



Veteran's Advocate

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Olmsted County Veterans Services Receives a new Van for transporting veterans to and from Minneapolis, VAMC Appointments.

The Minnesota State Department of Veterans Affairs issued Olmsted County Veterans Services a one time vehicle enhancement grant to aid in purchasing a new van that will be used to continue providing transportation for veterans with scheduled VA Medical Center. On average over 1,000 veterans are transported to and from the VAMC in Minneapolis yearly. This new van will replace our 2006 Dodge Caravan which was in need of replacement due to high mileage. If you are a veteran and wish to schedule a ride on our van please contact us with the date and time of the appointment, along with which clinic the appointment is scheduled for. Please call our office number below.

(507) 328-6355



The local Disabled American Veterans, Mayo Chapter 28 places Clothing Bins in Rochester, MN

The local DAV Chapter is proud to announce their involvement in yet other great fundraising effort for our veterans. They have emplaced clothing bins, which ask for donations of clothing and shoes. They kindly ask that the items be placed in a bag prior to placing the items in the clothing bin. The donations will be used to continue funding important local veterans programs. Currently, there is a bin located in the Sam's Club Parking Lot just south of 55th Street North, and the second is located in the parking lot of the VFW Post 1215 parking lot.



Olmsted County Veteran's Services

COLA for Veterans Passes in the Senate



Chairman Murray
Passes Veterans Cost-
of-Living Increase to
Allow Veterans to
Share in Critical Benefit Boost for the
First Time in Two Years

Murray's bill, which passed the Senate
yesterday, would result in more money in
the pockets of millions of veterans across
the country

(Washington, D.C.) – Today, U.S.
Senator Patty Murray, Chairman of the
Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee,
announced that a bill that she sponsored
to provide a Cost-of-Living Adjustment
(COLA) for America's veterans has
passed the U.S. Senate. The COLA for
veterans will match the 3.6 percent
annual increase provided to Social
Security recipients, which on Wednesday
was announced will happen this year for
the first time since 2009. The Veterans
COLA would affect several important
benefits, including veterans' disability
compensation and dependency and
indemnity compensation for surviving
spouses and children. It is projected that
over 3.9 million veterans and survivors
will receive compensation benefits in
Fiscal Year 2012.

“A cost-of-living increase for our
veterans is long overdue and well
deserved,” said Senator Murray.
“Particularly in this difficult economy,
our veterans deserve a boost in their
benefits to help make ends meet. This is
an important step for our veterans,
especially on the heels of news that a
COLA will be provided for the first time
since 2009.”



Burial and Plot Allowance Rate Change

**In accordance with Public Law 111-275, on
or after October 1, 2011, a statutory increase
goes into effect which notes:**

- ◆ **the standard burial allowance for Veterans who die while properly hospitalized by VA goes from \$300 to \$700, and**
- ◆ **the standard plot allowance for Veterans who are not indigent goes to \$700.**

To be eligible for the burial allowance veterans must have been in receipt of either non-service connected pension , in receipt of disability compensation, or have died in a VA Medical Center or contract facility at the time of death to be eligible for the allowance.

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