

THE STORY COUNTY VETERAN



Story County Commission of Veterans Affairs (SCCVA) – Story County, Iowa

FALL 2021

Greetings Story County Veterans!

Thank you for your service to our country and welcome to the Fall 2021 edition and the first email newsletter edition of The Story County Veteran.

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and that you find the information in this newsletter very helpful for you and your family.

Last Paper Copy - We Need Your Email Address!

We need your email address! This will be our last paper copy that will be sent out, so please email us at veteransaffairs@storycountyia.gov to share your email address with us. In the subject line just put “newsletter” and we will know what to do. In the body of the newsletter we will need your name and email.

A Star-Spangled Salute
****The only one of its kind****
A free Concert by the Iowa Military Veterans Band on

Sunday November 7th, 2021
2:00 pm
Franklin Auditorium -
4801 Franklin Ave.
Des Moines.

Honoring Iowa Military Men and Women – Past and Present.

www.iowamilitaryveteransband.com

Enjoy the newsletter!

Brett D. McLain, Director

New County V.A. Commissioner



Beth Hartmann is a retired U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps officer. After serving 20 years on Active Duty, she retired in 2009 as a commander (O-5) and moved to Ames to join the faculty in the Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering (CCEE) department at Iowa State University. She taught many courses in the CCEE department before joining the Program for Women in Science and Engineering in February 2021. Beth is currently teaching a course for first-year women in STEM majors. She is active on campus with student groups and committees. Beth is married to Tim Hartmann. They have two children, Sparrow (22) and Nate (19).

GROCERY DELIVERY FOR SENIORS IN STORY COUNTY

This program allows those 60 and older and/or with a disability to make a grocery order online or by phone (depending on the grocery store), and a RSVP volunteer will pick up the order and deliver the groceries at no charge. Volunteers are also available to assist with placing orders online. The partnership with Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is another way that Heartland Senior Services is helping seniors maintain their independence. Participating stores include Hy-Vee, Fareway (Ames, Huxley, Nevada), Wal-Mart and Aldi.

Please go to rsvpvolunteers.org for more details about the delivery service and eligibility or contact: RSVP Director, Kalen Petersen at 515-292-8890, email: director@cirsvp.org, or HSS at 515-233-2906 with any questions. Or you can bring your DD-214 discharge to their booth at the Story County VA Supermarket; the flyer for that event is on page 5 of this newsletter. The medical mobile unit is on page 5.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR USE OF THE FUNDS

MOVING EXPENSES
PURCHASES OF APPLIANCES
UTILITY DEPOSITS
DOWN-PAYMENT ASSISTANCE (FOR HOME PURCHASES)*
RENT FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING WHILE WAITING FOR PERMANENT HOUSING^
RENT DEPOSITS^
RENTAL ASSISTANCE^

*Funds used for down-payment assistance for the purchase of a house are distributed directly from Story County to the lender at time of closing.

^Story County may assist with rental assistance up to \$2,500 for eligible applicants. In all cases of rental assistance, funds are payable directly to the leasing agent/landlord.

Eligible Applicants **MUST** Meet **ALL** the Following Criteria

- Be employed in a full-time position within Story County;
- Apply to the Welcome Home to Story County Assistance Program;
- Be relocating to Story County as the primary residence;
- If purchasing a home, real estate being purchased must be located in Story County; and
- Be discharged under honorable conditions.

WELCOME HOME TO STORY COUNTY RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ALLOWS UP TO \$2,500 IN RELOCATION ASSISTANCE!



WELCOME HOME TO STORY COUNTY



For more information, visit www.storycountyia.gov or contact County Outreach and Special Projects Manager at (515) 382-7247

See Back for Application Form

Operation Recognition High School

This program furnishes an honorary high school diploma to qualifying veterans who did not complete high school (in Iowa) due to armed service enlistment.

The application form is used by the Department of Education to establish eligibility for honorably discharged veterans.

Contact Story County Veterans Affairs to assist with the application at 515-956-2625 or 515-956-2626.

Qualifying Dates of Active Service

April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918
(World War I)

September 16, 1940 - December 31, 1946
(World War II)

June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955 (Korean Conflict)

February 28, 1961 - May 5, 1975
(Vietnam Conflict)



Honor Guard Reimbursement

- Pursuant to Iowa Code Section 35A.13 and the Iowa Administrative Code 801, Chapter 14, the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs may reimburse veterans organizations for providing military funeral honors as follows:
 - If a single veterans organization provides basic (Flag folding only) honors, \$25 or
 - If a single veterans organization

- provides full honors, (Flag folding, 21 gun salute) \$50.
 - If two or more veterans organizations participate in providing full honors and one of the organizations provides a firing detail, \$50. Payment shall be requested by each organization (\$25 each).
 - If two or more veterans organizations participate in providing basic honors, \$25. Payment shall be to one veteran's organization, as requested on the

- application.
 - The maximum amount of aid payable in a consecutive 12-month period from the trust fund to a veteran's organization is \$1,000.
 - Honor Guard services performed since July 1st may be counted for reimbursement.
 - Submit only one completed application with reimbursement receipts for the current fiscal year.

Stop Soldier Suicide

Veterans are at 50% higher risk of suicide than their peers who have not served.

We're here to change that.

We're leading the fight against veteran suicide – because this is personal.

We have lost too many of our brothers and sisters in arms — people we lived and served alongside and counted as family. Our promise is this: we will not stand by while our friends are in crisis. We will rally together as allies, as family, as a community to do everything in our power to change the data on veteran suicide.

We have a proactive and disruptive approach, focused on meeting at-risk individuals where they are. Our team provides personalized care and continued case management to help identify each individual's specific needs. Whether it's mental health support, housing assistance, or any other service, we work tirelessly to find the right and most effective tools.

At Stop Soldier Suicide, we believe that no one who has served our country should ever feel alone.

We serve all service members, veterans, and military families from every branch and every generation, regardless of discharge status.

As a veteran-founded-and-led organization, we know firsthand that when a loved one serves, the entire family does too. Stop Soldier Suicide is proud to serve every member of the military and veteran communities.

Whether you or your loved one are currently serving (active duty, reserves, or guard) or have transitioned out of the military, the Stop Soldier Suicide team stands ready to help you navigate your unique challenges.

For more information please visit <https://stopsoldiersuicide.org/>



My HealtheVet
You can call Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Central Time)
1-877-327-0022
1-800-877- 8339 (TTY)
<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/home>

What is the VA Clothing Allowance?

Clothing Allowance is an annual sum of money paid to any Veteran who, because of a service-connected disability:

- Wears or uses a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance which tends to wear or tear clothing,

OR

- Uses medication, which a physician has prescribed for a skin condition that is due to a service-connected disability and causes irreparable damage to the Veteran's outer garments

How do I get the Clothing Allowance?

To complete an application, use **VA Form 10-8678**, "Application for Annual Clothing Allowance." Applicants should send their applications to the Des Moines VAMC, Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service, 3600 30th St. Des Moines, IA 50310.

Or make an appointment at Story County Veterans Affairs for assistance.

515-956-2625 or 515-956-2626

What month is VA clothing allowance paid?

VA clothing allowance is paid out annually. The date paid is **between September 1st and October 31st**.

If a veteran applied for and was awarded clothing benefits by August 1, that person would receive payment the same year.

The current clothing allowance rate is **\$841.36**

Get More Information

Watch our videos to learn more about how VA disability ratings and compensation work:

Compensation 101: How did I get this rating? (YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oM7oYzL2DCg>

Compensation 101: What is disability compensation? (YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3RodE0nGFc>

Compensation 101: What is service connection? (YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4vKqUlrdys>

If you need help understanding your benefits or accessing services, please call us at 515-956-2625 or 515-956-2626. We're here Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information type this link into your internet browser's address bar. <https://www.va.gov/disability/about-disability-ratings/>



Identity Theft Update

Do not let Identity Thieves Steal your Tax Refund

Since 2000, tax-related identity theft has grown significantly. The IRS, the Iowa Department of Revenue, state and federal consumer protection agencies, and taxpayers have all fought back. But tax-related identity theft remains a threat.

Identity thieves may try to steal an income tax refund by using the taxpayer's Social Security number to file a tax return. Similarly, they may use a victim's

SSN to earn wages that are reported to the IRS as the victim's income, thereby avoiding paying taxes themselves on the earnings.

Identity thieves get a hold of Social Security numbers through various means. They make telemarketing calls to trick victims by saying they are with the IRS or some other agency and want to confirm the number. They buy Social Security numbers obtained through data breaches. They also trick victims through

scam e-mails.

You may find out you've been a victim of income tax identity theft when you receive a letter from the IRS or the Iowa Department of Revenue saying more than one return was filed in your name or that you earned income you didn't report.

For more information about all forms of identity theft

<http://IowaIdTheft.org>.

Blue Water Navy - Nehmer

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it will readjudicate claims for Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

This review is part of the Veterans Benefits Administration's implementation

of the November 5, 2020, U.S. District Court of the Northern District of California decision to readjudicate previously denied claims as applied in Nehmer vs. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans who were previously denied

service connection for a herbicide related presumptive condition due to lack of in-country Vietnam service will automatically have their claims readjudicated.

Contact Story County Veterans Affairs for more information.

Iowa VA Benefits

DISABLED VETERAN HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

Disabled veterans with permanent and total disability ratings at 100% and individual un-employability paid at the 100% disability rate are eligible for this credit. Also eligible are surviving spouses who are receiving DIC claims for service-connected deaths.

If you are 100% and have not applied: Provide your tax credit application and your DD-214 to your local assessor just as soon as you can to receive a discount on your property tax.

IOWA VETERANS CEMETERY

The Iowa Veterans Cemetery is the first federally funded construction of a state-owned and operated Veterans cemetery in the State of Iowa.

The cemetery serves the Veteran population throughout the state and around the country, as there is no state residency requirement to be interred in the cemetery.

It offers a picturesque setting in southern Dallas County, conveniently located along Interstate 80, west of Des Moines. There is no cost for burial at the cemetery and no cost for any service provided to eligible Veterans. There is a \$300 cost for eligible spouses and dependent children.

The address of the cemetery is 34024 Veterans Memorial Drive, Adel, Iowa, and the phone number is 515-996-9048.

To pre-register, just make an appointment with Story County Veterans Affairs by calling 515-956-2626 or 515-956-2625 and bring your DD-214 military discharge.

MILITARY HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Iowa has a \$5,000 grant to honor your service; this grant can be used towards a down payment and closing costs to purchase a home located in Iowa.

When combined with one of Iowa Finance Authority's other down payment assistance programs, eligible service members could receive a total of up to \$7,500 in grant funds towards the purchase of a home in Iowa.

Note: This program is jointly administered by the Iowa Finance Authority and Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs.

To qualify, you will need your DD-214 and then please contact 800-432-7230 for more information; or to get an application, log on to www.iowafinanceauthority.gov

VET CENTER IN AMES AT STORY COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS

For the last five years now we have partnered with the Vet Center. Mike Brown is here to provide services on Wednesdays by appointment. He can be reached at 515.284.4929. Some of the services Mike can provide include individual readjustment counseling, marital and family counseling sessions, and liaison with community agencies, and referral for VA benefits – county, state, and federal.

Michael Brown, MSW, LMSW - Counselor

Mike received a Master of Social Work degree from Loyola University, Chicago, IL, in 2013.

He served as a work-study assistant with the Evanston Vet Center and the Quad Cities Vet Center in Moline, IL.

Mike completed advanced internship rotations with the Homeless

Domiciliary and OIF/OEF Combat Case Managers at the Capt. James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (North Chicago, IL) and was employed as an Aftercare Case Manager/HVRP Employment Specialist with TLS Veterans (McHenry, IL).

Mike served in the U.S. Coast Guard for 5 years, working in Search and Rescue and Law Enforcement throughout the Chicago area waterways.

Mike has been a social worker at the Des Moines Vet Center since 2013.

HEALTHCARE BENEFITS

The very first step in obtaining access to your VA Health Benefits is to apply for enrollment.

You will need a copy of your DD-214 to make application.

To make application you can attend the Supermarket on Nov. 5th call for an appointment with Story County Veterans affairs at 515-956-2626 or 515-956-2625.

EDUCATION BENEFITS BRIEF SUMMARY

The Veterans Administration administers ten educational assistance programs, each with different eligibility criteria.

Typically, a Veteran's eligibility is based on his or her dates of active duty. Generally, only VA can determine an applicant's eligibility. Specific information regarding education benefits can be obtained from education services of the VA by calling 1-888-GI-Bill-1 or 1-800-827-1000 or visiting www.va.gov.

You will need your DD-214 to apply for any education program. If you need help, each college has a Veterans representative on staff that can help.

Presidential Memorial Certificate

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an embossed paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of deceased Veterans who are eligible for burial in a national cemetery.

History

This program initiated in March 1962 by President John F. Kennedy.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) administers the PMC program by preparing the certificates, which bear the current President's signature expressing the country's grateful recognition of the Veteran's service in the United States Armed Forces.

Application

An eligible recipient (i.e., next of kin, a relative or friend upon request, or an authorized service

representative acting on behalf of such relative or friend) may apply for a PMC by completing a [VA Form 40-0247, Presidential Memorial Certificate Request Form](#). This form can be found on line at www.VA.GOV or by making an appointment at Story County Veterans Affairs.

MOVE! Weight Management Program

MOVE! Weight Management Program supported by VA's National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (NCP). We are celebrating the 10th anniversary of MOVE! A tremendous amount has been learned about weight management since our inception in January 2006. Over the years we

have refined MOVE! To keep up with this new knowledge. As a result, we at NCP are proud to make available to our Veterans the most up-to-date approaches for weight management.

Make sure to ask about it at your next VA appointment or call 1-515-699-5999 and ask to speak with a

staff member at the VA Move!

For more information about MOVE just click on the link below.

<https://www.move.va.gov/>

VA Medical Mobile Unit

Central Iowa VA Virtual Health has scheduled an onsite visit to provide services to Veterans at a location near you! The unit will allow Veterans to schedule appointments to meet with their VA healthcare provider in a secure and private Virtual Medical Room. The below lists outline several of the services which will be offered with more to come. To schedule a VA visit on the Virtual Mobile Clinic, call 515-201-1416. It is our pleasure to serve you and VA staff are standing by to accommodate your virtual needs using Telehealth.

Services Available for Scheduling

1. Primary Care
2. Respiratory
3. Oncology
4. Cardiology
5. Tele-wound
6. Tele-dermatology
7. Urology
8. Mental health
9. Nutrition
10. Social Work

11. Speech Therapy
12. Occupational Therapy
13. Physical Therapy
14. Lab Draws
15. Vaccination

Walk-in Availability

1. Tele-Eligibility
2. Blood Pressure Checks
3. Battlefield Acupuncture
4. Home Telehealth Screening/ Enrollment Scheduling
5. Live Telehealth Scheduling
6. My HealthVet Enrollment

**VA of Central Iowa
Healthcare System
Virtual Mobile Clinic
October 29, 2021
8:00 am to 2:00 pm
126 S. Kellogg Ave
Ames, IA 50010**



