



Veteran Services
2100 Campus Drive SE,
Suite 200
Rochester, MN 55904
(507) 328-6355

Salute to the 4th

July 04, 2015

- **Location:** Silver Lake Park
- **Address:** 700 W Silver Lake Drive NE, Rochester, MN 55906
Venue: Silver Lake Park

Rochester's 4th of July Celebration!! Salute to the 4th: - Car & Motorcycle Show - BMX and Skate Contest - LIVE Music & Food! Here is an opportunity for the community to come together for some amazing events! All profits and donations will go towards funding the fireworks show and the events for the city! Invite your friends and family to spend the 4th of July down at Silver Lake!!



Veteran's Afternoon at Rochester Honkers Baseball

5 Jul 2015 ~ Sunday 1:05 p.m. to approximately 4:30 p.m.

Veterans and their family members are invited to a free Veteran's day at Rochester Honkers Baseball in Rochester, courtesy of Broadway Residence and Suites by Bridge Street.

The Honkers square off with the Thunder Bay Border Cats in an afternoon game filled with excitement and fun! This game is free to all Veterans who register here, and up to four tickets per Veteran are available.

Register Here: http://beyondtheyellowribbonsemin.com/events_register3.php



VA Expands Disability Benefits for Air Force Personnel Exposed to Contaminated C-123 Aircraft

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today published a new regulation that expands eligibility for some benefits for a select group of Air Force Veterans and Air Force Reserve personnel who were exposed to the herbicide Agent Orange through regular and repeated contact with contaminated C-123 aircraft that had been used in Vietnam as part of Operation Ranch Hand (ORH).

VA published this regulation as an interim final rule so that it could immediately begin providing benefits to eligible Air Force veterans and Air Force Reserve personnel who submit a disability compensation claim for any of the 14 medical conditions that have been determined by VA to be related to exposure to Agent Orange.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald made the decision to expand benefits following receipt of a 2015 report by the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine (IOM) on Post-Vietnam Dioxin Exposure in Agent Orange-Contaminated C-123 Aircraft. This VA-requested report found evidence that as many as 1,500 to 2,100 Air Force and Air Force Reserve personnel who served as flight, medical and ground maintenance crew members on ORH C-123 aircraft previously used to spray Agent Orange in Vietnam were exposed to the herbicide.

Under this new rule, Air Force and Air Force Reserve flight, medical and ground maintenance crewmembers who served on the contaminated ORH C-123s are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides during their service, thus making it easier for them to establish entitlement for some VA benefits if they develop an Agent Orange-related presumptive condition. In addition, for affected Air Force Reserve crew members, VA will presume that their Agent Orange-related condition had its onset during their Reserve training. This change ensures that these reservists are eligible for VA disability compensation and medical care for any Agent Orange-related presumptive condition, and that their surviving dependents are eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation and burial benefits.

The interim final rule can be found on the Federal Register: <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection>. VA will immediately begin processing claims and issuing benefits to eligible Air Force crew members.

VA encourages reservists who were assigned to flight, ground or medical crew duties at Lockbourne/Rickenbacker Air Force Base in Ohio (906th and 907th Tactical Air Groups or 355th and 356th Tactical Airlift Squadron), Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts (731st Tactical Air Squadron and 74th Aero medical Evacuation Squadron) or Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, International Airport (758th Airlift Squadron) during the period 1969 to 1986, and developed an Agent Orange-related disability to file a disability compensation claim. VA also has identified several active duty locations where ORH C-123 aircraft may have been used following their service in Vietnam. Active duty personnel who served in a regular USAF unit location where a contaminated C-123 was assigned and who had regular and repeated contact with the aircraft through flight, ground or medical duties during the period 1969 to 1986, and who develop an Agent Orange-related disability, also are encouraged to apply for benefits.

Please contact your Olmsted County Veterans Service Officer to apply for this benefit.

Nathan Pike

Neil Doyle

Jennifer Shumaker

2100 Campus Dr SE

Rochester, MN 55904



Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery - Preston

Construction Update: The new State Veterans Cemetery in Preston, Minnesota is currently under construction. The grand opening is anticipated for September, 2015.

As a reminder, access to the new Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Preston is a construction entrance and is not open to the public. We understand and appreciate the anticipation of this new facility, however in the interest of public safety and liability for the general contractor and the State of Minnesota, we ask that the general public wait until the official opening of the cemetery to drive thru the property.

What is Provided

Gravesite or Columbarium Niche
Pre-placed Grave liner (Standard Size)
Headstone/Niche Cover
Perpetual Care

Cost

Veteran

\$0 all burial options

Spouse/Eligible Dependent*

\$700 (all burial options)

**Fees for spouse/eligible dependents cannot be prepaid and are subject to change.*

Pre-Registration

Pre-registration ensures your eligibility in advance and eliminates delays in providing military documents to the cemetery. Pre-registration applications are available at your local County Veterans Service Office (CVSO).

VETERANS ID CARDS AVAILABLE THROUGH COMMUNITY BASED CLINICS

Veterans can have their veterans health care identification card processed at the Rochester VA clinic.

Veterans **MUST** be enrolled in VA healthcare, if you are not, please contact our office at 507-328-6355 to discuss, or stop in between the hours of 8am-5pm, Monday-Friday. Veterans must schedule an appointment through the VA call center at 612-467-1100. The clinics start at 830am, and end around 3:00pm. You must bring two forms of identification, a drivers license or photo id card, and one of the following: a passport, a birth certificate, or a social security card

The Rochester clinic dates are: Wednesday, August 26, Wednesday, October 28, Wednesday, December 16





PTSD Support Group for Veterans, Friends, and Family Members

SEMCIL's Veteran Services Program is offering a support group for Veterans that have been diagnosed with PTSD, or those who have signs and symptoms of PTSD, and their family members. Maybe you need to talk or just be in the company of your extended Veteran family. The support group will be a place for Veterans to share, heal and talk about their experiences in dealing with PTSD. We will be there for each other.

We are our brothers and sisters keepers because the oath we took to never leave a fallen comrade has no expiration date. For many of us, combat veterans, there are daily reminders of deaths of brothers and sisters.

The group will be facilitated by Jennifer Shumaker, Veteran

Upcoming meetings:

Thursday, July 30, 2015

Potluck, and grill out

IF you would like to bring a dish to pass, please do, IF not, please join!

6:30pm-8:30 p.m.

**American Legion
315 1st Ave NW,
Rochester, MN, 55901**

Jennifer at 507-328-6324 or shumaker.jennifer@co.olmsted.mn.us



Into the Light Ride Suicide Prevention and Awareness Ride

When: Saturday, July 11th

Time: Registration 9:00am, Ride 10:00am

Where: Start at Rochester Harley Davidson, 7180 US-14 E, Rochester, MN 55904

The ride culminates with a meal and program at Harbor Bar in Hager City, WI

Hosted by SE MN National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Volunteers Needed! MN National Guard Youth Camp

Who: Military Service members, Spouses, or veterans

When: Week 2, August 2 to August 8

Where: Camp Ripley

About: Support includes engaging with kids during activities including archery, hiking, biking, canoeing and camping. Volunteers are also need with registration. Please register on <http://mngyc.org/registration-forms/>

Indicate which position you would like to apply for on your Adult Youth Camp Application.

Military Family Week at the MN Zoo

When: July 1-7, 2015

Where: MN Zoo, Apple Valley

About: The Minnesota Zoo salutes our troops with special discounts this week, including free admission for military personnel, free parking, and half-priced admission for family members

Project Backpack

When: Apply online now! Applications will be accepted through midnight July 10th

Where: Click http://www.mvfs-mn.org/programs_project_backpack.html to register

About: Kindergarten to 12th grade children whose parents are currently deployed, recently returned (within 12 months), wounded, and disabled or MIA/KIA are eligible to receive a backpack.





To join us on the *HERO'S RIDE!* Saturday July 18th 2015

Please join us on a 100+ Mile ride through SE Minnesota to honor our Fallen Hero's.

Proceeds go to the Chapter 28 - Minnesota Disabled American Veterans & VFW Post 1215,

Cost is \$25 per rider & \$10 for passenger (Includes food at the end of the ride)

Registration 10:00am – 12:00pm at the Harley Davidson Shop of Rochester.

Kick Stands up 12:15pm Sharp – Ride ends at Rochester VFW Post 1215

Hero's Ride is rain or shine –event!

Check out our Facebook Page for more information and updates



Olmsted County Veteran's Services

Upcoming local events

Rochester American Legion Post 92

3rd Tuesday of each month

315 First Ave NW

Rochester, MN 55901

7pm

Legion Riders

2nd Thursday of each month

7pm

Forty et eight at the American Legion

2nd Tuesday of each month

7pm

Military Order of the Purple Heart

3rd Thursday of each month,

6pm, March, May, July, September, and

November

Rochester VFW Post Meeting

2nd Tuesday of each Month VFW Post 1215

16 6th Street SW, Rochester, MN 55902

7pm

Byron American Legion Post 119

1st Monday of the month

8pm

505 Frontage Road NW, Byron, MN

Vietnam Veterans of America

Meets 4th Monday each month

at 7:00pm, at the Rochester American Legion

315 First Ave NW

Rochester, MN 55901

DAV Meeting

2nd Monday, of each Month Rochester's Elks Lodge

1652 Hwy 52 N, Rochester, MN 55901

5:30pm dinner, meeting at 6:00pm

Korean War Veterans

Every Monday at Grandmas Kitchen

1514 N Broadway, Rochester, MN 55906

(Silver lake plaza)

8 AM

Marine Corp League Meeting

4th Tuesday of the month, 7pm, VFW Post 1215

16 6th Street SW, Rochester, MN 55902

Kasson American Legion Post 333

Third Thursday of the month

March 19 , 7pm

212 West Main Street , Kasson, MN 55944

Chatfield VFW Post 6913

2nd Tuesday of the month

9– 2nd St SW, Chatfield, MN

Gulf War Veterans of America

1st Monday of each month

May 4th 1st kick off meeting

7pm, at the Rochester American Legion

315 First Ave NW

Rochester, MN 55901



“To promote the interests and welfare of veterans, their dependents and survivors and to enhance their quality of life through counseling, claims assistance, education, advocacy and special projects.”



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