
VETERANS ADVOCATE

July 2017

With Neil Doyle accepting a position as the director at Hennepin County Veterans Services, the Olmsted County service office will be entering a transition period. With this transition, the office may have longer wait times than usual. Please be patient with our office as this transition occurs. We hope to welcome a new leader soon. To ensure that the best possible service for our veterans and families is provided, we ensure a smooth transition, but with a smaller staff.

Olmsted County would also like to welcome Ashley Laganieri, a representative, from the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, whom will provide temporary claims assistance for all of you in the interim. Thank you for your continued support of the Olmsted County Veterans Service Office.

Nathan Pike

Jennifer Shumaker

Karen Applen



Valleyfair is honoring our hometown heroes with Military Days during the Fourth of July Weekend (July 1-4)

Any member of the armed service, active or veteran, will receive a free regular admission ticket into Valleyfair. Along with free admission, members of the military will be able to purchase discount admission tickets for members of their immediate family (maximum of six) at a special military discount price of \$35.00 plus tax per ticket. A valid military ID must be presented at a Valleyfair ticket window to receive this offer.

PX Military Benefits Now Available to Shop from Home!

Military Exchange Shopping (formerly called the PX) online being opened up to all who have served.

The Army, Air Force and Navy exchange will start allowing all honorably discharged veterans to shop online, (think Amazon, but only cheaper with no taxes.)

The target start date is Veterans Day, November 11, 2017 - but you must register first. Registration begins June 1, 2017.

You must call 1-844-868-8672, after June 1 to register.

Tax-free online PX shopping to be expanded <http://www.newsday.com/long-island/pentagon-opening-online-px-shopping-to-most-vets-this-fall-1.13728632>



Riverside Concerts presents Chuck Blattner directing the Rochester Concert Band performing a concert in tribute to the anniversary of our country's independence at the Silver Lake Park soccer field. The concert is FREE to the public and will precede the fireworks display. Brought to you by Riverside Concerts and the Rochester Parks and Recreation Department.

Themed Thursdays on Historic 3rd St.

When: 12 pm - 8 pm on Select Thursdays

Where: Historic 3rd St, and 1st Ave NW



Thursdays on First & 3rd will be showcasing six exciting themes throughout the summer on Historic 3rd Street.

THURSDAY, JULY 6th is VETERANS DAY!

Expect to see fun and engaging activities for the whole family between:

12-8 p.m. on Thursdays.

Participating Groups

- Rochester VFW
- RCTC Veterans Services
- Olmsted County Veterans Services
- Minnesota Veterans Services
- Workforce Development, Inc. Board Salute Southern MN Veterans Group
- Honkers Baseball Team

Veterans Grief Group

*A Journey to Honor the Losses and Sacrifice
of Our Veterans*

Program Description:

A seven-week psycho-educational group focused on the theme of grief, loss and change. This group will be led by two Vietnam Veterans, with Timothy J Haskamp, LICSW, Bereavement Counselor. Any veteran is welcome to attend.

Goals of the group:

- A peer psychosocial-educational group focusing on themes of grief, loss and change.
- To provide an atmosphere of understanding where you can share your thoughts, feelings and behaviors related to losses in your life whether it is related to personal/family losses or from your experience in the military.
- An attempt to experience the power and wisdom of one's grief journey.
- An opportunity to learn from one another with the hope of creating an environment of growth. Good listening can help transform suffering.

The Veterans Grief Group will occur in the Fall 2017 / Dates to be determined.

Confidential individual consultation and counseling available at (507) 285-1930.

All services are made available through donations.

Contact:

Timothy J. Haskamp, LICSW

*Seasons Hospice/Center for Grief
Education and Support*

*1696 Greenview Dr SW, Rochester, MN
55902*

(507) 285-1930

thaskamp@seasonshospice.org

VETERANS CAREER FAIR

Tuesday, July 11TH, 2017
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

@ DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington – Minneapolis South
7800 Normandale Boulevard, Bloomington

Minnesota Veterans Employment Services invites all veterans and their spouses to this 11th annual event. Over 150 employers will be on-site. In addition, the event will include providers who offer services for veterans. *Hope to see you there!*

For more information, please visit:

mn.gov/deed/veterans

This event is a collaboration between:



mn EMPLOYMENT AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
VETERANS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DAV[®]
PARK RAPIDS, MN
CHAPTER #38

DAV[®]
OF MINNESOTA



When: July 11-14 2017

Where Crow Wing River

**Come join us for a nice relaxing paddle on the Crow Wing River with
Fishing, Relaxing and Camping.**

Don't Fish no problem Come relax!

Cost free for Veterans

To apply go to DAVMN.ORG

For Questions Contact John 651-291-1212



PTSD Support Group for Veterans, Friends, and Family Members

SEMCIL, and Olmsted County Veteran Services 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 combat stress.

The group will be facilitated by Jennifer Shumaker, Veteran and Olmsted County Veterans Service Officer.

**THURSDAY July 27th
Summer Pot-Luck**

If you would like, bring a dish to pass, not required to participate

Begins at 630pm

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

- RAIN OR SHINE -
SATURDAY JULY 15 • 2017

HERO'S RIDE

Please join us on a 140+ mile ride through
SE Minnesota to honor our Fallen Heroes

— Proceeds to —

Chapter 28 – Minnesota Disabled American Veterans,
MN POW/MIA Riders & VFW Post 1215

\$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
7180 US-14, Rochester

Kick Stands up 12:15pm Sharp
Ride ends at Rochester VFW Post 1215
16 6th St SW, Rochester

Check out our Facebook Page
facebook.com/TheHerosRide



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

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

MOPH
3rd Thursday of the month 6pm
VFW Post 1215
16 6th St SW
Rochester, MN 55902

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
7pm, at the Rochester American Legion
315 First Ave NW
Rochester, MN 55901



Happy July 4th

Support Our Disabled American Veterans

Free to
the Public

Rain
or Shine



Cars, Pickups, Motorcycles, Big Rigs, & Golf Cart Show

Sponsored by

HILLER'S FLOORING AMERICA

Olmsted County Fairgrounds - Rochester, MN

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2017 - 8:AM - 3:PM

Registration \$10 - 8:AM - 12:PM

Music • Food Vendors • Job Fair 12:PM - 2:30:PM • Bring a chair and make a day of it!

21 GUN SALUTE RAFFLE AT 4:PM

•• Bucket Raffle Tickets Sold Day of Show ••

--- 23 CHANCES TO WINI ---

1st: \$1,000.00 Cash • 2nd: \$1,800 Diamond Pendant Necklace
3rd: 23rd: 21 Guns (1 each)

First 200 Participants: Dash Plaques

Awards to 1st & 2nd Place in Each Class

Stocks Cars on Display • Silent Auction & Raffle Day of the Show

(DAV not responsible for any loss or damage. All proceeds go to MN Disabled Vets)



FOR INFORMATION: Contact RICHDALYX5@GMAIL.COM

“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.”



Veterans Services
2100 Campus Drive
SE, Suite 200
Rochester, MN 55904

