



THE SITREP

The **Situation Report** is provided by the Isanti County Veterans Services Department

As we move further into the world of technology and instant access to information, Isanti County's Veterans Services Department found it necessary to provide the community with a regularly published source of information regarding Veterans in our community.

FEB 2020

DEAR READERS:

The Department of Veteran's Affairs has partnered up with a company called LogicMark to provide a pendant that initiates two-way communication with 911 without a landline, cell phone or monthly fee. For those that are eligible, which is determined by the Veteran's VA health care provider, these devices are available at no cost to the Veteran. LogicMark has also a reduced rate for those that do not attend VA facilities and still wish to obtain one of their products for their Veteran. More information can be found on their website at: <https://www.logicmark.com/our-veterans> or by calling 1-866-541-VETS (8387).

AGENT ORANGE PRESUMPTIVE LIST NEWS:

VA Secretary Wilkie, in a letter dated Dec. 20, 2019, said he would not make a decision on adding bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, Parkinson's-like tremors and hypertension to the list of presumptive conditions linked to exposure to herbicides like Agent Orange until at least "late 2020." Secretary Wilkie stated he was waiting for the results of two studies, the Vietnam Era Health Retrospective Observational Study, or VE-HEROES, and the Vietnam Era Mortality Study. But the requirement that the results be analyzed, peer-reviewed and in the publication pipeline could add months to the process. VE-HEROES results are currently "being analyzed," while data from the mortality study is "expected to be available for peer review and publication in late 2020," Secretary Wilkie wrote in the letter.

VA NEWS:

Public Law 116-23, (**Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act 2019**) was signed on June 25th, 2019 and took effect on January 1st, 2020. Blue Water Navy Veterans, or those who were stationed on a ship within 12 nautical miles who served in the **Republic of Vietnam** between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975, or who had service in the **Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)** between September 1, 1967 and August 31, 1971, may be entitled to disability compensation for conditions related to herbicide exposure. The law also provides benefits for children born with spina bifida whose parent was a Veteran with herbicide exposure in **Thailand**. The VA will be using a Ship Locator Tool to compile and updated ships list to help verify a Veteran's vessel location during the presumed exposure dates, which they are currently working on with the US Navy. In the meantime, you can check out this website <https://www.hillandponton.com/blue-water-navy-vietnam-map/> with an interactive map and ship list. If you, or someone you know may qualify, please contact your County Veteran Service Officer to learn more.

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“With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”

President Abraham Lincoln’s 2nd Inaugural Address, March 4th, 1865

FEB 2020

ISANTI COUNTY VETERAN NEWS:

Our office has been working with the St. Paul Vet Center staff and some of the surrounding County Veteran Service Officers to begin a support group for Veterans in our region. We’re currently looking to hold meetings on two Mondays of the month, from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. If you are interested in any sort of counseling, whether it be in a group setting, individual, or even marriage counseling, please contact our office.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day, on March 29th, is approaching quickly! A ceremony to honor Vietnam Veterans and their families will be held at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center from 9am until 3pm. There will be exhibits of the Vietnam War Traveling Trunk, The Virtual Vietnam Wall of Faces and giveaways.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Military Order of the Cooties (@ VFW Post 2735)

Cooties Pup Tent #99

Feb 29th, 2020

Silver Bay Veterans Home Visit

Cooties Pup Tent #99

Mar 21st, 2020

Hastings Veterans Home Visit

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

MACV Legal Clinic 9a-2p Feb 4, 2020

Minneapolis VAMC | Flag Atrium Balcony Rm 2S 114

MACV Legal Clinic 9a-3p Mar 5, 2020

Anoka Co Gov’t Center | 2100 3rd Ave - Room 237

Veteran’s Day on the Hill

April 20th, 2020

75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, St Paul, MN

And don’t forget about the Braham VFW Post 1735’s **Monthly Pancake Breakfast** on the first Saturday of the every month, except June & July! Breakfast is served from 7am to 10:30am, and features pancakes, french toast, scrambled eggs, sausage, ham, coffee, and juice and warm smiles to go around!

LOCAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS & MEETING TIMES:

American Legion Post 290 - Cambridge, MN

6pm, 2nd Tuesday of the month

Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon - Cambridge, MN

7pm, 3rd Thursday of the month

Military Order of the Cootie Pup Tent 99 - Isanti, MN

7pm, 1st Thursday of the month

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1731 - Braham, MN

7pm, 2nd Thursday of the month

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2735 - Isanti, MN

7pm, 3rd Monday of the month

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 684 - Isanti, MN

7pm, 1st Wednesday of the month

Addresses for these meetings can be found at the following Isanti County website:

<https://www.co.isanti.mn.us/BusinessDirectoryII.aspx?lngBusinessCategoryID=28>