



Illinois Veteran News

An Update from the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs ★ November 2018

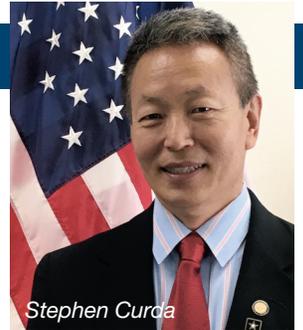
★ From the Director

Veterans Day is a celebration of all who have served and continue to serve our great nation with honor and distinction, day in and day out! We at the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs not only honor our service members past and present but also the family members who support our heroes when called to duty and returning home.

Each year, we set this day aside across the country and dedicate it to celebrate and pay tribute to America's Veterans for their patriotism, sacrifice, selfless service and devotion. The loyalty our veterans have to our great country along with their unsurmountable courage has made us what we are today – and what we will continue to be for many years to come: The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.

On this special day, we at the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs want to honor and give special thanks to you and your families for your service and sacrifice in protecting our freedoms that we have the privilege to enjoy every day without fear. We are honored and privileged to assist you and your dependents.

I encourage you to take some time today to reflect and pray for our Veterans. Additionally, I ask that you find ways that you can support the Veterans in your community.



Stephen Curda

Stephen Curda, Ph.D.

Retired Brigadier General US Army

Director, Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

THANK YOU

Veterans



Our mission at the IDVA is very simple. To serve those who have served. In doing so, we serve not only the men and women who have worn the uniform, but also their families. It is our privilege to be able to help our veterans receive the benefits they have earned through service to our nation. Our goal is to empower our veterans and their families to thrive in all aspects of their lives.

We know there are many veterans within our great state who do not require any assistance – but we still want to encourage you to “Stand Up and Be Counted!” by registering with your local VSO. In doing so, you’re helping IDVA to do a better job of planning for services, seeking federal funding and understanding the needs of our veteran communities statewide. [Click here to register.](#)

We Thank you for your service and for your sacrifice and we at the IDVA look forward to offering our services to You.

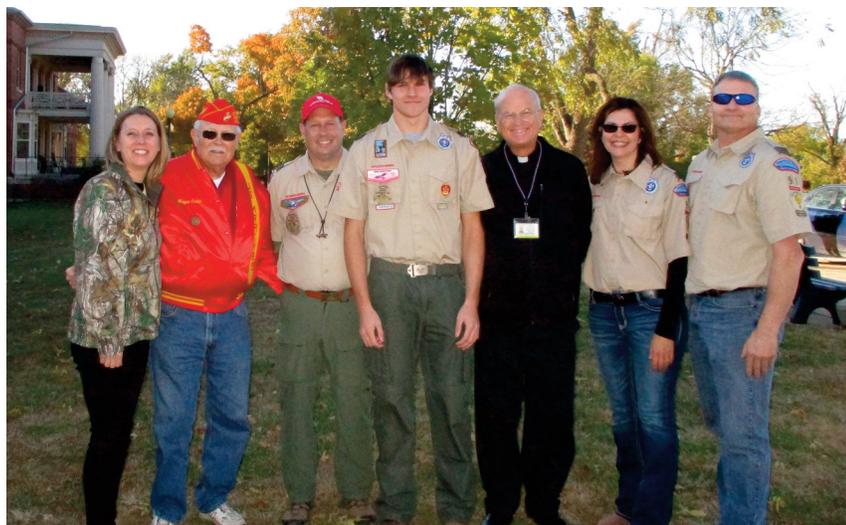
★ Heroes at Heartland



This past summer the IVH-Quincy residents had a blast! They got to ride for an hour (not just a little ride for 5 minutes!) on an ATV and had mud splattered on them—they said that was their favorite moment!

Residents of the Illinois Veterans Home, Quincy, IL (l-r) Betty Nichols, Doris Reinhart, Wayne Griep (Sr. Vice Commandant Marine Corps League Detachment 790 Quincy, IL) and Margie Rose.

Jacob Snyder completed his Eagle Scout Project at Somerville/Anderson building on the IVH-Quincy campus. He completed a beautiful area for a flag pole, landscape and 5 stones representing the branches of the military. He donated the leftover money from the project to the activity fund and presented a check for \$752! An official Eagle Scout Ceremony was held on the grounds on Sunday, October 21.



(L-R) Sara Colgrove, Activity Director, Wayne Griep (Sr. Vice Commandant of Gem City Detachment 790 Marine Corps League), Dennis Sparrow (Scout Master), Jacob Snyder (Boy Scout), Father Don Blickhan (Chaplain of IVHQ), Krista & Rob Snyder (parents of Jacob)

★ Illinois Bicentennial Party

December 3, 2018

On December 3, 2018, we will celebrate Illinois' 200th birthday with a gala party. For 200 years Illinoisans have made exceptional contributions to their communities, to the State, to the country and to society. Throughout 2018, municipalities across the state, communities, colleges, museums, organizations and many others have shared those names and stories. The Bicentennial Birthday Party will be the culmination of a yearlong engagement to commemorate and archive the Illinois Bicentennial Hall of Fame. And we will be honoring our Honor 200 that night. If you would like to purchase a ticket for the Bicentennial Party, go to Ticketmaster.com



In partnership with Illinois Bicentennial and the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

★ New Employee



Darla Reed

Darla started her employment with IDVA on 11/01/2018 as the administrative assistant to Chief of Staff Ginny Narsete. She began her employment with the State of Illinois in April 1985. She worked in the Division of Rehabilitation for 15 years, Division of Developmental Disabilities for 13 years, and most recently the Department of Public Health for 5 years. She looks forward to supporting the Chief of Staff in serving Illinois Veterans and their families. The passion for her new position can also be attributed to the military history in her family. Outside of work she enjoys spending time with family, friends, and trusted dog Samantha Louisa. Two of her favorite ways to relax are connecting with nature and listening to music. She is a member of Aahara Spiritual Community and just recently officiated her first wedding as an ordained minister. She is also a longtime Miami Dolphins fan proving her values of loyalty and perseverance even when the going stays tough.

★ Retirements

Elaine Schwass

Elaine was the sixth employee hired to work at the Illinois Veterans Home in Manteno in April of 1986. She served for 32 years and 10 months as the Executive Assistant to the Home Administrator. After announcing her retirement, IDVA recognized her for wonderful years of service and wishing her a long and joyous retirement. We wish you the best Elaine!

*Len Winnicki, Senior Home Administrator
presents Elaine Schwass with her certificate.*



★ Wintergreen Lottery Ticket



This is the Lottery ticket that funds our Veteran Cash grants. The ticket will begin selling on November 7th. 100 percent of the Veterans Cash lottery ticket proceeds go to support Illinois veterans. The first Veterans Cash ticket was launched in 2006. It was the first lottery game in the United States to designate 100 percent of net proceeds to veterans. Since then, Veterans Cash has awarded more than \$13.3 million in grants statewide to veterans' organizations that provide vital services, including job training, housing assistance, and post-traumatic stress treatment. If you buy lottery tickets, ask your agent for the Wintergreen Ticket.



Holiday Hero Drive

FIRST LADY DIANA RAUNER INVITES YOU TO
Share Holiday Cheer
WITH OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM.

Send us a card or a new pair of tan or black boot socks by November 20 and we'll make sure they get to all those who served or are currently serving.



Questions?

Please address them to:

mansionassociation@gmail.com



Cards and new socks can be mailed to:
USO of Illinois—Holiday Hero Drive
333 N. Michigan, Suite 2226, Chicago, IL 60601

Or you can drop them off at the Governor's Mansion or with your local Veterans Service Officer. Check out: <https://www.illinois.gov/veterans> to find an office near you.



ILLINOIS
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Illinois



★ Veterans Day Commemoration

Union League Club, Chicago

On Monday, November 12 (8:30-11:00 a.m.), the ULCC, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, presents a Veterans Day Commemoration with special emphasis on the Centennial of WWI ("Lest We Forget"). Additionally, Chicago area Honor 200 honorees will be congratulated as part of the Veterans day commemoration. Speakers include Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Stephen Curda, Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs; Lionel Rabb, Board Chair, National Veterans Art Museum, and John Schwan, Interim President & CEO of the Pritzker Military Museum and Library. If you haven't already registered for this COMPLIMENTARY event, please do so today. For those who are interested in attending, <https://ulccveteransday.commemoration.eventbrite.com> *This is the Eventbrite Link for the event. Please share with your groups and associations.*

★ 2019 Illinois State Fair

Special deals are now on sale as part of the Illinois State Fair's annual holiday promotional campaign.

Now through December 31, you can get a 2019 Mega Pass for just \$60, which gives Mega Pass holders unlimited rides in the Carnival Midway and Adventure Village during all 11 days of the State Fair. This special offer includes a FREE Illinois State Fair lanyard with your Mega Pass purchase, making a perfect holiday gift!

Also on sale – Bargain Books for the 2019 Illinois State Fair. Each \$45 book includes 11 admission passes that can be used any day of the 2019 Illinois State Fair. Each pass gets you in the State Fair gate for just \$4.09 per day!

"Our Bargain Books offer some of the best value you'll find at the Illinois State Fair," said State Fair Manager Luke Sailer. "The purchase of one Bargain Book can get you in all 11 days of the Fair, or your entire family can use the tickets to get in all on the same day. It's really an unbeatable deal for anyone planning to come out to the State Fair."

Bargain Books are offered at a discounted price of \$45, now through April 30. After that, the price goes up to \$60. You can get a Mega Pass for \$60, now through December 31. Prices increase to \$70 on January 1, then to \$90 on August 1.

Also now available – Seasonal Infield Parking Passes and Discount Double Play passes. These make for great stocking stuffers! Seasonal Infield Parking Passes are \$40, allowing you to park on the Grandstand infield all 11 days of the Fair. And with the \$15 Discount Double Play passes, you pay just one low price for a day's admission to the Fair and a ticket to tour the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, anytime through December 31, 2019.

More information about the 2019 Illinois State Fair will be released in the coming months. To be among the first to receive new information about the Illinois State Fair, sign up for alerts at www.illinoisstatefair.info.

Take advantage of these limited-time deals in any of the following ways:

In Person:

Emmerson Building on the Illinois State Fairgrounds
Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

By Phone: (217) 782-6661

Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

By Mail: Download a purchase form at

www.illinoisstatefair.info and mail to the address on the order form

Online: www.illinoisstatefair.info

Click on Rides and Attractions

Click on Mega Pass and Carnival Info

The 2019 Illinois State Fair will take place August 8-18 in Springfield, Illinois.

★ Serving Those who Serve



The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs and Serve Illinois are partnering to give back to our veterans this November and we need your help!

Serving Those Who Served is a week of service created to thank service men and women, our veterans, and their families. This November, people all over the state of Illinois will spend the 11/05 – 11/12 engaged in volunteer service projects focused on benefiting our heroes!

You, your family, your friends, your church, civic club, scout troop – you name it! – could be an immense help to a group of men and women who would never ask for help! Whether it's painting, landscaping, assisting with an event, writing thank you letters to the troops, or visiting our heroes in our Veterans' Homes – WE WANT YOUR HELP!

Simply click on the link below, find a project you would like to join and contact the person connected to that project. When posting, please use the hashtag - **#ILSTWS**

To Find a project to volunteer, please go to -

<https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/Pages/Serving-Those-Who-Served-a.aspx>

To register your project, please go to - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/STWS2018>

★ Follow us



IDVA website

www.illinois.gov/veterans

Facebook

www.facebook.com/IllinoisDepartmentOfVeteransAffairs

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisWomenVeterans/#>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/ILVetsAffairs>

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/il-dva>

★ IDVA Calendar

11/10 – Veterans Program – *Hines Hospital*

11/12 – Veterans Day observed – *Office Closed*

11/12 – Union League Veterans Program – *Chicago*



State of Illinois
Department of Veterans' Affairs



Illinois Department of
Veterans' Affairs

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