



VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
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Dear Veterans, family members and Friends of the VAC

Once again, summer is winding down, so, in preparation to the rest of the year, we're looking to keep in touch with you and to update our records. A lot has happened in the past few months and the VAC continues to support the benefit needs of all of our vets in Lake County.

We just received notice that the Governor has signed Senate Bill 107 which improves the Real Estate Tax homestead exemption benefits for disabled veterans in Illinois. Under the new bill, veterans with disabilities of 70% or higher will be exempt from all real estate taxes. With a disability of 50-60% the veteran will receive a \$5000 exemption and for disability of 30-40% the exemption will be \$2500. This will take effect with 2015 taxes to be paid in 2016. A formal "Thank You" will be provided to Senator Terry Link and Representative Rita Mayfield for their sponsorship of Senate Bill 107 which gave these additional benefits to our disabled veterans. They have been invited to attend the dinner following the A. J. Lynch Foundation "Swinging With The Vets" golf outing on Friday, September 25 at 6 PM, at Midlane Country Club in Waukegan, Illinois.



We now have an office conveniently located right in Building 133 at the James A. Lovell FHCC. The office is generally open from 0800 - 1400 but it's important to call for an appointment since it is not yet fully staffed (224-610-1279). Claims support is currently available by appointment from 1200-1400. (Building 133, first floor Room 1D-112). The office can also provide notary service capability.

If you are looking for work and having a hard time finding it, you might be eligible for assistance through the Lovell FHCC VRU (Vocational Rehabilitation Unit) - This unit works with vets who need assistance getting back into the workforce (more than just resume and job search assistance). Step one is to contact the VRU at 224-610-3590 or 224-610-3591. You will need to have a primary care provider at the Lovell FHCC to receive VRU services.

If you have a need for clothing, there is a new resource at the Midwest Veterans Closet (2323 Green Bay Road – just a couple blocks north of Lovell). They have free, donated clothing for men, women and children. If you are able to give, the Closet is always in need of clothing or cash donations to keep on going.



Effective July 1, 2015, you can document that you're a vet using your driver's license or state id. To do this you need to take your DD214 to the James A. Lovell FHCC, Building 135, Room 156 & 157, where you can get it stamped. Then you can take it to any Secretary of State Driver Services office. If you are renewing your license anyway, there is no cost. If you are adding it to your current license, there is a \$5.00 fee.



We have contact with a number of veterans who are actively looking for jobs, but need transportation. If you have a car that still works but you're not using any longer, or if you know someone who does, please consider donating it to the VAC to be provided to a veteran in need.

We've been improving our reach to veterans who may not know be aware of the VAC by adding an email newsletter and by setting up a facebook page for those of you who are enjoying the benefits of "social media" through computers. If you aren't receiving our monthly email newsletter, we probably don't have your email address, so we'd appreciate it if you would provide it by sending us an email at veterans@lakecountyil.gov. We'll add your email address to your record in our system so you can keep up to date with the new happenings.

If you're interested in being part of our facebook community, you can log onto www.facebook.com/lakecountyvac. When you get to that page, if you "like" us, you'll see new postings as we make them. Then, if you want to help us spread the word, please share us with your "Friends".



Michael Peck
Superintendent
Veterans Assistance
Commission