

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

1999-00

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on
Veterans and
Military Affairs
(AC-VMA)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01a
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01b
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ **

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **99hr_AC-VMA_Misc_pt03**

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **



State of Wisconsin / DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

PO BOX 8111
MADISON 53708-8111

TELEPHONE 608 242-3000
DSN 724-3000

WING-JA

Telefax Transmission

Date: 9 Sep 99

Deliver to:

Ms Marlene Remick
1/2 Rep Terry Musser's Office
Capitol Bldg MADISON, WI

Telefax number being sent to: 292-3692

Number of pages being sent, including this cover sheet: 2

Originator of this transmission: TJ McArdle

Message: Marlene, here's the letter we gave Mike Grapevine
this AM on Challenge Academy funding.

This message is intended specifically for the Addressee and no one else. If you inadvertently receive this telefax please deliver it to the correct person at this address. If it is addressed entirely incorrectly please call the undersigned and we will make arrangements for its proper disposition. In no event are the contents of this transmission intended for disclosure to the public at large without permission of the undersigned.

Sent from (608) 242-3082 or DSN 724-3077 Respectfully yours,

Terence J. McArdle
LTC, JA, WIARNG
AGR Judge Advocate





STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
STATE BUDGET & FISCAL OFFICER
2400 WRIGHT STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 14587
MADISON, WI 53714-0587

September 8, 1999

Mr. Mark Grapentine
Policy Advisor to the Governor
115 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Mr. Grapentine:

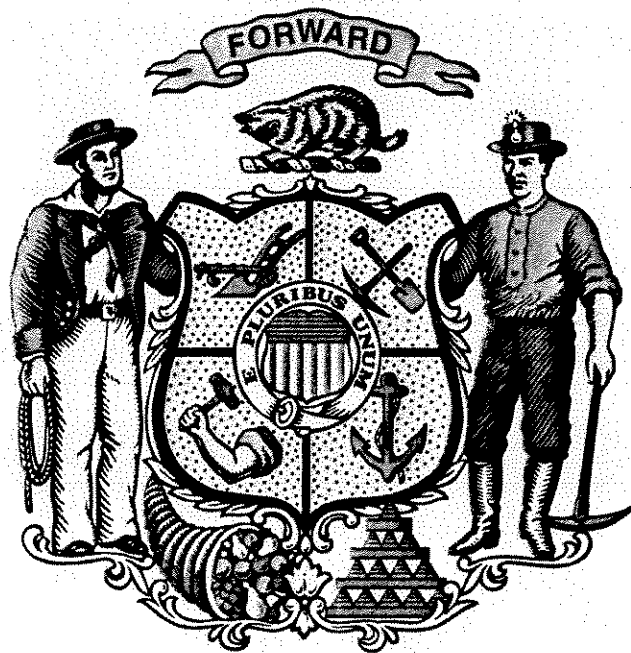
The Department of Military Affairs wishes to apprise the Governor's Office of an unintended consequence resulting from the delay in the enactment of the 1999-01 Biennial Budget. We are currently in the process of renewing our cooperative agreement for the Wisconsin National Guard Youth Challenge program. Funding for the next year's operation of the program is from the National Guard Bureau's FFY 1999 appropriation, which expires September 30, 1999. Funds that are not committed to the states by that date will lapse to the Treasury.

Because of the delay in budget approval, our GPR appropriation for matching funds for the program remains at the \$700,000 level appropriated by Wisconsin Act 237 for 1998-99. The budget bill contains an additional \$140,000 for 1999-00, because the matching requirement for FFY 1999 funded programs increases from 25% to 30% of total costs. National Guard Bureau officials have indicated that, unless the additional funding provided by the bill is actually appropriated, they will only provide federal funds to match the \$700,000 currently available at 70%/30%. Thus, the overall budget level for Wisconsin's Challenge Program would be limited to \$2,333,333 instead of the \$2,800,000 provided the past year. (Federal funding would be reduced from \$1,960,000 to \$1,633,333, a loss of \$326,667).

The Department of Military Affairs believes that the loss of \$326,667 in federal funding for this program would seriously impact our ability to operate a quality program for at-risk youth, and requests the support of the Governor's office in securing the necessary state matching funds to continue the program at its current funding level. Obviously, the intent of both the Governor and the legislature was to provide stable funding for the program, as evidenced by the successful inclusion of the incremental state funding in the budget bill. Unless corrective action is taken soon, Wisconsin may experience a significant funding reduction for a very worthwhile program.

15/James G. Blaney

James G. Blaney
Major General
Wisconsin National Guard
The Adjutant General





AMVETS

American Veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam

VA REGIONAL OFFICE

BUILDING 6, ROOM C-225

5000 W. NATIONAL AVENUE • P.O. BOX 6

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53295



NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER

TELEPHONE: (414) 382-5230
(414) 382-5232

To: Chief Clerk, State of Wisconsin,
Senate/House of Representatives.

September 10, 1999

Fr: AMVETS, Department of Wisconsin, and Council Member
of Veterans Programs Committee.

RE: Activities and Membership report for AMVETS, a member
of the Council on Veterans Programs.

In complying with 1989 Wisconsin Act 36, the following report is submitted outlining the current AMVET membership and activities.

In 1998 our membership was 3221 members.

In 1999 our membership was 3258 members.

We have one full time and one part time National Service Officers located in the V.A. Regional Office at the Zablocki Center in Milwaukee to handle claims for the veterans and their families. The resultant activities are reported on a quarterly basis to the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

We have V.A.V.S. personnel at the Zablocki, Madison, Tomah, Minneapolis, Iron Mountain V.A. Hospitals and the State Veterans Home at King, Wisconsin.

At these facilities, we provide weekly Bingo/Card parties as well as picnics, bowling parties, casino nights and other numerous seasonal activities.

At the King Veterans Home, we also maintain and furnish the "Lincoln Lodge" building, and share in the costs and labor in the wheelchair repair facility.

Personal kits are given out to new admissions, as well as Greeting and Christmas cards at appropriate times of the year.

The organization has contributed approximately \$63,000 in cash contributions and approximately 22250 hours of volunteer time to all of the above mentioned VAMC's.

AMVETS is also the proud sponsor of one of the few Nationally recognized Veterans Day Parades in the country, sanctioned by both the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs in the month of November of each year.



AMVETS

American Veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam

VA REGIONAL OFFICE
BUILDING 6, ROOM C-225
5000 W. NATIONAL AVENUE • P.O. BOX 6
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53295



NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER

TELEPHONE: (414) 382-5230
(414) 382-5232

Community Service projects such as; Blood/Organ Donarship, Girl and Boy Scout programs, Drug and Alcohol abuse programs, R.O.T.C. Award programs at nine seperate colleges, College Scholarship programs at both State and National levels, Americanism Essay contests for both Junior and Senior High Schools, and the Americanism Poster contest for Grades 1 through 6. There are also various projects taken on by members of the organization to support special activities such as the WW II Memorial in Washington D.C., The Bell Carillon at the State Veterans Cemetary in Union Grove as well as a proposal for another at the Northwest Cemetary in Spooner. All Posts within the organization also support a Flag presentation program for individuals as well as businesses within their communities.

This report is a true, though abbreviated, statement of our organizations activities and aims.

Submitted by;

Jack

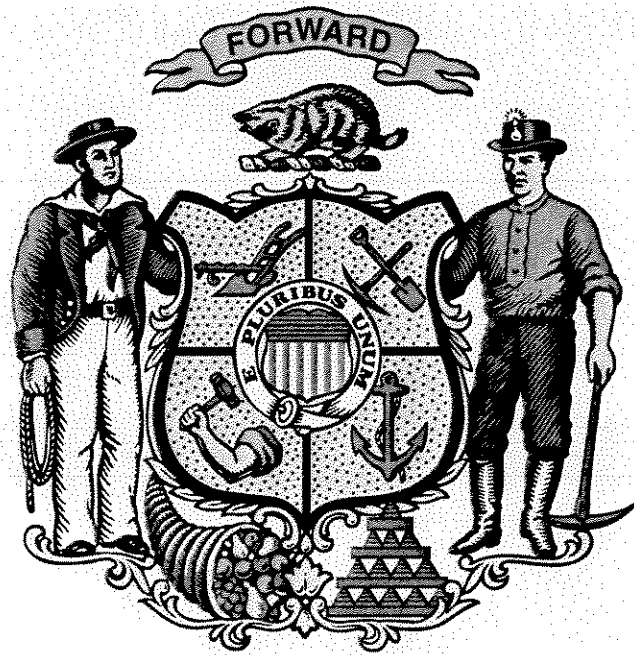
Jack A. Molnar
National Service Officer

State Commander:

George Basgall

State Executive Director:

Dean Marsolek





State of Wisconsin / DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

P O BOX 8111
MADISON 53708-8111

TELEPHONE 608 242-3000
DSN 724-3000

September 14, 1999

Honorable Terry Musser
Wisconsin Assembly
Post Office Box 8953
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Dear Representative Musser:

I am writing you as Chair of the Veterans and Military Affairs Committee. Department of Military Affairs has an emergency situation with the federal matching funding for the ChalleNGe Academy program. The Department of Military Affairs is in grave danger of losing \$327,000 of federal grant funds.

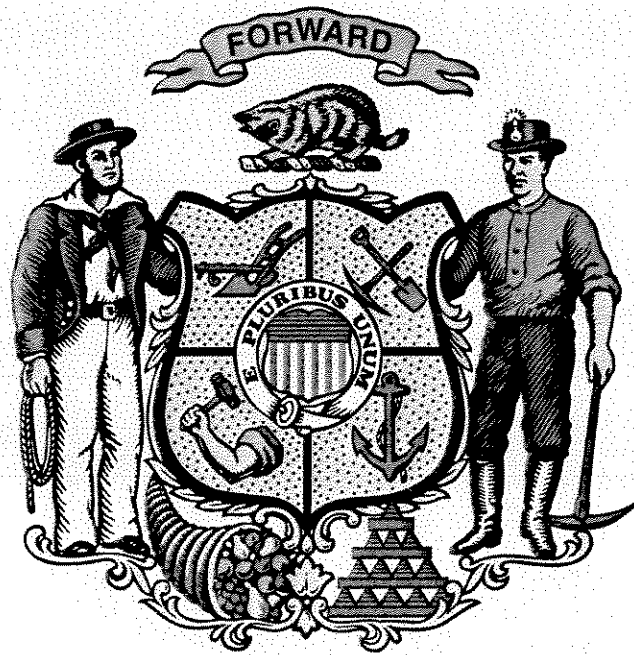
Due to the budget not having passed we can only offer last year's 25% matching amount, we are \$143,700 short of this year's 30% state matching amount. If we are unable to prove to the Department of Defense that we have the additional \$143,700 by September 30, 1999, we will forfeit the federal matching funds. The loss of \$327,000 would be catastrophic to the ChalleNGe Academy.

We are requesting your assistance, and that of the Senate and Assembly leadership, to pass an emergency bill to authorize the Department of Military Affairs the necessary matching funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'James G. Blaney'.

James G. Blaney
Major General
Wisconsin National Guard
The Adjutant General



RECEIVED

SEP 20 1999

REMINDER! REMINDER!

To: Department Commander
— Department Adjutant

V F W DEPT OF WISCONSIN

From: Mike Gormalley, VFW Director, Citizenship Education and Community Service

Robert McKean is requesting our assistance with to implement Operation Recognition around the country. This program assists World War II veterans in receiving their high school diplomas.

Please share this letter with your State Director (Commissioner) of Veterans Affairs and your State Education Commissioner.

September 15, 1999

Dear VFW Leader:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in implementing a project called, "Operation Recognition", that can be a wonderful "thank you" to many local veterans. These are individuals who left high school during the 1940's before graduating, in order to fight for our country in World War II.

These individuals were freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors at the time they left school in order to serve their country. For whatever personal reasons they did not return to school after the war or take advantage of the GI Bill in order to complete their education when they returned home.

The former high school students I am referring to are now all in their 70's and are deserving of a sincere "thank you" from the community where they attended high school. I can think of no better way than to issue them their high school diplomas during a Memorial Day or Veterans' Day assembly where the current student body can be a part of thanking these individuals who are our "living history."

After reading Tom Brokaw's book, "The Greatest Generation", and viewing Steven Spielberg's movie "Saving Private Ryan", "Operation Recognition" was born. I believe that we should take this opportunity to offer our thanks to the individuals who assisted us to become the nation that we are today. The World War II generation veterans, some of whom did not finish high school, have led very productive lives and have contributed to our communities during their lifetime.

In his book, Mr. Brokaw relates the story of a WWII veteran who was upset at the way some young individuals were acting during one Halloween night. This veteran spoke to Mrs. Brokaw (Tom's mother) about this. She said "Oh, Gordon, what were you doing when you were seventeen?" He answered "I was landing on Guadalcanal." These men and women gave up what many of us as high school students took for granted: football games, proms, and dates. As a substitute they traveled to foreign lands, shed blood and lost their innocence so that we could be free.

Page two

The local VFW, the local press, local veterans' organizations and hopefully members of the current local student body will all be needed to work on this project.

This type of ceremony is presently being planned in many other Massachusetts cities and towns in the Commonwealth along with a nationwide movement that to date include Florida, Ohio, Colorado, Idaho, Maine. It would be an honor to have your high school participate. Mr. Michael Gormley, Director of the Citizenship Education and Community Service, expresses his strong support for "Operation Recognition."

What started out as only a vision and a promise to honor and thank the former Gardner High School students, who left school to serve our nation in the time of need, became a reality on May 20, 1999 in the first graduation under the title of "Operation Recognition."

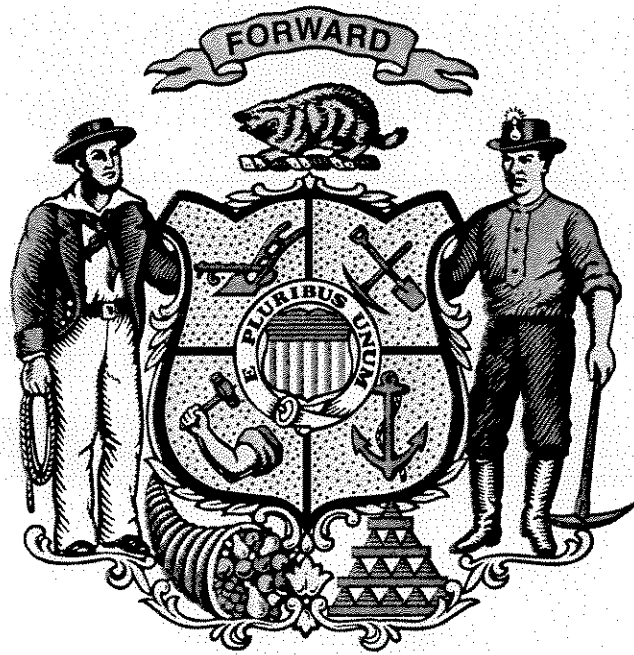
That graduation day and the avalanche of positive publicity that has followed have far exceeded my wildest expectations. "Operation Recognition" has been properly launched and its ability to touch people's lives is limitless and we would like for you and your school system to join us in this endeavor.

I would be happy to meet with you and the school committee at your earliest convenience to discuss this project. I may be reached at 617-727-3578 ext. 108 or at home at 978-632-7804. You can also reach me by e-mail at Robert.McKean@state.ma.us

I look forward to your high school joining the "Operation Recognition" project.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. McKean
Director State Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries &
Operation Recognition



September 20, 1999

The Honorable Legislature
State of Wisconsin
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

To the Honorable State Legislature:

In compliance with the provisions of Wisconsin Act 36, 1989, the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Wisconsin, submits the following report (General Summary) of activities and membership of our organization for the periods of July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998 and July 1, 1998 through June 30, 1999.

DAV SERVICE PROGRAM

A DAV National Service Office is staffed and maintained at its location in the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Milwaukee, WI Regional Office, Building 6, Room C-231. The office is under the supervision of Scott P. Trimarchi and is currently staffed by three National Service Officers (NSO's), including Mr. Trimarchi, in addition to two full time secretaries and one part time receptionist/clerk.

Program Costs:	1997-1998	1998-1999
	\$240,081	\$228,128

The following statistics provided only reflect the number of cases and monetary amounts for each category listed. The figures do not reflect the countless hours of time spent reviewing claims folders, interviews conducted or other work related activities. The figures also do not reflect the many hours and miles contributed by volunteer Service Officers in our Chapters throughout the State of Wisconsin. There is no way to put a dollar amount on their work and travel. Each year, at our Fall Conference, we hold a "service school" for these volunteers to help keep them updated on veterans benefits and they typically attend this school at their own expense.

1997-1998 Benefits acquired and dollar amounts:

	Number	Retro & Annual
1. New Service Connections (SC)	495	\$ 4,995,542
2. Compensation Increases (IR)	1437	14,418,769
3. Compensation Maintained (C&C)	1809	22,118,693
4. Pension (NSC)	407	1,932,028
5. Pension Maintained (NSC-C&C)	221	1,114,748
6. Social Security (DIB)	7	165,161
7. Educational Benefits (EDUC)	820	1,388,411
8. Miscellaneous	115	344,170
9. Death Compensation (DIC)	139	994,813
10. Death Pension (NSC-DB)	233	199,929
11. Insurance (INS)	0	-----
12. Burial Allowances (BA)	349	225,335
Totals	6,032	\$ 47,897,599

13. Files Reviewed	7581
14. Power of Attorney	1483
15. Interviews	2157
16. Rating Board Appearances	6761
(a) Formal Hearings	100
(b) Social Security	10
17. Appeals Completed	121
18. New Claims	3067

1998-1999 Benefits acquired and dollar amounts:

	Number	Retro & Annual
1. New Service Connections (SC)	471	\$ 3,237,451
2. Compensation Increases (IR)	1268	12,209,867
3. Compensation Maintained (C&C)	1494	17,291,618
4. Pension (NSC)	286	1,514,705
5. Pension Maintained (NSC-C&C)	161	964,149
6. Social Security (DIB)	2	18,909
7. Educational Benefits	734	1,318,390
8. Miscellaneous	114	249,486
9. Death Compensation (DIC)	40	619,112
10. Death Pension (NSC-DB)	53	157,310
11. Insurance (INS)	0	-----
12. Burial Allowances	241	145,180
Totals	4,864	\$ 37,726,177

13. Files Reviewed	6792
14. Power of Attorney	1088
15. Interviews	1981
16. Rating Board Appearances	5953
(a) Formal Hearings	93
(b) Social Security	3
17. Appeals Completed	115
18. New Claims	2417

DAV TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

The DAV's Transportation Program is under the supervision of the Department Service Director and administered by the Department Adjutant/Treasurer. The program is operated by five Hospital Service Coordinators (HSCs) of which one is a full-time employee and four are part-time. The one full-time employee serves in a dual capacity as Department Service Officer (DSO) as well, providing claims counseling/assistance to veterans and their dependents. The HSC offices are located at the VA Medical Centers in Milwaukee, Madison and Tomah, and at the VA Outpatient Clinics in Superior and Appleton.

The HSCs function as in-house coordinators at the VA Medical Centers and the Outpatient Clinics. They coordinate travel for veterans who cannot get to their scheduled appointments on their own, for a variety of reasons. Veterans are transported by DAV volunteers who either use donated vehicles assigned to the program, or use their own vehicles and are reimbursed at the rate of 17 cents per mile for their expenses. Currently, the program utilizes a total of 15 vans, 7 of which have 15 passenger capacity and 8 that have 7 passenger capacity.

	1997-1998	1998-1999
Program Costs:.....	\$126,307	\$148,956

Program Statistics:

Milwaukee VAMC		
Veterans Transported	8,340	8,641
Miles Driven	249,994	281,899
Volunteer Hours	12,725	14,133
Fox Valley VA-OPC		
Veterans Transported	2,731	2,750
Miles Driven	106,844	103,552
Volunteer Hours	6,980	6,822
Madison VAMC		
Veterans Transported	893	1,135
Miles Driven	90,671	86,615
Volunteer Hours	4,350	4,008
Tomah VAMC		
Veterans Transported	1,169	845
Miles Driven	61,385	55,027
Volunteer Hours	2,653	2,336
Twin Ports VASOPC		
Veterans Transported	2,439	2,354
Miles Driven	92,316	87,318
Volunteer Hours	3,668	3,479
TOTALS:		
Veterans Transported	15,572	15,725
Miles Driven	601,210	614,411
Volunteer Hours	30,376	30,778

**VETERANS ADMINISTRATION VOLUNTARY
SERVICE PROGRAM (VAVS)**

The Disabled American Veterans and their Auxiliary maintain offices at the VA Medical Centers at Milwaukee, Madison and Tomah, as well as the Satellite Outpatient Clinics at Appleton and Superior. The combined number of volunteers at these offices totals approximately 180. The number of hours volunteered by these members is approximately 30,000 on an annual basis, and we expend in the neighborhood of \$57,000.00 per year to fund the programs they carry out. These volunteers visit the members who are admitted to the hospital, and follow their progress while hospitalized. They are offered both financial and moral assistance, and there are any number of programs put on for them to participate in for rehabilitation and recreation. Assistance is also provided for the family members, particularly those from out of town and find themselves making unexpected stays in these cities.

The DAV and DAV Auxiliary operate a Christmas Store for the patients of the VA Psychiatric Hospital at Tomah. In this program we supply gifts, wrapping and shipping for each patient in the medical center. This allows all patients an

opportunity to send Christmas presents to their loved ones at home. The annual cost to the Department is about \$5,000.00 per year.

WISCONSIN VETERANS HOME

The DAV has an active volunteer program in place at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, Wisconsin. Our representatives and volunteers are deeply involved in recreation and member care. The DAV's commitment to the home is clearly shown by the amount of time and money given to this facility. We annually provide about 4,500-5,000 hours of volunteer time, and our budget stays at about \$18,000.00 for our many projects at King. We began a Wheelchair Repair Shop for the home which has grown considerably, and while there are no real estimates of how much the savings are to the Home, it is well known that it goes high into the thousands of dollars.

Monies for the programs at King are from the Department's Thrift Store operation, as well as the Chapters from around the state.

OTHER PROGRAMS

The Department of Wisconsin, Disabled American Veterans, holds an Annual State Convention each year in June, a Fall Conference and Service School in October, and each District holds a District Conference in the Spring. Our Chapters hold monthly meetings, and we participate in DAV's National Convention and its Mid-Winter Conference.

MEMBERSHIP

The DAV has 60 chapters throughout the State of Wisconsin. Each Chapter has a Commander who, along with their elected and appointed leadership, determine the programs of their respective unit, in compliance with the National and State bylaws and guidelines. Each chapter has a Chapter Service Officer who works with our National Service Office in Milwaukee, and the local County Veterans Service Officer to assist veterans and their families in establishing both State and Federal claims.

The membership of the DAV in Wisconsin maintains a level of approximately 20,000.

MISSION STATEMENT

Made up exclusively of men and women disabled in our nation's defense, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is dedicated to one, single purpose: building better lives for all of our nation's disabled veterans and their families. This mission is carried forward by:

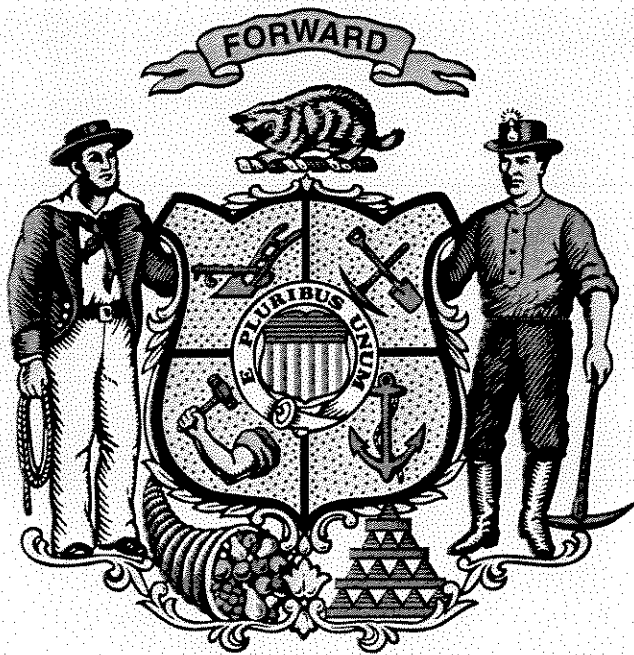
- ◆ Providing free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service and provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government;
- ◆ Representing the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses and their orphans before Congress, the White House, and the Judicial Branch, as well as state and local government.

- ◆ Extending the DAV's mission of hope into the communities where these veterans and their families live through a network of state-level departments and local chapters; and
- ◆ Providing a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.

"Building Better Lives for America's Disabled Veterans"

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Kuehnl, Jr.
Council on Veterans Programs
Disabled American Veterans
Department of Wisconsin





Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

Wisconsin State Council

745 Crestwood Dr., Waukesha, WI 53188-4447
Home: (414) 548-9511 Work: (414) 548-7732 Fax: (414) 548-0814
Email: johnlm@execpc.com



A Not-For-Profit Veterans Service Organization Chartered by the United States Congress

Sept 22
1999

Vietnam Veterans of America

1997 – 1999 Biennial Report to The Wisconsin Legislature

Vietnam Veterans of America continues to be the largest Vietnam War veterans organization, comprised solely of veterans of that war, in both Wisconsin and the United States. During the biennium, VVA's membership was approximately 1,750 with 33 chapters throughout Wisconsin. VVA is Wisconsin's fifth largest veterans organization and has been represented on the Council of Veterans Programs since 1984.

The Wisconsin activities of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) from July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1999 have included:

- Legislative, Administrative and Executive branch advocacy at the local, state and federal levels. In Wisconsin, we were especially active in:
 - Implementing our advocacy program in a manner consistent with our organization's founding principle, "*Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another,*" by working for the betterment of the lives of all veterans regardless of when they served.
 - The development of and appropriate legislative and executive action on the Department of Veterans Affairs biennial budgets (The FY 1999-2001 budget's completion was still pending at the time of this report).
 - Continuing to take the lead in utilizing a team approach to veterans' legislative advocacy among state veteran organizations to maximize the effectiveness of each group's advocacy program.
 - Advancing a wide range of veterans issues affecting Wisconsin veterans in general, and Wisconsin Vietnam veterans in particular, including such areas as health care, education, employment, housing, disabled veterans, loan and grant programs and matters specifically pertaining to homeless veterans, women and minority veterans, post-traumatic stress disorders, Agent Orange/dioxin, Persian Gulf War Illnesses, POW-MIA concerns, incarcerated veterans and substance abuse.

- Addressing some of the needs of incarcerated veterans, including:
 - Continued support of the state's first incarcerated veterans' chapter. VVA established a chapter at Fox Lake with the approval of the Department of Corrections.
 - Outreach at Waupun with regard to veteran benefits.
 - Continuing to facilitate the twice monthly U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs Post Traumatic Stress Disorder group sessions at Fox Lake at no expense to the State of Wisconsin.
- Maintaining the stability of the Veterans Trust Fund.
- Establishing peacetime veteran eligibility for Wisconsin veterans benefits.
- Expansion of Veterans' Tuition Reimbursement and Part-time Study program benefits.
- Maintaining the Wisconsin Veterans Museum administrative and operational costs as a non-Veterans Trust Fund expense.
- Assisting in the creation of the enhanced Wisconsin's Veterans Personal Loan Program.
- Continuing to support the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King and the creation of a new veterans' home in Union Grove.
- Supporting veteran cemeteries at Union Grove and in northwestern Wisconsin.
- VVA accredited service representatives are located at the Milwaukee VA Regional Office with additional service representatives situated throughout the state.
- State and local scholarship programs aimed at assisting with the education of the children of Vietnam War veterans.
- Publication of Wisconsin VVA Badger Veteran, our newsmagazine which has received two national recognition as one of the best veteran publications in the country. In addition to our membership, the newsmagazine is distributed to all Wisconsin veteran organizations, all Wisconsin public libraries, to members of the Wisconsin Legislature and Wisconsin Congressional delegation and to a wide spectrum of others in Wisconsin and throughout the United States.
- Recognition of veterans and non-veterans who have made significant contributions to Wisconsin veterans and to their communities, state and nation.
- Active community-level involvement to help improve the quality of life of all members of the community.

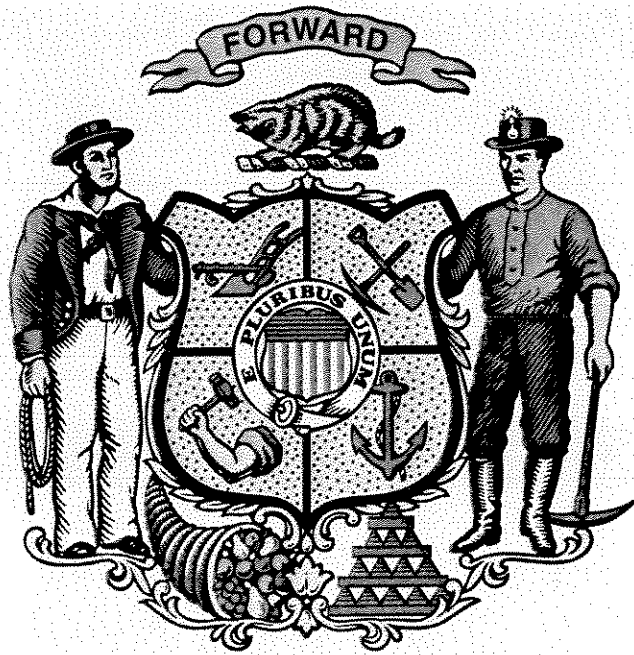
- Volunteer services at VA hospitals.
- Volunteer services at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King and special projects to benefit the residents of King.
- Volunteer, financial and in-kind support of the Wisconsin Veteran Memorial Park at the Highground.
- Participation on advisory committees to various VA hospitals, CVSO's, Vet Centers, the Board of Veterans Affairs and members of Wisconsin congressional delegation.
- Support of the Moving Wall exhibit to enable people from Wisconsin to experience the Vietnam Veterans Memorial without having to leave our state.
- Presentation of educational programs concerning the Vietnam War experience to students in Wisconsin schools and colleges, as well as to local organizations.
- Participation in various Veterans Day, Memorial Day, POW-MIA Recognition Day, Flag Day, July 4th and other celebrations and parades.
- Providing referral services for all veterans to appropriate agencies at all levels of government.
- Service to the Vietnam Veterans of America national organization. Wisconsin members served on the National Board of Directors, chair the National Task Force on Homeless Veterans, and serve as members on a number of national committees.

Vietnam Veterans of America also has aggressively continued its efforts to improve the image of Vietnam War veterans by focusing public attention on a wide array of positive contributions Vietnam veterans make to our families, our communities, our state and our nation.

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of September 1999.



John L. Margowski, President
For the Wisconsin State Council,
Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.





Help Can't Wait

September 29, 1999

**American
Red Cross**

Chapter Headquarters

2600 W. Wisconsin Ave.
P.O. Box 05800
Milwaukee
53205-0800
(414) 342-8680
Fax: (414) 342-7802

Waukesha County Office

2220 Silvernail Road
Waukesha, WI 53187-1083
(414) 542-6672
Fax: (414) 542-6960

Ozaukee County Office

1032 S. Spring St.
Port Washington
53074-2455
(414) 284-4091
Fax: (414) 284-4091

Kettle Moraine Office

525 N. Main St.
Hartford
53027-0125
(414) 673-4400
Fax: (414) 673-4401

Dodge County Office

N7977 Forest Park Road
Beaver Dam
53916
(414) 885-9595
Fax: (414) 885-9595

Ms. Julie Van Metre
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs
30 W. Mifflin St.
Madison, WI., 53707-7843

Subj: Red Cross support of Veterans Services

Dear Ms. Van Metre:

The people of the State of Wisconsin are currently served by 42 state-wide Red Cross Chapters located in most counties. All Chapters provide disaster aid, emergency military communications and First Aid training. These and other services are available to all veterans as needed.

Specifically, the Greater Milwaukee Chapter serves homeless and mentally ill veterans through its Homeless Outreach Nursing Center. We work with Vets Place Central in providing mental health assessment and crisis intervention services and also provide Respite Care to homeless veterans with medical needs. Additionally, we collaborate with the Center on Veterans Issues in advocating for the needs of veterans, particularly those in need of acute care services.

Our mandate also includes long standing support of active and reserve duty military personnel and the National Guard. This includes emergency communications and emergency financial assistance.

The Greater Milwaukee Chapter's local service provision network operates through the efforts of approximately 40 employees and over 3,000 Red Cross volunteers. It is financially supported by 46,000 donors in the Greater Milwaukee area.

Providing:

*Disaster Relief
Military and Social Services
International Tracing
First Aid & CPR Training
Water Safety
HIV/AIDS Education
Homeless Nursing*



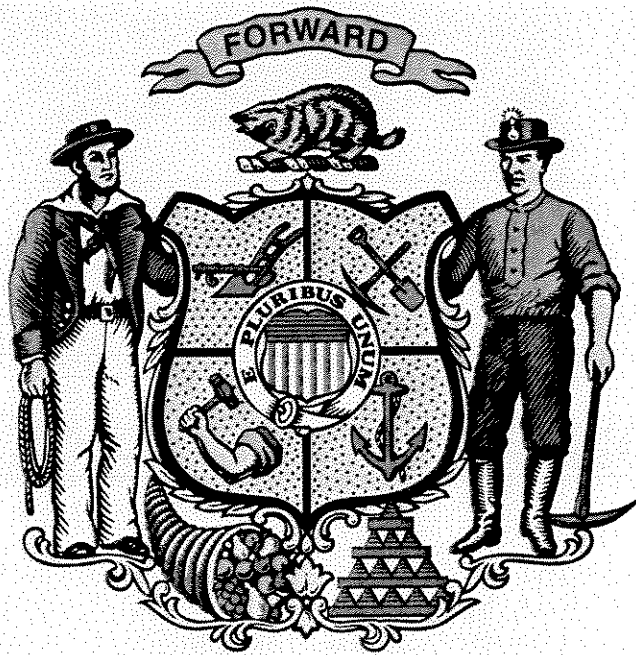
Partners in creating a
healthy, caring
community.

Sincerely,

Norman E. McKonly Jr.

Norman E. McKonly Jr.
Chapter Manager

*Edward O'Connor, Chairman Linda Cutler, Vice Chairman Steve Tews, Vice Chairman
Drucilla Pasley, Secretary Michael Hansen, Treasurer Gwen Jackson, Chairman Emeritus*





VETERANS AFFAIRS

Tommy G. Thompson, Governor
Raymond G. Boland, Secretary

STATE OF WISCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

30 West Mifflin Street, P.O. Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843

PHONE: (608) 266-1311 1-800-947-8387 (WIS VETS)

WEB SITE: <http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/dva>

E-MAIL: Headquarters@dva.state.wi.us

FAX: (608) 267-0403

September 30, 1999

To The Honorable Members of the Legislature:

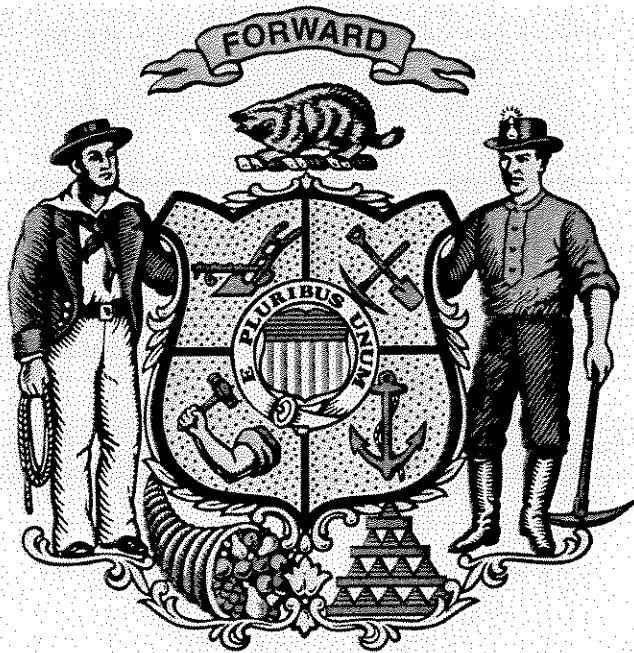
In compliance with section 45.35(3d)(b), Wis. Stats., as created by 1989 Wisconsin Act 36, the Council on Veterans Programs and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) are jointly submitting the attached general summary report of the activities and membership over the past two years of the Council and the organizations represented on the Council.

Organizations not yet reporting are the American Legion, ~~American Red Cross~~, Catholic War Veterans, Federation of Culturally Diverse Veterans, National Association for Black Veterans, and Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

The information contained in the report was compiled by WDVA staff and the Council Chair from materials submitted by the representative from each organization on the Council.

Sincerely,
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

JOHN A. SCOCOS
Executive Assistant





STATE OF WISCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

30 West Mifflin Street, P.O. Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843

Council on Veterans Programs

1997-1999 Biennial Report to the Wisconsin Legislature **Membership and Activities of the Council on Veterans Programs**

September 30, 1999

The Wisconsin Council on Veterans Programs is composed of twenty-three veterans organizations.

Council officers for 1997-98 were: Bill Hustad, Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans, Chairman; Tom Wynn, American Red Cross, Vice Chairman; John Margowski, CVSO Association, Secretary.

Council officers for 1998-99 were: Bill Hustad, Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans, Chairman; Joe Guido, Disabled American Veterans, Vice Chairman until his resignation in April of 1999 when John Schurrer, American Legion, was elected Vice Chairman; and Paul Fine, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Secretary.

Attachment A of this report is a list of the members of the Council and the organizations which they represented during this reporting period.

Attachment B of this report are organizational reports of membership and activities.

Reports have not been received from the following organizations: American Legion, ~~██████████~~, ~~██████████~~, Catholic War Veterans, National Association of Black Veterans, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and the Federation for Culturally Diverse Veterans.

Organizations with no representation this reporting period are: Veterans of World War I and Federation for Culturally Diverse Veterans.

During this past biennium, the Council on Veterans Programs has continued to advise the Board of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Veterans Affairs on matters of concern to Wisconsin Veterans and to make recommendations on a range of veterans issues. The Council will continue to act proactively on behalf of Wisconsin veterans.

Minutes of the Council on Veterans Programs meetings are on file at the Department of Veterans Affairs, 30 West Mifflin Street, Madison.

Respectfully submitted,
COUNCIL ON VETERANS PROGRAMS

William L. Hustad

William Hustad, Chairman

enclosures

*American Ex-POWs • American Legion • American Red Cross • AMVETS • Army-Navy Union • Catholic War Veterans
County Veterans Service Officers Association • Disabled American Veterans • Federation of Minority Veterans • Jewish War Veterans
Marine Corps League • Military Order of the Purple Heart • National Association for Black Veterans • Navy Clubs of the U.S.A
Polish Legion of American Veterans • U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII • United Women Veterans • Veterans of Foreign Wars
Veterans of World War I of the U.S.A. • Vietnam Veterans Against the War • Vietnam Veterans of America
Wisconsin Association of Concerned Veterans Organizations • Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans*

COUNCIL ON VETERANS PROGRAMS**DATE****MEMBER ELECTED CHAIRMAN--VICE CHAIRMAN****CHAIRMAN—VICE CHAIRMAN--SECRETARY**

09/69	Jerome Host, ARC--Judge Roang, VFW
09/70	Robert Steben, AMVETS--Mitchell Uhren, ANU
10/71	Joseph F. Klein, CVSO--Carl Krouse, CWV
10/72	Carl Krouse, CWV--Robert Petzold, DVA
10/73	Al Hannah, DAV--Leonard Brody, JWV
10/74	Leonard Brody, JWV--Albert Hanna, DAV
10/75	Harvey Hinkley, MOPH--Jim Copeland, NABV
11/76	Jim Copeland, NABV--Ron Schultz, NACV
10/77	Ron Schultz, NACV--Harry Helgerson, Navy Club
11/78	Ron Schultz, NACV--Chuck Arndt, VFW
11/79	Chuck Arndt, VFW--Paul Bialk, MCL
10/80	Paul Bialk, MCL--Robert Frautschy, AL
10/81	Robert Frautschy, AL--Italo Bensoni, ANU
10/82	Italo Bensoni, ANU--Vern Christianson, MOPH
10/83	Anthony Vrana, PLAV--John Ruud, AMVETS
10/84	Anthony Vrana, PLAV--John Ruud, AMVETS
10/85	Anthony Vrana, PLAV--John Ruud, AMVETS
10/86	Chauncey Dunday, DAV--Marvin Freedman, VVAW
10/87	Chauncey Dunday, DAV--Marvin Freedman, VVAW
10/88	Chauncey Dunday, DAV--Marvin Freedman, VVAW
10/89	Chauncey Dunday, DAV--Marvin Freedman, VVAW
10/90	Marvin Freedman, VVAW--Ron Schultz, WACVO
10/91	John Ruud, AMVETS--Ron Schultz, WACVO
10/92	Chauncey Dunday, DAV--Phyllis Perk, UWV
10/93	Chauncey Dunday, DAV--Phyllis Perk, UWV
10/94	Marvin Freedman, VVA--Jess Jespersion, VVAW
10/95	Marvin Freedman, VVA--Jess Jespersion, VVAW
10/96	Phyllis Perk, UWV--Bill Hustad, WV
10/97	Bill Hustad, WV--Tom Wynn, ARC--John Margowski, CVSO
10/98	Bill Hustad, WV--Joe Guido, DAV--Paul Fine MOPH, Sec.
4/99	Guido resigned--Schurrer, AL, elected Vice Chair
10/99	

COUNCIL ON VETERANS PROGRAMS

JACK MOLNAR (414) 382-5230
AMVETS
ZABLOCKI VA CENTER, PO BOX 6
MILWAUKEE WI 53295

PAUL FERGOT (414) 235-8023
AMERICAN EX-POWS
1566 S. OAKWOOD ROAD
OSHKOSH WI 54901-8157

WILLIAM F. HUSTAD (608) 527-2942
WISCONSIN VIETNAM VETERANS
W4489 EXETER ROAD
MONTICELLO WI 53570

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NATL ASSOC FOR BLACK VETERANS
2844 N 37TH ST
MILWAUKEE WI 53210

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ARMY NAVY UNION
3425 N 60TH ST #158
MILWAUKEE WI 53216-2863

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CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS
3483 E O'BRIEN ROAD
OAK CREEK WI 53154

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CVSO ASSOCIATION
1225 LANGLADE ROAD
ANTIGO WI 54409-2795

JOSEPH GUIDO
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
731 BRICKLEY DRIVE
FONTANA WI 53125

PAUL WEPRINSKY (414) 282-4205
JEWISH WAR VETERANS
4870 S 72ND STREET
GREENFIELD WI 53220

JOHN SCHURRER (414) 462-1445
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3770 N 97TH ST
MILWAUKEE WI 53222

PAUL A. BIALK (414) 425-1619
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
5350 S 110TH STREET
HALES CORNERS WI 53130

PAUL FINE (414) 354-4139
MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART
8010 N 67TH STREET
BROWN DEER WI 53223

THOMAS H. WYNN (414) 265-8940
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3330 W WELLS ST
MILWAUKEE WI 53208

TED FETTING (414) 278-4054
WACVO
901 N 9TH ST, RM G5
MILWAUKEE WI 53233

STAN VALENTINE (414) 654-4873
NAVY CLUBS OF USA
6604 50TH AVENUE
KENOSHA WI 53142

RALPH CHRAPKOWSKI (414) 697-9071
POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS
6647 125TH PLACE
PLEASANT PRAIRIE WI 53158

ITALO BENSONI (715) 561-4130
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
ROUTE 4, BOX 53
HURLEY WI 54534

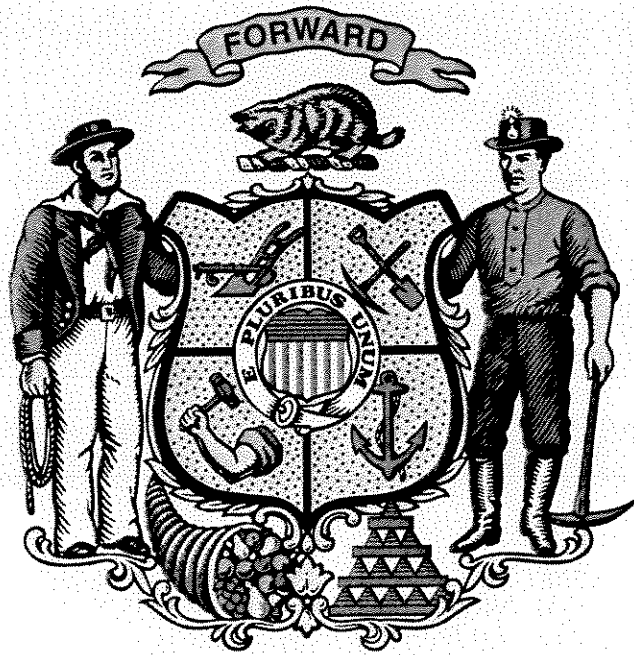
JESS JESPERSON
VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR
1751 N ARLINGTON DR
MILWAUKEE WI 53202

JIM RIESENBERG
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
COURTHOUSE, 615 N 6TH ST
SHEBOYGAN WI 53081-4692
(920) 459-3053

PHYLLIS PERK (608) 244-2186
UNITED WOMEN VETERANS
205B N THOMPSON DRIVE
MADISON WI 53714

WALTER M. STENAVICH (414) 633-2028
US SUBMARINE VETERANS OF WWII
2210 HAYES AVENUE
RACINE WI 53405

FED FOR CULTURALLY DIVERSE VETS
VETERANS OF WWI





VETERANS AFFAIRS

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Tommy G. Thompson, Governor
Raymond G. Boland, Secretary

October 4, 1999

To The Honorable Members of the Legislature:

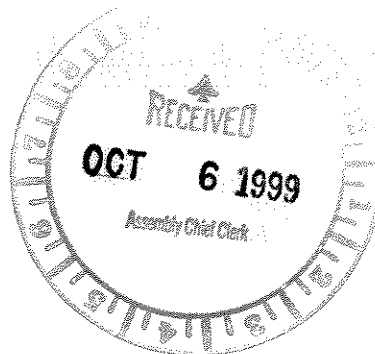
In compliance with section 45.35(3d)(b), Wis. Stats., as created by 1989 Wisconsin Act 36, the Council on Veterans Programs and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) submitted general summary reports of the activities and membership of the Council and the organizations represented on the Council. Five organizations had not reported by the September 30th deadline.

Attached are reports from two of the five outstanding organizations—the Federation for Culturally Diverse Veterans and the National Association For Black Veterans. Thank you for including these organizations in the report period.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

JOHN A. SCOCOS
Executive Assistant





FEDVET

FEDERATION FOR CULTURALLY DIVERSE VETERANS, INC.
PO Box 18762
Milwaukee WI 53218
(414) 365-0508

Activities and Membership Report July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1999

- ☆ extended advocacy for justice to the survivors and deceased service members of the "Port Chicago Mutiny;"
- ☆ partnership development with the:
 - ☆ National Association for Black Veterans, Inc. (NABVETS) to establish a collaborative veterans services partnership;
 - ☆ Center for Veterans Issues, Ltd. (CVI) for administrative and technical support;
 - ☆ Indo-Chinese America Veterans of the Vietnam War Era Organization, Inc. to support their efforts of services to its members;
 - ☆ Wisconsin Indian Veterans Association and the North American Iroquois Veterans Association to meet the needs of Native American veterans;
- ☆ began incarcerated veterans strategic planning sessions, with NABVETS and CVI, to focus on pre-lease support services to veterans;
- ☆ joined the NABVETS-CVI Veterans/Community Working Group to address veterans issues and guidance to Veterans United for Community Services (VUCS) Projects;
- ☆ received representative seat on the Wisconsin Council on Veterans Programs, Friends of the Wisconsin War Memorial Center, Inc. Board of Directors;

Mr. M. Jesse Torres, a Vietnam combat veteran, member of the Wisconsin Indian Veterans Association and the North American Iroquois Veterans Association and a certified veterans service officer, has been appointed as representative on the Wisconsin Council on Veterans Programs.

Signed: _____

Thomas H. Wynn, Sr., Vice-President
FEDVET

Date: _____

30 Sept 99

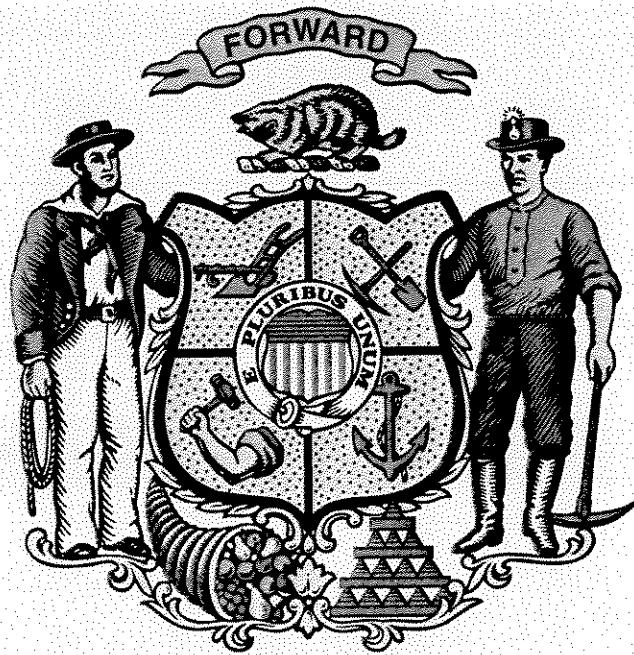


NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BLACK VETERANS, INC.
P.O. BOX 11432 • Milwaukee, WI 53211-0432
1-800-842-4597 • (414) 342-VETS
FAX (414) 342-0840

**Activities and Membership Report
July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1999**

- received recognition for the purpose of preparation, presentation and prosecution of claims under laws administered by US DVA pursuant to 38 U.S.C. § 5902 and 38 C.F.R. § 14.628;
- worked with veterans, and its collaborative partners, to provided over 72,000 units of community services, through its *Veterans United for Community Services (VUCS) Projects*;
- worked with homeless veterans partners to address the housing needs of homeless veterans with families through the Center for Veterans Issues, Ltd US HUD Safe Haven Program;
- co-sponsored **Basic Training Course in Veterans Benefits** for 26 homeless veterans;
- co-sponsored **Advanced Course in Veterans Benefits** for local and state veterans service staff;
- provided readjustment counseling (PTSD) services to 45 veterans;
- opened its Project WHERE Veterans/Community Resource Service Center;
- co-sponsored the registration, transportation and meals for 22 homeless veterans to attend the VA Homeless Veterans Training Conference in Chicago;
- provided over 3,200 units of transportation services to the Milwaukee VAP members;
- established partnership with the Indochina veterans of the Vietnam War and the Association of Culturally Diversified Veterans, in partnership with the Center for Veterans Issues, Ltd. (CVI);
- represented on the board of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans;
- completed the **Parents Assuming Responsibility (PAR) Program** design, in partnership with CVI, for funding consideration under the Wisconsin Welfare to Work (WtW) Program for non-custodial parents - veterans focus;
- developed the **Youth Empowerment and Services (YES) Corps Program** model linking service strategies with community resources;
- began dialogue with local and state veterans organization, in three of the five targeted sites, for development and implementation of an economic development initiative serving low-income veterans and youth;
- established communication with community agencies to initiate client-based service partnership coalition in the Milwaukee Harambee community;
- developing resources to replicate the Milwaukee-based, WDVA funded, learning-based Computer Center at **VETS Place Central**;
- submitted application to US DVA to support funding of a Mental/Behavioral Health Clinic to address the needs of non-residential homeless veterans and their families, and 25% targeted services to non-veterans and families (**NOTE: Initiative in partnership with WDVA and the CR-Social Development Commission. US DVA approval received 9/22/99**);
- received representative seat on the National Veterans Legal Services Program Advisory Board (Washington DC), US DoL Advisory Board, Milwaukee County War Memorial Center, Inc. Veterans Board of Directors, Milwaukee County War Memorial Center, Inc. Board of Trustees, Wisconsin Veterans War Memorial Center, Inc./Milwaukee Inc. Board of Directors, Friends of the Wisconsin War Memorial Center, Inc. Board of Directors, and Milwaukee County Veteran Service Commissioners Board of Directors.

"Creating a Positive Lifestyle for Veterans, Their Families and the Community."





WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 · MADISON, WI 53708

November 4, 1999

Pioneer Plaza
Attn: Steve Plier
3230 Pioneer Plaza
Richfield, WI 53076

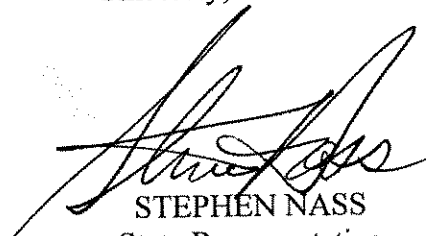
Dear Mr. Plier,

We are writing this letter to recognize the dedication and vision of the United Proud Patriots Veteran's Organization to build the Veteran's Patriot Park and Eagles Nest in Richfield. We share the same values with the United Proud Patriots that Wisconsin's Veterans have earned the right to be honored for their service and sacrifice to the people of this great country.

It is important that the honorable duty served by Wisconsin's Veterans is never taken for granted. We hope you share our ideals and give thoughtful consideration to the vision held by the United Proud Patriots.


Once again, we appreciate your time and consideration on this patriotic endeavor.


Sincerely,



STEPHEN NASS
State Representative


DAVID ZIEN
State Senator

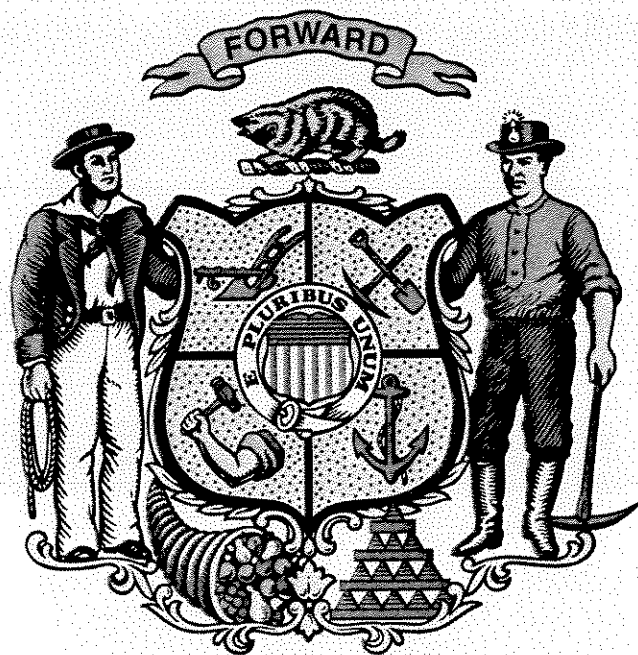

TERRY MUSSER
State Representative


ALBERTA DARLING
State Senator


MARY PANZER
State Senator


MICHAEL LEHMAN
State Representative







Joe Schmoie

State Representative • 100th Assembly District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOE SCHMOE, (608) 266-0000

NOVEMBER 10, 1999

SCHMOE LEADS EFFORT TO PUT A FLAG IN EVERY CLASSROOM

"This is the perfect way to begin celebration of Veterans' Day, 1999," lawmaker says

RIVER BOTTOM... Today, the day before Veterans' Day, 1999, the state Assembly moved to rejuvenate the patriotic spirit in our youth by approving legislation placing a flag in every classroom and requiring that schools begin the day with the Pledge of Allegiance or national anthem.

State Representative Joe Schmoie (R-River Bottom), who co-authored the measure, said recent school tragedies show the need to strengthen the ties that unify our nation, as the differences between us tear at our social fabric.

"The American flag and the Pledge are simple but extraordinarily meaningful symbols of civic pride, community responsibility and patriotism," Schmoie said. "They serve as reminders that we have a collective identity as citizens that transcends our individual differences and that calls us to embrace both the benefits and the responsibilities of membership in a free society."

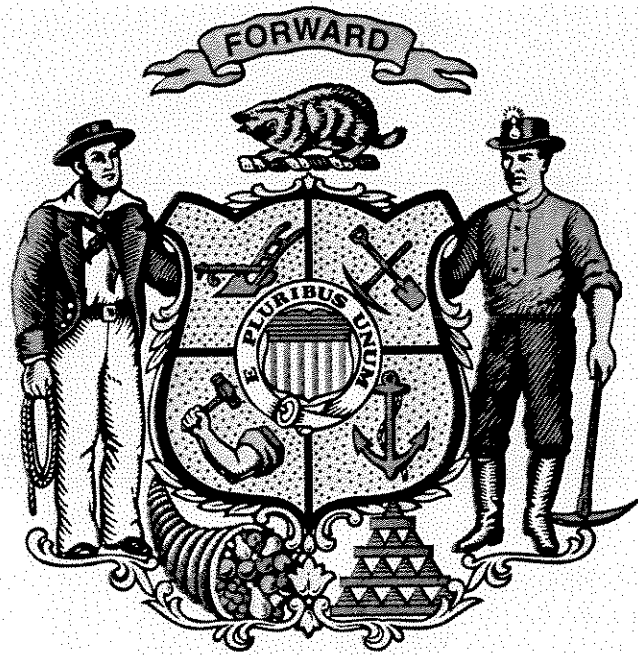
Schmoie said displaying the American flag in our classrooms has an important and long-standing history in Wisconsin. In 1885, Waubesa schoolteacher Bernard Cigrand placed a ten-inch, 38-star flag in a bottle on his desk and had his students write essays about what the flag meant to them. Cigrand's reverence for the flag and persistence paid off when President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Flag Day June 14th, as an annual, national celebration.

"Sadly, these patriotic traditions are no longer as common in today's school system, or society at large," Schmoie said. "Will we really commemorate Veteran's Day tomorrow, or will most of us treat it like any other day?"

Currently, schools have the option of displaying only one American flag for the entire school and the Pledge of Allegiance is required only in grades 1 through 8. While Schmoie's proposal would make these national icons a part of every classroom, no student could be forced to recite the Pledge or sing the Anthem against their will or in violation of their religious beliefs. Also, groups including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and the National Flag Day Foundation stand ready to help any school district who may face a financial hardship placing a flag in each classroom.

"These days, our schools are going to great lengths to teach diversity and emphasize the differences between people," Schmoie said. "We also need to re-emphasize unifying national symbols and traditions like the flag, the Pledge, and the National Anthem."

The measure (Assembly Bill 113) passed the Assembly in a bipartisan 93-3 vote. It must now pass the Senate and be signed by the Governor to become law.



Leat
10/29/99

November 13, 1999

Lao Veterans of America, Inc.
PO Box 331
Menomonie, WI 54753

Dear Veterans,

I regret I cannot be with you today to personally recognize your commitment and dedication to our country.

Sadly, the sacrifices of the Hmong people during the Vietnam War are not well known. America abandoned you -- another tragedy too easily forgotten.

As a Vietnam Veteran, I will keep trying to include you in our current system. You have earned Veterans benefits and American citizenship through your past service and sacrifices for this country. Even more importantly, you are entitled by your sacrifices that saved untold numbers of Americans from the Communist forces.

I hope that some day all of America will join me in my salute to you, and your dedication to this country.

Sincerely,

State Representative Terry Musser
92nd Assembly District
Chair, Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs