

The Dane County Veteran

May 2007

Madison veterans firing squad

by Michael Jackson, Dane County Veterans Service Officer

Dane County veterans and their families are well served by a wonderful volunteer organization well known to area funeral directors and cemeteries. It is the Madison Veterans Firing Squad whose members perform hundreds of grave site ceremonies at the funerals of local veterans.

Although no one can say for sure when it first started, the group began informally in the late 1950's. However, in 1970, they were formally organized at VFW Post 1318 with eight members. Currently, the squad consists of 13 members under the leadership of Commander Eugene (Gene) Grunewald and Squad Captain William (Bill) Kopplin. Dedication runs deep in the hearts of these men and women as they perform services in rain or shine, sweltering heat or freezing cold.

Funeral directors or family members will normally notify the squad of the death of an honorably



discharged veteran. More often than not, donations to the squad come from the funeral director and families who are very appreciative and moved by the ceremony conducted.

As the Dane County veterans service officer, I hear the sincerity and appreciation expressed by many
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Madison VA Hospital team for returning combat veterans

by Cari Myles

Returning Global War on Terrorism combat veterans are receiving exceptional care and attention at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veteran's Hospital in Madison along with VA medical facilities throughout the country.

In response to identified needs, the Veterans Health Administration has issued a Directive establishing procedures in the transition of care, coordination of services, care and case management of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) active duty service members and veterans. This comprehen-



sive directive and handbook establishes several new positions dedicated to a seamless transition from the combat field to care at the Veteran's Hospital. These positions include nurse or social worker OEF-OIF program manager positions at VA medical centers, Transition Patient Advocate positions for seriously injured combat veterans, and social work and/or nurse case managers for all returning combat veterans.

Although the VA established the Office of Seamless Transition in January 2005 to coordinate efforts between the military treatment facilities and the Veteran's Health Administration hospitals to promote and optimize transition assistance for severely

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of the families when I meet with them in our office. Occasional thank you cards for the squad are sent to us and we forward them to the squad.

Ceremonies were performed at 45 local funerals from January to April, 2007 and many miles were traveled.

Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk was so impressed with the squad and their accomplishments that she signed a proclamation in their honor – proclaiming Saturday, February 3, 2007, as “Madison Veterans’ Firing Squad Day” in Dane County.

Congratulations Madison Veterans’ Firing Squad. We are proud of you!

If you require more information or would like to support the squad, please contact Gene Grunewald at (608) 241-0006 or Bill Kopplin at (608) 222-4622.

CVSO at Oakhill

A Dane County Veterans Service Officer visits Oakhill Correctional Institute near Oregon on a regularly scheduled basis to serve veteran inmates who are in the last stages of incarceration before returning to society.

According to Assistant Service Officer Dan Connery, “Many of these men are on the verge of being released back into society. Whether it is help with obtaining education benefits or enrollment into the VA health care system, we are there to help guide them towards any available veterans benefit that can help them become productive members in our society.”

A toast to veterans

Sponsored by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation

by Christine Scoville

What do I have to do for a chance to **win two FREE Airline tickets**? You still have time to be entered into the drawing to win! Visit www.wvmfoundation.com and fill out our market survey online. Join the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation and the Channel 3 Morning News Team as we “Toast to the Veterans” at Capital Brewery on Saturday, June 23rd where we will be announcing the winner. The event is open to the public.

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wounded service members transitioning to the VA; this new directive establishes further positions dedicated to improving the provision of quality and timely services to this new veteran population.

Even prior to the release of this new directive, the Madison VA hospital established a full time position for an OEF/OIF coordinator, Cari Myles, to reach out to returning veterans to help them in every aspect of their transition from



VA Hospital

warrior to veteran. An OEF/OIF transition patient advocate, Jeanne Button, was recently hired and three more employees will soon join the Chief of Social Work Services, Bob Kelter, to form the Returning Combat Veteran’s team at the Madison VA Hospital.

The VA hospital routinely screens returning veterans for a variety of possible combat-related maladies, including depression, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and offers empirically based treatment for veterans who need help with readjustment to civilian life. The VA offers free medical care for a period of two years from return from combat for conditions the veteran identifies as being related to their combat experience.

If you have any questions, want further information, or know of an OEF/OIF veteran that may not know about the VA efforts to welcome them home, please contact Cari Myles at (608) 256-1901 extension 11297 or via email at Carolyn.myles@va.gov

The main event starts at 4:00 p.m. where you can enjoy some great Capital brews as well as delicious catered food. Come meet Channel 3’s morning personalities and enjoy music as well as a film showing of “Two Days in October” at dusk. A \$20 donation for our prize drawing will give you a chance to win a NEW Video I-POD among other exciting prizes.

For more information, visit www.wvmfoundation.com fundraising events or call (608)264-6086.

Women veterans conference

by Christine Scoville, Dane County Assistant Veterans Service Officer

In January, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs appointed a Women Veterans Committee to assist with identifying the needs and concerns of women service members and veterans, and to establish a statewide Women Veterans Conference. The first Wisconsin Women Veterans Conference is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 29, from 9:00 to 4:00 with registration at 8:00 at the Wisconsin Military Academy at Ft. McCoy. Guest speaker will be Dr. Betty Moseley Brown, associate director for the Veterans Administration Center for Women Veterans in Washington, DC. A reception will be held at Ft. McCoy on Friday evening for all who wish to attend.

To be able to address the needs and concerns of Wisconsin's women veterans, we need to hear from you on your needs and concerns. To date, the WDVA has contact information for only about 5 percent of women veterans in Wisconsin. For ongoing information please contact the Dane County Veterans Service Office or complete the mailing form on the state web-

site, www.dva.state.wi.us/womenvets/ to be contacted with the important issues impacting women veterans as they arise in the future. In order to create a successful conference and provide information on the issues that concern you, please complete the survey as soon as possible and return to WDVA or the Dane County CVSO office. The more input received the better we can serve your needs. If you have concerns or comments not addressed in the survey, please include those in your response.

Thank you for your assistance and we look forward to seeing you at the first Wisconsin Women Veterans Conference.



Brown

Wisconsin GI Bill update Free tuition starts with next school year

by Dan Connery, Dane County Assistant Veterans Service Officer

Starting this summer for Wisconsin Technical College System schools and this fall for UW-System schools, eligible Wisconsin veterans using the Wisconsin GI Bill will receive a tuition and fee remission (waiver) of 100 percent. Previously, veterans using this benefit received a tuition and fee waiver of 50 percent.

Basic WI GI Bill facts-

- To receive this benefit, eligibility must be established with the WDVA
- Must have been a WI resident at time of entry into active duty service
- Benefit recipient must reside in WI
- Benefit is extended to qualifying spouses and de-

pendent children of service-connected Wisconsin veterans with a combined VA rating of at least 30 percent regardless of where the service-connected rating was awarded

- Can be used concurrently with the Montgomery GI Bill
- Applications must be submitted within 14 calendar days of the start of the fall or spring semester/term or by June 1 for summer sessions

Please help get the word out about this benefit. If you have any questions, call our office at 608-266-4158 or visit http://dva.state.wi.us/Ben_education.asp#WIGI for more details.



Veterans Memorial Gardens at the Alliant Energy Center

MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES

Forest Hill Cemetery

Speedway Rd. and Regent St., Madison.

- 7:00 – Wreath laying ceremony, by VFW National Commander-In-Chief Lyle Beggs at graves near road & Soldiers Rest. Organized by VFW Post 1318.
- 8:10 – Flag presentation ceremony, UW-ROTC, invocation, short oration, rifle salute, taps, at rear (north) near Glenway Golf Course. Organized by Madison Veterans Council.
- 8:30 – Flag presentation ceremony, reenactors, invocation, short orations, rifle salute, taps, at Union Rest near houses - east side. Organized by Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.
- 8:50 – Flag presentation ceremony, reenactors, invocation, short oration, rifle salute, taps, at Confederate Rest near houses - east side. Organized by Sons of the Confederacy –61st Georgia Inf.

Veterans Memorial Coliseum

Alliant Energy Center, by Veterans Memorial Garden, John Nolen Dr. and Rimrock Rd., Madison.

- 1:00 – Patriotic displays, flag posting invocation, garden dedication, rose & bell, rifle salute, taps. Organized by Madison Veterans Council.

Naval & Marine Reserve Center

1430 Wright St. near and north of East Washington Ave.

- 4:00 – Flag ceremony, invocation, short oration, wreath laid, bell ceremony, rifle salute, taps. Organized by Marine Corps League.

VFW Post 10272 and Brooklyn AL Post 160

- 8:00 – Jug Prairie Cemetery
- 8:15 – German Church Cemetery
- 8:45 – Graves Cemetery
- 9:00 – Rutland Cemetery
- 9:30 – Storytown Cemetery
- 10:00 – War Memorial @ Oregon
- 10:30 – Prairie Mound & St. Mary's Cemetery
- 10:45 – Dunn Cemetery
- 11:15 – Brooklyn Cemetery
- 12:45 – Fitchburg Wayside Memorial

VFW Post 7591, Madison

- 9:00 – Memorial Service @ Monona Dr. & Nichols Rd.
- 10:00 – Monona Grove Memorial Parade, starts at Monona Grove High School
- 11:00 – Services @ Blooming Grove Cemetery
- 12:00 – Services @ Roselawn Memorial Cemetery
- 1:00 – Services @ Highland Memory Cemetery
- 2:00 – Services @ VFW, 301 Cottage Grove Rd. for members of post who passed away last year.

MAY 28 2007



Last year's parade in Cambridge

AL Post 460, Belleville

10:00 – Services @ Belleville High School

AL Post 313, Black Earth

8:30 – Start @ John Bird's office to conduct services @ 4 rural cemeteries & Village of Black Earth Veterans Memorial Park

11:00 – Annual meeting @ John Bird's office, a potluck luncheon to follow

AL Post 437, Mazomanie

10:00 – Memorial Services @ Elementary School
Gold Star Mother Service, followed by Memorial Services @ both cemeteries,
Potluck dinner @ Community Building,
public Invited

AL Post 534, McFarland

6:00 – Flags are put up

8:00 – Memorial services @ 2 cemeteries and park

12:00 – Parade starts at middle school

1:30 – Memorial Services @ Post.

5:00 – Flag Retirement Service

VFW Post 328 & AL Post 59, Stoughton

10:00 – Parade followed by Memorial Services @ Mandt Park. Return to Post for social, public invited. If rain, program @11:00 at Mandt Park.

VFW Post 8216, Middleton

9:30– St. Lukes Cemetery, corner of Weber Rd. and Century Pl., Middleton.

AL POST 245, Cross Plains & WI Vietnam Veterans

Services at six local cemeteries

10:45 – Parade

11:30 – Memorial Service @ Legion Park. Chicken BBQ following services for a nominal fee.

AL Post 279, Marshall

10:00 – Parade. Program will start about 10:30 at Marshall Elementary School.

Guest speaker: General Denson.

AL Post 360 & VFW Post 11244, Waunakee

10:30 – Parade from Old Village Hall parking lot. Following parade, Memorial Services at Village Park. Speakers and reading names of deceased veterans. Potluck to follow at the Legion bldg. – bring dish to pass. Public invited. Hot dogs & soda provided.

Korean war tribute nears completion

by Bob Berglund, Korean Tribute Committee Member

The soon to be completed Korean War Tribute is located at The Highground west of Neillsville. Currently, the project fund drive is \$10,500 short in order to finish the near \$200,000 project.

The Korean War Tribute will be more than just a couple of pieces of bronze. Surrounding the pond and the statues to represent the Korean Peninsula will be a series of plaques which will tell the historic and personal stories of the war and people involved. In addition to these, another series of plaques will line the rice paddies which face the tribute. These plaques are similar to Legacy Stones which make up a large portion of the walkway on the Vietnam Memorial Plaza. There are only a limited number for sale and the cost is \$575.

To make your contribution to the Korean War Tribute or to purchase a Korean War Tribute plaque contact The Highground at P.O. Box 457, Neillsville, WI 54456-0457 or call 715 743-4224.



Korean Tribute Dedication

Saturday July 28, at 10:00

Everyone is invited.

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and the Milwaukee Brewers “team up” for third year for Stars and Stripes Sundays at Miller Park

For the third consecutive season, the Milwaukee Brewers will honor members of the United States Armed Forces through Stars and Stripes Sundays. During each Sunday home game in 2007, the Brewers are offering two FREE Terrace Level tickets to active and retired military personnel.



The offer applies to all branches of the military service. Active and retired military personnel must present valid military identification which entitles them to two FREE Terrace Level tickets redeemable at windows 7-12 at Miller Park on the day of game only.

This offer is based on ticket availability.

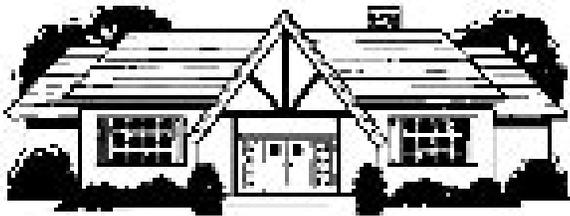
Tickets for Armed Forces Night on Saturday, May 19 when the Brewers take on the Minnesota Twins at 6:05 are available through the Armed Forces Committee. Interested parties can contact Anthony Cooling at the United States Coast Guard office at 414-747-7085 for ticket information. Tickets purchased through the Coast Guard office are offered at a reduced price with a portion of the sale benefiting the Armed Forces Committee.

In addition, the Brewers and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs will recognize returning veterans throughout the 2007 season through the Mission Welcome Home program. On one Sunday of each month, a branch of the military and its representatives will be honored at Miller Park beginning on April 22.

State veterans home loan programs back in business with 6% interest rate

from WDVA Press Release

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) has made available \$61 million for mortgage loans of up to \$395,500 at 6 percent interest, for a qualifying state veteran's primary in-state residence. The home loans may be used to finance the purchase or construction of a single family home or the purchase of a condominium or 2-4 unit family residence that will be the veteran's principle residence. The loan requires a 5 percent down payment. The down payment may be provided in whole or in part by an approved down payment assistance program. Additionally, the qualifying veteran must be no more than 25 years from the date of discharge from active duty



military service at the time of application.

In order to take advantage of the home loan program, the veteran must establish eligibility with the WDVA directly or through their County Veterans Service Office. To qualify, veterans must be a current Wisconsin resident and have either entered active duty from Wisconsin or have been a resident for 12 continuous months following that time. The veteran must be discharged under honorable conditions and must have served on active federal military duty for at least 90 days during a statutorily designated wartime period or two years during peacetime, or meet one of a number of active duty service exemptions. Information is available on the internet at www.dva.state.wi.us/loans or toll free at 1-800-WIS-VETS (1-800-947-8387) or contact the Dane County Veterans Service Office at 266-4158.



Veterans at the First Time Home Buyers Fair held at the Alliant Energy Center on Apr. 28 were served by Assistant Dane County Veteran Service Officers Chris Scoville and Dan Connery along with Dale Koebke of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (center).

The Dane County Veteran is published by the Dane County Veterans Service Office
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Announcements and news contributions are welcome.

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1919 Alliant Energy Center Way
Madison, WI 53713
(608) 266-4158

A veterans service office is near you

Main Office

1919 Alliant Energy Center Way
Monday-Friday: 7:45 to 4:30.

The **Stoughton** Area Senior Center,
248 W. Main St.
Most Fridays from 8 until 4.

The **Sun Prairie** branch of the
Summit Credit Union,
1333 W. Main
Most first and third Tuesday
afternoons each month, 12 until 4.

Oregon Senior Center

219 Park Street
Most 2nd Fridays, 1 until 4

VA Hospital

Most 4th Mondays of each month - 9
until 3.

Black Earth 1116 Mills St.

Most fourth Tuesdays each month 8
until noon

UW - Madison campus

Vets for Vets, 714 University Ave.
Most Thursdays, 9 until 3

Appointments recommended

266-4158