

Gilbert, Melissa

From: Offerdahl, Mary
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2003 2:58 PM
To: Offerdahl, Mary; Gilbert, Melissa; Sweet, Richard
Cc: Nelson, Robert P.; Shannon, Pam
Subject: RE: SB 170 and Iraqi Freedom

Just heard back with respect to the last issue in my email below--John Rozinski explained we do **not** need to make any change to Section 5 of the sub. to SB 170, since anyone serving during the timeframe described in Section 5 is covered whether they were in the U.S. or in Iraq. Bottom line: the only change needed is the insertion of "or" after "war period" in s. 45.001 (4) (a) 1. c., Stats., as explained in the email below.

Mary Offerdahl
Staff Attorney
Legislative Council

-----Original Message-----

From: Offerdahl, Mary
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2003 2:08 PM
To: Gilbert, Melissa; Sweet, Richard
Cc: Nelson, Robert P.; Shannon, Pam
Subject: RE: SB 170 and Iraqi Freedom

Col. McArdle from DMA and John Rosinski, Chief Attorney at DVA, left a joint message on my machine this morning.

First, they both confirmed that **they want the word "or" added after "war period" in s. 45.001 (4) (a) 1. c., Stats.,** so that it reads "Has served for 90 days or more during a war period or under section 1 of executive order 10957 ..." [emphasis added]. This change has the effect of bringing in all the war periods listed in s. 45.001(5), Stats., separate from the executive order, which they said covers the Berlin wall crisis of 1961 rather than a war period. According to Col. McArdle and John Rosinski, the "or" had originally been in the statute, and a revisor bill (they think it was Revisor Bill Act 103) had inadvertently taken it out when making a technical change taking out an adjoining phrase. So they said the absence of "or" in the current statute is a mistake and DVA has continued to interpret the statute as if the "or" were still in, and it should therefore be inserted back in.

With respect to the issue of whether Operation Noble Eagle should also be referenced in Section 5 of the sub. to SB 170, LRB s0207/2, to cover persons on active duty within the U.S. during Iraqi operations, Col. McArdle forgot to bring this up with John Rosinski this morning, so he will give John a call and they will get back to us on that issue.

Mary Offerdahl
Staff Attorney
Legislative Council

-----Original Message-----

From: Gilbert, Melissa
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2003 4:06 PM
To: Offerdahl, Mary; 'david.dziobkowski@wimadi.ang.af.mil'; Sweet, Richard
Cc: Nelson, Robert P.
Subject: RE: SB 170 and Iraqi Freedom

Sounds good. Thanks!

-----Original Message-----

From: Offerdahl, Mary
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2003 4:05 PM
To: Offerdahl, Mary; 'david.dziobkowski@wimadi.ang.af.mil'; Sweet, Richard
Cc: Nelson, Robert P.; Gilbert, Melissa
Subject: RE: SB 170 and Iraqi Freedom

I just heard back from Col. McArdle and Maj. Dziobkowski at DMA. They will meet with John Rosinski and James Stewart from DVA on Monday morning to iron out the issues discussed in my email below. With respect to the issue in the first par. of my email below, it appears that the executive order may be an outdated

reference in the statute that needs to be changed, and with respect to the issue in the second par., their discussions will also include whether Operation Noble Eagle should be referenced to cover persons on active duty within the U.S. during Iraqi operations.

Mary Offerdahl
Staff Attorney
Legislative Council

-----Original Message-----

From: Offerdahl, Mary
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2003 9:47 AM
To: 'david.dziobkowski@wimadi.ang.af.mil'; Sweet, Richard
Cc: Nelson, Robert P.; Gilbert, Melissa
Subject: SB 170 and Iraqi Freedom

<< File: Executive Order 10957.htm >>

To: Maj. David Dziobkowski, DMA and Dick Sweet, my colleague at Leg. Council

Hi David and Dick, Attached is the executive order referred to in s. 45.001 (4) (a) 1.c. Dick, David is from the legal office in DMA and thinks that maybe the executive order covers all war periods listed under s. 45.001 (5). I didn't think it appeared to, because of the words "until July 1, 1962" in the executive order, but David said he would like to take a look at the executive order and get back to us later today. If it doesn't cover all war periods in (5), we thought maybe that would be odd and perhaps the statute should be revised so that it does, but David will get back to us later today after he has time to think about it.

Also, David confirmed that the orders for anyone who has served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom up until now actually state "Operation Enduring Freedom," and therefore those people would be covered under the Middle East crisis provision of s. 45.001 (4) (a) 1.a., which references s. 45.34, Stats. However, David mentioned that whether orders would continue to be written that way in the future is unpredictable.

David, when you get back to us later today regarding your interpretation of the attached executive order, could you also please let me know if I've summarized our discussion correctly in the rest of this email? Thank you very much for your help! Mary

Mary Offerdahl
Staff Attorney
Legislative Council

Gilbert, Melissa

From: Sweet, Richard
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2003 2:34 PM
To: Gilbert, Melissa; Offerdahl, Mary
Subject: RE: LRB 03s0207 Topic: Veterans benefits

Melissa,

Chuck is right on the first point. Since you can't get both a National Guard tuition grant and a veterans' tuition grant in the same semester, the material on page 5, line 16 between the commas (and the commas themselves) should be shown as stricken. You may want to pass this suggestion on to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau so they can incorporate it into any Joint Finance amendment that is adopted.

On his second point, there isn't any significance to having a gap in the numbering. Subsection (21) was going to deal with service delivery, but that was deleted. There isn't any need to renumber the succeeding subsections.

Dick

-----Original Message-----

From: Gilbert, Melissa
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2003 1:59 PM
To: Offerdahl, Mary; Sweet, Richard
Subject: FW: LRB 03s0207 Topic: Veterans benefits

Hi Dick and Mary,

The following comments were forwarded to us from Vets for Vets on the substitute to SB 170. Any thoughts?

Thanks,
Missy

-----Original Message-----

From: vets [mailto:Vets@mail.studentorg.wisc.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2003 6:33 PM
To: Gilbert, Melissa
Subject: LRB 03s0207 Topic: Veterans benefits

Whew! I am getting a headache making cross-references.

It looks great to me. CVSO concerns aside, those items dealing with veterans education are excellent. Thank you for including the Guard grant fix in this veterans bill.

A couple of minor technical points I noticed:

Section 11, (page 5, line 16) says that money received under 21.49 (the Guard grant) should be deducted from the TFRG payment, thereby suggesting that one could properly use both in the same semester. Section 15 (page 7, line 17) would prohibit using the TFRG and 21.49 in the same semester. Confusing and seemingly contradictory, but probably not fatal.

Sections 16 and 17 (page 7, lines 8-15) create 45.35 (20) and 45.35 (22). There seems to be no 45.35 (21). Does that matter?

Thanks for sharing. Is it OK yet for me to share with others, explaining that it is subject to change of course?

Chuck Goranson, Advisor

Vets for Vets

University of Wisconsin-Madison

714 University Ave

Madison, WI 53715

(608) 263-3456

Home 224-0631

Cell 225-2929

Gilbert, Melissa

From: Sweet, Richard
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 3:07 PM
To: Gilbert, Melissa
Cc: Offerdahl, Mary
Subject: RE: LRB 03s0207 Topic: Veterans benefits

Sounds good to me.

-----Original Message-----

From: Gilbert, Melissa
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 2:54 PM
To: Sweet, Richard
Cc: Offerdahl, Mary
Subject: RE: LRB 03s0207 Topic: Veterans benefits

Actually, upon further review, maybe we should leave good enough alone. As long as you don't think anyone will be confused by the language, it might be best to stop tinkering with the bill. I'm sure Bob would appreciate that, anyway!

-----Original Message-----

From: Sweet, Richard
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 2:33 PM
To: Gilbert, Melissa
Cc: Offerdahl, Mary
Subject: RE: LRB 03s0207 Topic: Veterans benefits

Actually, fees are still covered. You won't see them mentioned in s. 45.25, Stats., but they come in through s. 45.25(3)(am), Stats., which references the 2001 statute under which disabled vets got up to 100% of UW tuition and fees. This was why Anthony didn't want to repeal s. 45.25(3)(am). It's kind of confusing and you can change the statutes to specifically refer to tuition and fees if you want. Or not.

Are you going to send the sub back to Bob to include the language about excluding other grants and scholarship or were you going to wait until you get feedback from everyone on the sub?

Dick

-----Original Message-----

From: Gilbert, Melissa
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 2:14 PM
To: Sweet, Richard
Cc: Offerdahl, Mary
Subject: RE: LRB 03s0207 Topic: Veterans benefits

Thanks, Dick! I think we do want to maintain the existing difference in the programs, in part to encourage returning vets to utilize the DVA program. We should make the other change though so that students are not reimbursed above their actual costs. Also, I noticed on page 5, line 23 that the language "and fees" is used. Don't we want to eliminate that reference to avoid confusion?

-----Original Message-----

From: Sweet, Richard
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 2:07 PM
To: Gilbert, Melissa
Cc: Offerdahl, Mary
Subject: FW: LRB 03s0207 Topic: Veterans benefits

Missy,

The sub seems fine.

I noticed a couple of minor differences between the National Guard tuition statute and the statutes for the 2 vets' educational programs, but those differences exist in current law as well as in the sub amendment. First, the vets' statutes include fees. Second, the vets' statutes allow for a grant up to the maximum, minus other grants and scholarships (for example, see page 10, line 19). The National Guard tuition statute doesn't do either of these. No need to do anything about these differences; I just thought I would point them out.

Dick

-----Original Message-----

From: Emery, Lynn
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2003 6:35 PM
To: Sweet, Richard
Subject: LRB 03s0207 Topic: Veterans benefits

Draft Requester: Ronald Brown

The attached proposal has been jacketed for introduction.

<< File: 0207 >>

Gilbert, Melissa

From: Sweet, Richard
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 2:07 PM
To: Gilbert, Melissa
Cc: Offerdahl, Mary
Subject: FW: LRB 03s0207 Topic: Veterans benefits

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The sub seems fine.

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Dick

-----Original Message-----

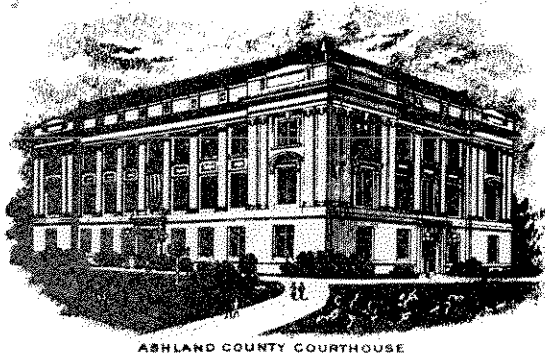
From: Emery, Lynn
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2003 6:35 PM
To: Sweet, Richard
Subject: LRB 03s0207 Topic: Veterans benefits

Draft Requester: Ronald Brown

The attached proposal has been jacketed for introduction.



0207



John M. Urling
County Service Officer

Lori A. Rademacher
Office Assistant

Ashland County
Veterans Service Office

Courthouse ~ Rm. 105
201 Main Street West
ASHLAND, WISCONSIN 54806-1652

Telephone: (715) 682-7011
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Email: veterans@co.ashland.wi.us

October 20, 2003

Honorable Ron Brown
Room 104 South
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Brown,

I am writing to further advise you of the County Veterans Service Officer's Association position regarding SB 170 in its current form.

While our Association fully supports the vast majority of the changes contained in SB 170, we do have three areas of concern.

1. In the area of Service Delivery, we had discussions with Acting Secretary John Scocos of WDVA prior to the introduction of SB 170. Our notes from those meetings clearly reflect our support for WDVA's ability to process claims in conjunction with "Supermarkets", but did not extend beyond that. It is the position of the Association, that WDVA should work with the Association to close any perceived gaps in service delivery. Subsequent discussions with Mr. Scocos regarding this issue have progressed to the point where WDVA is willing to remove this provision from the bill.
2. We believe the proposed changes to the Personal Loan Program (PLP) contained in SB 170 to be unjustly restrictive to those veterans who do not have a property that they can offer as collateral on a loan. This would be particularly detrimental to our young returning service personnel, who do not own property and are seeking to use this program to assist with financing their education, and to our Native American veterans who reside on reservations. Under current rules, any veteran, whether using property or a co-signer can obtain a loan from WDVA for up to \$15,000. While we support raising the PLP loan limit to \$25,000 for those individuals who do have property to mortgage, we do not support lowering the lending limit for co-signer loans to \$5,000, but rather would support leaving that loan at \$15,000, or would consider a compromise position of lowering the loan limit for co-signers to \$10,000. After repeated requests WDVA has provided us with some historical data, which reflects a higher delinquency rate for co-signer loans verses mortgage secured loans, but has yet to provide any hard data reflecting default rates, and the subsequent impact on the Trust Fund.

Our Association believes that if data were to be collected from virtually any lending institution, you would find similar trends. The co-signer interest rate is already set one full percentage point above the mortgage secured loan for this reason. We would suggest that WDVA's underwriting procedures "in-house" might require some revision. Rethinking the underwriting procedures would certainly be more acceptable than drastically altering the current program as is currently proposed in SB 170.

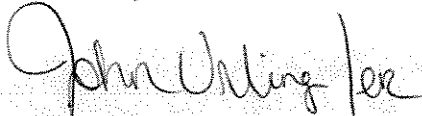
3. The proposed changes to language in the Statutes regarding what entity qualifies for a "full" CVSO Office grant is rather perplexing. We understand the intent of the bill's language, but remain opposed to the end result. The real solution to this dilemma is not to change the law, but rather for a county with a part-time CVSO to employ a full-time CVSO and staff the office appropriately. From our discussion with Mr. Scocos, he once again has agreed to request that this provision in SB 170 be deleted.

Our Association remains dedicated to preserving and enhancing veterans' benefits here in the State of Wisconsin. We have a unique perspective, in that we are in daily contact with the veterans who utilize both the State of Wisconsin and Federal Veterans' Benefits, and hear their concerns regularly. While we are generally supportive of program initiatives brought forth by WDVA and the Legislature, we do periodically have differing opinions.

I request that you take into consideration the concerns expressed by our Association.

We look for your support in amending the current language of SB 170 to reflect our Association's position, and would be happy to provide you and/or your staff with further information.

Sincerely,



John M. Urling
Ashland County Veterans Service Officer

October 17, 2003

Honorable Ron Brown
Room 104 South
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

OCT 20 2003

Dear Senator Brown,

Although I have worked in Veterans Affairs over 20 years as a social worker, manager, and County Veterans Service Officer, I am writing to you now as a Wisconsin taxpayer and voter.

I have concerns about three (3) aspects of SB 170: Service Delivery, Personal Loan Programs (PLP), and the proposed changes to statutes language regarding what entity qualifies for a "full" County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) grant.

1. Service Delivery – CVSO's have been, and should remain, the primary deliverer of services to veterans. They are not employed by the agencies that coordinate the major veteran programs and benefits, Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. CVSO's are veteran advocates who more often than not receive referrals from the state and federal agencies. Why? Because they understand CVSO's are locally assessable, trained, and experienced to do the job.
2. Personal Loan Program – I do not support lowering the lending limit for co-signer loans to \$5,000. I believe this will have an adverse impact on newer veterans (and unfortunately they are being made every day) and Native American veterans living on reservations. A compromise would allow applicants who use co-signers as security to have a maximum loan amount of \$15,000 (the current maximum).
3. Proposed language change to allow a full grant to a full time service office rather than a full time service officer.

Changing the statutes for the benefit of one county out of 72 is not good public policy, in my opinion. I believe if this change occurs many counties will move toward a part time

CVSO from full time. I believe the current law "full time grant for full time CVSO" is an incentive for many counties to maintain a full time CVSO. I believe all veterans, regardless of where they live, deserve a full time CVSO. During these rough fiscal times all levels of government, including counties, are looking to reduce expenses. This proposed change will only help them to do that, to the detriment of veterans and their families.

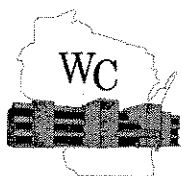
I'm writing now as I understand SB170 will be on the floor of the Senate next week. I hope you get this in time and I hope you read it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael R. Jackson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Michael R. Jackson

WAUPACA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE



Jon E. LiDonne
Veteran Service Officer

COURTHOUSE

Phone: 715-258-6475

811 Harding Street Waupaca WI 54981

Fax: 715-258-6266

October 17, 2003

OCT 20 2003

Senator Ron Brown
Room 104 South
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Brown:

I am writing to advise you of the County Veterans Service Officer's Association position regarding SB 170 in its current form.

While our Association fully supports the vast majority of the changes contained in SB 170, we do have three areas of concern.

1. In the area of Service Delivery, we had discussions with Acting Secretary John Scocos of WDVA prior to the introduction of SB 170. Our notes from those meetings clearly reflect our support for WDVA's ability to process claims in conjunction with "Supermarkets", but did not extend beyond that. It is the position of the Association, that WDVA should work with the Association to close any perceived gaps in service delivery. Subsequent discussions with Mr. Scocos regarding this issue have progressed to the point where WDVA is willing to remove this provision from the bill.
2. We believe the proposed changes to the Personal Loan Program (PLP) contained in SB 170 to be unjustly restrictive to those veterans who do not have a property that they can offer as collateral on a loan. This would be particularly detrimental to our young returning service personnel, who do not own property and are seeking to use this program to assist with financing their education, and to our Native American veterans who reside on reservations. Under current rules, any veteran, whether using property or a co-signer can obtain a loan from WDVA for up to \$15,000. While we support raising the PLP loan limit to \$25,000 for those individuals who do have property to mortgage, we do not support lowering the lending limit for co-signer loans to \$5,000, but rather would support leaving that loan at \$15,000, or would consider a compromise position of lowering the loan limit for co-signers to \$10,000. After repeated requests WDVA has provided us with some historical data, which reflects a higher delinquency rate for co-signer loans vice mortgage secured loans, but has yet to provide any hard data reflecting default rates, and the subsequent impact on the Trust Fund.

Our Association believes that if data were to be collected from virtually any lending institution, you would find similar trends. The co-signer interest rate is already set one full percentage point above the mortgage secured loan for this reason. We would suggest that WDVA's underwriting procedures "in-house" might require some revision. Rethinking the underwriting procedures would certainly be more acceptable than drastically altering the current program as is currently proposed in SB 170.

3. The proposed changes to language in the Statutes regarding what entity qualifies for a "full" CVSO Office grant is rather perplexing. We understand the intent of the bill's language, but remain opposed to the end result. The real solution to this dilemma is not to change the law, but rather for a county with a part-time CVSO to employ a full-time CVSO and staff the office appropriately. From our discussion with Mr. Scocos, he once again has agreed to request that this provision in SB 170 be deleted.

Our Association remains dedicated to preserving and enhancing veterans' benefits here in the State of Wisconsin. We have a unique perspective, in that we are in daily contact with the veterans who utilize both the State of Wisconsin and Federal Veterans' Benefits, and hear their concerns regularly. While we are generally supportive of program initiatives brought forth by WDVA and the Legislature, we do periodically have differing opinions.

I request that you take into consideration the concerns expressed by our Association.

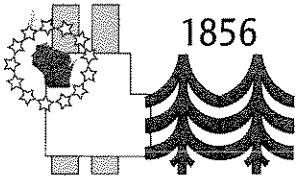
We look for your support in amending the current language of SB 170 to reflect our Association's position, and would be happy to provide you and/or your staff with further information.

Sincerely,



Jon E. Li Donne
Veterans Service Officer
Waupaca County, Wisconsin

JEL:clr



Wood County WISCONSIN

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

October 16, 2003

Honorable Ron Brown
Room 104 South
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

OCT 20 2003

Dear Senator Brown,

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While our Association fully supports the vast majority of the changes contained in SB 170, we do have three areas of concern.

1. In the area of Service Delivery, we had discussions with Acting Secretary John Scocos of WDVA prior to the introduction of SB 170. Our notes from those meetings clearly reflect our support for WDVA's ability to process claims in conjunction with "Supermarkets", but did not extend beyond that. It is the position of the Association, that WDVA should work with the Association to close any perceived gaps in service delivery.
Subsequent discussions with Mr. Scocos regarding this issue have progressed to the point where WDVA is willing to remove this provision from the bill.
2. We believe the proposed changes to the Personal Loan Program (PLP) contained in SB 170 to be unjustly restrictive to those veterans who do not have a property that they can offer as collateral on a loan. This would be particularly detrimental to our young returning service personnel, who do not own property and are seeking to use this program to assist with financing their education, and to our Native American veterans who reside on reservations. Under current rules, any veteran, whether using property or a co-signer can obtain a loan from WDVA for up to \$15,000. While we support raising the PLP loan limit to \$25,000 for those individuals who do have property to mortgage, we do not support lowering the lending limit for co-signer loans to \$5,000, but rather would support leaving that loan at \$15,000, or would consider a compromise position of lowering the loan limit for co-signers to \$10,000. After repeated requests WDVA has provided us with some historical data, which reflects a higher delinquency rate for co-signer loans vice mortgage secured loans,

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I request that you take into consideration the concerns expressed by our Association.

We look for your support in amending the current language of SB 170 to reflect our Association's position, and would be happy to provide you and/or your staff with further information.

Sincerely,



Rock A. Larson
Veteran Service Officer

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

RICHLAND COUNTY

COURTHOUSE, 181 WEST SEMINARY, RICHLAND CENTER WI 53581

Phone (608) 647-6101 E-mail rcvso@co.richland.wi.us

Sandra M. Kramer
Veterans Service Officer

Jeff Schultz
Assistant

October 16, 2003

Honorable Ron Brown
Room 104 South
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

OCT 17 2003

Dear Senator Brown,

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra M. Kramer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Sandra M. Kramer
Richland County Veterans Service Officer

GRANT COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE

TOM TABER

Service Officer
Phone 608-723-2756
FAX 608-723-4048

October 16, 2003

111 South Jefferson
Lancaster, WI 53813
grantvso@pcii.net

OCT 17 2003

Senator Dale Schultz
Room 310 South
State Capitol
P O Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator,

It was good to see you at the UW-Platteville Homecoming Parade last Saturday and hear your concerns about the W-2 program and our servicemen and women in Iraq. I was with the Legion Color Guard that day.

I am writing to express some concerns regarding SB 170 and would ask for your consideration and support of some amendments. I support most of the bill, but have reservations regarding a couple items. My main concern is changing the Personal Loan Program to allow only a \$5,000 loan when a guarantor is used as security. My county is home to UW-Platteville and Southwest Tech College. Under the current rules student veterans can obtain up to \$15,000 with a guarantor as security. The proposal in SB 170 would limit students to \$5,000 because most do not own real estate to use as security. A \$10,000 guarantor secured loan would be an acceptable alternative.


WDVA maintains that guarantor secured loans have a high delinquency rate and that is the reason for this change. I have not seen anything to show that the delinquency rate translates into substantial defaults. Those loans are just being paid late, which actually generates more money (interest) for the Veterans Trust Fund.

I am also concerned about the wording change to the CVSO Grant regulations. At the time of SB 170's drafting only one county was directly affected. Off the record, several WDVA staff have indicated that changing "officer" to "office" could encourage counties to reduce the position of CVSO to a part-time position.

Since our days at WDVA the purpose of the grant has changed from an effort to have full-time CVSO's to a productivity incentive. I believe there are better ways for WDVA to reward Green County that would have less negative impact on the rest of us.

WDVA is aware of these concerns and has been receptive to amending SB 170. Your time, consideration and support will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Tom Taber
Service Officer

T. F. WAGNER, Veterans Service Officer
BARBARA K. OLSON, Asst. Veterans Service Officer

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Barron County Veterans Service Office

418 East LaSalle Avenue
BARRON, WISCONSIN 54812-1517

October 15, 2003

Honorable Ron Brown
Room 104 South
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

OCT 20 2003

Dear Senator Brown,

I am writing to further advise you of the County Veterans Service Officer's Association position regarding SB 170 in its current form.

While our Association fully supports the vast majority of the changes contained in SB 170, we do have three areas of concern.

1. In the area of Service Delivery, we had discussions with Acting Secretary John Scocos of WDVA prior to the introduction of SB 170. Our notes from those meetings clearly reflect our support for WDVA's ability to process claims in conjunction with "Supermarkets", but did not extend beyond that. It is the position of the Association, that WDVA should work with the Association to close any perceived gaps in service delivery.
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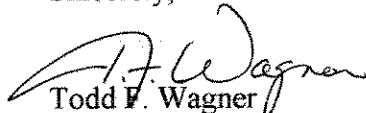
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I request that you take into consideration the concerns expressed by our Association.

We look for your support in amending the current language of SB 170 to reflect our Association's position, and would be happy to provide you and/or your staff with further information.

Sincerely,


Todd F. Wagner
Veteran Service Officer

BUFFALO COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
407TH South Second Street
Alma, WI 54610

Bruce A. Severson, Veterans Service Officer
Phone: (608) 685-6219
Home: (715) 946-3481
Fax: (608) 685-6242
E-mail: bruce.severson@buffalocounty.com (WORK)
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Le Anne Loesel, Benefit Specialist
Phone: (608) 685-6283
Home: (715) 946-3584
Fax: (608) 685-6242
E-mail: leanne.loesel@buffalocounty.com

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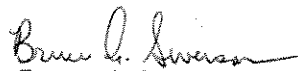
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Bruce A. Severson

Buffalo County

Veterans Service Officer

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Bob Wilson
Langlade County Veteran Service Officer

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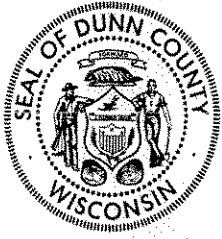
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Sincerely,



Donald J. Lander
Clark County CVSO



VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Phone: (715) 232-1646
FAX: (715) 232-1324

County of Dunn
Government Center
800 Wilson Avenue, Room 306
Menomonie, WI 54751

Duane J. Bauer
Veterans Service Officer

Ginger Hoff
Veterans Specialist

October 15, 2003

OCT 27 2003

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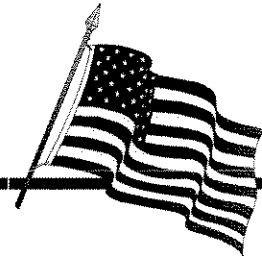


Duane J. Bauer

Dunn County Veterans Service Officer

Kewaunee County

Veterans' Service Office



613 Dodge Street - Courthouse - Kewaunee, WI 54216
Joseph G. Aulik, Veterans Service Officer - Phone (920) 388-7198
E-mail: cvso@kewauneeco.org Fax: 920-388-7139

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Joseph G. Adlik
Veterans Service Officer
Kewaunee County

JGA:dn

Daniel M. Finley
County Executive

John L. Margowski
Director

Waukesha COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS' SERVICES

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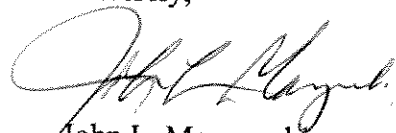
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My letter may appear very similar to other letters you may receive. I fully support the CVSO Association's concerns stated in this letter and ask that you please consider these positions when SB170 comes to the floor.

We look for your support in amending the current language of SB 170 to reflect our Association's position, and would be happy to provide you and/or your staff with further information.

Sincerely,



John L. Margowski
Director of Veterans Services

JLM/mjw



COUNTY OF MARATHON

212 RIVER DRIVE, SUITE 1

WAUSAU, WISCONSIN 54403-5568

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

PHONE: (715) 261-1141

FAX: (715) 261-1146

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Scott A. Berger
Veterans Service Officer

OCT 24 2003



Vets Grapevine



Volume XXXII

Number 1

October 2003

Published by Vets for Vets, for students of the Armed Forces since 1972

Vets Grant goes up, Guard Grant goes down

By Chuck Goranson

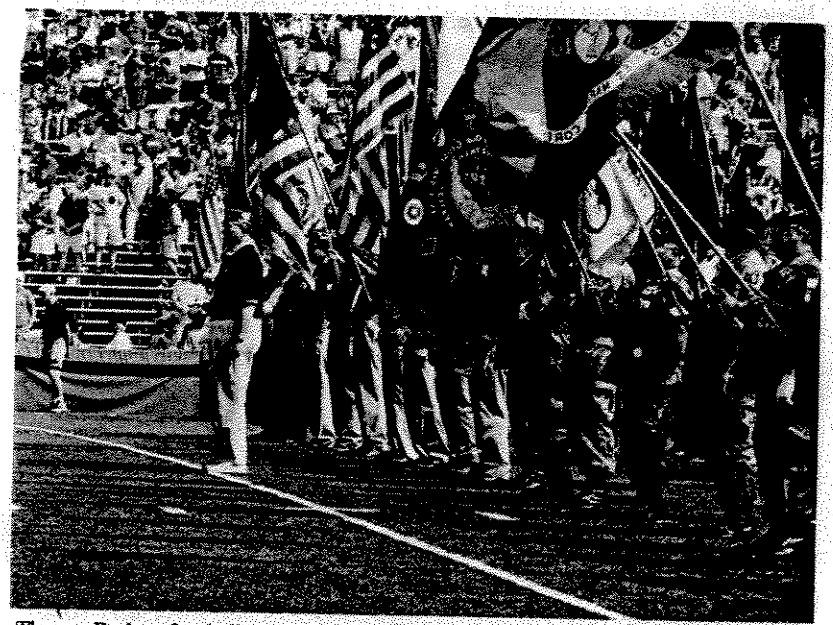
The laws governing education grants were changed by the state budget passed last summer. The Tuition and Fees Grant for veterans of regular active duty went from 85 percent to 100 percent reimbursement. That means that Wisconsin veterans at the UW-Madison will receive a full \$2,569 at the end of the semester.

The National Guard "100 percent Tuition Grant" limit was reduced to the "average resident undergraduate tuition charged by the 4-year institutions in the University of Wisconsin system." This means that Guard members at the UW-Madison will receive \$1,853 at the end of the semester.

Army Guard members may use the Tuition Assistance Program to bring that up to the full cost of tuition (but no fees), \$2,277, if members apply immediately.

Wisconsin Army National Guard State Education Officer 1st Lt. Douglas Kolb said, "We want to ensure all Wisconsin Army National Guard soldiers know they can still have 100 percent of their tuition covered by the Wisconsin National Guard. To do so, they need to apply for the federal tuition assistance program up front with a DA form 2171 and Statement of Understanding. They can get the forms from their unit or from SFC Vodvarka at the UW Madison ROTC department. Soldiers should still submit the DMA 189 [the Guard grant application] at the end of the semester."

There is no tuition assistance program for the Air Guard.



The pre Badger football game presentation "Salute to Wisconsin Veterans" was a tribute from UW-Madison to the men and women who have served and are serving in the armed forces. The Badgers were victorious over Akron 48-31

GI Bill goes up

The GI Bill increased as of Oct. 1. Since the VA pays at the end of the month, the increases will be reflected in payments made in November.

Chapter 30 (GI bill for active duty veterans)
Full time base rate before "kickers": \$985/mo

Chapter 35 (GI Bill for dependents of deceased or disabled veterans) Full time: \$695/mo

Chapter 1606 (GI Bill for Reservists and Guard Members)
Base rate before "kickers": \$282/mo

Get a tutor with the VA...free!!!

By Josh Ryf

Are you having problems with a class and would like to hire a tutor but don't have the cash? Do you want to hire some help, but reluctant to do so because you just don't feel comfortable being instructed by a stranger? If you can relate to either of these situations, cast your reservations aside and apply for the VA tutor program today!

Any student currently receiving the GI Bill is eligible to apply for the VA tutor program and can be reimbursed up to \$100 per month. This program allows students to choose their own tutor, therefore enabling them to select someone with whom they are already comfortable around.

To qualify for this under-utilized and often overlooked benefit, the tutoring must be for a class in which the student is currently enrolled and the tutor must be qualified in the specific course. A professor/instructor must sign a form verifying that these requirements have been met.

Once the administrative conditions have been fulfilled, the student may forge ahead with his or her education. The student and the tutor will set the times and locations of the tutoring, as well as agree on an hourly wage the tutor will receive (\$12 per hour is a common fee). The student then proceeds to pay the tutor out of his or her own pocket and is subsequently reimbursed by the VA for up to \$100 per month.

Many tutors are well aware that some students are strapped for cash, and many of these kindhearted educators will permit the student to postpone payment until he or she receives reimbursement from the VA. GI Bill students can collect a total of \$600 without affecting their entitlement (\$1200 for dependents).

To take advantage of this exceptional aid, students should start by visiting Student Veteran Services in room 141 Peterson building, where they can start the application process and have any further questions answered. Good luck!



Who is Vets for Vets?

Vets for Vets is a student organization on campus that informs veterans, guard members and reservists of their federal and/or state education benefits. All of the staff is either currently in the service or is prior service and are well versed on these benefits.

The Vets for Vets doors are always open to anyone with a military background. The study center has computers with internet access, is a good place to relax, and is a fun way to meet new people associated with the service.

Vets Grapevine

Grapevine Staff:

Editor: *Cory Steinbrecher*

Contributors:

Chuck Goranson

Cassie Skelton

Keith Hofkens

Josh Ryf

Vets for Vets President:

Keith Hofkens

Vets for Vets Vice President:

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Vets for Vets Treasurer:

Cassie Skelton

Published five times yearly by Vets for Vets, 714 University Ave., Madison, WI 53715, to improve communication and cooperation among student veterans at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

E-mail:

vets@mail.studentorg.wisc.edu

Home-Page:

<http://vets.studentorg.wisc.edu/>

People to know around campus

By Cassie Skelton



Kluever

Maria Kluever is the assistant county veterans officer for Dane County. Her position is state-mandated and includes assisting with VA form-related issues for both state and federal forms. She is the person to talk to about veterans tuition and fee reimbursement grants. She assists with other veteran-related issues whether it is VA hospital benefits, VA home loans or service claims. Maria, a former Marine, has lived in Madison for many years, and currently she and her husband live outside the Madison area on a 62-acre farm where they raise Angus beef. Stop by to see Maria most Thursdays in the Student Veterans Service Office in room 141 of the Peterson building.



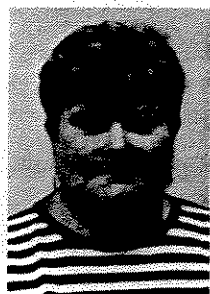
Goranson

Chuck Goranson is the Vets for Vets advisor. He assists student veterans with all issues and specializes in Wisconsin veterans benefits. He suggests that you contact him if you are not sure you are getting every nickel you deserve. Chuck has been involved with Vets for Vets since the early 1970's and is an Army veteran himself. He is a native of Madison, and currently lives on the south side of Madison with his wife. You can contact Chuck either by phone: (608) 263-3456 or by email: vets@studentorg.wisc.edu



Sheskey

Catherine Sheskey oversees many operations in the Registrars Office including the Student Veterans Service Office, the front service center in the Peterson building, main phone systems and the email accounts for the Registrar, and the walk-up help center. Last January, Catherine led the UW response to make things easier for students being called up for Operation Iraqi Freedom. She will continue to push for veterans and ease their paperwork process so they can concentrate on the important issues. Catherine has been with the University a year and a half now, and says she wouldn't trade it for the world. She decided on this position rather than one in California, and because of her military experience (currently, a captain in the Air National Guard), she adds some insight in the Registrars Office. You can contact Catherine at (608) 265-0007 or at cjs@das.wisc.edu



Struck

Linda Struck has been our student veterans coordinator for over two years and has been processing GI Bill paperwork for almost 10 years. She specializes in processing the student veterans education benefits here at UW Madison. She says she is continuously learning: after the call-ups in February, Linda has had to be more accountable and proactive for the students so they don't fall through the cracks, especially in a call-up situation. Linda also uses her valuable knowledge to train other certifying officials like her. She is a councilman on the National Organization of Certifying Officials. You can reach Linda at (608) 265-4628 or by email: linda.struck@mail.rgstr.wisc.edu

Vets for Vets Staff

	Semesters at Vets for Vets	Branch of service associated with:
Keith Hofkens	5	Air Force
Cassie Skelton	3	Air Force
Cory Steinbrecher	3	Army
Josh Ryf	New this semester	Air Force
Syanna Swyers	New this semester	Air Force
Ryan Kuhn	New this semester	Marines

Getting what you deserve!

By Keith Hofkens

Cost of Tuition: \$2,569.35 /semester
Cost of Books: \$400/semester
Cost of rent: \$450/month
Cost of finding out you can get most, if not all paid for as a veteran: *Priceless!*

As a veteran, you will probably never be fully aware of all the benefits for which you are entitled. Sure, you are using your GI Bill and you are collecting your 100 percent tuition reimbursement, what else is there, right? Wrong! There is so much more that

you are eligible for, from part-time study grants to home improvement loans -- you just need to look.

Look where?

Ah! Good question, I was hoping I would get you interested. I'll make it easy for you. Like most people, you probably spend at least a half an hour of your day on the Internet. Whether it be checking your email or searching for information about your thesis on underwater basket weaving, you are there taking advantage of this worldwide resource. You know where I am going with this, right? Of course, the web! Although I try to avoid trendy add campaigns I have to say it - the web is a 'priceless' resource when it comes to finding information on numerous types of benefits you as a veteran can utilize.

Since you would probably try to limit your time searching for veteran's benefits on-line, we'll make it easier for you. Below is a list of topics dealing with veterans benefits that you'll be likely to find information on, such as:

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| -Personal Loans | -Home Mortgage Loans | -Home Improvement Loans |
| -Job Retraining Grants | -Health Care Aid Grants | -Subsistence Aid Grants |
| -Help for the Homeless | -Nursing Home Care | -State Veterans Cemeteries |
| -Federal Benefits | -Military Funeral Honors | -Education Benefits |

And the corresponding websites are:

www.unitedstatesveterans.com

www.military.com

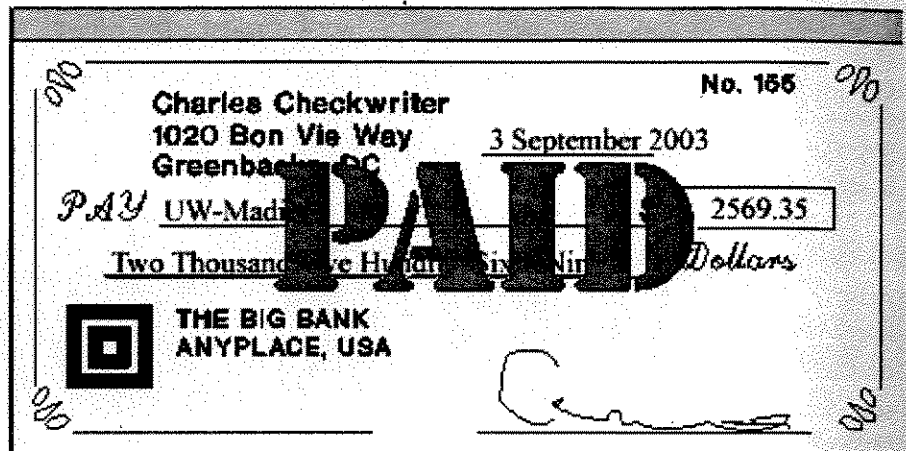
www.va.gov

http://dva.state.wi.us/Ben_education.asp

What if you can't find the information you're looking for on these sites?

Great question! If you can't find all the information you need on the sites listed here, you can always just type in 'veterans benefits' on any common search engine.

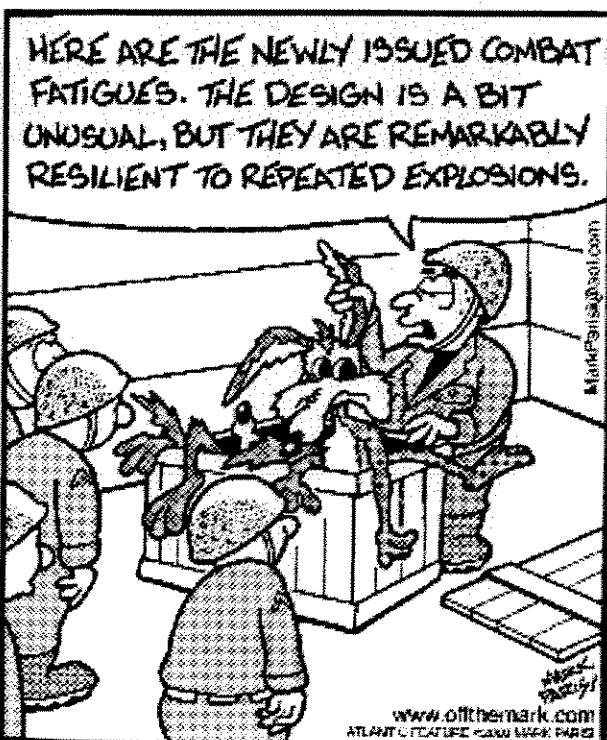
And if you still feel that you can't get the low-down from the web and you're just about ready to throw your computer out the window, hey, don't worry. Just come on by Vets for Vets and we'll utilize our resources to point you in the right direction. After all we are 'Vets for Vets', right? Right! We're here for YOU.



Military common sense rules

A lot of life's problems can be explained by the U.S. Military and its applications of common sense...

1. "Sometimes I think war is God's way of teaching us geography." (Paul Rodriguez)
2. "A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular in what's left of your unit." (Army's magazine of preventive maintenance)
3. "Aim towards the Enemy." (Instruction printed on US M79 Rocket Launcher)
4. When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend. (U.S. Marine Corps)
5. Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate. The bombs always hit the ground. (U.S. Air Force)
6. If the enemy is in range, so are you. (Infantry Journal)
7. It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed. (US Air Force Manual)
8. Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons. (Gen. MacArthur)
9. Try to look unimportant; they may be low on ammo. (Infantry Journal)
10. You, you, and you... Panic. The rest of you, come with me. (Marine Gunnery Sergeant)
11. Tracers work both ways. (US Army Ordnance)
12. Five second fuses only last three seconds. (Infantry Journal)
13. Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last, and don't ever volunteer to do anything. (US Navy Seaman)



14. Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid. (David Hackworth)
15. If your attack is going too well, you have walked into an ambush. (Infantry Journal)
16. No combat ready unit has ever passed inspection. (Joe Gay)
17. Any ship can be a minesweeper... once. (Admiral Hornblower)
18. Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do. (Unknown Marine Recruit)
19. Don't draw fire; it irritates the people around you. (Your Buddies)
20. Mines are equal opportunity weapons. (Army Platoon Sergeant)
21. If you find yourself in a fair fight, you didn't plan your mission properly. (David Hackworth)
22. Your job is to kill the other person before they kill you so that your national leaders can negotiate a peace that will last as long as it takes the ink to dry. (Drill Instructor)
23. In the Navy, the Chief is always right. (Written on the door into the Chiefs quarters)

Photographic exhibit honors World War II Navajo Code Talkers

By Mary Bade
Writer for The Bugle
Wisconsin Veterans Museum

The traveling exhibition of photos and stories portraying Navajo Code Talkers is owned and being circulated by the National Atomic Museum in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is excited to be able to display this exhibit from September 1 through November 30, 2003. The exhibit contains approximately 40 black and white photographs with additional text by Japanese photographer Kenji Kawano, and highlights the Navajo U.S. Marines who defied Japanese intelligence during World War II with their unique and undecipherable code.

Kawano came to the United States in 1973 and was drawn to the mystery and beauty of the Navajo Reservation. He soon gained acceptance by the Code Talkers and became their official photographer. The photographs included in the exhibit were taken in the late 1980s and reflect the respect and friendship that Kawano was able to develop with the Code Talkers over more than a decade.

With the approval of the Navajo Tribal Council, the U.S. Marine Corps began recruiting young Navajo men at Window Rock, Arizona, in May, 1942. The recruits went through basic training and attended the Field Signal Battalion Training Center at Camp Pendleton. Training included the development of a special Navajo vocabulary. Following training, the recruits were sent to the Pacific theatre. The Navajo-based code used in the Pacific during World War II is significantly different from normal spoken Navajo. Although it is made up of Navajo words, the code is unintelligible even to fluent Navajo speakers. This fact was important to the security of the code because many Navajos who were not Code Talkers fought in World War II, and some were captured by the Japanese.

Many frequently used Navajo words were taken directly from the language and used in the secret code. How-



ever, the code's developers also employed compounds, descriptive metaphors, puns, and other types of word-play in order to communicate those English terms for which no words exist in Navajo as well as to intentionally confuse any potential code-breakers. Even the alphabet was codified. The code's developers assigned up to three Navajo words to each letter of the English alphabet whose English translation began with that letter. Since each letter could be encoded in several ways, a five-letter word in English could be spelled out in 243 different ways. Although slightly more time consuming, this made the code practically impervious to any human effort to crack it. Eventually, use of the Navajo language off the reservation and by non-Navajos increased to a

point where the secrecy of the code might be compromised for future use, so it was declassified in 1968.

The Code Talkers were not nationally recognized until 1969. It was not until July 2001, fifty-six years after the end of World War II, that the original group of 29 Navajo Code Talkers was given the Gold Congressional Medal of Honor by President Bill Clinton. Of the original 29, only 5 were alive and 4 were able to attend the ceremony. In November 2001, approximately 400 other Navajo Code Talkers were given the Silver Congressional Medal of Honor in Window Rock, Arizona. Again, only a handful was still living and few were able to attend the ceremony. This exhibition, **Warriors: Navajo Code Talkers**, was developed to educate the public about the valiant role the Code Talkers played and to symbolize a healing of the wounds of war.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is honored to be able to display this photographic exhibit from September 1 through November 30, 2003.

Veterans Day Observance

**Main Lounge, Memorial Union
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Sunday, November 9, noon
Tuesday, November 11, 4 to 6 P.M.**

On October 5, 1928, the Memorial Union at the University of Wisconsin-Madison opened. Inscribed beneath the concrete balustrade on the front steps are the words:

“Erected and dedicated to the memory of the men and women of the University of Wisconsin who served in our country’s wars.”

These words remain today, and are the focal point of the Veterans Day Observance as part of this year’s 75th anniversary celebration of the Memorial Union.

The Wisconsin Union will host Veterans Day events in the Main Lounge, 2nd Floor, Memorial Union, on Sunday and Tuesday, November 9 and 11. Both events will feature a traveling display courtesy of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, historical photographs and other memorabilia:

Sunday, November 9

The Union will host a concert by the National Guard band at noon.

Tuesday, November 11 (Veterans Day)

The Union will host a ceremony featuring:

- A National Guard Band quintet;
- Two guest speakers: Fred McCormick, retired US Army Colonel and Douglas Bradley who is on the Board of Veterans Affairs
- Also on hand will be UW-Madison Art Professor Emeritus Robert Grilley, whose wartime memoir will be on display. The book, *Return from Berlin: The Eye of a Navigator*, recently published by the University of Wisconsin Press, recounts his experiences as a B-17 navigator who flew 30 missions over Europe during World War II.

This program on November 11 will start at 4 P.M., with a reception and refreshments to follow. The main lounge will remain open for visitors and participants to spend time reviewing the displays and socializing. In the Main Lounge foyer are listed the names of the 219 UW-Madison students who died in the Civil War, Spanish American War and World War I.

The event is free and open to the public. For updates to the program, please check the Memorial Union 75th anniversary website: www.union.wisc.edu/75/events.

For more information or suggestions for additions to the program, please contact Marc Kennedy, (608) 262-5079; mhkenned@wisc.edu.

The Joint ROTC program has asked John Witte of the UW-Madison Political Science Department to speak on Veterans Day. He will speak at 3:30 P.M. in the Wisconsin State Historical Society Building on the UW campus.

Veterans in the classroom

By Carrie Bohman
Writer for The Bugle
Wisconsin Veterans Museum

As history students read about what happened at Pearl Harbor or a teacher discusses how the Tet Offensive led to the United States leaving Vietnam; there are questions that students want to pose. Pictures and descriptive accounts can illustrate some of these events in American military history. However, no one can illustrate the events better than a person who witnessed them firsthand.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) makes interaction with veterans possible through the Veterans in the Classroom project. Teachers can contact the WVM Research Center, name a time period in modern history, and be connected to a local veteran who is willing to speak to their students. Veterans who are interested in speaking should also contact the WVM Research Center to be added to the speaker list. Information on this program, and the Veterans in the Classroom submission form, are located on our web site at <http://museum.dva.state.wi.us>. Once on the main page, click on: "Veterans in the Classroom."

Veterans in the Classroom was started in 1991, when a budget measure required the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (WDPI) to connect schools with local veterans. The WDPI partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs to provide this unique opportunity for both veterans and students.

Firsthand accounts of military actions are also available to through the WVM's Oral History program. The tape-recorded oral history collection contains over 550 oral history interviews with Wisconsin veterans. If a student is doing paper on a particular battle or war, there may be an oral history that discusses the events firsthand. Please contact the Reference Archivist to see what is available for both teachers and students. To learn more about the oral history collection go to the WVM main page "Oral History."

Vets for Vets
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In This Issue

**Veterans grant goes from 85% to 100%
tuition and fee reimbursement**

People to know on campus

Get a tutor

Veterans Day November 11th

**RON BROWN
STATE SENATOR
STATE CAPITOL
MADISON INT-D-**

Gilbert, Melissa

From: Hardie, Anthony
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2003 12:54 PM
To: Gilbert, Melissa
Subject: SB170 talking points

Importance: High

An article for the upcoming WDVA Update

=====

New Bill to Improve State Veterans Benefits Programs

A veterans omnibus bill currently under consideration in the state Legislature would significantly expand state veterans' educational benefits, provide WDVA with important new financial management tools, and expand the state's network of service delivery to veterans.

Currently, eligibility for state education reimbursement grant programs requires two years of active duty service (other than for training). Senate Bill 170 (Sen. Ron Brown, Rep. Terry Musser) would reduce that required time to only 90 days. With the expanded eligibility, Reserve and National Guard members recently activated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom who meet these new criteria would now be eligible.

S.B. 170 would also expand eligibility for state veterans education program by increasing the maximum allowable household income from \$47,500 to \$50,000, and by doubling the additional dependent allowance in calculating household income from \$500 to \$1,000. While the original bill would also have increased the maximum allowable reimbursement to 100% of tuition and fees and lengthened the time following military service when benefits could be used, these provisions were recently accomplished in the state budget act.

The bill would also provide the department with significant new financial tools, including the ability to change certain interest rates and maximum loan amounts as economic conditions and other factors change. Additionally, the department would be provided authority to purchase the building housing WDVA headquarters and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. The property is currently leased at substantial annual cost to the Veterans Trust Fund.

Delivery of service to veterans in accessing and applying for state veterans benefits would be improved and expanded by the bill. The successes of WDVA's "I Owe You" program have been recently publicized, including more than 12,000 veterans and family members attending the program's Veterans Benefits Supermarkets. However, a little known fact is that unlike the federal VA, under current law, WDVA cannot directly receive applications for all state benefits that the department administers, including at these well-attended Supermarkets, at the veterans' homes at King and Union Grove, at WDVA offices, or on the WDVA website. S.B. 170 would provide authority, through a public rule-making process, for a significant expansion of those authorized to assist Wisconsin's veterans.

WDVA's veterans personal loan program would also be improved by the bill. The program was originally created to provide both a new benefit to Wisconsin veterans not provided by most other states, and a means of replenishment for the Veterans Trust Fund. Veterans personal loans secured by a mortgage would be increased under the bill from the current limit of \$15,000 to a new maximum \$25,000. Additionally, for veterans with multiple loans, the total amount of loans outstanding would also be increased, from the current \$15,000 to \$25,000. To ensure the continued stability of the Veterans Trust Fund, cosigned loans would be reduced under the bill. Despite the department's strong underwriting standards and collection efforts, loans secured by a cosigner have experienced serious delinquencies and defaults, with \$1.25 million of these loans currently overdue more than one year.

New authority to provide a loan guarantee for multifamily housing for homeless veterans

would be provided under the bill, as well as a financial incentive for Wisconsin counties faced with difficult budget decisions to maintain a full-time office providing services to veterans.

S.B. 170 was passed by the Senate veterans committee by a vote of 5 to 0 earlier this summer, and is now pending consideration by the full Senate. The state Board of Veterans Affairs, American Legion, AMVETS, Military Order of the Purple Heart, National Association for Black Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans have expressed their support for the bill.

Anthony Hardie
WDVA Executive Assistant
Office of the Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

Direct Phone: (608) 266-0517 -- Fax: (608) 264-7616

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

30 West Mifflin Street

P.O. Box 7843

Madison, WI 53707-7843

Toll-Free: (800) 947-8387 (800-WIS-VETS)

Web Site: <http://dva.state.wi.us>



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Terry C. Anderson, Director
Laura D. Rose, Deputy Director

TO: SENATOR RONALD W. BROWN
FROM: *rnj*
Richard Sweet, Senior Staff Attorney
RE: Attached Chart Regarding Tuition Reimbursement for National Guard Members and Veterans
DATE: September 24, 2003

Attached is a chart that provides information about tuition reimbursement for National Guard members and veterans under the law prior to enactment of 2003 Wisconsin Act 33 (the 2003-05 Biennial Budget Act), current law, and Senate Bill 170 as amended by Senate Amendment 1.

Feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

RNS:rv;flu

Attachment

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT FOR NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS AND VETERANS

	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Prior Law</i> (Before 2003 Wisconsin Act 33)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Current Law</i> (As Affected by 2003 Wisconsin Act 33)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Senate Bill 170, As Amended by Senate Amendment 1</p>
<p>National Guard Educational Benefits</p>	<p>Defined as the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Extension and any campus of the UW System, an accredited institution of higher education in Wisconsin, and any technical college in Wisconsin.</p>	<p>Same as prior law, but adds public institutions of higher education under the Minnesota-Wisconsin student reciprocity agreement or other interstate agreements.</p>	<p><i>Maintains current law.</i> Same as prior law.</p>
<p>Maximum Tuition Reimbursement</p>	<p>100% of actual tuition charged by the school or 100% of the maximum resident undergraduate tuition charged by UW-Madison for comparable credits, whichever is less.</p>	<p>100% of actual tuition charged by the school or 100% of the arithmetic average of resident undergraduate tuition charged by four-year UW System institutions for comparable credits, whichever is less.</p>	<p>Same as prior law. <i>Maintains current law.</i></p>
<p>Ineligibility if Receive Veterans' Tuition Reimbursement</p>	<p>No provision.</p>	<p>No provision.</p>	<p>National Guard member is ineligible under this program for a semester in which he or she received a grant under the veterans' tuition reimbursement program.</p>

Amend to mirror Act 33

amend to mirror prior law

Keep

	<p><i>Prior Law</i> (Before 2003 Wisconsin Act 33)</p>	<p><i>Current Law</i> (As Affected by 2003 Wisconsin Act 33)</p>	<p>Senate Bill 170, As Amended by Senate Amendment 1</p>
<p>Veterans' Tuition Reimbursement</p>	<p>Veterans must have served on active duty under honorable conditions in the U.S. Armed Forces for a specified time period.</p>	<p>Same as prior law.</p>	<p>Repeals this provision of current law.</p>
<p>Eligibility</p>	<p>Veterans must apply for reimbursement for courses completed within 10 years after separation from service.</p>	<p>Veteran must apply for reimbursement for courses begun within 10 years after separation from service.</p>	<p>Same as current law.</p>
<p>Time Period for Taking Course</p>	<p>100% of actual tuition and fees (minus grants and scholarships) or 85% of the standard cost for a state resident for an equivalent undergraduate course at UW-Madison per course, whichever is less. Disabled veteran (rated at 30% or more disabled)—100% of actual tuition and fees (minus grants and scholarships) or 100% of the standard cost for a state resident for an equivalent undergraduate course at UW-Madison per course, whichever is less.</p>	<p>100% of actual tuition (minus grants and scholarships) or 100% of the standard cost for a state resident for an equivalent undergraduate course at UW-Madison per course, whichever is less.</p>	<p>100% of actual tuition and fees (minus grants and scholarships) or 85% of the standard cost for a state resident for an equivalent undergraduate course at UW-Madison per course, whichever is less.</p>
<p>Maximum Tuition Reimbursement</p>	<p>100% of actual tuition and fees (minus grants and scholarships) or 85% of the standard cost for a state resident for an equivalent undergraduate course at UW-Madison per course, whichever is less.</p>	<p>100% of actual tuition (minus grants and scholarships) or 100% of the standard cost for a state resident for an equivalent undergraduate course at UW-Madison per course, whichever is less.</p>	<p>Maintains current law.</p>
<p>Exception for Specified Program</p>	<p>No provision.</p>	<p>No provision.</p>	<p>Reimbursement is not available for a course at a school that a veteran attends that has been approved for credit through the Department of Veterans Affairs' Academic Credit for Military Experience Program, which evaluates military experience and determines academic credit for that experience.</p>

Keep

Keep

amend to mirror Act 33

amend to reflect OVA language

Veterans' Tuition Reimbursement (continued)	<i>Prior Law</i> <i>(Before 2003 Wisconsin Act 33)</i>	<i>Current Law</i> <i>(As Affected by</i> <i>2003 Wisconsin Act 33)</i>	<i>Senate Bill 170, As Amended by</i> <i>Senate Amendment 1</i>
Schools Other Than School From Which Veteran Is Receiving Degree	No provision.	No provision.	Reimbursement may be provided at a school other than the one from which the veteran is receiving his or her degree if two conditions are met: (1) the curriculum at the other school consists only of courses necessary to complete a degree in a particular course of study; and (2) the course is accepted as transfer credits at the school from which the veteran is receiving the degree, but is not available at that school.

Keep

Correspondence Courses and Part-Time Study Tuition Reimbursement for Veterans	<i>Prior Law</i> (Before 2003 Wisconsin Act 33)	<i>Current Law</i> (As Affected by 2003 Wisconsin Act 33)	Senate Bill 170, As Amended by Senate Amendment 1
Maximum Tuition Reimbursement	85% of actual tuition and fees or 85% of the standard cost for a state resident for tuition and fees for an equivalent course at UW-Madison per course, whichever is less. Disabled veterans (rated 30% or more disabled)—100% of actual tuition and fees or 100% of the standard cost for a state resident for tuition and fees for an equivalent course at UW-Madison per course, whichever is less.	100% of actual tuition or 100% of the standard cost for a state resident for tuition and fees for an equivalent course at UW-Madison per course, whichever is less.	85% of actual tuition and fees or 85% of the standard cost for a state resident for tuition and fees for an equivalent course at UW-Madison per course, whichever is less.
Exception for Specified Program	No provision.	No provision.	Reimbursement is not available for a course at a school that a veteran attends that has been approved for credit through the Department of Veterans Affairs' Academic Credit for Military Experience Program, which evaluates military experience and determines academic credit for that experience.
Income Limit	No reimbursement under this program if the income of the veteran and spouse (not including Agent Orange litigation payments) exceeds \$47,500 plus \$500 for each dependent in excess of two dependents.	Same as prior law.	No reimbursement under this program if the income of the veteran and spouse exceeds \$50,000 plus \$1,000 for each dependent in excess of two dependents.

amend
to reflect
Act 33

amend
to reflect
DVA
language

keep

Prepared by: Richard Sweet, Senior Staff Attorney
 Wisconsin Legislative Council
 September 24, 2003
 RNS: wu:r/v;dlu

8/25/03
Follow-up
Ron and Marsha Brown

From: "Vick, Hannah" <Hannah.Vick@legis.state.wi.us>
To: "Ron Brown (E-mail)" <rmbrown@cvol.net>
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2003 9:43 AM
Subject: FW: National Guard Tuition Program

-----Original Message-----

From: McArdle, Terence (WI) [mailto:terence.mcardle@wi.ngb.army.mil]
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2003 5:00 PM
To: 'Rep. Musser@legis.state.wi.us'; 'Ronald Brown@legis.state.wi.us'
Cc: Wilkening, Al (WI)
Subject: FW: National Guard Tuition Program

Gentlemen, There has been concern voiced over the reduction in the maximum amount of the National Guard Tuition Grants to be paid for attendance at some of the state university campuses during this biennium. This is occurring as a result of the statutory change incorporated in our Department's requested budget. This change limits the maximum amount of any grant to the average of all the state university campuses. The result adversely impacts those National Guard students attending UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee because they are the two most costly campuses. Senator Jauch requested specific information on this issue. Below is our Department's response to him. As chairmen of the appropriate Military Affairs Committees of the legislature we felt it imperative that you both also received this information. Respectfully yours, LTC Terry McArdle, Military Legal Counsel

> -----Original Message-----

> **From:** Donovan, Tim (WI)
 > **Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2003 4:37 PM
 > **To:** 'sen.jauch@legis.state.wi.us'
 > **Cc:** Olson, Larry (WI); McArdle, Terence (WI)
 > **Subject:** National Guard Tuition Program

> **Sen. Jauch:**

> Here's the information you asked for on the state tuition grant program
 > for the Wisconsin National Guard.

> **Rate of reimbursement**

> Instead of paying up to the resident undergraduate tuition charged by
 > UW-Madison (as in the past), we are now averaging tuition charged at all
 > 4-year UW System campuses (as now prescribed in the statutes). As the
 > program is now, we will pay a grant to soldiers or airmen the lesser of an
 > amount equal to 100 percent of the actual tuition charged by a qualifying
 > school or 100 percent of the average tuition (calculated as \$1852.14 per
 > semester).

8/24/03

> This will not adversely effect students at most UW System campuses or
 > students at Tech Colleges, because their tuition charges will be less than
 > the calculated average. Students at UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee, on the
 > other hand, will see the level of their state tuition grant significantly
 > reduced.

> Examples:

> * It is anticipated that a soldier or airman attending UW-Stevens
 > Point will pay \$1750.20 for this fall's tuition and will be eligible to
 > receive a state tuition grant payment of \$1750.20. Similar reimbursement
 > amounts will apply for most other UW System campuses.

> * Two UW System campuses (UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee) charge higher
 > tuition than the \$1852.14 system average. Soldiers or airmen attending
 > UW-Madison, for example, will be charged \$2277 tuition but can only be
 > reimbursed the maximum of \$1852.14 from the state tuition grant program.

> We do hope to offset the difference for UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee
 > students by coordinating state and federal benefits to reach a 100 percent
 > reimbursement rate. Our ability to pay this offset is subject to the
 > availability of federal funds, and the amount of federal funds we receive
 > for this purpose varies from year to year. Use of federal funds to offset
 > the difference for UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee students will also make
 > fewer federal tuition assistance dollars available for other Guard members
 > who are not eligible for the state tuition program.

> A very preliminary estimate of the dollar amount of the "shortfall" to
 > achieve full 100 percent reimbursement up to the level of UW-Madison
 > tuition is between \$200,000 and \$300,000 for this SFY, and we believe it
 > will be somewhat higher in SFY05. We can come up with a much more
 > accurate estimate, but the State Education Officer was not available today
 > when I received this information request.

> I hope this answers your questions, Senator Jauch. Please let me know if
 > you need additional information or more details. We will get back to you
 > with a better estimate of the dollar shortfall.

> Thanks.

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