



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.

MAR 2020

DEAR READERS:

With so many changes happening in the world, and especially during an election year, it's important to keep up with some of the news and how it's affecting our Veterans. A bill to provide service dogs to Veterans with PTSD has passed the US House of Representatives unanimously. The Puppies Assisting Wounded Service members, or PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act, would have the VA create a pilot program to give grants to organizations to train and provide service dogs to Veterans with PTSD or other post deployment mental health issues in an effort to curb the number of suicides among the Veteran population. On to the Senate!

PREPPING FOR STUDENT LOANS?

Scholarship season is upon us, and applications are still being accepted by the Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon. The due date is March 20th, 2020, and are worth \$2500 to each of the 4 award recipients. Eligible candidates are any military member or veteran who lives in or has their duty station in Isanti County, or has Isanti County as their home of record if they are active duty, or citizens who have a direct relationship with a veteran or military member. Applications can be obtained from our office, or from their website: <https://www.beyondtheyellowribbonisanti.org/> And if you have a chance, check out their calendar of events, including their 5th Annual Dinner & Dance Fundraiser, which is on March 28th at the Armed Forces Reserve Community Center. Tickets are available at KBEK in Braham, Cambridge State Bank, or MINNCO in Isanti.

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 update 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.

Isanti County Government Center
555 18th Ave SW - 2nd Floor
Cambridge, MN 55008
<https://www.co.isanti.mn.us/>

Isanti County Veterans Services Department
Dan Meyer, Director
Phone: (763) 689-3591
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MINNESOTA VETERANS NEWS:

The ice hasn't even melted and applications are already being accepted for the 2020 Trolling For The Troops event, which is brought to our community by MN Veterans Outdoor. The Disabled Veteran Turkey Hunt applications are due March 11th, the Trolling for the Troops applications are due April 15th, and applications for the Disabled Veteran Deer Hunt are due August 21st, 2020. You must be a MN resident and a Veteran, and space is limited so applications will be placed in a general lottery. More information and those coveted applications can be found at <http://www.mnvetsoutdoors.org/> or by emailing mnvetsoutdoors@gmail.com.

AGENT ORANGE PRESUMPTIVE LIST NEWS:

On Wednesday, February 12th, 2020, 40 Senators, including Minnesota's Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar, sent a letter to President Trump asking that his administration stop denying scientific evidence and end the years-long delay of adding Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, Parkinsonism, and Hypertension to the Department of Veterans Affairs' list of service-connected presumptive conditions. This letter followed a similar request two days earlier from the leadership of DAV, VFW, VVA, AMVETS, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Fleet Reserve Association, and the Military Officers Association of America. The Veterans service organizations also rectified a VA report to Congress on January 27th, 2020 in their letter. More can be found and read at: <https://connectingvets.radio.com/articles/vsos-to-trump-make-va-cover-agent-orange-linked-diseases>

BLUE WATER NAVY VETERANS:

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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

MAR 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

Mar 21st, 2020

Hastings Veterans Home Visit

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

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

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

MACV Legal Clinic 9a-2p Mar 10, 2020

Minneapolis VAMC | Flag Atrium Balcony Rm 2S 114

MACV Legal Clinic 9a-2p Apr 14, 2020

Minneapolis VAMC | Flag Atrium Balcony Rm 2S 114

MACV Legal Clinic 10a-3p Mar 10, 2020

St Cloud VA HCS | Auditorium Bldg 8

Veteran’s Day on the Hill April 20th, 2020

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

Pancake Breakfast 7a –10:30a

Braham VFW Post 1731 First Saturday of month, except

June & July!

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>