

*Olmsted County*

**Veteran Services**

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

# VETERANS ADVOCATE

**July 2016**



Valleyfair is honoring our Hometown Heroes with Military Appreciation 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 \$32.00 plus tax per ticket. A valid military ID must be presented at a Valleyfair ticket window to receive this offer. This year, Valleyfair is partnering with Tee It Up for the Troops. The money collected at the coin boxes at the admission gates will be donated to the organization. There will also be military families treated to a VIP day at the park throughout the weekend.

### **July 30 Gold Star Family Day**

Admission, and picnic lunch for Gold Star Families covered by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, parking included.

Discounted admission and parking available for guests of Gold Star Families Program offered during the lunch hour.



# July 4th Concert & Fireworks Display

**Date:** 07/04/2016 8:30 PM 07/04/2016 8:30 PM 07/04/2016

**Location:** Silver Lake Park 700 West Silver Lake Drive NE, Rochester, Minnesota 55906

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.

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Selections to include John Phillip Sousa's "George Washington's Birthday", Robert W. Smith's "On Eagle's Wings", James L. Hosay "Guardians of Peace", Henry Fillmore's "Americans We", and the traditional July 4<sup>th</sup> concert finale P.I Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture" and John Philip Sousa's "Stars & Stripes Forever".



# MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT

presented by USAA



VS.



## TUESDAY, JULY 5TH

5:30PM - GATES OPEN

7:05PM - FIRST PITCH

CHS  
CHS FIELD



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS CALL 651-644-6659

THIS VOUCHER TO BE REDEEMED AT THE SAINTS BOX OFFICE FOR UP TO SIX (6) COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS FOR THE JULY 5TH GAME.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO REDEEM YOUR TICKET(S) IN ADVANCE AS ALL TICKETS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. VALID MILITARY I.D. REQUIRED. LIMIT ONE VOUCHER PER VALID MILITARY I.D.

# Community Conversation

United Way of Olmsted County is talking to people and groups across Olmsted County to learn how we can create a better community together, and we'd love to meet with Veterans. These conversations help United Way more clearly understand how you see our community and what could make our community better in the future.

We invite you to join us at one of the following conversations:

1. Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m.
2. Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

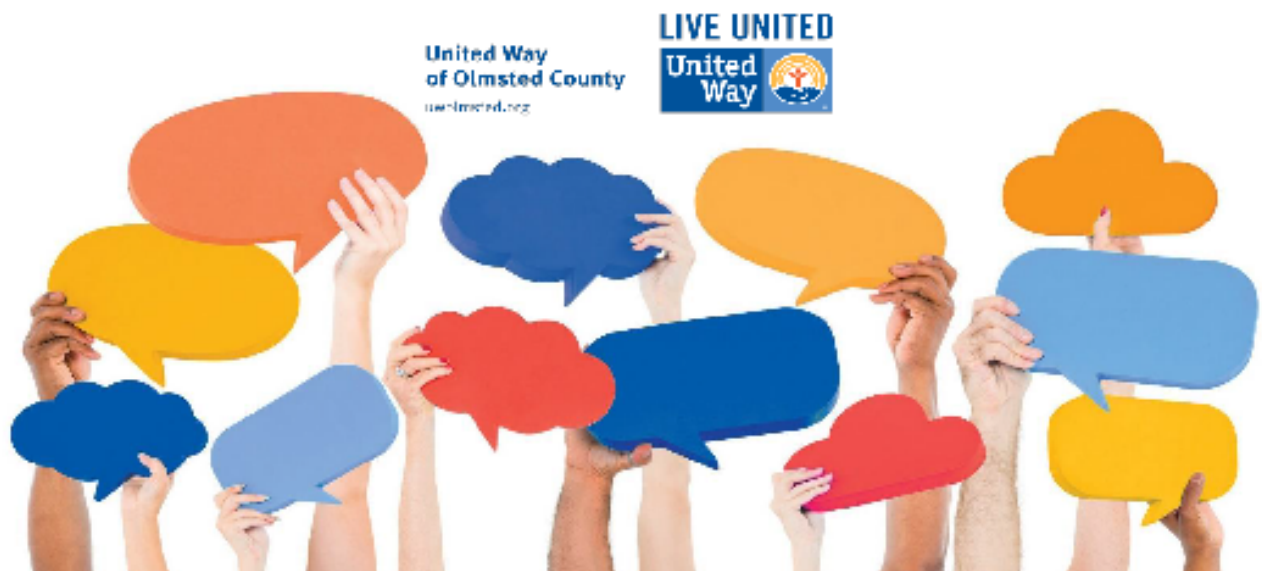
Both conversations will be 90 minutes or less in length, and will take place at United Way of Olmsted County, 903 W. Center St. Rochester, MN in conference rooms A & B.

Please RSVP by visiting one of the following website links:

1. <http://www.uwolmsted.org/July-8>
2. <http://www.uwolmsted.org/July-13>

OR. By Calling 535-5519.

Your thoughts will be used by United Way to help design how we can best impact the community by creating lasting change as we plan for our future work.



*Believe* in **ME!**

Greater Rochester  
ROTARY **BIKE RIDE**

**Proceeds Benefit Rotary Programs for Local Youth**



## **First Annual “Believe In Me” Bike Ride**

**Greater Rochester Rotary**

**Date: July 9, 2016**

**Where:** Starts in Rochester, MN at Mayo High School, 1420 11th Ave SE, Rochester, MN 55904

**What:** Fun Ride: 7 or 15 miles – \$20 Individual or \$35 for a family

**40 Mile, 65 Mile or 100 Mile Ride will be \$35**

**Plenty of parking at the Mayo High School.**

**Attention  
Veterans!**



# VETERANS CAREER FAIR

*Minnesota*  
Department of Employment and Economic Development

***Don't Miss Minnesota's Largest Veterans Career Fair***

**Wednesday, July 13**

**10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Earle Brown Heritage Center, 6155 Earle Brown Dr,  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430, Brooklyn Center, MN**

**If you are a veteran and looking for a job, or interested in exploring new careers or educational opportunities, meet with over 150 employers with current job openings.**

**Find a list of attending employers here:**

**<http://mn.gov/deed/events/vcf16.jsp>**

- RAIN OR SHINE -  
SATURDAY JULY 16 • 2016

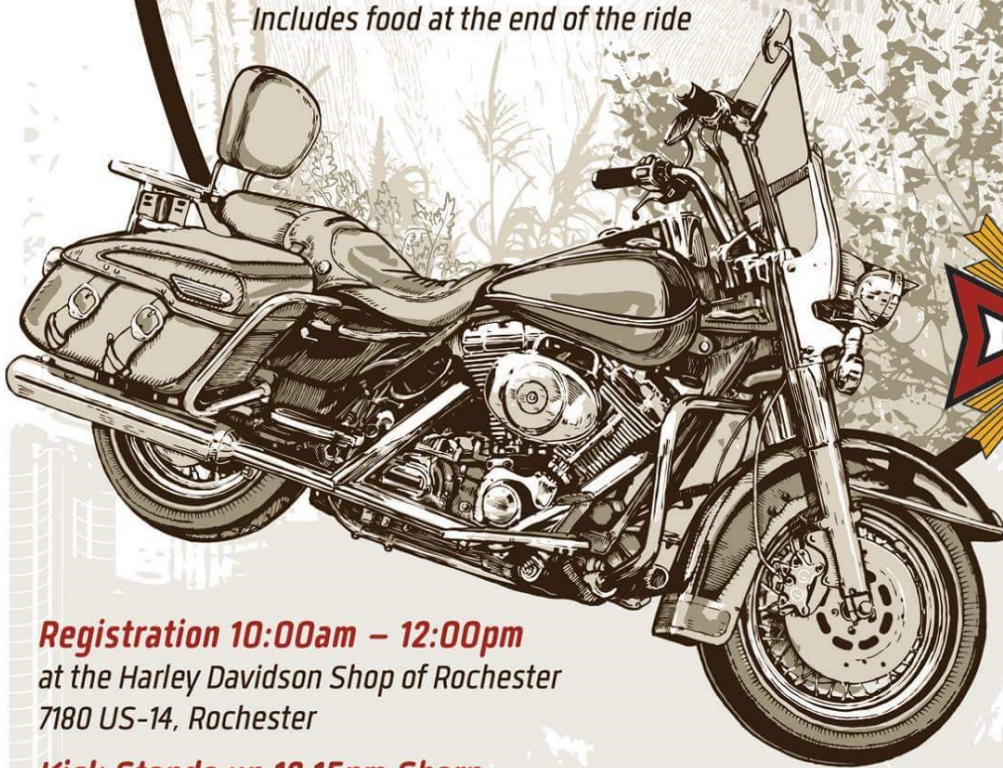
# HERO'S RIDE

Please join us on a 100+ mile ride through  
SE Minnesota to honor our Fallen Heroes

— Proceeds to —

Chapter 28 - Minnesota Disabled  
American Veterans & 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  
for more information and updates





American Legion  
Department Convention 2016  
July 21-23, 2016  
Mayo Civic Center  
30 Civic Center Drive SE  
And  
The Kahler Grand Hotel  
20 Second Ave SW  
Rochester, MN

Follow this link for the registration forms:  
<http://www.mnlegion.org/html/convention.html>

A registration fee of \$15.00 for each person attending, whether a delegate, alternate or a guest, must accompany this form. Make your check payable to "Post 92 Convention Fund". No credit cards will be accepted. Please mail the registration form with your check to:  
Attention: Bill Born, American Legion Post 92 Office, 403 East Center Street, Rochester, MN 55904. **Registration at the door will be \$18.00.**

## **Walk in tub to a veteran in need!!**

A walk in tub will provide a safe and independent bathing experience with a cost effective solution. With ADA compliant designs and features, a walk in tub offers the satisfaction and peace of mind needed to truly enjoy a luxurious soak.

The tub will fit into a standard tub space. Installation would require some electrical and wall patch.

If interested, please get in touch with Jim at 507 259 7700





## **PTSD Support Group for Veterans, Friends, and Family**

SEMCIL and Olmsted County Veteran Services, are 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 28, 2016**

**Thursday, August 25, 2016**

**6:30pm-8:30 p.m.  
American Legion Post 92**

315 1st Ave NW,  
Rochester, MN, 55901  
Jennifer at 507-328-6324 or [shumaker.jennifer@co.olmsted.mn.us](mailto:shumaker.jennifer@co.olmsted.mn.us)





# July 25th-July 31st

Olmsted County Veterans Services will have a booth at the Olmsted County fair again this year. Tuesday, July 26th, open at 5pm, Wed-Sun open at 11am. Stop out to say hello.

For any office visits, or claims work, that will ALL be addressed in the office. We plan to have a service officer in the office each day. However, Please call our office prior to stopping out:  
507 328 6355.

## 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  
**Gulf War Veterans 1st Monday of each month**  
7pm

**Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter # 1110**  
American Legion, 315 1st Ave N W, in  
Rochester, Minnesota  
4th Monday of the month at 7PM. If the 4th  
Monday is a holiday, we meet the 3rd Monday

**VFW Post Meeting**  
2nd Tuesday of each Month VFW Post 1215  
16 6th Street SW, Rochester, MN 55902  
7pm

**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)  
7am

**Marine Corp League Meeting**  
4th Tuesday of the month, 7pm, VFW Post 1215 16  
6th Street SW, Rochester, MN 55902

**POW/MIA Riders Association, Member Meeting**  
2nd Saturday of the month 11am-1pm, VFW Post  
1215 16 6th Street SW, Rochester, MN 55902

**Byron American Legion**  
505 Frontage Road W  
Byron, MN 55920  
3rd Monday of month, 7pm



**Olmsted County Veteran's Services**

# Rochester Honkers Baseball, and Broadway Pizza are hosting a Salute to Veterans!

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**Thursday, July 28th**

**7:05pm**

**Honkers vs. Thunder Bay**

**Veterans and current military get in free by showing military ID.**

**Limited pre-game tickets available for pick-up at the VFW Post 1215, 16-6th Street SW, Rochester, MN 55902 WHILE SUPPLY LASTS.**





## ***Prioritizing Minnesota Veterans***

### ***2015/2016 Veterans Legislative Accomplishments***

#### **Veteran's Benefits**

- Excluded all military retirement pay from state income taxes (HF40-Heintzeman)
- Allowed active duty military members and their families to bypass the one year wait and immediately qualify for higher education grants and scholarships (HF 841-Dettmer)
- Permitted counties to create a private military discharge record registry to make it easier for veterans to access their DD214 and DD215 discharge records (HF546-Dettmer)
- Created a waiver system to make it easier for military members, veterans, and their spouses to keep their real estate licenses (HF3252-Newberger)
- Provided funding for veteran rent subsidies at the Cottages of Anoka, in Anoka County (HF2565-Newton)
- Provided an additional \$200,000 to the State Soldiers Assistance Fund (HF3168-Anderson, S.)
- Made changes to the state's Veterans Preference Act to ensure that the employer pays the cost of the hearing and attorney's fees if the veteran prevails (HF3416-Howe)
- Made it easier for National Guard members deployed by the Governor to vote (HF501-Fenton)

#### **Veteran's Healthcare**

- Increased funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs and state veterans homes by \$17 million (SF888-Anderson, S)
- Provided funding for study of unmet mental health needs for MN veterans (HF2680-Ecklund)
- Provided funding for a study to determine what partnerships exist for MDVA in providing interim housing to disabled veterans (HF3550-Johnson, S)

#### **Veteran Owned Small Businesses**

- Created a state based veteran owned small business certification program (HF141-Dettmer)
- Made it easier for veteran owned small businesses to get state government contracts (HF3109-Dettmer)

#### **Honoring Veterans**

- Established Military Spouses and Families Day to honor military families (HF450-Lohmer)
- Approved memorial to state's Medal of Honor winners on the Capitol grounds (HF2342-Dettmer)
- Encouraged schools to add a focus on Medal of Honor winners in their character development curriculum (HF3167-Dettmer)
- Provided additional funding for the Veterans Voices program (HF3072-Hancock)
- Provided funding for radio programming related to the Veterans Voices program (HF3850-Lesch)
- Designated the Honor and Remember Flag as a symbol of the state's commitment to fallen military members (HF146-Dettmer)
- Provided funding for an archivist at the Minnesota Military Museum (HF1190-Kresha)



## Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

Is this for me?

The registry is a database of information about Veterans and Service members collected through a questionnaire.

OEI/OIF/OND/OFS Veterans and Service members who have deployed to the Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after August 2, 1990 as well as those who have deployed to Afghanistan or Djibouti after September 11, 2001 can use the registry questionnaire to report exposures to airborne hazards (such as smoke from burn pits, oil-well fires, or pollution during deployment), as well as other exposures and health concerns.

Why sign up?

- Create a snapshot from which to identify changes in your health.
- Print and use your completed questionnaire to discuss concerns with your provider.
- Learn about follow-up care and VA benefits.

Instructions are available if you need assistance with the questionnaire.

Sign up in 3 easy steps

1. Use your Premium DS Logon Level 2 account to access the questionnaire. You must have a Premium DS Logon Level 2 account to participate.

Need a DS LOGON? <https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/registration.do?execution=e1s1>

OR sign up at E-Benefits: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov>

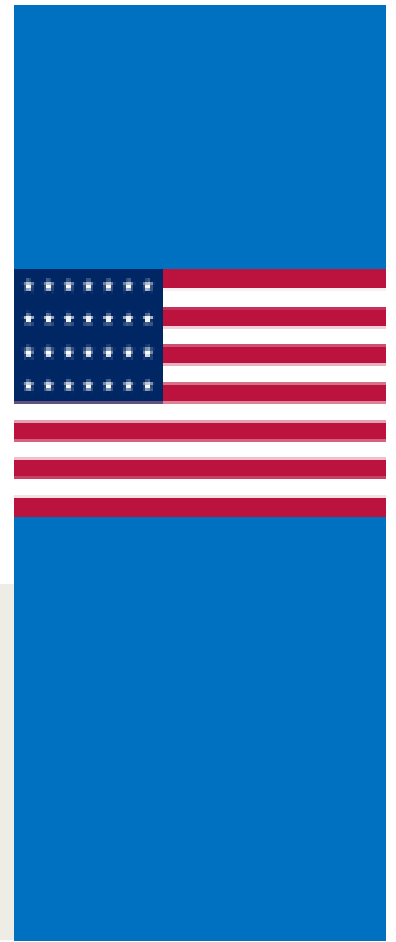
2. Complete entire questionnaire and submit.

Print or save completed questionnaire for your records.



**Olmsted County Veteran's Services**

**“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

