



The above mural honoring our Veterans through the era's is on display in our hallway and was created by local artist Galen McCarthy

VICTOR SIERRA OSCAR COMMO CHECK!

Vol 2 Number 9

"America's Veterans embody the ideals upon which America was founded."

September 2019

You can find us on FaceBook too

This publication is for all Veterans, their families and their communities, compiled solely by the Jackson County Veterans Service Officer. The information provided herein is to keep you informed of upcoming events, newsworthy items and historical data of interest.

Proud member of



MN and National Associations of Veteran Service Officers



"In the aftermath, we are because they were." R.J. Heller,

OFFICE INFORMATION

The Jackson County Veterans Service Office is located at:

402 White St. (Door 6)
Jackson, MN 56143
507.847.4774

CVSO@co.jackson.mn.us

Monday 8am-4:30pm
Tuesday 8am-4:30pm
Wednesday 8am-Noon
Thursday 8am-Noon
Friday Closed

(Available for after hour & weekend appointments case-by-case)

www.co.jackson.mn.us/veterans

HIGHER EDUCATION FOR YOU FOR FREE!



When you were younger did you dream of that all important college degree so you could make your mark on the world? Was life too "busy" for you to take the time and expense to chase that dream?

Do you now find yourself sitting at the coffee shop, staring at the TV, sitting on the porch watching the world go by?

Now that you're retired... You've got the time since the kids are grown and work doesn't get in the way. Most of all, the price is right now!!!! You can become what they call a non-traditional student and attend college classes and earn your degree.

Non-traditional means a student who is not traditionally considered a student, generally based on age I would presume. However, once you chase that dream and finally catch it you are still "young" enough to follow it but with more experience under your belt. You'd have the world by the tail and face it on your terms! All you have to do is take the first step. **The price is right!**

Minnesota **waives tuition** for senior citizens 62 and older, but fees may vary by school. At the University of Minnesota, seniors pay a \$10 fee per credit, but can audit for free.

135A.52 PROGRAM AND QUALIFICATIONS.

§ Subdivision 1. Fees and tuition.

Except for an administration fee established by the governing board at a level to recover costs, to be collected only when a course is taken for credit, a senior citizen who is a legal resident of Minnesota is entitled without payment of tuition or activity fees to attend courses offered for credit, audit any courses offered for credit, or enroll in any noncredit courses in any state supported institution of higher education in Minnesota when space is available after all tuition-paying students have been accommodated. A senior citizen enrolled under this section must pay any materials, personal property, or service charges for the course. In addition, a senior citizen who is enrolled in a course for credit must pay an administrative fee in an amount established by the governing board of the institution to recover costs. There shall be no administrative fee charges to a senior citizen auditing a course. For the purposes of this section and section 135A.51, the term "noncredit courses" shall not include those courses designed and offered specifically and exclusively for senior citizens.

(...continued on page 2)

SPECIAL DAYS

September is: SELF IMPROVEMENT MONTH!

- 2 – Labor Day – National Holiday!
- 2 – VJ Day – WWII – “Victory over Japan”
- 8 – Grandparents Day & National Literacy Day
- 8 – National Pet Memorial Day
- 11 – 9/11 Remembrance Day / Patriot Day
- 13 – Uncle Sam Day! (& Friday the 13th...)
- 15 – Wife Appreciation Day
- 16 – American Legion Day
- 17 – Citizenship Day & Constitution Day
- 18 – US Air Force Birthday
- 19 – “Talk like a Pirate Day” *AAARG M’matey!*
- 21 – International Peace Day
- 21 – POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 21 – Oktoberfest Begins in Germany!
- 23 – Autumn Equinox (*First Day of Fall*)
- 26 – Johnny Appleseed Day
- 27 – Native American Day
- 29 – Gold Star Mother’s and Family Day



Your Jackson County CVSO will be on the KKOJ Morning Show the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Tune in but don't tune

out! The show begins at 8:50AM. Question & answer, interesting information, VA Program updates fun facts, straight talk and announcements. This will be geared for all Veterans, their families and Veteran Organizations...



STAY TUNED - STAY INFORMED!



Through the vehicle of radio, Thomas Lyons of the MN Military Radio Hour provides information pertinent to today! He has a guest most every week and discusses upcoming events important to you as the Veteran or military family. *The MN Military Radio Hour* is on KKOJ radio at 3PM Sundays.

FIRST MONDAY IN LAKEFIELD

Don't forget that the Jackson County Veteran Service Office is located at the Lakefield Library the first Monday of every month, 1-3:30PM. C'mon down and visit! Recommend that you call for an appointment first at 507-847-4774 or just walk in...

A NOTE FROM YOUR MEDICARE TEAM

Have you created your official Medicare account yet? It's a secure way for you to access your personal Medicare-related information online any time.

With your Medicare account, you can:

- View your Medicare claims as soon as they're processed.
- See a calendar of current and upcoming preventive services you may be

Medicare.gov

eligible for, like cancer screenings.

- Keep track of your prescription drugs, all in one place – and more!

If you already have an account, that's great! If you don't, enrolling is as easy as going on-line to <https://www.mymedicare.gov/registration.aspx>

MY MILITARY REWARDS

Thank you for taking my phone call. **My Military Rewards** is a phone app. created by a Veteran (*Viet Nam - 101st Airborne*) for veterans We have one mission, to assist veterans and active duty and their families to identify merchants, across the country, that offer discounts to our brothers and sisters. To date we have identified hundreds of thousands of locations throughout the country, that offer discounts, and the list is growing daily.

The app is **free**. We never collect or sell your data. We don't ask for your name, or even ask you to login, it is totally **anonymous**. We want you to find the discounts in a way that is safe, private, and secure. Simply go to the App Store (iphone) or Google Play (androids) search - **My Military Rewards** - and start enjoying your discounts. For additional information you can visit the website at www.mymilitaryrewards.com. After all, you served with honor, you earned your rewards. If you have any questions please feel free to email me or reach out to me at **609-703-2005**.

All The Way - Richard Young

“ELDER” EDUCATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The provisions of this section and section 135A.51 do not apply to noncredit courses designed and offered by the University of Minnesota, and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities specifically and exclusively for senior citizens. Senior citizens enrolled under the provisions of this section and section 135A.51 shall not be included by such institutions in their computation of full-time equivalent students when requesting staff or appropriations.

§ Subd. 2. Term; income of senior citizens.

a) Except under paragraph (b), there shall be no limit to the number of terms, quarters or semesters a senior citizen may attend courses, nor income limitation imposed in determining eligibility.

(b) A senior citizen enrolled in a closed enrollment contract training program is not eligible for benefits under subdivision 1.

§ Subd. 3. Catalogue statement.

Each state supported institution of higher education shall prominently include in its catalogue a statement of benefits provided for senior citizens.

§ Subd. 4. Determination of qualifications.

The institution shall determine whether a person qualifies for, and require execution of appropriate forms to request, the senior citizen benefits.

§ Subd. 5. Placement.

The institution shall refer interested senior citizens to social service, community, and educational agencies for employment or volunteer work.

§ Subd. 6. Farm business management.

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities campuses that offer farm business management may specify space availability in the delivery of farm business management courses.

DISCLAIMER: This is not a program specifically for Veterans, all citizens over the age of 62 living in Minnesota can take advantage of returning to school and getting the education and diploma they desire.

“POST MILITARY” ID CARD Q&A

Recently I have fielded quite a number of requests for an ID card for Veterans to be able to take advantage of Veteran discounts and events.

Although I am not usually happy about being incorrect but in this case I am happy to find out, and announce, I was wrong... **YOU CERTAINLY CAN GET A VA ISSUED VETERANS ID CARD!**

Why would you want on? Well, several reasons and the first being another means of ID'ing yourself with a picture ID. It also negates having to carry around a copy of your DD form 214 (*Military Discharge*) to prove your Veteran status when taking advantage of discounts for events, lodging and goods offered to Veterans!

Below is an excerpt from the Veterans Administration website. To find it on-line you go to www.va.gov. Scroll down to the white box entitled **“RECORDS”** and then choose **“GET VETERAN ID CARD”**. A new page will open and you scroll down to **“VETERAN ID CARD”**, click on the **“+”** sign after **“How do I apply for a Veteran ID Card?”**, and then click on **“[Learn more about how to apply for a VIC](#)”**.

A Veteran ID Card (VIC) is a form of photo ID you can use to get discounts offered to Veterans at many restaurants, hotels, stores, and other businesses. Find out if you're eligible for a Veteran ID Card—and how to apply.

You may be eligible for the VIC if you meet both of the requirements listed below.

Both of these must be true. You:

- Served on active duty, in the Reserves, or in the National Guard (including the Coast Guard), **and**
- Received an honorable or general discharge (*under honorable conditions*)

If you received an other-than-honorable, bad conduct, or dishonorable character of discharge, you're not eligible for a Veteran ID Card. If you have an uncharacterized or unknown discharge status, we'll have to verify your eligibility before we approve your application.

You'll need to provide a copy of your discharge papers when you apply for a VIC to prove your character of discharge.

You'll need this information: When you apply, be sure to have these on hand:

- *Your Social Security number*
- *A digital copy of your DD214, DD256, DD257, or NGB22 that you can upload. This could be in a .pdf, .jpeg, or .png file format.*
- *A copy of a current and valid government-issued ID, such as a driver's license, passport, or state-issued identification card.*

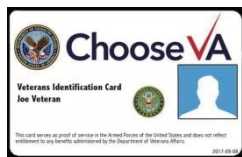
You'll also need a digital color photo of yourself from the shoulders up. The photo should follow all these standards:

- *Show a full front view of your face and neck (with no hat, head covering, or headphones covering or casting shadows on your hairline or face), **and***
- *Be cropped from your shoulders up (much like a passport photo), **and***
- *Show you with your eyes open and a neutral expression, **and***
- *Be taken in clothing you'd wear for a driver's license photo, **and***
- *Be a square size and have a white or plain-color background (with no scenery or other people in the photo), **and***
- *Show what you look like now (a photo taken sometime in the last 10 years), **and***
- *Be uploaded as a .jpeg, .png, .bmp, or .tiff file*

Once you've submitted your VIC application, we'll check your eligibility and verify that.:

- *Your character of discharge meets eligibility requirements, **and***
- *The ID you submitted (driver's license or passport) is valid, **and***
- *The image you've chosen to appear on the card meets the photo requirements*

After we've verified your eligibility, we'll send you an email letting you know the status of your application. If you have an unknown or uncharacterized discharge status, your application will take more time to process while we verify your eligibility. (*We may need to request your records from the National Personnel Records Center.*)



If you receive an email from us asking for additional information or evidence to process your application,

you'll need to sign in to "AccessVA" and update your application with the information we ask for.

Check the status of your application after you apply

You can sign in to your AccessVA account to check the status of your VIC application. Sign in to your AccessVA account

To request a new card if yours is lost or stolen, please send us an email. Email us at vic@va.gov

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- *No. Your Veteran ID Card won't replace your Veteran Health Identification Card or your Department of Defense ID Card.*
- **You can use any of these forms of ID to get the same discounts:**
 - A Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC), **or**
 - A Department of Defense (DoD) Identification Card—either a Common Access Card (CAC) or Uniformed Services ID Card, **or**
 - A state-issued driver's license or ID with a Veterans designation
- Note:** *If you already have one of these, you don't need a Veteran ID Card, but you can still apply for it if you'd like.*
- **You can't use your Veteran ID Card to:**
 - Prove your eligibility for any federal benefits, **or**
 - Access military bases or installations, **or**
 - Access military commissaries or exchanges, **or**
 - Present as a form of identification at the airport, **or**
 - Check into a VA hospital, **or**
 - Show as proof of retirement from the Armed Forces, **or**
 - Show as proof of wartime service to get a special license plate from the Department of Motor Vehicles

BOTTOM LINE

- **YES, A CARD IS AVAILABLE.**
- **YOU HAVE TO REQUEST IT YOURSELF.**
 - ***If you are having difficulty with the on-line application or do not have Internet access please come in to my office and we will help you!***

However, with that said, there are other means where you have something with you without having to carry a copy of your DD form 214 (*Discharge Form*).

- 1) **Enroll in the VA** and you will have an official VA ID card which denotes you as a Veteran.
- 2) **Renew your State Drivers License** and bring a copy of your military discharge along to have "Veteran" included on your new DL.
- 3) **Join the American Legion** or the Veterans of Foreign Wars or other national organizations where being a Veteran is required for membership. You will have your membership card to present to prove you're a Veteran.

- 4) **A drastic measure is to re-enlist and you'll have your Military ID Card! OK, just a passing thought...**



Published: 22 Jul 19

IMPORTANT: The new Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB) 6 to 16

year policy per DoDI 1341.13 (published on 12 Jul 2018) has been delayed until 12 January 2020.

When implemented, Soldiers must have at least 6 years but not more than 16 years of total creditable military service (active duty and/or Selected Reserve service) to be eligible to transfer Post 9/11 GI Bill education benefits to TEB eligible dependents. A Soldier's total years of creditable military service is calculated based on the date of the transfer request, not the date the transfer request was processed. Additionally, submission of a transfer request within the new eligibility parameters does not guarantee approval.

Soldiers are highly encouraged to submit a transfer request via MilConnect (www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/) as soon as they reach six creditable years of military service - do not wait! The earlier eligible Soldiers submit and receive approval for TEB, the earlier they will start fulfilling the TEB four-year additional duty service obligation.

The implementation date change is related to the latest OUSD (*P&R/MPP*) Post 9/11 GI Bill program guidance, DoDI 1341.13 (*published on 12 Jul 2018*).

Please note: Soldiers who have received a Purple Heart are exempt from the 6 to 16 year rule and may submit a transfer request regardless of their total years of creditable service.

RA or USAR Soldiers with questions can call toll-free 1-800-872-8272. ARNG Soldiers with questions can call toll-free 1-866-628-5999.

Education Incentives Team. Organization: Army Continuing Education System (ACES)
<https://usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-post911gibill@mail.mil> or call 1-800-872-8272

ARE YOU STILL SCHOOL SHOPPING?

Take advantage of your American Legion benefits and consider Office Depot and OfficeMax

They are your one-stop shop for Back-to-School shopping season. Use this discount code with your Store Purchasing Card (SPC) for in-store or online shopping. Visit officediscounts.org/tal for details – and have your SPC texted right to your phone!

You can use that card for your Post as well for purchases and printing! Call for details...

***I used to be an artist in the army...
...but I kept "drawing enemy fire."***

Jackson County Veteran Service Office September 2019

MINNESOTA STATE VETERAN BENEFITS

Besides the federal VA benefits you have earned, Minnesota has provided you with more benefits that are unique to living in Minnesota.

Minnesota Veterans Homes

Minnesota Veteran Financial Benefits

Income Taxes

Military pay and retirement pay are tax-free

Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption

Short Term Financial Assistance

Minnesota Veteran Employment Benefits

MN Veterans Preference Act

Minnesota Veteran Education Benefits

Minnesota GI Bill

The Minnesota GI Bill is available to

Surviving Spouse & Dependent Education

Benefit

Minnesota hunting & recreational Benefits

Minnesota Veteran Recreation Benefits

Minnesota State Park Vehicle Permits

Active Duty Hunting & Fishing Licenses

Firearms Safety Training

Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery

Remember, none of these are benefits until you choose to use them! Don't let them go to waste, talk with your local CVSO no to see how you can apply!

For a short explanation of each of the above benefits you can go on-line to: the Military.com page at <https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/minnesota-state-veterans-benefits.html>

Visit the Minnesota Department of Veterans Services (<http://MN.gov/mdva/>) website for more detailed information about any of these programs.

CHANGING CAREERS?

Are you between jobs and need to find something quick? Are you in search of a new career? Are you working beneath your abilities and want to find something with more of a challenge and professional advancement?

Time to dust off your old resume! Don't have a resume? Well, you can go to your local library for resume writing information, call the college to get help composing one or visit any local job service (either state or private) in your area. "Easy peasy", it's just a story about you, your job history, experience and education! A well written resume can mean all the difference.

Your CVSO receives an open listing of jobs in your local area almost weekly provided by the Minnesota Job Network. For more information please call your local CVSO or go on-line for a complete list at <https://www.minnesotajobnetwork.com/>



minnesotajobnetwork.com

Live here. Work here.™

local area almost

weekly provided by the

Minnesota Job Network. For more information please

call your local CVSO or go on-line for a complete list at

TRAVELING BY AIR?

Layovers are snippets of time in your life you can never get back! If you are on Active Duty, in the Guard or Reserve or are a military retiree you can make it more bearable at **The Armed Forces Service Center (AFSC)**. Just present your ID card or copy of your orders when you enter.

Most major airports host an AFSC just for this purpose. They generally have not only a more comfortable area to wait in but offer reading material, snacks, TV and games. Many of them also offer a bed or cot if the layover is long and they will give you a wake-up call, just like mom or that pesky Drill Sergeant you remember!



The Armed Forces Service Center in Minneapolis has been serving military personnel and their families, along with Purple Heart and Medal of Honor recipients since November 22, 1970, seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

This and other AFSC's are staffed by volunteers and funded almost entirely by donations. If you would like to become a volunteer stop by and let 'em know! The AFSC in Minneapolis is located at 4300 Glumack Drive, # B22, St Paul, MN. 55111 (Terminal 1 of the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport). The AFSC is open 24 hours daily. To find out more just call (612) 726-9156 or go on-line to <http://www.mnafsc.org/>.

(Note: If traveling from Sioux Falls, to my knowledge, there's no AFSC at that facility.)



What is the purpose of the propeller on an airplane?



To keep the pilot cool... If you don't think so, stop just it once and watch him sweat!

DAY TRIPPING?

Here's an idea for a fun trip day trip! If you're looking for something to do to round out this summer 2019 season and you're a Veteran, still serving, a Military Retiree, military family member or just have an avid interest in the military this event should get your juices excited! **Maybe bring friends, pack a van or bus load and head out!**

Camp Ripley Training Center, otherwise known as CRTC, is located just off MN 375 7 miles north of Little Falls or about 22 miles south of Brainerd.

Once there you can also take advantage of the Minnesota Military Museum or, if you're so inclined, tour the MN Veterans Cemetery. There are also picnic areas on base by the Mississippi River or you may visit the snack bar just north of the Airport. If you are a "card carrying" military retiree or still serving (AD, Guard or Reserve) you can also visit the Post Exchange!



After the Open House you can visit some of the many attractions that Little Falls has to offer. On your way home you can go through St Cloud and do some shopping or take the family out for dinner!

In any case, it should be a fun filled and educational day for the whole family! Don't forget to bring a camera and seasonal clothing. It's September, it could be chilly out there.

POINT OF INTEREST...

If you're an avid golfer you probably already know this but do you know why golf balls have "dimples" all over them?

Well, it's certainly NOT to make 'em look cute... When dimples are added to a golf ball, it creates a tiny layer of air around the golf ball that significantly cuts down drag. This forces the air to flow over a larger portion of the ball, which results in a much smoother ball flight.



ARE YOU A RUNNER?

The seventh annual Warrior 196 5k Run/Walk will take place Saturday, September 28 starting at 9 a.m. and will take place at:

Eagan High School Campus
4185 Braddock Trail; Eagan, MN 55123

More Information: <https://www.warrior196.org/>
Or e-mail to: Warrior196memorial5k@gmail.com

FIRST FEMALE AIRMAN GRADUATES ARMY'S RANGER SCHOOL

First Lieutenant Chelsey Hibsich, U.S. Air Force, is in the history books by becoming the first female in the U.S. Air Force to earn the Ranger patch. She graduated from the Army's Ranger School at Fort Benning, Georgia on August 30th.

Becoming a Ranger is no easy task. The two-month grueling course is designed to train military members in small unit tactics and instill combat leadership skills that empower them to make quick decisions in adverse situations.

However, Hibsich is no stranger to grueling competitions. The Pacific Air Forces security forces team, of which she's a member, won the Advanced Combat Skills Assessment competition securing the 2018 Air Force Defender Challenge title.

She is now one of the few elite females in the military who get to wear the coveted Ranger tab. The 821st Contingency Response Squadron commander, LTC Christina Lee, understands the historical milestone Hibsich has achieved as the first Air Force female to graduate Ranger School. For more go online to: www.dvidshub.net/news/338050/first-female-airman-graduates-armys-ranger-school

SERVICE-DISABLED VETS INSURANCE

What is S-DVI?

The Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) program was established in 1951 to meet the insurance needs of certain Veterans with service-connected disabilities. S-DVI is available in a variety of permanent plans as well as term insurance. Policies are issued for a maximum face amount of \$10,000.

Who Can Apply for S-DVI?

You can apply for S-DVI if you meet the following 4 criteria:

1. You were released from active duty under other than dishonorable conditions on or after April 25, 1951.
2. You were rated for a service-connected disability (even if only 0%).
3. You are in good health except for any service-connected conditions.
4. You apply within 2 years from the date VA grants your new service-connected disability.

Note: An increase in an existing service-connected disability or the granting of individual unemployability of a previously rated condition does not entitle a Veteran to this insurance.

You can go on-line to learn more at www.benefits.va.gov/INSURANCE/docs/SDVI_Elig.pdf or to www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/s-dvi.asp and about how different types of service-connection ratings impact the S-DVI application period.

How Can I Apply for S-DVI?

You can apply for basic S-DVI using our S-DVI Online Application.

You can also download VA form 20-4364, Application for Service-Disabled Veterans Life Insurance, from our forms page. Be sure to also download VA Pamphlet 29-9 from this site for premiums rates and a description of the plans available.

Waiver of Premiums for Totally Disabled Veterans

Under certain conditions, the basic S-DVI policy provides for a waiver of premiums in case of total disability. Policyholders who carry the basic S-DVI coverage and who become eligible for a waiver of premiums due to total disability can apply for and be granted additional Supplemental S-DVI of up to \$30,000.

Supplemental S-DVI

The Veterans' Benefits Act of 2010, provided for \$30,000 of supplemental coverage to S-DVI policyholders. Premiums may not be waived on this supplemental coverage. S-DVI policyholders are eligible for this supplemental coverage if they:

- are eligible for a waiver of premiums.
- apply for the coverage within one year from notice of the grant of waiver.
- are under age 65

How Can I Apply for Supplemental S-DVI?

To apply for Supplemental S-DVI, you must file [VA Form 29-0188, Application for Supplemental Service-Disabled Veterans \(RH\) Life Insurance](#) or send a letter requesting this insurance over your signature. You must apply for the coverage within one year from notice of the grant of waiver of premiums.

If you wish to receive e-mail from VA with the latest news releases and updated fact sheets can subscribe to the VA Office of Public Affairs Distribution List at www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/opa_listserv.asp

MILITARY HUMOR

Sometimes getting through a day in the military takes real intestinal fortitude (whatever that is) and other times it takes some military style humor. That's the stuff that makes is bearable!

A private ran to his General, bringing a message from the front lines. He was in utter distress.

"Sir! We are outnumbered three to one, and..."

"Private! Get me my red shirt," he interrupted, **"When I bleed in battle, I don't want the soldiers to see it and be discouraged."**

"Sir! You don't understand, they have battalions of heavy artillery, and their tanks are twice the..."

The General interrupted again, **"Private! Get me my brown pants..."**



FOR YOU AIR FORCE GUYS & GALS!

An F-111 was flying escort with a B-52 and generally making a nuisance of himself by flying rolls around the lumbering old bomber. The message for the B-52 crew was, **"Anything you can do, I can do better."**

Not to be outdone, the bomber pilot announced that he would rise to the challenge. The B-52 continued its flight, straight and level, however.

Perplexed, the fighter pilot asked, **"So? What did you do?"**

"We just shut down two engines." replied the B-52.



There was this General-in-training, and his superiors were asking him questions: **"What happened on June 6, 1944?"**

"We stormed the beach at Normandy, which later became known as D-Day, sir!"

"What was the turning point of world war 2?"

"Battle of the bulge, sir!"

"What's is the importance of May 12"

The Man thought and thought "I don't know, sir!"

The superior then said **"Well, I guess I'll have to tell your wife that you forgot her birthday"**

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and small American flags were mounted on either side of it.

The seven year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside him and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."

Good morning, Pastor," replied the young man, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor Phillips, what is this?" Alex asked.

"Well, son, it's a memorial to all the men and women who have died in the service."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he finally managed to ask, "Which one, the 9:00 or 10:30 service?"

NEW URGENT CARE LAW?

Here's a quick reference guide. Check Eligibility: You do not have an insurance card for this benefit. Call 833.483.8669

- **Do Not pay a co-payment at time of Visit.** Eligible veterans will be billed separately by VA for any copayment that is applicable.
- **Copies of the VA Urgent Care Benefit Guide** is three separate checklists for the Veteran, Provider and Pharmacy. Call me for a copy.
- **Jackson Sanford Hospital & Clinic** are now authorized providers.
- **You are only authorized three visits per year.**
- **You have to be enrolled in the VA Health Care System.**

Call the 833.483.8669 to make sure you qualify. If you want a packet please call me and I will send it out.

TIMES, THEY ARE A'CHANGIN'

Army Rolls Out New Reenlistment Bonus Worth Up to \$81,000

"While only a few can benefit this fiscal year, about 45% of soldiers eligible to reenlist in fiscal 2020 can take advantage." For the rest of the story you can go on-line to: www.military.com/daily-news/2019/08/27/army-rolls-out-new-reenlistment-bonus-worth-81000.html?ESRC=army-a_190828.nl

Now doesn't this want to make you re-enlist? Did you get offered a re-enlistment bonus when your time was up? I'm fairly sure it was nothing of this magnitude if you did.

I remember my measly paycheck from Basic Training too, a whopping \$94.00/month after taxes. Then I got a promotion and pay increase to \$124.00 monthly after taxes!

Ok, so you didn't really have any expenses, Uncle Sam provided for you. Your food, lodging, nifty stylish

duds, medical care and "specialized" tools to do your "job", not to mention he did your thinking for you too!

The "Selective Retention Bonus (SRB) program" is designed to entice servicemembers to **re-enlist for longer periods** in **high-demand career fields**. It takes quite a lot of our tax dollars to train a soldier, sailor, airman or marine so it's incentive for our good Uncle (Sam) to want to keep them around and working without having to be replaced. That would require expensive training all over again.

Anyway, I thought this was interesting and decided I'd share it with you...

"THANK YOU FOR MY SERVICE"

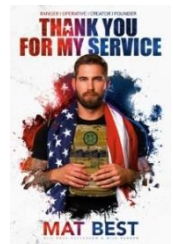
Narrative by Jeff Gay



"Thank You For My Service" is a new book, a memoir, by Mat Best, former Army Ranger turned contractor.

You've probably never heard of him, I hadn't. After reading the interview with him I have gained respect for him as an advocate for Veterans and ordered his new book for my Nook reader...

Since his time in the Army he has become the Internet icon behind the "Article 15" clothing line, "Leadslinger's Whiskey" and the "Black Rifle Coffee Company". Below is an excerpt from the Task & Purpose website, "10 Questions Only A Veteran Would Ask Mat Best", this one is #10...



What's the one thing to always remember in a firefight?

To reload [laughs]! But honestly, the one thing to remember in a firefight is to know that you're better than the enemy. If you're timid, that's what gets people killed. Have faith in yourself and your training. It's the same in a fistfight. If you go in timid and scared, you'll probably get knocked out. But if you go in there full force and wanting to put that dude in the ground, you're going to be good.

His sense of humor has allowed him to overcome many tragedies he has experienced. He can be serious as well as light hearted and has many great insights on life both in and out of the military. Here is a book critic's direct quote:

"The unapologetic, laugh-your-a\$\$-off military memoir both vets and civilians have been waiting for, from a five-tour Army Ranger turned YouTube phenomenon and zealous advocate for veterans"

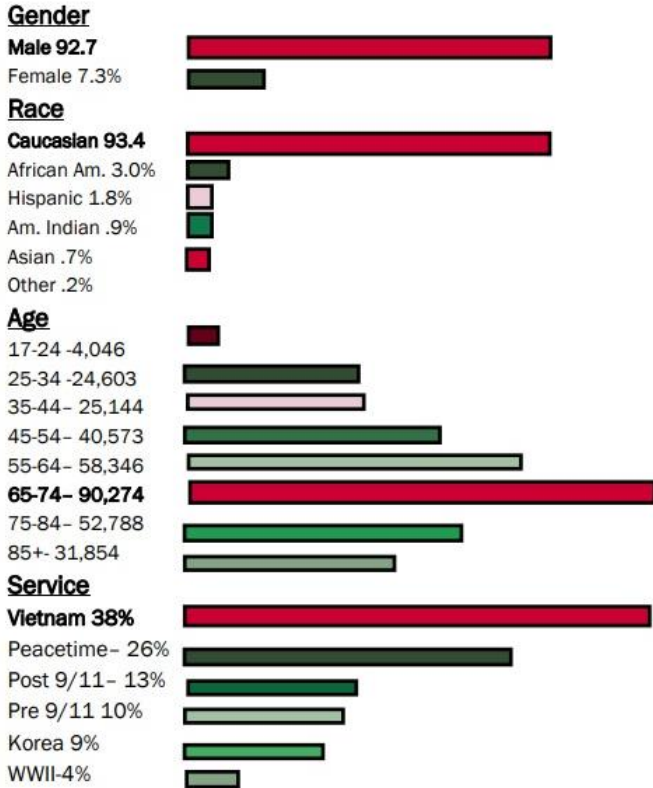
The release date of the book was August 20th and it's available from both Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble on-line. You can order it in **paper print** or for **Kindle** or **Nook** electronic readers. I was excited to get eyes-on once it downloaded to my device!



DISCLAIMER & WARNING! Some of the language and content used in this book is graphic as well as the depiction of some of events. Please consider this before or as you read it.

You may also find it on our Facebook page as well!
www.facebook.com/JacksonCountyMNVeteranServices/

A Snapshot of Minnesota Veterans



LOCAL ORGANIZATION INFORMATION



ATTENTION ALL POSTS!

Since this is a publication for Veterans I see it also being used as a vehicle for local Service Organization Post information for Jackson County.

If you would like your post information, meeting dates/times, upcoming events, ads, news items, pictures, contact information, membership drives, etc. posted in this newsletter just let me know!

The newsletter is available to anybody with Internet access and if you have an active Post/club it may be mailed to that address for placing on your bulletin board or at your meetings.

If you have a business (lounge and/or restaurant) it may be placed on the bar or in another conspicuous area for your members and visitors to read.

This would help all of us out by making the publication more widely spread. You can locate the archived and most recent newsletter on-line at www.co.jackson.mn.us/veterans.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please place these numbers close by in case you would ever need to call one. We hope that the need never arises but we also understand that it's a real possibility. Better to be prepared and to know where to call for help when help is needed...

National Suicide Prevention Hotline

1-800-273-8255

Annual Veterans Suicide Awareness Day is held annually the first Saturday in October

NATIONAL PROBLEM GAMBLING HELPLINE

1-800-522-4700

Veterans Crisis Line
 1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1
OR TEXT TO "838255"

Veterans Linkage Line™

minnesotaveteran.org | **1-888-LinkVet**
 (546-5838)

DON'T FORGET – LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

www.facebook.com/JacksonCountyMNVeteranServices

or visit online at www.co.jackson.mn.us/veterans

HOW COPY? OVER...

GOOD COPY! OUT!

See y'all next month!



The sole responsibility for content is
 Jeffrey Gay, Jackson Veteran's Service Officer.



GOIN' ON-LINE

This section was run in our very first issue and I thought it good to revisit it. These are web addresses which can help you, entertain you and keep you abreast of news, views and changes in benefits. Keep an eye out for additions to the list as we move forward!

FIND A LOCAL CVSO

MN Ass'n of Vet Service Officers www.macvso.org

NEWS & VIEWS

Marine Times www.marinecorpstimes.com
Air Force Times www.airforcetimes.com
Military Times www.militarytimes.com
Military.COM www.military.com
SOFREP News <https://sofrep.com/news/>

BENEFITS & OTHER INTERST

U.S. Veterans Affairs www.va.gov
MN Dept. of Vet Affairs <https://mn.gov/mdva/>
My Health-e Vet www.myhealth.va.gov

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion www.legion.org
MN American Legion www.mnlegion.org
Veterans of Foreign Wars www.VFW.org
Disabled American Vets www.DAV.org
AMVETS <http://amvetsnsf.org>
Vietnam Vets of America <https://vva.org/>
Military Order of Purple heart <https://moph.org>

MILITARY SERVICE BRANCHES

US Army www.goarmy.com
US Marine Corps www.marines.mil
US Navy www.navy.mil
US Air Force www.airforce.com
US Coast Guard www.uscg.mil
National Guard (Army/Air) www.nationalguard.com

OF INTEREST TO MILITARY RETIREES

TRICARE Health www.tricare.com *
DFAS MyPay (Finance) <https://mypay.dfas.mil>
Military Officers Assn. www.moaa.org
DoD Lodging Site www.dodlodging.net
America's Warrior Part. americaswarriorpartnership.org

OTHER LINKS PROVIDING INFO AND ASSISTANCE

Nat'l Archives (Records) <https://archives.gov/veterans>
MACV (Financial/Legal) www.mac-v.org
Minnesota LinkVet <https://minnesotaveteran.org>
Senior Linkage Line www.seniorlinkageline.com
Wounded Warrior Proj. www.woundedwarriorproject.org
"Make the Connection" www.MakeTheConnection.net

VETERANS MALL, LODGING & VACATIONS

Armed Forces Exchange www.aafes.gov *
Armed Forces Lodging www.dodlodging.net/
AF Vacation Club www.afvclub.com

(* denotes must be still serving Active Duty, Reserve or Guard and military retirees)

"WHO YA GONNA CALL?!"



From time to time you need to call for help. Besides your local CVSO the numbers below may be helpful for you to call direct!

Resources for SW/WC MN Area Veterans

VAMC, Sioux Falls, SD 605.336.3230
(Toll Free) (800.316.8387)
(Press "0" or your party's extension to interrupt message)

VA Nurse & Telephone Care 866.687.7382
Telephone Triage x7140
Patient Advocate x6688
Pharmacy Refills 855.560.1723
VA Billing Questions 866-347-2352

CBOC, Spirit Lake, IA 712.336.6400
CBOC, St James, MN 507.375.9670

MN Vet's Home, Luverne, MN 507.283.6200
Toll Free 877.588.8387

Vet Center, Sioux Falls, SD 605.330.4552

MACV, Mankato Office 507.345.8258

SW Ctr for Independent Living 507.532.2221

MDVA SW MN Higher Education Coordinator 507.537.7213

MDVA Tribal VSO, SW MN 507.637.1534

MDVA Veterans Linkage Line 888.546.5838
Senior Linkage Line 800.333.2433

VA Crisis Line/Suicide Line 1.800.273.TALK
press 1 (273.8255)

Defense Finance & Acc't. Svcs 888.332.7411

TRICARE West Region 844.866.9378

MN Veterans Service Organizations' Dept. HQ's

The American Legion 866.259.9163
Veterans of Foreign Wars 651.291.1757
Disabled American Veterans 651.291.1212
Military Order Purple Heart 651.227.4456
Vietnam Veterans of America 651.224.6345

IDENTIFICATION CARDS/DEERS UPDATES

(Call for appointment and bring proper paperwork)

NG Armory, Mankato, MN 507.389.6219
100 Martin Luther King Drive Mon-Wed-Fri

114th FW (Airport), Sioux Falls, SD 605.988.5845
1201 W. Algonquin St.

196th MEB, Sioux Falls, SD 605.357.2900 or 2985
800 W. National Guard Drive

NG Armory, Montevideo, MN 320.269.9284 or 5180
711 S. 17th St. Mon-Fri / 9am-3pm

YOUR LOCAL CVSO

THE VENERABLE MILITARY LATRINE – A COUPLE OF FUN FACTS...

Military Latrine in England circa WWII. Notice the rolls of “TP” on a rope and the facility is just a large sewer pipe with toilet seats mounted on top... I presume that flushing was like a tsunami through the “tubes”!

The us military barracks latrines were somewhat the same concept but at least we had the porcelain “thrones” in a row. It was always nice when the newspaper was there so we could share the news between us when “duty called”...



No, this is NOT a new twist on “Trench Warfare”, it’s WWII in the German Army and their version of “the Latrine”... **WATCH FOR SPLINTERS!** *(It must have been budgetary restraints)*

Yep, in all these cases you soon learned to leave your modesty at the door!

Don’t forget the most memorable scene in “No Time for Sergeants”!

www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTRxbZ3DhM8



Today’s military field latrines!!!! We’ve come a long way baby!

And let us not forget the venerable “Cat Hole”, the makeshift “Pee Tubes”, the “Slit Trench” and the “Head” *(for Navy & USMC)*
Army toilet paper was referred to as a rolled “DA form 1” or also the GSA issued “John Wayne Toilet Paper”...
(‘Cause it’s rough and tough and don’t take crap off nobody!)

SEPTEMBER IS SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH!

In observance of Suicide Prevention Month, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) encourages Veterans, community leaders, co-workers, families and friends to #BeThere — to help prevent suicide — by being present, supportive and strong for those who may be going through a difficult time.

As part of this approach, VA is working closely with The White House and other partners to implement the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide or PREVENTS.

**YOU ARE
NOT
ALONE**

"This September, and all year, I encourage everyone to take a moment to be there for Veterans in need." said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "One act of thoughtfulness can make a big difference and may even save a life. That's why, VA is proud to work on initiatives like PREVENTS, to prevent suicide and find innovative ways to deliver support and care to all 20 million U.S. Veterans whenever and wherever they need it,"

The PREVENTS roadmap, initiated by an executive order signed by President Trump in March 2019, will serve as an important tool for promoting research, community engagement — and collaboration in the public and private sector — and ultimately, for ending Veteran suicide.

Suicide is a complex, national public health issue that affects communities nationwide, with more than 45,000 Americans, including more than 6,000 Veterans, dying by suicide every year.

Suicide is preventable, and special training is not needed to prevent suicide. Everyone can play a role by learning to recognize warning signs, showing compassion to Veterans in need and offering support. Listed are actions anyone can take to **Be There**:

- Reach out to Veterans to show them you care. Send a check-in text, cook them dinner or simply ask, "How are you?"
- Learn the warning signs of suicide, found on the Veterans Crisis Line website.
- Watch the free S.A.V.E. training video to equip yourself to respond with care and compassion if someone you know indicates they are having thoughts of suicide.
- Check out VA's Social Media Safety Toolkit to learn how to recognize and respond to social media posts that may indicate emotional distress, feelings of crisis or thoughts of suicide.
- Contact VA's Coaching Into Care program when worried about a Veteran or loved one. A licensed psychologist or social worker will provide guidance on motivating your loved one to seek support.

Learn more about the **#BeThere** campaign and access resources to help support Veterans at [BeThereForVeterans.com](https://www.bethereforveterans.com).

Veterans who are in crisis or having thoughts of suicide, and those who know a Veteran in crisis, can call the Veterans Crisis Line for confidential support available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Call 800-273-8255 and Press 1, text to 838255 or chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/Chat).

NATIONAL
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LIFELINE™
I-800-273-TALK
www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Jackson County Veteran Service Office September 2019