



Roscommon County Veterans Affairs
Monthly Newsletter

Website: www.roscommoncounty.net/Veterans

"Serving those who Served"

Month: April 2016 6th Edition

Deadline for May's Newsletter: April 22, 2016

Editor's Comment: This will be an abbreviated newsletter due to the Editor's vacation in March.

Greetings, the office of the Roscommon County Veterans Affairs has decided to publish a monthly newsletter which will be shared with all of our Service Organizations within the county on a regular basis. The last three newsletters will also be placed on our Roscommon County Veterans Affairs website (www.roscommoncounty.net/Veterans).

It is our hope that this information will be of value to your members and displayed within your organization in a location that your members are aware of and have access to. We have **enlarged the font** for the newsletter based on feedback, hopefully, it will be easier to read. We would like to also announce any future events and/or activities your post is sponsoring that we can help spread the news under the Service Organizations section. If your post has an email address that this can be sent that would be helpful as occasionally this may be publish to advertise a special event involving Veterans in your area.

Electronic copies of the newsletter will allow the reader to have access to the various links found in this newsletter. If individual Veteran wishes to receive these newsletters electronically have the Veteran send a email to veterans@roscommoncounty.net with a Subject Line: Request for RCVA monthly newsletter. Our office will also provide our minutes of our Board meeting monthly as well as the Accumulative Total spreadsheet showing our office service to Veterans in our measurable categories.

The format for this newsletter will be by War Periods, but is not limited to only war time Veterans; **Peacetime Veterans have benefits**, too. For VA benefits available for Veterans during a certain War Periods, see the November 2015 1st Edition for specific information.



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World War II (December 7, 1941-December 31, 1946);

World War II Veterans

World War II (WWII) was the most widespread war in history with more than 100 million people serving in military units. About 16 million Americans served during WWII, and many of those Veterans are now receiving VA benefits including Pension and Health Care. WWII Veterans who were a part of the Occupation Forces assigned to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan soon after the detonation of Atomic-Bombs over those respective cities, and those American prisoners of war (POW's) who were housed in close proximity to those cities are sometimes called "Atomic Veterans."

Mid Michigan Honor Flight Information: The spring flight date has been announced for June 8, 2016 with a Lansing departure. A second flight is still being organized for September/October time frame. They are constantly fundraising to assist in the cost of these flights for WW II Veterans. If interested call, 231-803-4255. If you are a WWII Veteran and would like to participate with this Honor Flight call the Mid Michigan Honor Flight number listed.



[92-year-old WWII Veteran runs across the country](#)

Earnest Andrus runs across the country four days a week to [raise awareness of the sacrifices](#) the men and women of the military made during World War II and the many conflicts since that time.



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Korea Conflict (June 27, 1950-January 31, 1955)

Approximately 5.7 million Veterans served in the Korean War. Korean War Veterans are more prone to suffer from disabilities related to cold injuries as a result of exposure to severe cold climates. Cold weather accounted for 16% of Army non-battle injuries and over 5,000 U.S. casualties of cold injury required evacuation from Korea during the winter of 1950-1951. In many instances, Servicemembers could not seek or were unable to obtain medical care for cold injuries because of battlefield conditions.

Mid Michigan Honor Flight Information: Discussed opening up the Honor Flights to Korean Veterans. Call the number above for more information.

Vietnam Era (August 5, 1964 – May 7, 1975)

Vietnam Veterans

United States military involvement in the Vietnam War officially began on August 5, 1964; however, the first U.S. casualty in Vietnam occurred on July 8, 1959. Approximately 2.7 million American men and women served in Vietnam. During the war, over 58,000 U.S. military members lost their lives and 153,000 were wounded. There were 766 prisoners of war of which 114 died in captivity. The war was officially ended by Presidential Proclamation on May 7, 1975.

Vietnam Wall "In Memory" Program: More than 58,000 names meet the Defense Department's criteria to be etched into the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, but those who survived the war — but later died as a result of their service — are not. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund acknowledges their service and sacrifice through an online "In Memory" Honor Roll. Causes of death that fit the criteria for inclusion in the program include exposure to Agent Orange, PTSD-related illnesses/events, cancer, diabetes, heart attacks, etc. The program is free and the application process is simple. To honor a loved one, you only need to submit the veteran's DD214



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to show their proof of service in the Vietnam War, a copy of their death certificate, and a photograph. The application deadline for inclusion in the 2016 ceremony is March 4. For information or to submit applications, go to: <http://www.vvmf.org/InMemoryProgram>.

Vietnam Memorial Wall of Faces Update: Hawaii this month became the eighth state to find photos of all their Vietnam fallen. The addition of Army Sgt. 1st Class Felicisimo Hugo of Wahiawa now means all 277 fallen service members from Hawaii have a photo on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Foundation's Virtual Wall of Faces. The other states who have submitted photos for all their Vietnam fallen are Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming. More than 45,000 photos have been received, but another 13,000 still need to be collected to ensure there's a picture for every name inscribed on The Wall. Learn more about the initiative and how you can help at:

<http://www.vvmf.org/news/article=Hawaii-Becomes-Eighth-State-To-Find-Photos-For-Their-Fallen>.

Persian Gulf War/OIF/OEF... (August 2, 1990 through a date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation)

Gulf War Veterans

More than 650,000 Service members served in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm from August 2, 1990 to July 31, 1991. For VA benefits eligibility purposes, the Gulf War period is still in effect. This means that anyone who served on active duty from August 2, 1990, to present is considered a Gulf War Veteran. For example, the Veterans Pension benefit requires service during a wartime period. Therefore, any Veteran who served on active military service for any period from August 2, 1990, to the present meets the wartime service requirement.

The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing to discuss Gulf War Illness and recent studies evaluating the health care conditions related to service



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during the Gulf War. Subcommittee Chairman Mike Coffman (R-CO), a Gulf War and Iraqi War veteran, expressed concern with the lack of progress by VA to determine what causes Gulf War Illness and identify effective treatments. The Institute of Medicine (IOM) summarized its recent report which was unable to identify the cause of Gulf War Illness due to limited research since IOM’s last review.

Gulf War II Veterans

There were 3,802,000 Gulf War II veterans in January. 3,155,000 (83.0%) were in the workforce. Of those, 2,975,000 (78.3%) were employed and 179,000 (5.7%) were unemployed. 647,000 Gulf War II veterans were not in the labor force.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpUFebVc2EM>

Services/Benefits for All Service Members

Veteran designation on Michigan Driver’s licenses and state IDs: More than 57,000 Michigan Veterans have taken advantage of this program to have their licenses and/or IDs identified with a Veteran status. Veterans may receive this designation **free during renewal** or pay a small fee before or after renewal dates to have it placed on your license. Proof of service, such as a discharge document (DD-214) is required at the Secretary of State office. Any questions, please call our County office at (989) 275-6047. This Veteran designation **does not** meet several of the chain stores (i.e., Home Depot, Lowes) requirements for a Veteran discount. It never hurts to ask any business/restaurant if they offer a discount to Veterans. Do us a favor and let us know if it is in Roscommon County and we will add it to our list.

Certified Veteran –Friendly Employer program: Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency (MVAA) has recognized 34 organizations for their efforts to hire and support Veteran talent in the workforce.





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57 schools earn veteran-friendly status: Student veterans and their dependents can choose from more than 50 veteran-friendly schools committed to providing on-campus, veteran-centric services to better support their academic and transitional needs. MVAA's Veteran-Friendly School program recognizes institutions of higher learning for their dedication to student veterans and dependents utilizing their G.I. Bill and other educational benefits. Michigan 43 colleges and universities are 100 % compliant with the Choice Act, offering in-state tuition to all recently released Veterans and their families.

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund: In FY 2014, \$2,482,845 dollars distributed to 2,157 Veterans and their families in need of emergency assistance. These funds are only available to war time Veterans.

Helpful Veterans Information

Michigan is home to the 11th largest Veterans population in the country with 658,469 Veterans; here in Roscommon County we have 2,821 Veterans.

Michigan Veterans receive capita federal spending ranked at 48th out of 53 states and territories, which is an improvement as several years ago Michigan was dead last or 53rd of 53 states and territories.

Michigan is projecting 30,000 plus Michigan Veterans returning to Michigan due to the recent drawdown. A lot of the younger Veterans are having a hard time transferring their skills to civilian workplaces. Unemployment rate for Michigan Veterans was 7.3% in 2013.



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More than half of Michigan's 658,469 Veterans are not officially counted in the labor force. Only about 44% of our Veterans are in the workforce.

Michigan Veteran Community Action Teams (VCAT) - The concept behind these VCAT is to implement the no wrong door concept among service providers to Veterans **and their families**. A "warm hand off" is the operational concept of making sure the Veteran is not only given the service provider information but for the agency to call the service provider while the Veteran is still in the office and provide the Veteran a Point of Contact within the service agency. Please call the Roscommon County Veterans Affairs office for more information.

In Michigan, nearly three quarters (72%) of Veterans are aged 55 and older.

Michigan's Veteran population is older than that of the U.S. Veteran population as a whole, with a significantly higher proportion Vietnam Veterans residing in the state.

No Wrong Door for Michigan Veterans: The Michigan Veteran Resource Service Center (MVRSC) and MichiganVeterans.com provide one-stop access for Veterans and their families seeking information, resources and support as they transition through each chapter of their lives. Callers to 800-MICH-VET (800-642-4838) are provided Veteran-specific programs as well as a warm hand-off to programs available to all Michigan citizens.

Veteran Homes in Michigan – Michigan is home to two (2) superb state owned Veteran homes in Michigan, one in Grand Rapids and one in Marquette.

National Cemeteries in Michigan - one in Battle Creek known as Fort Custer Cemetery and one in Holly, Mi known as Great Lakes National Cemetery.

Roscommon County Helpful Information

Roscommon County Veterans Affairs (RCVA) office is open five days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the County Building in Roscommon and has started offering office hours every



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Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Houghton Lake Community Center (aka Houghton Lake Senior Center) starting Thursday, December 3, 2015.

The RCVA office recently requested local businesses to identify if they provide any type of Veterans discounts here in Roscommon County. Sadly, only one business responded to this attempt though our office is aware that there are more service providers and/or businesses in Roscommon County who do offer Veterans discount. Our office is asking for your help in developing this list for Roscommon County. Our office is also aware certain "chains" may offer Veterans discount but this varies from one business to another.

The one business who did reply was:

Family Eye Care, P.C., Dr. Jay C. Jenkins in Houghton Lake and Roscommon

- 40% off materials from usual and customary on any spectacle orders
- 30% off services, to include specialty testing such as Visual fields, Ocular coherence and Visual Evoked Potentials for disease management

Minutes of our March 3, 2016 Roscommon County Veterans Affairs monthly meeting are as follows:

Meeting called to order at 12:00 noon by Chairman Don Mraz.

Pledge of Allegiance was given to the National Flag.

Members present: Don Mraz; Ken Melvin, and Ron Schrieber; Staff: Director of Veterans Affairs: Kevin C. Sherman. Excused: Heath Nemeth, County Veteran Service Officer in Houghton Lake office and Thomas Sheppard; **Guests:** Krista Tacey Cater from Houghton Lake Resorter for an article on the Green Light Campaign.

Public Comments – None.



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Minutes of last meeting, 4 February 2016, and Office Report Accumulative Totals for February 2016 were presented, accepted and filed. Motion by Ken Melvin and seconded by Ron Schrieber to approved minutes and Office Report. Motion Carried. Ken Melvin stated we need to provide a copy of our approved minutes to the county clerk. The Director also stated the Accumulative Totals Spreadsheet is also shared.

Correspondence. Thank you from one of our Veterans who is a rider for medical appointments.

Burial and Graver Markers:

Roscommon County had expenses for 7 burials at \$2100.00 and 0 grave markers for a total of \$2100. Motion by Ken Melvin and seconded by Ron Schrieber to approved burial expenses. Motion Carried.

Medical Transportation

We had 9 trips for medical transportation for \$339.48. Collections from the office throughout the month were \$500.00, leaving a total of \$160.52 in the positive for the month (Note: 1 transporter mileage voucher was not received and will be added to next month totals. Motion by Ken Melvin , seconded by Ron Schrieber to pay transportation claims for \$339.48. Carried

Monthly Office Expenses:

Claims and Accounts for monthly office expenses submitted for \$884.63 Motion by Ron Schrieber, seconded by Ken Melvin to pay monthly office expenses. Carried

Veteran’s Relief Fund Application:

No Veterans Relief Fund application during month. The Board discussed why the number of reliefs requests have fallen from years past. Director explains referrals to other agencies (TruNorth and St. Vincent De Paul) sometimes provide this relief for our Veterans.



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Director’s Report

Director reported Winter taxes are filtering in from township to County Treasurer in the amount of \$52,469.14. Director provided a summary of Tom Sheppard situation and with the upcoming vacation it was determined to forgo coverage in Houghton Lake on those 2 Thursdays. Director also requested the Board’s assistance in covering a Veteran’s Exposition on March 31 at Kirtland Community College.

Director also reported that Mid Michigan Honor Flight has scheduled a Honor Flight for June 8 out of Lansing, MI for any WWII veterans. Request has also been made to Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency to add Heath Nemeth as user on VetraSpec.

Old Business:

Green Light Campaign is active with the delivery of the Green Lights. Special Thanks to Walmart Houghton Lake for their participation in this process.

Jail Liaison Position – the Roscommon County Sheriff Department has agreed to our request to have Sara Palmerton act as our Jail Liaison officer. Sara met with Director and she will meet with all Veterans who are being held in the County Jail and provide them with our Questionnaire for our determination of what assistance may be offered.

New Business:

8th Annual Roscommon Business Exposition – Motion by Ken Melvin, seconded by Ron Schrieber to participate in this year business exposition. Discussion. Motion Carried.

Volunteer Driver’s Recognition Banquet – Motion by Ron Schrieber, seconded by Ken Melvin to set up a Recognition Banquet for our medical transporters. Director to assign to Heath. Discussion Motion Carried.



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Director’s Annual Evaluation. The Director provided the Board Members with a Director of Veterans Affairs Evaluation form asking for their participation in completed and returning nlt than April Board Meeting. The Director’s anniversary date is coming up in May and the Director is looking for feedback on his performance.

Good of the Order: None

Public Comments: None

Motion by Ron Schrieber, seconded by Ken Melvin to adjourn, Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Minutes taken by: Ron Schrieber, Secretary

Questions and Answers/ Requests Driven

Q&A/ None this month

February Roscommon County Veterans Affairs Office Totals

February Veterans or Dependents Office Visits 76 Coordination of volunteer medical transport 22
 Personal Interviews 55 Telephone calls made 134 Telephone calls received 211
 Claims submitted/reviewed 22 Home or Nursing Home/Assisted visits 1 Records Request; DD 214 or other: 2
 County Veteran Relief Fund Requests/Application 0 Medical Transportation: Number of Trips 9
 Burials 7



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General Information

Applications being accepted for 2016 National Veterans Golden Age Games

Event takes place in Detroit, July 10-14



The 2016 National Veterans Golden Age Games take place in Detroit, Michigan, July 10-14. Nearly 800 athletes are expected to compete in the national rehabilitative multi-sport and recreation competition for senior Veterans. The event encourages participants to make physical activity a central part of their lives, and supports VA’s comprehensive recreation and rehabilitation therapy programs. Competitive events include air rifle, badminton, boccia, bowling, cycling, field, golf, horseshoes, nine ball, power walk, shuffleboard, swimming, table tennis and track.

Veterans and their families may be eligible to file taxes absolutely free

Taxpayers have until Monday, Apr. 18 to file their 2015 tax returns and pay any tax due because of the Emancipation Day holiday in Washington, D.C., falling on Friday, April 15. The IRS expects more than 70 percent of taxpayers to again receive tax refunds this year. Last year, the IRS issued 109 million refunds, with an average refund of \$2,797.

Shown below are several ways Veterans and their families have access to free tax preparation and electronic filing services to keep more of their hard earned money.

- IRS’ [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance](#) (VITA) and [Tax Counseling for the Elderly](#) (TCE) programs are available to taxpayers that earned less than \$54,000 in 2015. More than 3.7 million tax returns were prepared using these services in 2014. All tax returns completed through VITA are prepared by IRS certified volunteers, so you can feel confident your tax return is accurate. Even better, there are over 12,000 convenient locations across the country. To find the VITA location nearest you, enter your zip code into the easy-to-use [VITA/TCE Locater](#).
- [MyFreeTaxes](#), operating the only free online tax preparation and filing assistance platform available in all 50 states and Washington D.C., who earned \$62,000 or less in 2015, allows qualified Veterans,



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active-duty military, their families and all other qualifying taxpayers to file both a federal and state tax return absolutely free. In addition to e-filing, MyFreeTaxes also provides in-person help to individuals and families earning \$20,000 or less in 2015. For more information, please visit: www.myfreetaxes.com. The MyFreeTaxes initiative is managed by United Way, with the assistance from legacy partners, National Disability Institute and Goodwill Industries International, and is sponsored by the Wal-Mart Foundation

Wreaths Across America

On Wreaths Across America Day (December 12, 2015), 70,000 volunteers placed 240,185 remembrance wreaths on headstones in Arlington, and with over 1,100 participating locations nationwide 901,000 remembrance wreaths were placed overall. The remembrance wreaths were gifts of respect and appreciation donated by private citizens or organizations.

Visiting Field Service Officer from American Legion at Roscommon County Building.

On the **Second and Fourth Wednesdays of every month**, Elizabeth Cuddington from the Michigan American Legion, will be in the Roscommon County Building, Veteran Affairs office from 12:30- 3:30 p.m. to assist Veterans with claims related issues. Walk ins are welcome, appointments are not needed. During winter months, please call our office in the morning to ensure she is able to get in that afternoon.

American Legion District Service Officer Tom Sheppard also provides office hours at the Prudenville American Legion Post on Tuesday evenings from 4pm-6pm and at St. Helen American Legion on Wednesdays from 5pm – last Veteran is seen.

Resource Guide for Roscommon County Veterans – Our office has completed a local Roscommon County Resource Guide to assist Veterans in finding services available to Veterans. These services cover a wide range of service areas and may be beneficial to new Veterans to your post and/or community. Copies are available in our Roscommon and Houghton Lake offices.

Green Light Campaign- The Roscommon County Veterans Affairs office is encouraging all Veterans and friends of Veterans to honor a Veteran by displaying a “Green Light” on their home year round. These “Green Lights” are now available in our Roscommon and Houghton Lake office. These are also available at our local Walmart store in Houghton Lake who provided our office these lights at



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their cost. The Roscommon County Veterans Affairs office would like to thank our local Walmart and their management team for this generosity. Any donation toward these "Green Lights" will allow us to maintain an adequate supply of these lights as the demand dictates.





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Service Organizations in our County

VFW Post 4159 (Dues \$50)

Post 4159 Charles M. Engel Post (11th District)
PO Box 774

Roscommon, MI 48653
United States
Phone: (989) 275-4136

Meeting Location & Time

219 Terrace Dr
Roscommon, MI 48653
United States
7:00 PM 2nd Wednesday
Commander: David A. Luck
Service Officer: Ronald R. Schrieber
Quartermaster: Gerald McCormick

VFW Post 4034

Post 4034 Fred & Paul Kalis Post

PO Box 591
Houghton Lake Heights, MI 486300591
United States
Phone: (989) 422-6404

Meeting Location & Time

935 Loxley Rd
Houghton Lake Heights, MI 48630-5051
United States
7:00 pm 2nd Wednesday

Commander: Steven Bidstrup
Quartermaster:

VFW Post 5680 St. Helen Post

PO Box 376
Saint Helen, MI 48656
United States
Phone: (989) 389-7492

Meeting Location & Time

1914 Lake St
Saint Helen, MI 486569756
United States
7:00 PM 1st Wednesday

Quartermaster: Bruce Bridson
Commander: Robert Hurd

Service Organizations in our County

AMERICAN LEGION POSTS

Roscommon Post #96 (Dues \$45)

PO Box 744
Roscommon, MI 48653
United States
Phone: (989) 275-0099 (Adjutant Home)

Meeting Location & Time

219 Terrace Dr
Roscommon, MI 48653
United States
7:00 PM 3rd Thursday
Adjutant: Don Croff
Commander: George Ferguson



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Service Officer: Kevin C. Sherman

St. Helen Post #416

10062 Ford Drive, St. Helen, MI 48656

Phone: (989) 389-4630

Meeting Location & Time

10062 Ford Drive, St. Helen, MI 48656

7:00 PM 1st Thursday

Adjutant: Don Mraz

Commander: Phil Maylum

Service Officer: Vacant

Prudenville Post #245 (Houghton Lake-

Higgins Lake) Dues \$45 3564 S. Reserve Rd

PO Box 318, Prudenville, MI 48651

United States

Phone: (810) 751-9983

Meeting Location & Time

3564 S. Reserve Rd

Prudenville, MI 48651

United States

7:00 PM 3rd Wed

Adjutant: Elizabeth Cuddington

Commander: Bill Jammer

Service Officer: Tom Sheppard

Service Organizations in our County

AMVETS

Amvet Post #13 (Dues \$37)

8009 N Ausable Rd

PO Box 335

Higgins Lake, MI 48627

United States

Phone: (989) 821-9838

Meeting Location & Time

2nd Tuesday at 6 pm

8009 N Ausable Rd

Roscommon, MI 48653

United States

Commander: Ron Watson

Service Officer: Vacant

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Marine Corps League #684 CPL Jack A.

Davenport

3564 S. Reserve Rd.

Prudenville, MI, 48651

United States

Phone: (989)

Meeting Location & Time

3564 S. Reserve Rd



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Prudenville, MI 48651

United States

7:00 PM 2nd Wed

Commander: Jim Bowman

Service Officer: Mel Ward (989) 422-7415

[Vietnam Veterans of America \(VVA\)](#)

VVA Chapter #264

PO Box 773

Roscommon, MI 48653

Meeting Location & Time

FWV Post #4159

Roscommon, MI 48653

United States

7pm, 4th Wednesday

Commander: Ed Nolff

Service Officer: Ronald R. Schrieber

Continuing to Serve

Think today's veterans are mostly suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and barely making ends meet? According to a recent report by [Got Your Six](#), just the opposite is true. Got Your Six notes that today's veterans tend to be engaged citizens, more likely to volunteer and vote than the general population. As a group, they earn more than non-veterans with comparable qualifications, complete

educational programs at the same rate as non-veterans, and comprise only 8.6 of the homeless population.

Veterans are among our most community-oriented citizens. The study shows that they volunteer an average of 160 hours annually, 25 percent more than non-veterans. **They belong to civic groups and attend neighborhood meetings, often assuming leadership roles. Furthermore, 48 percent of them vote in elections regularly, 16 percent more than non-veterans.**

These findings should surprise no one. Those who serve in today's all-volunteer military usually do so out of a sense of commitment. Although the government offers educational, health, and other assistance to service members, of the scores of veterans I have interviewed, every single one has named duty to country, not benefits, as his or her primary reason for serving. Furthermore, nearly all -- including severely wounded soldiers -- say they would do it again.

Once soldiers transition to civilian life, many want to continue serving.

Service Organizations Page



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Service Organizations: The Roscommon County Department of Veterans Affairs is asking all of our county service organizations in our county to provide our office with their annual dues and a contact list of their officers. Our office would like to refer returning Veterans to your organization and it would be nice if we can give them a good contact person. I’ve asked in previous correspondence for applications with your dues amount completed, if your organization have not done so, please consider helping us help you in your recruiting.

The Roscommon County Veterans Affairs Committee members and staff say to all of our Veterans and their families, “God bless our Veterans and God bless America.”

New license plate benefits veterans programs

A new license plate that will raise funds to enhance outreach and services to veterans was unveiled at the Flint Veteran Expo in November.

Proceeds from the plate will support outreach and services to veterans, such as education on the mental effects of war, PTSD and other service-related disabilities. At least 25 percent of the money will go to tuition support for members of the Michigan National Guard or the [Children of Veterans Tuition Grant program](#).



Michigan residents who want to help support outreach to veterans can purchase the plate at any Secretary of State office. To purchase a plate by mail or fax, complete and print the [Support Michigan Veterans License Plate Order Form](#).



RED FRIDAY:

We wish to let our servicemen and servicewomen know we support their sacrifice and that we will not forget them; we will do this by wearing Red every Friday.

What is R.E.D. Friday?



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RED is an acronym that stands for Remember Everyone Deployed. R.E.D. Friday was created to remind people of our heroes overseas and show that we are thinking of them. People across the country wear red every Friday to serve as a reminder and spread the message of how important it is that we keep our troops in our thoughts.

How did R.E.D. Friday Get Started?

Remember those email chains you used to get asking you to forward to 10 friends – or all of your friends? There were all kinds: some claiming ridiculous things, some trying to raise awareness for campaigns or diseases, and some that were just plain silly. This is how R.E.D. Friday originated: an email chain back in 2005.

Editor Note: This is our office fifth newsletter and we are open for articles for future newsletters and/or events you would like us to publicize with this monthly newsletter. Next month deadline is identified above, if you have any questions please call Kevin C. Sherman, Director, at (989)275-6047.