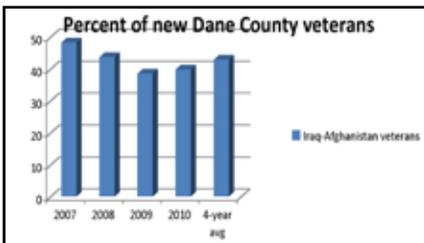


## Veteran benefits bring \$124 million to county New veterans adding to total

By Dan Connery, Interim CVSO

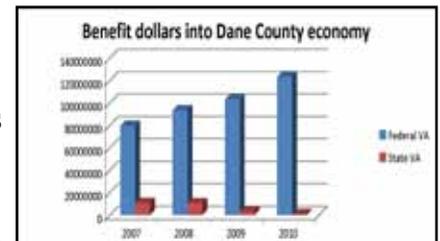
In recent years, the Dane County Veterans Service has seen a steady stream of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom veterans coming in for services. From 2007 through 2010, nearly 43 percent of those new to our office are veterans of the recent Iraq and Afghanistan wars.



Over the same period, federal and state VA benefit dollars and services brought into Dane County have risen more than 38 percent to over \$124 million in 2010.

While benefit dollars brought into Dane County often provide much needed income for individual veterans

and families, monies received also provide a recurring boost to our local economy. The Dane County Veterans Service Office is honored to play an instrumental role in helping our veterans acquire benefits. Our new veteran numbers are likely to continue for the foreseeable future; however, it is important to emphasize that our veterans service office proudly serves all Dane County veterans and their eligible family members. If you know a veteran who may need assistance, please have them call our office.



## Transitions

By Dan Connery, Interim CVSO

In January 2011, former Dane County Veterans Service Officer Michael Jackson officially retired after nearly 23 years of service to the men and women of Dane County. In total, Michael's service to veterans spanned more than 30 years. The Dane County Veterans Service Office would like to thank Michael for being a wonderful advocate, supervisor, mentor, and friend. We miss your laugh, wit, and experience, but we also know you certainly earned your retirement. Thank you for all you have done, Michael!



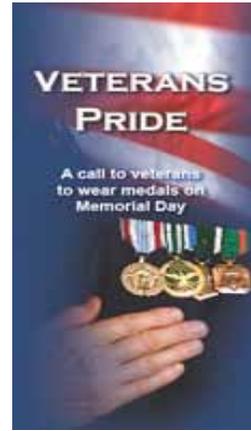
In April 2011, former Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk stepped down from her position after 14

years of service to the citizens of Dane County. We would like to thank former County Executive Falk for her support to Dane County veterans and the Veterans Service Office. Falk's historic tenure as County Executive ended on April 19 when newly elected Dane County Executive Joe Parisi was sworn in. In the months and years to come, we look forward to forging a strong relationship with County Executive Parisi, as the need for services for our veterans will undoubtedly continue.





# MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES May 30, 2011



## **Forest Hill Cemetery**

Speedway Rd. and Regent St., Madison.

8:00 – Assembly at Soldiers' Rest. Organized by VFW Post 1318.

8:10 – Service at Soldiers' Rest. Organized by Madison Veterans Council.

8:30 – Service at Union Rest National Cemetery. Conducted by The Sons of the Union Veterans & its Auxiliary.

8:50 – Service at Confederate Rest. Organized by the 61<sup>st</sup> Georgia Infantry.

## **State Capitol Building – State Street**

(Rain Location 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Rotunda)

9:30 – Band Concert.

10:00-Memorial Service. Posting of the Colors, National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation. Introduction of Honored Guests, General Logan's Memorial Day Proclamation; Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Choir, Speakers, Rose Ceremony, Conclusion. Rifle Salute, Buglers, Benediction. Organized by Madison Veterans Council.

## **VFW Post 10272, Oregon/Brooklyn**

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 Grove High School.

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 @ Madison Veterans Memorial

3:00 – Services @ VFW, 301 Cottage Grove Rd. for members of post who passed away last year.

## **AL Post 460, Belleville**

10:00 – Services @ Belleville High School

## **AL Post 313, Black Earth**

8:00 Legion assembles at Legion Hall

8:45 Sunny Hill Cemetery Honors

9:00 Oak Hill Cemetery Honors

9:30 St. James Cemetery Honors

10:15 Vermont Church Cemetery Honors

10:30 Veteran's Park Honors

10:45 Legion Meeting at Legion Hall

11:30 Lunch

## **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 – Flag Raising Ceremony @ 2 cemeteries
- 12:00 – Parade starts at Christ the King Church
- 1:00 – Memorial Services @ Post. Speaker: John Stofflet from WMTV channel 15.
- 5:00 - Flags come down, folded & put away.

**VFW Post 328 & AL Post 59, Stoughton**

- 10:00 – Parade (no parade if rain)
- 11:00 - Memorial Services @ AL Post 59
- 12:00 – Social at Post 59. Public invited.

**VFW Post 8216, Middleton**

- 9:30– St. Peters Cemetery, 7121 County K, Ashton

**AL POST 245, Cross Plains & WI Vietnam Veterans**

- 6:00 - Services at six local cemeteries
- 11:00 - Parade
- 11:30 – Chicken BBQ at Cross Plains pool
- 11:30 – Memorial Service @ Legion Park.

**AL Post 279, Marshall**

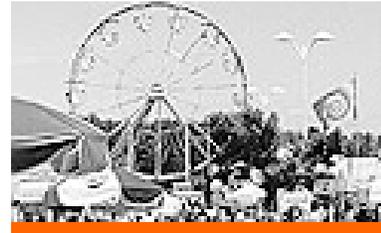
- 10:00 – Parade. Program will start on/about 10:30 at Marshall Elementary School.

**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.

**VFW Post 9362 & AL Post 333, Sun Prairie**

- 10:00 – Parade
- 11:00 – Memorial Service @ Post 9362, 349 S. Walker Way, Sun Prairie
- 12:00 – Chicken Barbeque at Post 9362



**You're Invited to  
Military Appreciation  
Day at the Dane County  
Fair, Thursday, July 21**

The Dane County Fair cordially invites all military personnel and their families to Military Appreciation Day on Thursday, July 21. The fair is held at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wisconsin. Visit [www.danecountyfair.com](http://www.danecountyfair.com) for more information.

**Free Admission for all Military Families**

In honor of your service, all Armed Forces personnel (active, reserve, retired and veterans) and immediate family members will receive free admission to the fair. Please be sure to bring military identification, such as your Active Duty ID, Families & Dependent ID, VA Health Care ID, Retirement ID, or any other form of military ID. Parking is free at the fair for all attendees.

**Military Equipment and Special Activities**

We hope members from all branches of the armed services will be able to join us for displays of military vehicles and equipment. Additionally, the Red Cross is hosting a blood drive at the fair from 1:00-6:00 p.m. New and returning donors are encouraged to donate. Flag raising and lowering ceremonies will be held at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m., respectively.

Contact the fair for more information or with questions at 608-224-0500. You can also email us at [sorth@wdexpo.com](mailto:sorth@wdexpo.com). The fair is also available online at [www.danecountyfair.com](http://www.danecountyfair.com) and [www.facebook.com/danecountyfair](http://www.facebook.com/danecountyfair).

# Badger Honor Flight, April 2, 2011

By Marjorie Marshman, Vice Chair – Dane County Veterans Service Commission

Our day started at 4:30 am at the Madison Airport. We were checked in, given our name tag, boarding pass, a red jacket and cap. We went upstairs where juice and rolls were served by the Red Cross. We left Madison around 6:30 a.m. and arrived at Dulles Airport in Washington, DC a couple of hours later. Fire trucks greeted us at the airport with streams of water forming an arch over our plane. Airport employees were on the tarmac waving flags. We walked past hundreds of people in the terminal who were extending their hands to express their thanks. It was unbelievable.

The weather that day was not in our favor – sun, rain, sleet at various times of the day. We boarded our assigned buses and, with a police escort, our first stop was Arlington National Cemetery to watch the changing of the guard. Next we went to the Marine Corps Memorial where a group picture was taken. Since it had rained a good share of the morning, we were given plastic ponchos of various colors. That made for a colorful picture. From there we went to the World War II Memorial but we were there only a short time since a storm was coming in and more bad weather. Our next stops were the Vietnam Wall, the Korean Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial. Our last stop was the Air Force Memorial – very impressive.

We went back to the airport and arrived back in Madison at 10 p.m. Again, we walked through hundreds of extended hands thanking us for our service. I know I speak for all WWII veterans that made the trip when I say, “Thanks and God bless you.”



*The Guard at Arlington Cemetery*



*Marine Corps War Memorial*



*WWII Memorial*

The purpose of the Honor Flight Network is to ensure that WWII and terminally ill veterans from any war have the opportunity to see the memorials that have been erected in their honor. The Honor Flight Network provides all amenities to the veterans, including all transportation, meals and lodging. Everything is free to the veterans because of how much they have sacrificed for this great country. The only money veterans need is if they want to buy a souvenir for themselves.

For more information or to donate, visit:  
[www.badgerhonorflight.org](http://www.badgerhonorflight.org)

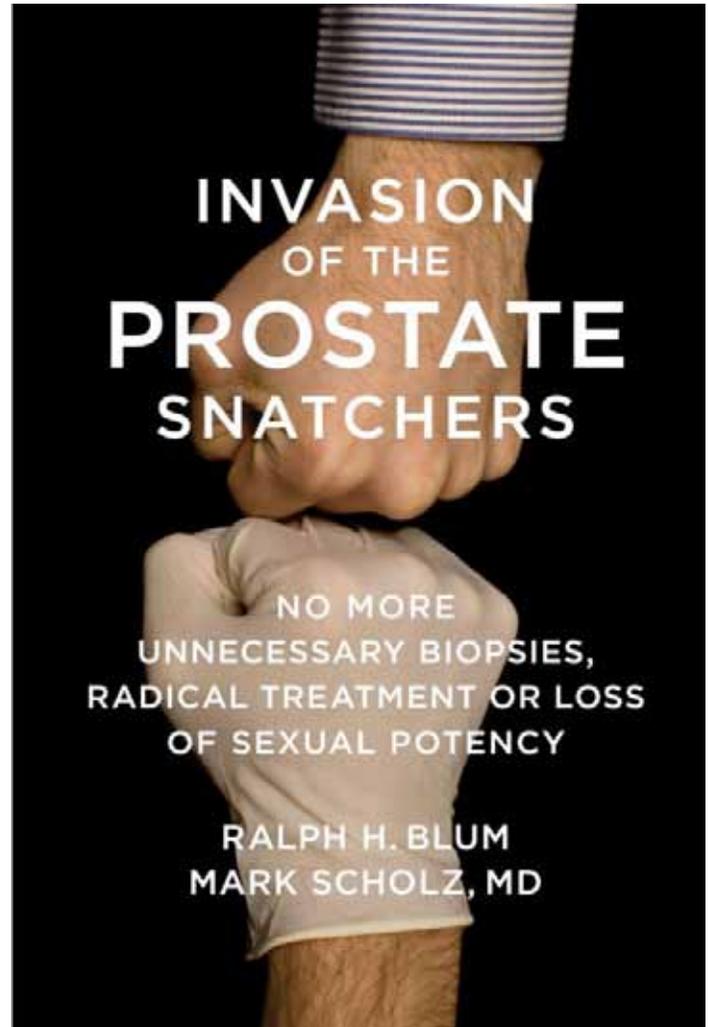
# Invasion of the Prostate Snatchers

Review by Dr. John Hofer, DDS, Chair –Dane County Veterans Service Commission

As most of us know, with aging come issues with a gland we normally take for granted. Warning signs of potential problems include problems urinating, an irregular finding during a prostate exam, or an elevated Prostate Specific Antigen test (PSA). *Invasion of the Prostate Snatchers* by Ralph Blum and Dr. Mark Scholz is very informative and presents guidelines for possible discussions with your urologist or family members.

Blum is a Prostate Cancer survivor and Dr. Scholz is a Prostate Cancer Oncologist. As one of few Prostate Cancer specialists who has performed surgical removal of cancerous prostate glands, his insight is valuable and serves as balance to other medical opinions you may obtain. The book explains issues that may be considered before surgery, including staging of the biopsy results and pathological findings of the biopsy tissues such as low risk, intermediate risk or high risk. There are several different treatment methods, including the robotic removal of the prostate, which some Urologists are quick to suggest. Yet, the results are not always as expected and include many undesirable problems such as impotence, incontinence and pain. Although, I do not endorse any specific treatments within the book, it certainly helped me grasp the complexity of prostate issues.

I received my PSA results from a young Urology resident, who gave me two options – a biopsy or antibiotics to rule out infection. A buddy of mine at the VFW had shared his biopsy experience and I thought I could wait and try a more conservative approach since this was the first time my PSA was elevated. I chose the antibiotic and experienced good results. Vietnam veterans with Agent Orange ratings are typically more concerned. I think many of us may have a gut feeling that if diagnosed with prostate cancer, we should have the prostate removed so we can enjoy some retirement years. However, *Invasion of the Prostate Snatchers* invites you to consider all options. This is not to say, if you have already had surgery, or decided to have surgery, it should be second-guessed. I think this book



and others offer so much information I would urge all middle-aged men to consider reading up on the topic, or referring friends that need to make tough prostate decisions.

I strongly recommend asking your doctor for annual physical exams that include a digital prostate exam and PSA test. If you are not enrolled at a VA medical facility, find one and request an Agent Orange exam to include such tests as part of the exam.

# Support veterans in need

## Consider contributing to our Donated Aid Account

By Lori Redepenning

On a weekly basis we have veterans who contact our office in need of emergency funding for groceries, bus passes, or other unique situations. We maintain the Donated Aid Account to finance these requests, subject to the approval of a service officer. Due to economic hardship this account is dwindling rapidly and we may be forced to deny some veterans in need. Often we are their last resort.

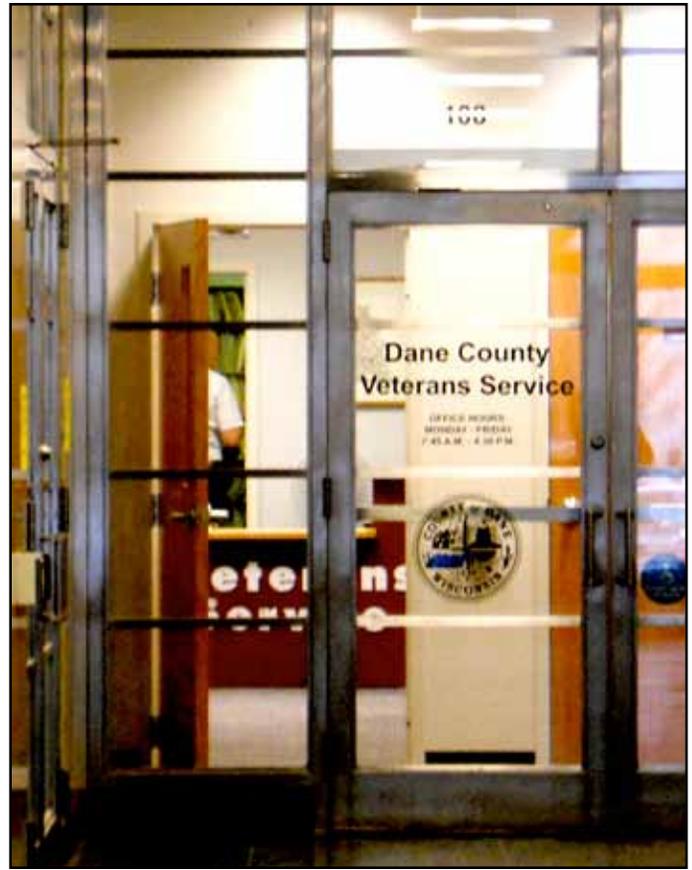
The account was established for the purpose of providing emergency aid to veterans who are not eligible for any other veterans' programs or are just passing through Dane County. To sustain the fund, our office receives a small percentage from vending machine sales. Yet, donations from veterans' organizations and other non-governmental sources typically provides the bulk of the funding. We have not received any donations from outside sources since early 2009.

If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one, or know of any organization willing to donate, we welcome it. Any contribution should be in the form of checks made out to the Dane County Treasurer. The organization or person submitting the donation should note, under the memo portion of the check, "for Dane County Veterans Donated Aid Account." All donations are tax deductible. Please mail donations to the Dane County Veterans Service Office: 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Rm 108, Madison, WI 53703. Thank you!

Post 9/11 GI Bill



Congress recently made changes to the new Post 9-11 GI Bill. For a quick update, go to:  
[gibill.va.gov/benefits/post\\_911\\_gibill/Post911\\_changes.html](http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill/Post911_changes.html)



Come visit us at our new downtown office in Room 108 of the City-County Building, 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Phone: (608) 266-4158

**John Strand**, *PhD candidate / Work Study*



John helps out at Veterans Service during the week and on weekends through the Montgomery G.I. Bill's Work Study program. He served as a Naval officer from 2004 through 2008. He is currently seeking his Doctorate through the Department of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin. His expertise is in civil-military relations and his dissertation is about the civil-military disconnection in politics.

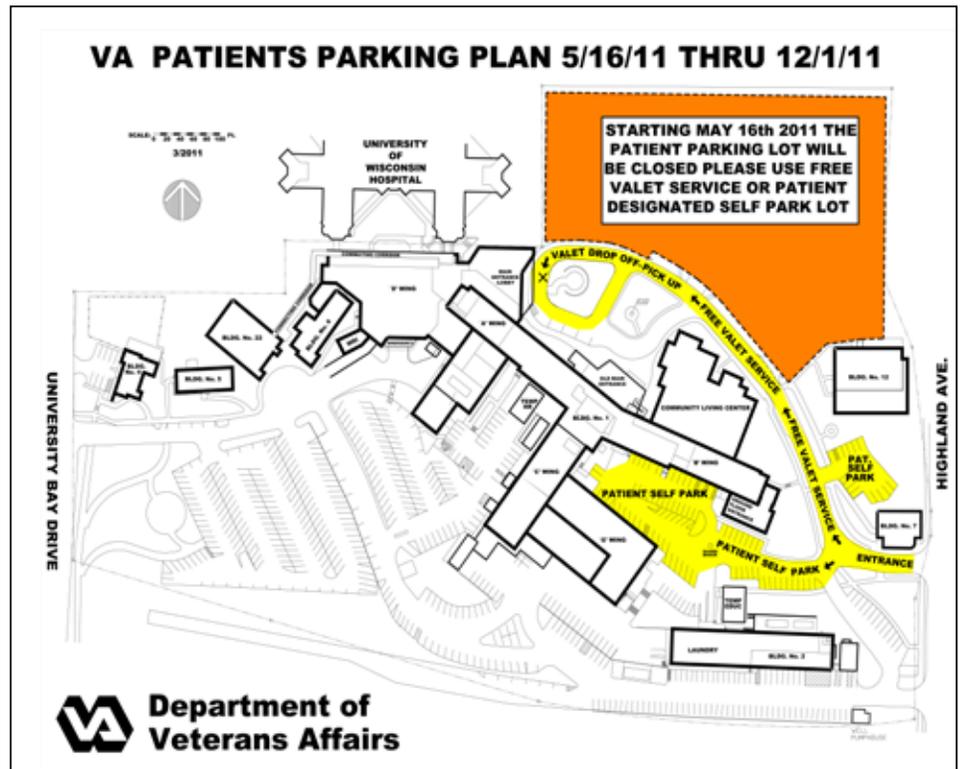
# Parking at Madison VA Hospital

Adapted from [http://www.madison.va.gov/features/New\\_Parking\\_Ramp\\_Coming\\_Soon.asp](http://www.madison.va.gov/features/New_Parking_Ramp_Coming_Soon.asp)

Construction will begin on the Madison VA Medical Center's parking ramp facility this spring. According to Chief of Engineering, Mike Frazier, at the VA Medical Center, construction is set to begin on May 16 and is expected to conclude in mid-December. Once complete, the new parking ramp will hold approximately 800 vehicles.

During the construction period the entire visitors' parking lot will be closed. A limited number of patient and visitor self-parking spaces will be relocated to areas throughout the campus. To ensure safety and accessibility, patients and visitors will be directed to use our free valet parking service. Tipping is not allowed nor accepted. Valet parking drop-off and pick-up will continue at the main entrance to the hospital. When all self-parking spaces are full, only Valet Parking will be available.

Please watch for the upcoming changes, along with signs on campus that will assist you in getting your vehicle parked during this time. We appreciate your understanding and patience, and increased use of valet parking, as we continue our construction efforts to better serve you!



## Your service office

*The Dane County Veteran* is published by the Dane County Veterans Service Office  
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 On the web: [countyofdane.com/veterans](http://countyofdane.com/veterans)

Dan Connery, Interim Service Officer  
 Chuck Goranson, Editor

Other contributors:  
 Eleanor Harris  
 Tom Hay  
 Shirley Shaw  
 Lori Redepinning

Announcements and news contributions are welcome.

The Veterans Service Office is accredited to represent claimants/applicants before the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs through:

- \* American Legion
- \* AMVETS
- \* Disabled American Veterans
- \* Military Order of the Purple Heart
- \* National Association of County Veterans Service Officers
- \* The Retired Enlisted Association
- \* Vietnam Veterans of America
- \* Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

The Veterans Service Office has memberships in the following organizations:

- \* National Association of County Veterans Service Officers
- \* County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin
- \* WI State Association of County Veterans Service Commissions
- \* Madison Veterans Council

City-County Building, Room 108  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53703  
Phone: (608) 266-4158

## *A veterans service office is near you*

### **Main Office-Downtown Madison**

Monday-Friday: 7:45 to 4:30  
City-County Building, Room 108  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

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

**UW-Madison**  
Student Activities Center, 333 E. Campus Mall,  
Suite 3136  
Most Thursdays from 12 until 4 during the  
school year

The **Sun Prairie** branch of the Summit Credit Union,  
1333 W. Main  
Most first and third Tuesdays 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 - 8 until 4.

**Black Earth** 1116 Mills St.  
Most fourth Tuesdays each month, 8 until noon

**Appointments recommended**  
**266-4158**