



Illinois Veteran News

An Update from the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs ★ April 2017

★ From the Director



OPERATION: SEEK AND ASSIST

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs has 80 Veteran Service Offices (VSO) throughout Illinois. Many have met with one of our hard working VSOs and have found the assistance you needed. But we know there are many Veterans who have not registered with one of our VSOs and could be missing out on benefits due to them.

Our new program Operation: Seek and Assist has the charge for us to seek out veterans and their families and assist them using a tailored approach to meet their specific needs. All of our VSO's have been in your shoes. They are all Veterans. And they know firsthand the difficulties and challenges our veterans can face.

We need your help! If you are receiving this newsletter, you may be registered with us and have submitted a claim. But you may know of a veteran who has not met with us and does not know what benefits he/she may qualify to receive. Please ask them to visit one of our VSOs. Last year we brought in \$98 million federal dollars in benefits to our Illinois Veterans. You know as well as I that every veteran earned these benefits defending our country. Every Veteran deserves their qualifying benefits.

To find the closest VSO office to where you live go to
<https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/Pages/ServiceOffices.aspx>

Erica Jeffries

Director, Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

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.

★ Vietnam Veterans 50th Anniversary Commemoration



The Commemoration honors all United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time between November 1, 1955 to and May 15, 1975, regardless of location. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that today there are 7 million living Vietnam veterans and 9 million families of those who served in this time frame. We make no distinction between veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or who were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War period. All were called to serve and the overwhelming majority of these veterans served honorably and admirably.

A Commemoration ceremony is schedule on April 25 at the College of Dupage and on May 26 in Aurora. IDVA Assistant Director Harry Sawyer, a Vietnam Navy Vet will be part of both programs. For more information, go to our Events calendar link below.

★ Woman's Club donates to LaSalle Veterans Home



Our Administrator for the LaSalle Veterans Home Ms. Sherri Whitmer was a guest speaker at the 12th District Woman's Club meeting held in Somonauk, Illinois. Her comments included the qualifications of resident admission process, current statistics of our home, and possible opportunities for volunteering. The members of the 12th district presented Ms. Whitmer with personal care items for the residents at the home.

★ Touring Anna Home

Recently our Anna Veteran Home Administrator gave a tour of our home to State Senators Paul Schimpf and Dale Fowler. The Senators were impressed with our facility and the care we offered our Illinois Heroes. Thank you Senators for visiting and supporting our wonderful home!



(L-R) State Senator Paul Schimpf, Angie Simmons, and State Senator Dale Fowler at Anna VA Home tour March 13th

★ IDVA Calendar

- 4/15 Illinois Veteran Home Manteno Advisory Council** – Manteno, IL
- 4/19 Arlington Heights Area Veterans Workshop** – Arlington Heights, IL
- 4/20 Connor Place – VA Hospital** – Danville, IL
- 4/20 Veterans Job Fair at Soldier Field** – Chicago, IL
- 4/22 Illinois Veteran Home Anna Advisory Council** – Anna, IL
- 4/22 Veteran Resource Fair** – Litchfield, IL
- 4/22 Peoria Area Military Retiree Appreciation Day** – Peoria, IL
- 4/25 Vietnam Veteran Commemoration** – College of DuPage
- 4/26 Administrative Professional Day**
- 5/05 Veteran Volunteer of the Quarter** – Hanover Township
- 5/06 National Nurses Day**
- 5/10 Veteran Business of the Quarter** – Springfield, IL
- 5/24 Wall of Remembrance 2017** – Springfield – Capitol Rotunda
- 5/26 Vietnam Veteran Commemoration** – Aurora, IL

Find details about all these events and others on our Events page of our website - <https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/about-us/events/Pages/default.aspx>

★ Women Physicians - WWI

The American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) has recently launched a new exhibition, Women Physicians in World War I which highlights the contributions of women physicians during this important period in U.S. History.

<https://www.amwa-doc.org/wwi-exhibition>

If you would like to join their research team or have materials, stories, or memorabilia to share with them, please e-mail WWI@amwa-doc.org. They hope to expand this exhibition over the next several years.

★ Follow us



IDVA website

www.illinois.gov/veterans

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