



Olmsted County Veteran's Service Office

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

Aug. 21-Labor Day, Sept. 1, 2014

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR



Tuesday, August 26, 2014 8:00 A.M.

Military Appreciation Day at the Minnesota State Fair

The Minnesota State Fair will again hold Military Appreciation Day in which veterans receive discounted admission.

Active military, retired military and veterans receive the following discounted admission ticket price when they purchase a ticket at the gate and present valid documentation of military service.

- Active military, their spouses and kids: \$8
- Retired military and their spouses: \$8
- Military veterans and their spouses: \$8

Minnesota County Veterans Services will have a booth in one of the exhibit halls along with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA), stop by and visit us!!

PTSD Support Group

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 combat stress.

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

Upcoming meetings:

Thursday, August 28, 2014

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

Thursday, September 25, 2014

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

Rochester Elks Lodge,
1652 Hwy 52 North
Rochester, MN 55901





Millennium (Mill Bill): A veteran is eligible for the Mill Bill (long-term) contract if a veteran is rated at 70% service connected or greater through the Veteran's Benefit Administration. If a veteran is rated at 60% service connected or less than the reason for placement at a contract nursing home must be related to the service connection disability. The VA Contract Nursing Home Team makes the determination regarding whether or not the reason for nursing home placement is related to the service connected condition. The Mill Bill covers: semi-private rooms; meals; nursing care; rehabilitation; respiratory and oxygen therapy; and medical or nursing supplies. (Ventilators are excluded from VA coverage). Outpatient services such as dentistry and optical services are also not covered under the Mill Bill contract.

Hospice: Under this contract, the VA is responsible for room and board at a VA contracted facility and the hospice service is billed to either Medicare or the VA depending on patient preference and Medicare enrollment. The veteran must be enrolled in a hospice service.

Respite: Veterans are eligible for 30 days of respite care in a contracted nursing home each calendar year. It is preferred that veterans use this benefit in increments of two weeks, but exceptions can be made on a case-by-case-basis.

Transportation: Transportation costs can be covered if the veteran needs to go to a VA medical appointment.

For more information, please contact Genene Strack at (507) 282-9449 Extension 1022 or via email at: g.strack@maplemanor.net.



Education



Over the next several years, the number of service members transitioning from military life to civilian life (as veterans) is expected to increase significantly. A growing number of these veterans will be enrolling at America's colleges and universities as they seek to become career-ready and improve their future prospects for employment. For these veterans, access to higher education is important, but it is not enough; we must help our veterans obtain a degree, certificate, or license. These credentials are valued by employers and serve as a key milestone to future career success. America's colleges and universities play a critical role in ensuring that veterans have access to high-quality educational experiences and postsecondary opportunities. The 8 Keys to Veterans' Success (8 Keys) highlight specific ways that colleges and universities can support veterans as they pursue their education and employment goals.

8 Keys to Veterans' Success

By affirming support for the 8 Keys to Veterans' Success, the educational institution is expressing its commitment to implement the promising practices outlined in the 8 Keys, as follows:

1. Create a culture of trust and connectedness across the campus community to promote well-being and success for veterans.
2. Ensure consistent and sustained support from campus leadership.
3. Implement an early alert system to ensure all veterans receive academic, career, and financial advice before challenges become overwhelming.
4. Coordinate and centralize campus efforts for all veterans, together with the creation of a designated space for them (even if limited in size).
5. Collaborate with local communities and organizations, including government agencies, to align and coordinate various services for veterans.
6. Utilize a uniform set of data tools to collect and track information on veterans, including demographics, retention, and degree completion.
7. Provide comprehensive professional development for faculty and staff on issues and challenges unique to veterans.
8. Develop systems that ensure sustainability of effective practices for veterans.



Mayo-Hiawatha #28



**2nd Annual
DAV Car &
Motorcycle
Show**

Friday, August 22nd,
2014

Paragon Theater
Parking Lot, 3450
East Circle Drive NE,
Rochester, MN
3pm-8pm



Food vendors
Onsite and live
Entertainment!
Register to win
prizes in a raffle!

A percentage of the
proceeds benefit the
local DAV.

For more
information,
contact the local
DAV at: 507-202-
4247



On behalf of the Director of Veterans Programs,
There is a 2014 Disaster Relief Grant available to
those veterans in Olmsted County that suffered
from home damage from the flooding, in accor-
dance with Governor Dayton’s Emergency Ex-
ecutive Order:

The 2014 Disaster Relief Grant is similar to the
disaster
relief grants of previous years.

**MDVA will accept applications for reimbursement
for expenditures dated no earlier than June 11, 2014
and work must be completed by August 31, 2014.
Applications must be post marked no later than Sep-
tember 30, 2014, any applications
received after this date will be denied.**

Please see your respective County Veterans
Service Officer to get more information.

Olmsted County
Nathan Pike
Neil Doyle
Jennifer Shumaker

(507) 328-6355



Walz, Miller, Duckworth Introduce Comprehensive Legislation to Tackle Veteran Suicide

Bipartisan bill, authored by the trio of lawmakers, is supported by the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) and the VFW

The Clay Hunt SAV Act will help address the veteran suicide epidemic in our nation by:

Increasing Access to Mental Health Care:

Amends the requirements for reviewing potentially improper discharge characterizations of individuals diagnosed with PTSD or TBI so that vets can get full access to the care they have earned—this language is similar to a Walz bill, HR 975, the Service members Mental Health Review Act.

Requires the VA to create a one-stop, interactive website to serve as a centralized source of information regarding all mental health services for veterans.

Increasing Capacity to Meet the Demand for Mental Health Care:

Addresses the shortage of mental health care professionals by authorizing the VA to conduct a student loan repayment pilot program aimed at recruiting and retaining psychiatrists.

Requires the DoD and National Guard to review the staffing requirements for Directors of Psychological Health in each state.

Improving the Quality of Care for Troops and Veterans:

Requires a yearly evaluation, conducted by a third party, of all mental health care and suicide prevention practices and programs at the DoD and VA to find out what's working and what's not working and make recommendations to improve care.

Providing Continuous, Seamless Care to Troops and Veterans:

Establishes a strategic relationship between the VA and the National Guard to facilitate a greater continuity of care between the National Guard and the VA.

Authorizes a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on the transition of care for PTSD and TBI between the DoD and the VA.

Developing Community Support for Veterans:

Establishes a peer support and community outreach pilot program to assist transitioning service members with accessing VA mental health care services.

Representative Tim Walz (D-MN), spent 24 years in the Army National Guard and is the highest ranking enlisted soldier to ever serve in Congress. Representative Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) has been serving in the National Guard for 22 years and is currently a Lieutenant Colonel in the Illinois Army National Guard.

Other upcoming local events

American Legion

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

VFW Post Meeting

2nd Tuesday of each Month VFW Post 1215

16 6th Street SW, Rochester, MN 55902

POW/MIA Riders Association, Member Meeting

Saturday, July 12, 11am-1pm, VFW Post 1215

16 6th Street SW, Rochester, MN 55902

DAV Meeting

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

1652 Hwy 52 N, Rochester, MN 55901

6pm-?

Military Marriage Retreat

September 12-14, 2014 Ironwood Springs

Christian Ranch

Call to register: (507) 533-4315

Korean War Veterans

Every Monday at Grandmas Kitchen

1514 N Broadway, Rochester, MN 55906

(Silver lake plaza)

7am

Marine Corp League Meeting

Tuesday, August 26th, 7pm, 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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