

NOBLES COUNTY VETERAN NEWSLETTER

Military Records

If you are seeking assistance with obtaining military records, to include your military discharge records (DD 214 or NGB 22), please understand that these records will be available to the Veteran Service Officer only if they are recorded with the state of Minnesota.

If these discharge records are not recorded at any county within the state of Minnesota, an electronic veteran request will be made with the Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Please be advised that the processing times vary and can take awhile to be sent out.

Thank you!

Apply by
August 25, 2023

A safe, positive activity for
disabled veterans



Tuesday – Thursday

October 3-5, 2023

Camp Ripley, Little Falls, MN

Disabled Veterans Deer Hunt

Free Lodging and Meals provided by our sponsors

Space is limited. For more details or to apply, visit us at
www.mnvetsoutdoors.org or email us at mnvetsoutdoors@gmail.com

Must be a resident of Minnesota and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces



Veterans In Crisis Update

Beginning January 17, 2023, veterans who are experiencing a suicidal crisis are eligible to receive care at VA or non-VA facilities at no cost.



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The duration of care varies. For inpatient and residential care, veterans can receive care for up to 30 days. For outpatient care, veterans can receive care for up to 90 days. At this time, veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA to use this benefit.



The new directive falls under the strategy for suicide prevention that the VA has had in place. Below are details regarding the policy. The VA may be able to provide referrals and seek additional programs for veterans in crisis.



Eligible veterans for this service are:



- Veterans who were discharged or released from active duty after more than 24 months of active service under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former members of the armed forces, including reserve service members, who served more than 100 days under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former members of the armed forces who were the victim of a physical assault of a sexual nature, a battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment while serving in the armed forces.



Veterans Can Access VA Claim Decisions Online

Veterans are able to access their VA claim decision letters online by visiting the VA website at VA.gov. Here, the veteran will have access to electronic copies and will no longer have to wait for the letters to be delivered by mail.

This will save time and give the veteran immediate access to all decisions made regarding claims that have been filed. This new process has recently taken effect back on January 17, 2023.

The recent implementation of this service has been successful, as the website has experienced nearly 300,000 electronic downloads. This new option will reduce wait times on the phone at local VA call centers.

Veterans are encouraged to use this option. To do so, the veteran will have to create a user account and add their personal details (name, phone number, address, etc.) in order to access this service.

Veterans are encouraged to reach out to their local VA for assistance or contact this office at (507-295-5292)



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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

State Soldiers Assistance Program

(SSAP) Providing benefits for Minnesota Veterans for 100 years

The State Soldiers Assistance Program (SSAP) has provided a variety of benefits for Minnesota Veterans and their families for the past 100 years.

Talk to your County Veterans Service Officer today to learn more about these benefits and others that you may be eligible for!

Dental Provides \$1,500 in annual dental assistance and \$6,500 in lifetime assistance for extractions and dentures to Veterans, spouses, and dependents.

Optical Provides \$600 in annual optical assistance to Veterans, spouses, and dependents for exams, prescription eye-wear and contact lenses.

Disaster Relief Grants

Provides financial assistance, upon activation by the Governor, for individuals impacted by a natural disaster.

Veteran Relief Grants

Provides broad financial assistance to a Veteran or surviving spouse.

Subsistence

Provides a form of short-term disability to Veterans and surviving spouses who cannot work at their normal occupation for at least 30 days or to surviving spouses within a year of the passing of the Veteran. Assistance includes rent/mortgage, utilities, health care premiums, and cash assistance.

Surviving Spouse and Dependent Education

Provides a tuition waiver and an annual \$750 stipend to surviving spouses or dependents of certain veterans at any University or College within the M-State or University of Minnesota systems. Benefits are available until a Bachelor's degree is attained, regardless of age.

Housing/Voucher Deposit Assistance Program (VDAP)

Covers the security deposit for any Veteran or surviving spouse who is moving into subsidized housing and in receipt of a housing choice voucher.

Contact your County Veterans Service Officer:

Thank you for your service!

More details online at:

MinnesotaVeteran.org/Benefits



Become a Part of History: Freedom Memorial Park



The Freedom Memorial Park is located along the Freedom Shore here in Worthington, Minnesota, and honors those who have served this nation. It is meant to honor living and deceased veterans and was developed by local volunteers from the Nobles County area. It is with great pleasure to offer the public an opportunity to have their loved ones commemorated for his/her service to this country by purchasing a custom paver that will be displayed at the park.

This is open to any veteran (Active Duty, Reserves, National Guard), living or deceased, and who must have received an honorable discharge from their time in service. The granite paver will include the veteran's name, branch of service, and conflict that they were in for. Each paver has a 30 letter max, with each additional letter costing \$1. Pavers go for \$300 each.

You can find all paver requests at the Nobles County Veteran Service Office in downtown Worthington at 315 Tenth Street. You may also contact this office directly at (507) 295-5292. You may also contact the Worthington Chamber of Commerce office at (507) 372-2919.

Redwood Falls Now Accepting Pre-Registration Applications For State Cemetery

The fourth State Veterans Cemetery in the state of Minnesota is expected to be completed this summer. Redwood Falls is anticipated to serve 22,000 veterans and eligible family members. The project began back in October of 2021 with its groundbreaking ceremony and was a project that has been ongoing for at least 12 years.

Redwood Falls joins Little Falls, Duluth, and Preston with its state cemetery. The cemetery will stretch nearly 21.7 acres. Veterans and their families are encouraged to apply to pre-register with the cemetery. Since it is still under construction, you can submit a pre-registration application* with the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery-Preston. Below is their information for submitting applications:

Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery-Preston
715 Highway 52
Preston, MN 55965
Phone: (507) 765-7320
Fax: (507) 765-3793
Email: Info.CemPR@state.mn.us

Office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday and are closed on all state holidays).

Pre-registration applications are offered in this office. You can also visit the MDVA website at mn.gov/mdva