



IOWA VETERANS HOME

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For immediate release

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Iowa Veterans Home to Hold Agent Orange & Toxic Exposure Town Hall Meeting



The Iowa Veterans Home will host a Agent Orange and Toxic exposure Town Hall meeting for Vietnam Veterans and families. The event will be held at the Iowa Veterans Home on Saturday, April 7, 2018 in the Malloy Leisure Resource Center. The meeting will consist of two sessions. The morning session is scheduled for 9-12:00 pm with the afternoon session for 1-4:00 pm. The Vietnam Veterans of America, Story County, Chapter 1102 will host the event. All Vietnam War veterans and their families are invited to talk about all health effects they are experiencing because of wartime exposure to Agent Orange and Toxic Exposure. All modern day warriors are encouraged to attend. The Town Hall is part of a campaign that was

started eight years ago by the Vietnam Veterans of America to raise awareness of toxic effects of the herbicide Agent Orange and other toxic chemicals that were widely sprayed during the war.

“We are honored to be able to be part of this event for Vietnam Veterans and their families. The exposure of Agent Orange containing a cancerous element called dioxin has already claimed the lives of many Vietnam Veterans throughout the years to include their children and now their grandchildren. We wanted to afford the VVA of Story County, Chapter 1102 the opportunity to host this Town Hall meeting at IVH. We want to continue to educate our Veterans and their families,” said Commandant Oujiri.

Agent Orange was made with tetrachlorodibenzodioxin, or dioxin for short, and is a potent cancer causing agent. Several publicans have been published to show increased rates of leukemia, Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, soft-tissue sarcoma and chloracne in people exposed to it and may be associated with other cancers and neurological disorders as well. With the exception of liver cancer, these are the same conditions the Veterans Administration has determined may be associated with exposure to Agent Orange/Dioxin, and are on the list of the conditions eligible for compensation and treatment. Vietnam Veterans of America organizations believe that their children and now grandchildren of exposed veterans also are suffering from cancer, birth defects and other health impacts. There was 22 million gallons of sprayed Agent Orange used in Vietnam. The use of this chemical has left many Vietnam Veterans sick and disabled. Military personnel who were involved in storage, mixture and transportation including aircraft mechanics, and actual use of the chemicals were probably among those who received the heaviest exposures.

“Agent Orange was one of the worst error of judgements that was used during the war. Many have suffered throughout the years having died to the effects of Agent Orange and Toxic Exposure. Today several Vietnam Veterans, children and grandchildren are suffering from the effects of Agent Orange,” said John L. Kost, a member of the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs and President of the Vietnam Veterans of America of Story County, Chapter 1102 in Ames, Iowa.

“Our Vietnam Veterans and their families deserve continued awareness of this deadly presumptive disease that was caused by Agent Orange. Whether this was caused by bad judgment or not, our men and women once again answered the call to fight a war that was not very popular. The benefits and health care that our Veterans today receive from the Veterans Administration is a tribute to our Vietnam Veterans. They have fought many battles for the Veteran. I truly believe that they (Vietnam Veterans) have paved the way for a better VA system for our current and future Veterans. Our medical professionals including federal and state legislators must continue to research this deadly disease (Agent Orange) and other toxins to keep all Veterans and descendants of Vietnam Veterans fully educated. I would encourage all Veterans of the Gulf War and Iraq and Afghanistan to attend this Town Hall as well. It will be a very educational event.” said Michael Hines, IVH Executive Assistant, who is a retired U.S. Army First Sergeant, and a veteran of the Iraqi and Afghanistan Wars and numerous overseas deployments.
