



2006-2007

A memorable year

By Michael R. Jackson, CVSO

I was honored by my colleagues in September, 2006, when they elected me president of the County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) Association of Wisconsin at our Fall training conference in Hayward, Wisconsin. What an interesting and challenging year it was. I saw the opportunity as a personal growth experience for me with valuable lessons learned.



Jackson

Having a statewide focus, or seeing the “big picture” of veteran activities in Wisconsin was a gift. Such a perspective allowed me to understand the importance of the day-to-day activities conducted in county veterans service offices throughout Wisconsin. We serve at the grass roots level and serving as a CVSO is also a valuable gift. Modern technology and communication have their merits and I see them as assets, but not replacements for the daily face-to-face contact we offer in assisting veterans and their families in improving their quality of life while accessing the benefits and entitlement they have earned.

In honor of Veterans Day 2007, my appreciation and thanks to my co-workers’ support and assistance this past year.

Holy Cross Lutheran School veterans program

By Jim Larson

The preschool through eighth grade students of Holy Cross Lutheran School cordially invite all veterans and their loved ones to the school’s annual Veterans’ Program on November 9th at 6:30 p.m. The program will be held in the gymnasium at Holy Cross and will honor all branches of our Armed Forces with patriotic music, readings, and handmade gifts from the children.

Veterans who would like to wear their uniform are asked to please do so, as it is wonderful for the students to see the different types.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School is located at 2670 Milwaukee St. in Madison, and is handicapped accessible. Please call at 249-3101 with any questions.

Flag holders available at Dane County Veterans Service Office

By Jim Larson

Ever wondered what kind of gesture might further pay tribute to a deceased loved one’s military service? Even with a headstone or marker that briefly describes the veteran’s service in the armed forces, one can further pay tribute with a flag holder. Families of deceased veterans whose grave sites do not have flag holders may want to obtain one in time for Veterans Day.

Many veterans organizations, such as the VFW or American Legion, often go through the cemeteries on Memorial Day, 4th of July and Veterans Day to place flags at the veterans’ grave sites. High-quality, bronze flag holders are available at the Dane County Veteran Service office for \$21.00 each. These come in different styles, depending on the period of service.

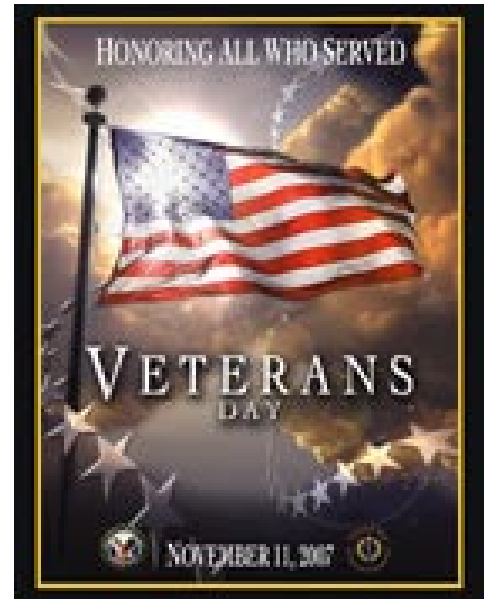
Since we do not mail these out to customers our flag holders are only available for purchase at our office, located at the Alliant Energy Center. No appointment is necessary to get one, so just drop by at your convenience during our regular business hours: 7:45 to 4:30, Monday through Friday.



Recognizing The Sacrifices of All Who Served

**Veteran's Day
November 11**

**Capitol Rotunda
Madison, Wisconsin**



Program

- 9:30 – Band concert
- 10:00 – Welcome
- Presentation of colors
- National Anthem
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation
- Introduction of guests
- Rose Ceremony
- Rifle salute & taps
- Recessional

11:00 Moment of silence in honor of all who have come before us

OTHER VETERANS DAY ACTIVITIES

Friday, November 9

Stoughton

Friday, November 9 at the Stoughton Senior Center,
248 W. Main St.

11:45 – Presentation from Foxbury School
12:00 – Free lunch for all veterans. Please call
873-8585 for reservations by 11/09/06.

Verona

11:00 – Flag ceremony at Hometown Junction
11:45 – Lunch and speakers at the Verona Senior
Center, 108 Paoli St. Please call
845-7471 in advance for reservations.

Waunakee

10:15 – Program at Middle School Gym,
1001 South Street

Deerfield

8:00 a.m. – Program at Deerfield High School,
414 Beloit Street

Sunday, November 11

Sun Prairie

VFW Post 9362, 949 S. Walker Way
11:00 – Program
12:00 – Cookout (brats and burgers)

Oregon

Sponsored by VFW Post 10272
11:00 – Memorial service/short program at WWI
Monument in Triangle Park
12:00 – Free lunch and musical entertainment for
veterans at Oregon Senior Center,
219 Park St.

Verona

4:00 to 8:00 – Chili Supper at the AL Post,
207 N. Legion St

Federal VA contracting for long term care

Taken from CVSO Insights

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has been providing nursing home care to veterans for over 41 years. The Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, Public Law 106-117, made important changes to the VA's nursing home program in an effort to address the growing need for long-term care among our most severely service connected disabled veterans. The Act had required that the VA provide nursing home care to veterans with a service connected disability rating of 70 percent or greater, when the need for care was related to a condition of their service and for those that were receiving nursing home care in a VA nursing home. It also includes those that are 60 percent service-connected disabled and are classified as unemployable or permanently and totally disabled.

The Veterans Administration, to keep pace with the demand for long-term care services for its veterans, enters into long-term care contracts with private nursing homes. The private nursing home must meet compliance issues to qualify. The VA contracted facility is paid in full at the contracted rate eliminating patient liability. The veteran keeps all of their income to include service connected compensation. State veterans homes have been excluded from entering into these contracts with the federal VA, which meant the veteran would be liable for care charges otherwise covered through a private nursing home VA contract.

The federal VA has partnered with state veterans homes to provide services to veterans in need of long-term care services. The federal VA provides grants to states for a portion of construction, renovation and operating costs. It is this federal assistance that has enabled the State of Wisconsin to expand services from its first state veterans home at King to the new state veterans home in Union Grove and likely in a few years to the Chippewa Falls area. The federal VA also pays a small daily per diem to the state for each veteran it cares for.

In May, 2007, Public Law 109-461, Section 211, provided VA authority to pay State Veterans Homes the prevailing rate or the home's daily cost of care, whichever is less, for veterans in need of long-term care services and who are 70 percent service connected, need long-term care as a result of their service connected condition or are 60 percent service connected disabled and unemployable or permanently and totally disabled. A July 23, 2007 response to U.S. Senator Russell D. Feingold from VA Secretary R. James Nicholson conveys that the "VA is developing the regulations that are necessary to implement the provisions of section 211." "...once regulations and rates are finalized, retroactive payments will be made to State Veterans Homes." Stakeholders continue to wait for the federal VA to promulgate rules.

Vet Center moves

By Dorothy Carskadon

Starting November 7, the Vet Center will be located at 706 Williamson Street, just three blocks from their old location.

Even though the Vet Center has moved, the quality services will still remain. We will still happily greet and have coffee available to all who stop by.

As our staff grows, we will increase our services insuring that we provide excellent services to the Veteran's Community.

We invite you to stop on by - have a cup of coffee - have a tour of the new place.

Vet
Center



706 Williamson St.

**December 7 from 11 to 1
All are welcome**

Commemoration Ceremony – Celebrating 25 Years

After 25 years of providing services at 147 S. Butler St., it is time to close the doors. We wish to honor all the wonderful work with Vietnam and Vietnam era veterans that has been done here through the years.

Grand Opening – a New Beginning

After the Commemoration Ceremony, we will walk to 706 Williamson Street to celebrate our Grand Opening of the New Madison Vet Center – where we will continue to provide excellent outreach, referral and counseling services to all combat veterans and their families, sexual trauma victims, and bereavement counseling for families who had a service member die while on Active Duty.

Refreshments afterward at the new Madison Vet Center.

Women veterans conference

By Chris Scoville, asst. CVSO

On September 29, the first Women Veterans Conference was held at Ft. McCoy with 160 participants attending spanning eras from WWII, Korean War, Vietnam veterans through current active duty personnel. The theme of the conference was “WOMEN VETERANS – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.”

The conference was sponsored by Wisconsin Dept. of Veterans Affairs and organized by a committee of women veterans representing several veterans service organizations including Dane County Veterans Service Office and with active duty, National Guard and reserve service members.

The special guest speaker was Dr. Betty Moseley Brown, associate director of the US Department of Veteran Affairs Center for Women Veterans who traveled from Washington to participate in the conference. Moseley Brown talked about the history and demographics of women veterans.

The second guest speaker was Maj. Cynthia Rasmussen of Ft. McCoy. Rasmussen is a combat operational stress control officer who talked about “Coming Home from War: A Community Response to Our Veterans.” She also talked about several key topics of specific interest to women veterans, including reintegration, PTSD, sexual assault, depression, and suicide among women veterans.

Other speakers included Dr. Amy Banks, from Stone Center of Wellesley College in Massachusetts who spoke about heart disease in women, and the physi-



Wisconsin Women Veterans Conference Committee

cal and emotional causes of stress and how they relate to heart disease.

Break-out sessions in the afternoon provided information on federal and state benefits, education benefits, PTSD, personal finances, investments and retirement. Speakers for the afternoon sessions on benefits included Holly Hoppe, Oconto CVSO; Chris Jordan, Walworth CVSO; and Chris Scoville, Asst. Dane CVSO. For more information about next year’s conference and women veterans issues, go to the WDVA website at www.dva.state.wi.us/women vets or contact Dane County Veterans Service Office at 266-4158.



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Announcements and news contributions are welcome.

Dane County Veterans Service Office
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 each month, 1 until 4

VA Hospital

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

Black Earth

116 Mills St.
Most fourth Tuesdays each month 8 until noon

University of Wisconsin

Vets for Vets, 714 University Ave.
Most Thursdays from 8 until 3.

Appointments recommended

266-4158