affordable comprehensive care housing alternative for Veterans.

Medical Foster Homes have regular comprehensive case management visits that are made by the VA Home Care Team: (Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner, Nurse, Social Worker, Dietician, Psychologist, Occupational Therapist & Recreational Therapist).

- Furnished private room
- 24-hour care plan--Caregiver lives in home and provides hands on daily care
- Medication Management
- Personal care (dressing, grooming, bathing etc)
- Meals, laundry, cleaning
- Flexible daily routine with various recreational options
- Long term care option
- Signed care agreement between caregiver and the veteran or legal representative
- Personalized care
- Maximum of 3 residents per home
- High levels of caregiver and veteran satisfaction
- Metro Area- 40 mile radius from the Minneapolis VA Health Care System / Veterans Hospital

Medical Foster Home Caregivers:



- Must pass annual inspection by the VA Inspection Team
- Must have a valid State foster care license to provide care--which includes background checks
- Must be owned or rented by the caregiver
- Must be 21 years or older and financially stable
- Are flexible and have positive problem solving skills
- Caregivers live in home and are experienced with providing daily hands on patient care
- Are physically able to provide the needed care
- Must have written backup plan if unable to provide care
- Ensures a friendly homelike atmosphere
- Must work with the Va Home Care team
- Create a compassionate, family like environment
- Complete annual training

Funding:

- Private pay--Average rates are based on care needs: \$1800 to \$4000
- Long Term Care Insurance
- VA Regional Office funding
- County funding

*****Please post or pass this along within your organization*****

Governor Dayton Officially
Proclaims July
“Hire a Veteran Month”



MDVA Commissioner Larry Shellito and Governor Mark Dayton

Olmsted County
Disabled Veterans deer hunt
at the Chester Woods Park
November 8th to 11th



Contact the Olmsted Veterans Office
for more information

Governor Dayton’s Budget Proposal Includes Veterans Benefits

SAINT PAUL, Minn. - Governor Mark Dayton announced his Supplemental FY12-13 Budget Proposal yesterday which includes \$915,000 for an expansion of the Veterans GI Bill, \$1.05 million in increased funding for County Veterans Service Officers, and the Governor’s commitment for \$100,000 in sustained funding for honor guard services.

Governor Dayton said, “My supplemental budget invests in more jobs for Minnesotans, deserved support for our Police Officers and Veterans, and correcting the most extreme cuts to essential health care made last year. Those are my priorities: the people of Minnesota and good jobs for all of them.”

“I want to thank Governor Dayton for his continued support and commitment to properly fund these initiatives, which will impact the lives of thousands of Veterans and their families across the state of Minnesota. The timing of this is critical, as our state prepares for the return of our newest generation of Veterans,” said Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Shellito

Airborne Veterans Wanted



Did you serve with the Screaming Eagles? Whether you were behind the lines at Normandy, fought in a frozen foxhole at the Battle of the Bulge, fought at Firebase Ripcord, climbed Hamburger Hill, served at Ft. Campbell or deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan there is an organization that has ties to the division and it is right here in Minnesota.

It’s the Minnesota Screaming Eagles, a chapter of the 101st Airborne Division Association. The Minnesota Screaming Eagles hold six meetings a year as well as other functions.

For more information contact President Troy S. Lindstrand at 612-998-9963 or troylindstrand@yahoo.com.



THE VOW TO HIRE HEROES ACT OF 2011

NEW BENEFITS FOR UNEMPLOYED VETERANS

VETERANS MAY QUALIFY FOR ADDITIONAL EDUCATION BENEFITS

The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) offers up to 12 months of retraining assistance to Veterans who meet all the following criteria:

- Unemployed
- At least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- Have an other than dishonorable discharge
- Not eligible for any other VA education benefit programs (e.g., the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment)
- Not in receipt of VA compensation due to Individual Unemployability (IU)
- Not enrolled in a federal or state job training program

We are accepting VRAP applications now for programs that begin on or after July 1, 2012. [Please visit eBenefits to apply.](#) Participating Veterans may receive up to 12 months of assistance equal to the full-time Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty rate, currently \$1,473 per month. Assistance under this benefit program ends on March 31, 2014.

Programs must meet the following criteria to qualify for VRAP benefits:

- Be offered by a community college or technical school
- Lead to an Associates Degree or Certificate
- Train the Veteran for a high demand occupation

UNEMPLOYED VETERANS WITH A SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY MAY QUALIFY FOR ADDITIONAL VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

To qualify, Veterans must:

- Have previously completed a VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program
- Apply within six months of exhausting initial claim for unemployment compensation
- Apply to VA by March 31, 2014

VA offers incentive payments to encourage employers to hire and train program participants.

- Veterans must apply and qualify for VA vocational rehabilitation benefits prior to being hired
- VA may reimburse up to one-half the Veterans annual salary for 6 months or longer
- Gives Veterans a competitive advantage with employers

**For more information on these great benefits and how to apply, please visit us online at www.benefits.va.gov/VOW or call toll free at 1-800-827-1000.

Please continue to check www.va.gov for changes and updates to the VOW to Hire Hero Act programs and benefits. Last updated on 05/11/2012



U.S. Department
of Labor



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



U.S. Department
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U.S. Department
of Labor

Veterans Retraining Assistance Program Fact Sheet

Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. Included in this new law is the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). VRAP offers up to 12 months of training assistance to unemployed Veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor (DOL) are working together to roll out this new program on July 1, 2012.

ELIGIBILITY

To qualify, a Veteran must:

- Be at least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- Be [unemployed](#)
- Have an other than dishonorable discharge
- Not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program (e.g.: the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance)
- Not be in receipt of VA compensation due to [unemployability](#)
- Not be enrolled in a Federal or state job training program

PARTICIPANTS LIMITS AND PAYMENTS

The program is limited to **45,000 participants** from July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, and to **54,000 participants** from October 1, 2012, through March 31, 2014. Participants may receive up to 12 months of assistance equal to the monthly full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill–Active Duty program (currently **\$1,473 per month**). DOL will provide employment assistance to every Veteran who participates upon completion of the program. We are accepting VRAP applications now. Please visit [eBenefits](#) to apply.

ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS

Participants must be enrolled in a program of education approved for VA benefits that is offered by a community college or technical school. The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certificate, and train the Veteran for a [high demand occupation](#). [Search for an approved program here.](#)

HOW TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION

Click [here](#) to read frequently asked questions about VRAP. Call us at 1-800-827-1000 to learn more information about the VOW to Hire Heroes act of 2011, or visit us at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/vow>.

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