

Veteran's Affairs Up-Date - 14 October 2009

Education Benefit Advance Payments

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki has authorized advance payments up to \$3,000 for Veterans who applied for VA educational benefits and who have not yet received their monthly education payments. If you are a Veteran who has applied for one of VA's education programs and have not yet received your monthly benefit payment for the Fall 2009 term, you can request advance payment through the website, www.advancepay.gibill.va.gov. Also you can visit one of VA's 57 Regional Offices across the country to immediately receive an advance payment. You will need to bring a government-issued photo ID and your course schedule when you visit the regional office. In Iowa, the Regional Office address is: 210 Walnut St. Room 1063, Des Moines IA 50309. I have been advised by Greg Clark, Veteran Advisor, Iowa Workforce Development Office, that an excellent Point Of Contact is Skip Kempnich. His address is: 1 Jessup Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242 and his phone number is: 319-335-0219. Website is: herald-kempnich@uiowa.edu! He'll be able to advise best use of the GI Bill.

Iowa Veterans Home

It's that time of the year when we realize that "old man Winter" is just around the corner! If you, or someone you know, is interested in pursuing a Long Term Care Facility, this is for you. IVH has total bed capacity of 720+. Eligibility? Honorably discharged Veterans and/or their spouses. I've learned that very few Spouses, or Surviving Spouses of Veterans, realize they are eligible for admission. Veterans must have demonstrated medical or financial need and are eligible for VA medical treatment. Cost of care? It is not free, but reasonable. Rate of payment is based on the actual cost of care and the individual's ability to pay using available resources. Some statistics: Johnson Co. had 23 IVH Residents as of 7 September 09 and was No. 5 of the total at that time. Only Counties of Polk, Marion, Marshall, and Linn had more residents. We have an excellent colorful brochure I'd be glad to send for the asking - just let me know. Our phone number is: 319-356-6049 and our address is: 855 S. Dubuque Street, Iowa City, IA 52240. Office Hours are: 0800 - Noon : 12:30 - 4:30 P.M. Monday - Friday, except holidays.

Presidential Memorial Certificates

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased Veterans. This program was initiated in March 1962 by President John F. Kennedy and has been continued by all subsequent Presidents. Statutory authority for the program is Section 112, Title 38, of the United States Code. Eligible recipients include the next of kin and loved ones of honorably discharged deceased Veterans. More than one certificate may be provided. The website for the PMC is: <http://www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp>. When accessing this website, VA Form 40-0247 can be printed out. You will need to furnish two items: Copy of the Veterans Discharge and death certificate to verify eligibility. Only copies need to be forwarded. Did I mention the PMC's are free? I've learned that not everyone realizes this benefit is available. Questions? Call Me!

Remember, we are Veterans Helping Veterans!

By Leo Baier, Director, Johnson County Commission of Veteran Affairs