

VFW SERVICE OFFICER NOTES FOR THE TEN-HUT April 2020

2020 MDVA Women Veterans Conference

All ages, eras, branches, transitioning military women are welcome to this free conference at the YMCA Mounds View Community Center.

Saturday, April 4, 2020

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

YMCA, Mounds View Community Center

5394 Edgewood Drive

Mounds View, MN 55112

- Breakfast and lunch provided
- Keynote speaker: Keara Torkelson, Survivor of the 2009 Fort Hood, Texas shooting
- Minnesota Woman Veteran of the Year Award to be presented by Women Veterans Initiative
- Minnesota Quilts of Valor Foundation presentation
- Resource Fair/Benefits Assistance
- Workshops
 - Clothesline Project
 - Veteran Farming Initiative
 - Talk Session with Minnesota's own Women Generals
 - YMCA activities available all day
- Self-care Services:
 - Massages
 - Reiki Healing
 - Yoga

Permalink: <http://mn.gov/mdva/news/events/index.jsp?id=1066-419614>

Veterans Day on the Hill

This year's Veterans Day on the Hill rally will take place Monday, April 20.

Veterans Day on the Hill is hosted by the Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers, the Minnesota Commanders' Task Force, and the United Veterans Legislative Council of Minnesota.

The schedule will be:

- Doors of the St. Paul Armory open at 10 a.m.
- Lunch Served at 11 a.m.

- Veterans March to the Rally at 12:45 p.m. beginning at the State Veterans Services Building
- Rally in the Rotunda from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Topics to be covered (this list may not be totally inclusive): Making the surviving spouse's property tax exclusion transferable to new property (helping to downsize without penalty). Exempt the VFW, and AmVets Post buildings in property tax payments. Reduce the cost of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses for disabled vets. Expanding vets treatment courts.

For questions or more information please contact trent@davmn.org

Permalink: <http://mn.gov/mdva/news/events/index.jsp?id=1066-420566>

Get Your REAL ID by Oct. 1

The REAL ID enforcement date is quickly approaching, and Governor Tim Walz wanted to make sure you have all the information to get REAL ID ready. The federal enforcement date is **October 1, 2020** – which means that all Minnesota license holders will need a REAL ID or other acceptable form of identification by this date.

Governor Walz encourages you to apply for REAL ID or enhanced driver's license NOW to avoid the rush as the deadline approaches.

Every air traveler 18 years of age or older will need a REAL ID, enhanced driver's license, passport or passport card, or [another acceptable form of ID](#) to fly within the U.S. or enter federal facilities. And right now, there are still 3.7 million Minnesota license holders who may still need a REAL ID.

Below are some frequently asked questions, and you can learn more about how to apply for a REAL ID and stay up-to-date at REALID.dps.mn.gov. Share this video and information with your family and friends to help all Minnesotans be REAL ID ready by October 1, 2020.

Your Voice Counts!

Help make sure Veterans in Minnesota are counted in the 2020 Census

Each year, Minnesota communities receive 15 billion dollars from the federal government on the basis of the Census count.

That's \$15,459,175,947!

- \$2,796 per Minnesotan per year
- \$27,960 per Minnesotan per decade

Programs whose funding is affected by the Census:

- Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Program - \$2,850,000
- Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program - \$116,436,000
- Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program - \$45,000,000
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program - \$300,000,000

The census is mandated by U.S. Constitution. An accurate and complete 2020 Census count starts in March and letters will be sent to every household in the United States. The census can be completed online and has to be completed prior to 1 April 20.

All of Us Research Program

The Federal VA is very excited to announce that the All of Us (AoURP) Research Program has enrolled over 700 Veterans at the Minneapolis VA Healthcare System. All of Us aims to gather data over time from 1 million or more people living in the United States with the goal of accelerating medical research and improving health.

The VA All of Us Research Program is working to ensure that Veterans are represented in this important national research program.

All of Us works closely with the Million Veteran Program (MVP), but is not the same program. You can join both. Veterans registered for care at the VA are eligible to join All of Us. Veterans who complete their visit will be compensated for their time.

To participate, Veterans will be asked to schedule a Study Visit where they will:

- Provide informed consent
- Fill out surveys
- May be invited for physical measurements and biospecimens collected
- Grant access to their electronic health record

For more information or to schedule an appointment, Veterans may stop by the nearest VA location, call the VA *All of Us* Research Program Information Center at (833)805-0426, email us at allofus@va.gov, or visit www.veterans.joinallofus.org/ to learn more.

To begin the process at home, Veterans may enroll online by following the steps below:

1. Visit Veterans.JoinAllofus.org
2. Click “Join Now” in the upper right-hand corner of the page
3. Register using an email or cell phone number (you will need to have one of these readily available to verify your account)
4. Once you sign the primary consent form, click “Find a Partner” at the top of the page and select the Minneapolis VA
5. Review and sign the optional electronic health records (EHR) consent (required for #6)
6. Complete surveys found under “My To Do List”
7. Call the VA *All of Us* Information Center at (833) 805-0426 to set up an appointment for your physical measurements and blood draw, or for help

Veteran News Network: Television for Veterans, by Veterans

Features

- **Entertainment:** Music by military bands, the latest active duty military happenings, and humorous shows about shared military experiences.
- **Education:** Veteran-centric health education is a cornerstone of VNN programming. It helps to prevent adverse health outcomes while promoting whole health for Veterans. Patient education also encourages Veterans to use more of the benefits and services they have earned.
- **Inspiration:** Every Veteran has a story and many of those stories are extraordinary. VNN highlights those stories to help inspire and empower Veterans to live their best lives.
- **News & Information:** VNN's news series, [VA News](#), helps Veterans stay up to date on the top stories from in and around VA. Veterans learn about innovations, treatment options and resources, and good news stories from around the Veterans community. VA News is now a key component of VA's digital outreach, shared weekly across VA social media platforms.

The Veteran News Network has not yet been rolled out to all VA facilities, it is accessible to everyone 24/7 at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yA3X-ZxMTfg>.

VA is ready for coronavirus—and working to protect you

If you're coming in for a health care visit, stop and call first, or send a secure message through [MyHealthVet](#)—even if you have an appointment. You may be able to get diagnosed and receive care through [VA telehealth](#) without having to leave home. If you do visit, plan to get there earlier than usual to answer some simple screening questions. It's for everyone's safety!

For the latest VA updates on coronavirus and common-sense tips on preventing the spread of disease, visit <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/>.

Freebie Alert!

Everyone loves freebies! The last Tuesday of every month Treasure Island Resort & Casino www.ticasino.com offers a FREE buffet! You'll need a Treasure Island Passport card (free to join – just stop by the Passport Club kiosk). Then simply present your Treasure Island Passport card and a military ID or proof of service.

1. A Word of Caution When Your Cell Phone Needs to be Charged!



Does this look familiar? Beware! Please refrain from using these public cell phone charging stations. There is a possibility your phone information could be compromised!

Your Virtual Doctor Visit

Skip the ER and video chat with your provider

Got a fever, cold, cough, or flu-like symptoms? Are you worried that you have a viral illness? Sometimes the last thing you want to do is to get out of the house to see the doctor, potentially exposing yourself (and others) to more potential bugs and viruses.

VA can make it easier and safer to get back to health with virtual care through My HealtheVet and the VA Video Connect App on your smartphone, tablet, or computer.

House VA Committee Examines Community Care Provider Networks

A joint hearing of the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittees on Health and Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on the status of Community Care Network program provider networks. Attention was paid to the backlog of claims. 2.5 million claims out of 3.8 million are older than 30 days but VA testified that this will be remedied by the end of the fiscal year in September.

President Trump signs STEM focused bill for veterans

US President Donald Trump signed a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) focused bill to address the growing employment concerns of American veterans.

The "Supporting Veterans in Stem Careers Act" is designed to promote STEM careers for veterans and service members entering the labor force. The law requires the National Science Foundation (NSF) to submit a plan to Congress to enhance veteran outreach. Additionally, the text of the law directs the NSF to, "through the research and education activities of the Foundation, encourage veterans to study and pursue careers in STEM and computer science."

The law grew out of concern over veteran employment opportunities. Research has shown that when Veterans return home from the service, their primary concerns are finding sufficient employment. The bill seeks to bridge that problem and the rise of STEM careers in the US.