



Paralyzed Veterans of America

North Central Chapter

A Member Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America

North Central Chapter

209 N. Garfield Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57104
1-605-336-0494 * 1-800-505-4782
Email: info@ncpva.org Website: www.ncpva.org
National PVA Website: www.pva.org



North Central Chapter

October/November 2021

Upcoming Events October/November 2021

Oct 6 . . . Top Gun Pheasant Hunt, Howard, SD, 8:00 AM - Noon

Oct 11 . . . Columbus Day, Office Closed

Oct 14 . . . Membership Meeting, Chapter Office, Noon Luncheon and 1:00 PM Meeting

Oct 14 . . . VAVS Meeting, 1:00 PM via Zoom

Oct 20 . . . SD Veterans Council Meeting, Alliance Building, 9 to 11 AM

Oct 28 . . . SF Veterans Council Meeting, Alliance Building, 7:00 PM

Nov 7 . . . Daylight Saving Time ends

Nov 11 . . . Veterans Day, Office Closed

Nov 11 . . . Veterans Day Program, Alliance, 10:30 AM

Nov 11 . . . No Membership Meeting

Nov 25-26 . . . Thanksgiving, Office Closed

Nov 25 . . . No SF Veterans Council Meeting at Alliance Building.

Dec 23-24 . . . Christmas, Office Closed

Dec 30-31 . . . New Year's, Office Closed

Annual Banquet Canceled

The Board of Directors met August 24th and discussed whether to hold our Annual Banquet on Saturday, October 2nd in Sioux Falls.

With the COVID numbers on the rise again, we have decided against holding the annual banquet. Please know this was a hard decision but felt it was the best decision for the health and welfare of all our members.

Our PVA Chapter members are our number one priority, and your health is our number one concern.

We hope you all understand! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Chapter Office at 605-336-0494.

SD State Veterans Cemetery

Endowment Fund

With the passing of SB 91, the South Dakota Veterans Council has established an Endowment Fund with the South Dakota Community Foundation. This fund will be used for the maintenance and operations of the veterans cemetery.

The South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery will be located at the 1-90/I-229 area in Sioux Falls, SD and will encompass up to 50 acres of land donated by the City of Sioux Falls.

All federally defined veterans, spouses, and dependent children are eligible for burial in the State Veterans Cemetery.

We are proud to be able to give our veterans their final resting place on the eastside and keep them close to their families.

If you would like to contribute to the Endowment Fund, please click on the following link:

<https://sdcommunityfoundation.org/for-advisors/existing-funds/south-dakota-veterans-cemetery-fund/>

CFC Campaign

If you are a federal government employee or your employer offers a charitable giving campaign through United Way, you can help us to continue our programs and services we offer to our members, veterans and other individuals with disabilities.

CONTRIBUTION CODE: 54682



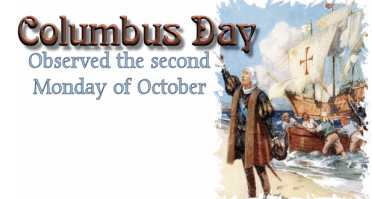
Paralyzed Veterans of America

North Central Chapter



Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 7th.

Set clocks back 1 hour Saturday night before bedtime.



Monday, October 11th
Office will be closed.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

North Central Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

OFFICERS

President, Casey Davidson
Vice President, Chuck Doom
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Michael Olson

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER

Brad Friez
VA Dakota Regional Office
2501 West 22nd Street, Room 100
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605-333-6801
800-795-3632

OFFICE STAFF

Lisa Cummings, Executive Director
Terry Paulsen, Government Relations Director
Barbara Priesz, Administrative Assistant

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 -3:30

Sioux Falls VA Health Care SCI Coordinator

Rachel Gangle, Social Worker
605-336-3230 ext. 7898

Fargo VA Health Care SCI Coordinator

Tracy Lamont, SCI Coordinator
701-239-3765

Black Hills VA Health Care SCI Coordinator

Michelle Hough, SCI Coordinator
605-720-7003

— Attention Members —

If you are receiving your newsletter by mail and would like to receive this via email, please contact me at the Chapter Office
(LisaC@ncpva.org/605-336-0494) with your email address. This will help save the Chapter on postage and printing costs.



<http://www.facebook.com/ncpva>

Disclaimer: The North Central Chapter PVA newsletter is published six times a year. It serves its members and interested parties by informing them about chapter activities, veterans' issues, SCI related matters, advocacy and legislative developments and other relevant issues concerning disabilities and the disabled community. The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the North Central Chapter, its Officers, Board Members or the Editor. Similarly, appearance of advertising herein does not constitute an endorsement of their products or services. The editor has the right to edit all articles.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

Membership-Duane Biesboer

The Chapter currently has a total of 170 members and 86 Associate Members.

Regular membership is FREE! If you know of anyone who has a spinal cord injury or disease please have the Veteran contact the Chapter office.

Beginning October 1st, all Associate Members will be invoiced for Annual Dues. Annual dues are \$30 per year and Life Dues are \$200.00.

Thank you to those who have sent in their dues!!

Please notify the Chapter when you have
a change of address.

Volunteer Program-Charles Doom

The Chapter had 405 hours for the month of August; YTD 2089. Kristi Allen and Rick Albrecht were Aug/Sept 2021 Volunteers of the Month. Remember to look for your volunteer number in the newsletter and win a \$25 Gift Card! If you see your number, call the Chapter Office!



“Friends Aiming High”

by John Green

Framed and Matted - \$275

Print Only - \$75

To order your print, please contact the
Chapter Office at (605) 336-0494

VA Expands Rental Support, Increasing Housing Options for Veterans

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs has expanded the Shallow Subsidy initiative and will grant \$200 million to 238 nonprofit organizations across the country and territories to provide housing rental assistance to extremely and very low-income veteran households eligible under VA's [Supportive Services for Veteran Families program](#).

The initiative funded by The American Rescue Plan, is now available in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam and promotes long-term housing stability by providing rental assistance payments directly to landlords on behalf of eligible veteran households for up to two years.

“The VA’s Shallow Subsidy initiative is a vital tool in addressing the widening gap between incomes and rising housing costs,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “The recent expansion enables the VA to provide relief to many more veterans burdened by high housing rental costs while they attempt to increase their incomes by pursuing training or better employment opportunities.”

The SSVF Shallow Subsidy initiative covers 35% of eligible veterans’ rent for two years without the risk of the subsidy decreasing if the veteran’s income increases during the two-year period. The purpose is to incentivize veterans to increase their income through employment or other means. The initiative also works closely with the Labor Department’s [Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program](#) to help Veterans secure employment.

There are 7.2 million more affordable housing units needed for low-income families according to data published by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, highlighting the need for this VA initiative, particularly in communities with high rental costs and low housing rental vacancy rates.

The Shallow Subsidy initiative aligns with the White House’s priority to promote housing stability by supporting vulnerable tenants and preventing foreclosures.

10783

POW/MIA Display Dedication Ceremony Reschedule

SDDVA has received word that the POW/MIA Display dedication ceremony at the State Capitol has been moved to Monday, January 10th, at 2:00 PM (CT). The ceremony will be held on the second floor of the west wing of the Capitol.



PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**VA Spotlights Special Benefits for Elderly War-time Veterans**

As a follow up to National Financial Awareness Day, Aug. 14, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs is launching an awareness campaign to inform elderly wartime veterans and their families of their lesser-known pension, funeral, burial, and survivor benefits.

“The VA’s pension benefit helps veterans and their families cope with financial challenges by providing supplemental income,” said Acting Under Secretary for Benefits Thomas Murphy. “Currently, only 189,800 wartime veterans and 139,800 surviving spouses are using their needs-based pension benefits that are meant to ease the burden on them, their families and caregivers. We need to ensure all of our wartime veterans and their survivors are aware of their benefits.”

The following benefits are available through VA’s [Pension and Fiduciary Service](#) for use in planning and preparing for the future. VA [pension](#) is payable to wartime veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to non-service connected disability, or who are age 65 years old or older, and who meet certain income and net worth limits.

[Special monthly pension](#) is an additional benefit for Veterans in receipt of pension who are housebound, require the aid and attendance of another person to help them with daily activities (such as eating, bathing and dressing), have very limited eyesight or require nursing home care. For surviving spouses, there are two types of benefits P&F Service offers. [Survivors Pension](#) provides monthly payments to qualified surviving spouses and unmarried dependent children of wartime Veterans who meet certain income and net worth limits. Special monthly pension is also available to surviving spouses who are housebound or require the aid and attendance of another person. [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation](#) is available to dependents and parents and generally is not based on income and assets (except the income limits apply to parents). DIC is a monthly monetary benefit paid to a surviving spouse, child or parent of a Veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness, or when an active-duty service member dies in the line of duty. Special monthly DIC is also available to surviving spouses who are housebound or require the aid and attendance of another person.

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A surviving spouse of a veteran who served on a Blue Water Navy vessel offshore of the Republic of Vietnam, or on another U.S. Navy or Coast Guard ship operating in the coastal waterways of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975, may be eligible for DIC benefits — [even if they were previously denied](#). VA’s [funeral and burial benefits](#) are available for both service-related and non-service-related deaths. New regulations allow a flat-rate burial and plot or interment allowance with decreased paperwork and maximum payment permitted by law.

For those interested in burial benefits such as a Presidential Memorial Certificate, burial flag, headstone or marker, the [National Cemetery Administration](#) has information about pre-need eligibility. Many vulnerable senior wartime veterans are targeted with misinformation. In many cases, this is because they are not fully aware of their benefits, which increases the chances of them being taken advantage of and/or defrauded.

VA to Start Processing Disability Claims for Certain Conditions Related to Particulate Matter

WASHINGTON (8-2-2021) — The Department of Veterans Affairs will begin processing disability claims Aug. 2 for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis on a presumptive basis based on presumed particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas — if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service.

VA conducted the first iteration of a newly formed internal VA process to review scientific evidence to support rulemaking, resulting in the recommendation to consider creation of new presumptions of service connection for respiratory conditions based on VA’s evaluation of a National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine report and other evidence.

The process concluded that particulate matter pollution is associated with chronic asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis for Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations beginning Aug. 2, 1990 to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001 to the present. VA’s review also concluded that there was sufficient evidence to presume that these Veterans have been exposed to particulate matter.

“I announced my intent to initiate rulemaking on May 27 to consider adding respiratory conditions to the list

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of chronic disabilities,” said Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. “Through this process I determined that the evidence provided was sufficient to establish presumptions of service connection for these three respiratory conditions. This is the right decision, and VA will continue to use a holistic approach in determining toxic exposure presumptions moving forward.”

The Southwest Asia theater of operations refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and the airspace above these locations.

VA will conduct outreach to impacted Veterans and survivors to inform them about their eligibility and will provide information on how to apply. Veterans and survivors who believe they may be eligible for the newly established presumptive conditions are encouraged to apply. They should file a [VA Form 21-526EZ](#) if applying for the first time or a [VA Form 20-0995](#) if they are reapplying for these conditions. For more information on the new presumptive conditions, visit our website at [Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures - Public Health \(va.gov\)](#).

To apply for benefits, Veterans and survivors may visit [VA.gov](#) or call toll-free at 800-827-1000. Within the next week, you can view the interim final rule at [www.regulations.gov](#). 00550

Retirees and Disabled Vets due for Record Raise Next Year

Military retirees and disabled veterans could see their monthly checks jump by hundreds of dollars each month in 2022, the largest increase since 1983. The annual inflation-based Cost of Living Adjustment, or COLA, soon will be determined by the government, and all the figures point to an increase of at least 6%, and maybe more, beginning in 2022.

That means that next year, military retirees will see their monthly retirement check increase, with the average monthly check going up by around \$160. Veterans receiving disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs also will see their monthly disability payments increase, with the average monthly amount increasing by nearly \$100.

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According to the Defense Department, there are around 1.87 million military retirees, with an annual average retirement payment of \$30,265. The VA says nearly 5.1 million veterans receive disability compensation, with an annual benefit of 18,549.

The annual COLA increase is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is measured by the Department of Labor. That agency measures the costs of a select group of goods and services and compares those costs to the previous year. If there is an increase, retirees and many others receiving government benefits see an increase in their monthly payments for the upcoming year. If those costs go down, the government payments will remain the same in the upcoming year.

In 2021, costs for most goods and services have gone up much faster than they have in the past. The most recent data from the Department of Labor is showing a 5.4% increase from last year, and there are two more months left in the current fiscal year, which ends on September 30th.

So, unless there is a major turnaround of the economy, with prices dropping dramatically in the next month or so, next year's government payments should see a hefty increase. The CPI also is used to determine federal employee retirement and social security COLA adjustments as well as other federal benefit programs, so the CPI increase will affect over 50 million Americans.

Next year's COLA is scheduled to be announced in early October. When it is, [Military.com](#) will have the latest information, including disability pay rates available to you.



WREATHS across AMERICA

Our Mission: Remember, Honor, Teach

*Your donation will help us carry out our Mission
to honor our local servicemembers*

**Saturday, December 18, 2021, 11:00 AM,
at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery - Sioux Falls**

www.midwesthonorflight.org/wreaths

Facebook @ sdveteranscemeterywaa

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, SPORTS & REC

Annual Poker Run

The PVA North Central Chapter held our Annual Poker Run on Saturday, August 14th, at The Alliance in Sioux Falls. It was a great day for a one hundred mile ride! We would like to thank all the participants who came out to support us and our wonderful volunteers who helped make our day a success! We hope to see everyone again next year!!



Annual Trapshoot

The PVA North Central Chapter Annual Trapshoot was held on Sept. 10-12, 2021 at the Crooks Gun Club, Sioux Falls. Last year's event was cancelled due to Covid and it was great seeing our repeat participants and new faces this year.

The weather was perfect for a weekend of shooting! We had 46 individuals shoot the event with 2 shooting only part of the event, with that said, we had a wonderful turnout.

We would like to thank the Crooks Gun Club for hosting our event, National PVA, Curt with Rollx, North Central Chapter staff and volunteers for all of the hard work and long hours you put in to make this another successful year!

Congratulations to the winners and we look forward to seeing many of you again next year!



9th Annual Doug Brown Memorial Pheasant Hunt



The 9th annual Doug Brown Memorial Paralyzed Veterans of America Pheasant Hunt was held on 13 September 2021 at the Top Gun hunting lodge outside of Howard, SD. The hunt is a memorial to Doug Brown who served for years as the Veterans Benefits Representative at the Sioux Falls, South Dakota Veterans Administration. Chris Menzie (brother of Doug Brown) was unable to attend this year due to an illness but sent his best regards to the North Central Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America for organizing the hunt.

Fifteen disabled veterans from South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin along with numerous volunteers participated in the hunt. The veterans managed to bag over 75 birds during the hunt.

A special thanks to Kevin Schumacher and everyone at TOP GUN that helped make the hunt possible. All the hunters had a great time and are looking forward to attending again next year.



**CAREGIVER
SUPPORT LINE**
1-855-260-3274

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, FUNDRAISING

We're proud to be a Thrivent Choice®-enrolled organization. Through the Thrivent programs, we are eligible to receive grant dollars, fee-free donations, and support from Thrivent Action Team service projects.

To learn more about Thrivent's membership benefits and generosity programs visit thrivent.com/generosity

Qualified**Charitable****Distributions**

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 first allowed taxpayers age 70½ or older to make tax-free charitable donations directly from their IRAs. Technically, these taxpayers were allowed to exclude from gross income otherwise taxable distributions from their IRA ("qualified charitable distributions," or QCDs), up to \$100,000, that were paid directly to a qualified charity.

These gifts are also known as "Charitable IRA rollovers." The law was originally scheduled to expire in 2007, but was extended periodically through 2014 by subsequent legislation, and finally made permanent by the Protect Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015.

Newsletter Booster Program

Thank you for your support!

Ronald and Darla Shelburg
Alan & Kathryn Gobczynski
Paul Hanson
Dennis Hahnemann
Paul Haggar

Please support your local Chapter!**Newsletter Booster Program**

The North Central Chapter PVA publishes the newsletter 6 times per year. We would like to invite our PVA members, Associate Members, and business associates to help support the Newsletter Booster Program. Your name will be published in each newsletter (unless otherwise specified) for only \$10.00. Please help defray the cost of publishing by supporting **YOUR** Chapter. Thank you!

I wish to make the following donation to the Newsletter Booster Program:

Newsletter
Booster
Program

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount of donation \$ _____

Send all remittance payable to:

PVA North Central Chapter, 209 N. Garfield Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57104

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, ADVOCACY/LEGISLATION-TERRY PAULSEN**UPDATE ON PVA'S ADVOCACY TO STRENGTHEN VA BENEFITS FOR DISABLED VETERANS AND THEIR SURVIVORS**

PVA continues its advocacy to strengthen benefits for catastrophically disabled veterans as we ease into the final months of the first session of the 117th Congress. Support for legislation that would increase the number of times veterans can access the Automobile Allowance grant and ensure veterans receive much needed Automotive Adaptive Equipment has, for the most part, plateaued. The AUTO for Veterans Act, H.R. 1361/S. 444, which would provide additional auto grants for service-connected veterans, have 33 and 10 sponsors/cosponsors (respectively). H.R. 3304, the CARS for Vets Act, which would not only provide additional auto grants for service-connected veterans but also codify existing VA support for ingress and egress assistance for non-service-connected veterans, remains steady with just three sponsors/cosponsors. We have been working steadily with the bill's authors and staff from the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees on this legislation. The main barrier is the cost of the improvements and the need for the Committees to locate a spending offset to pay for them.

We are also working on new legislation that would raise rates for VA's Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grant program and tie them to a formula that will help keep this program's payments relevant in years to come. It has been a dozen years since HISA rates were last raised; so, the program's grants often fall short of what veterans need to make medically necessary modifications to their homes.

Finally, the Justice for ALS Veterans Act should soon be introduced in the House. This legislation would extend increased Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits commonly known as the "DIC Kicker" to the surviving spouse of a veteran who dies from ALS regardless of how long the veteran had the disease prior to death. Under current law, the higher rate of DIC is only payable if the veteran was rated totally disabled for a continuous period of at least eight years immediately preceding death.

TSA extends Face Mask Requirement through January

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is extending the face mask requirement for individuals across all transportation networks throughout the United States, including at airports, onboard commercial aircraft, on over

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-the-road buses, and on commuter bus and rail systems through January 18, 2022. Airline travelers should check with their airline on additional inflight restrictions prior to taking their trip. All commuters and travelers should check the Centers for Disease Control's [website](#) for additional guidance. Exemptions to the face mask requirement for travelers under the age of 2 years old and those with certain disabilities remain in place.

VA Appeal Forms Rejected in Error

Recently, the Board of Veterans' Appeals announced that a limited number of veterans may have had their Board Appeal forms [VA Form 10182, Decision Review Request: Board Appeal (Notice of Disagreement)] mistakenly rejected for being untimely.

If you filed a VA Form 10182 with the Board between February 19, 2019, and March 23, 2021, and believe it may have been improperly rejected as untimely, please send a letter to the "Clerk of the Board" at P.O. Box 27063, Washington, DC 20038 or via fax to 1-844-678-8979 no later than March 1, 2022. In your letter, state you are asking the Board to "RECALCULATE TIMELINESS" and be careful to include your full name, claim number or SSN, the date of the rating decision you appealed to the Board, and the date of your original VA Form 10182 appeal form that the Board told you was untimely.

As always, we highly recommend that you bring any questions regarding your claim or appeal action to the attention of your service officer.

VEAP Refunds

According to recent information from VA, approximately 115,000 Post-Vietnam Era veterans are entitled to a refund of contributions they made to the Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP). VEAP was a service member education and training savings program for Post-Vietnam Era Veterans.

By law, veterans have ten years from their date of discharge to use their education benefits. Some ineligible veterans still have unused contributions and are entitled to a refund.

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Veterans potentially eligible for a refund would have:

- Entered Active Duty between 01/01/77 to 06/30/85
- Contributed to VEAP while on active duty and before 4/01/87
- Not used all their contributions
- Not have been dishonorably discharged
- Completed 24 months of continuous service **or** have been discharged early due to:
 - Convenience of the government within three months of the end of their enlistment (an “early out” under Title 10, Section 1171)
 - Hardship (under Title 10, Section 1173)
 - Service-connected disability (this includes those rated for a compensable service-connected disability even if they were not discharged for that disability)

If you have unused VEAP funds, you should submit [VA Form 22-5281](#) after completing sections 1-6, 14, 15, and 18. It will take 3-4 weeks to receive a response and/or refund via U.S Treasury check.

If you are unsure whether you are eligible for a refund or whether you participated in VEAP, you can call the Education Call Center at 1-888-GIBILL-1 ([1-888-442-4551](tel:1-888-442-4551))

Veterans Day at the State Fair

The Paralyzed Veterans of America North Central Chapter participated along with the other members of the SD Veterans Council for the annual Veterans Day at the State Fair on 2 September 2021. Each veteran's organization had a booth set up to answer questions and provide guidance for the veterans and their families that stopped by the Veterans building. The SD Veterans Council also awarded this years “Chet Sorenson” award to Christopher Reder from Warner SD.

Updates about the Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs Caregiver Support Program is extending eligibility through Sept. 30, 2022 for veterans who are legacy participants, legacy applicants and their family caregivers, participating in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. This extension applies to veterans who were participating in PCAFC before Oct. 1, 2020, individuals who applied for PCAFC before Oct. 1, 2020, and those who were accepted into the program after Oct. 1, 2020. The extension will provide VA an additional year to conduct required reassessments of this cohort. PCAFC offers enhanced clinical support for family caregivers of eligible veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty and meet other eligibility criteria.

Benefits under PCAFC include education and training, enhanced respite care, counseling, a monthly stipend, CHAMPVA (if eligible), and certain travel expenses, among others. All legacy participants, legacy applicants, and their family care givers will be reassessed based upon the new eligibility criteria resulting from the Final Rule which became effective Oct. 1, 2020. “During this one-year period, approximately 19,800 legacy participants, legacy applicants and their family caregivers will be reassessed.” said VA Caregiver Support Program Executive Director Colleen M. Richardson, Psy.D.

The Department will initiate a large-scale effort to complete reassessments for this cohort. This effort will begin within the next several weeks. The earlier VA conducts reassessments, the sooner it will be able to assist with discharge planning for PCAFC participants who do not qualify under the new eligibility criteria. Discharge planning may include engaging the veteran and family caregiver in other services to include participation in the Program of General Caregiver Support Services, which provides caregivers with education, training, peer support mentoring, coaching, and self-care courses.

Questions about PCAFC should be directed to local VA facility Caregiver Support Program staff or the Care giver Support Line, toll free at 855-260-3274.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**VA Survivors Pension**

A VA Survivors Pension offers monthly payments to qualified surviving spouses and unmarried dependent children of wartime Veterans who meet certain income and net worth limits set by Congress. Find out if you qualify and how to apply.

Am I eligible for a VA Survivors Pension as a surviving spouse?

You may be eligible for this benefit if you haven't remarried after the Veteran's death, and if the deceased Veteran didn't receive a dishonorable discharge and their service meets at least one of the requirements listed below.

At least one of these must be true. The Veteran:

- Entered active duty on or before September 7, 1980, and served at least 90 days on active military service, with at least 1 day during a covered wartime period, or
- Entered active duty after September 7, 1980, and served at least 24 months or the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least 1 day during a covered wartime period, or
- Was an officer and started on active duty after October 16, 1981, and hadn't previously served on active duty for at least 24 months.

And this must be true for you:

Your yearly family income and net worth meet certain limits set by Congress. Your net worth equals the value of everything you own (except your house, your car, and most home furnishings), minus any debt you owe.

Am I eligible for a VA Survivors Pension as the child of a deceased wartime Veteran?

You may be eligible for this benefit if you're unmarried and you meet at least one of the requirements listed below.

At least one of these must be true:

- You're under age 18, or
- You're under age 23 and attending a VA-approved school, or
- You're unable to care for yourself due to a disability that happened before age 18.

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What wartime periods do you recognize for pension benefits?

Under current law, we recognize these wartime periods to decide eligibility for pension benefits:

- Mexican Border period (May 9, 1916, to April 5, 1917, for Veterans who served in Mexico, on its borders, or in adjacent waters)
- World War I (April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918)
- World War II (December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946)
- Korean conflict (June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955)
- Vietnam War era (February 28, 1961, to May 7, 1975, for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period. August 5, 1964, to May 7, 1975, for Veterans who served outside of the Republic of Vietnam.)
- Gulf War (August 2, 1990, through a future date to be set by law or presidential proclamation)

How do I apply for a VA Survivors Pension:

You can apply in any of these ways:

With the help of a trained professional: You can work with a trained professional called an accredited representative to get help applying for VA survivors pension benefits. Get help filing your claim (<https://www.va.gov/disability/get-help-filing-claim/>).

Online: Use the direct upload tool through AccessVA to upload your form online. Go to AccessVA to use direct upload (<https://eauth.va.gov/accessva/?cspSelectFor=dmhs>).

By Mail: Fill out an Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits (VA Form 21-534EZ). Download VA Form 21-534EZ (PDF) (<https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-534EZ-ARE.pdf>). Mail your completed application to this address: Department of Veterans Affairs, Pension Intake Center, P. O. Box 5365, Janesville, WI 53547-5365

In Person: Bring your application to a VA regional office near you. Find a VA regional office near you (<https://www.va.gov/find-locations/>)

How long does it take VA to make a decision: It depends. We process VA Survivors Pension claims in the order we receive them, unless a claim requires priority processing.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

Veterans Honored at SD State Fair

Red Wilk Construction Tuff Hedeman Bull Bash kicked off the South Dakota State Fair! A pioneer in the sport of standalone bull riding, four time World Champion and Pro Rodeo Hall of Famer Tuff Hedeman has been producing these heart racing bull riding events for eighteen years, giving the fans what they want every time - great rides and high scores.

The Red Wilk Construction American Hero Award honoring ceremony was held during the Bull Bash and honored veterans from all eras. SDDVA's Secretary Whitlock and Special Projects Coordinator Guy Arnold were on hand to assist with the recognition.

Beadle County VSO Taylor Jans was one of the veterans recognized. SDDVA Secretary Greg Whitlock was the keynote speaker during the Veterans Salute program. SDDVA's team was at the State Fair all week in the Veterans Building on Midway Flag Avenue.

2021-2022 PVA Educational Scholarship Recipients

The PVA Scholarship Committee met late July and has awarded scholarships in the amounts of \$2,500 to six (6) very deserving individuals. We encourage you to recognize and congratulate these worthy recipients by giving them the proper acknowledgement in your chapter newsletter.

Full-Time Student Award Winners - \$2,500 each

Matthew Barton (St. Mary's University of Minnesota)

Son of Tim Barton - **Minnesota Chapter**

Sophie Dean (Appalachian State University)

Daughter of Brooks Dean - **Member At Large**

Jakob Edwards (University of Minnesota)

Son of Jeffrey Edwards - **Minnesota Chapter**

Amanda Scott (Hawkeye Community College)

Daughter of John Scott - **Great Plains Chapter**

Leah Thomas (Halifax Community College)

Daughter of Richard Thomas - **Mid-Atlantic Chapter**

William Wheaton (Colorado School of Mines)

Son of James (Tom) Wheaton - **Mountain States Chapter**

Sioux Falls VA Health Care System Drive Thru Flu Clinics

The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System and CBOCs have scheduled drive thru flu clinics through October. Sioux Falls will also have COVID Vaccines available. The flu clinics will have egg free vaccines available for those allergic to the standard flu vaccine.

Sioux Falls Flu & Vaccine Clinic dates and times:

September 22 from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

October 2 from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

October 8 from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

October 13 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

October 19 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

October 28 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

CBOC Flu Clinics (no COVID Vaccines at these clinic times):

Aberdeen—October 5 and October 26

Dakota Dunes—October 1 and October 22

Watertown—October 15 and October 22

Wagner—October 15 and October 29

Spirit Lake—October 15 and October 28

Enhanced Pension Benefits can help Eligible War-time Veterans, Surviving Spouses Increased Income

If you are a wartime Veteran who meets certain income, net worth, age or disability requirements, or you are a surviving spouse, then you may be eligible for VA's pension benefits. But did you know that [VA's Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits](#), or enhanced pension, can boost your pension payments? If you need help with daily activities, or if you are housebound, you may qualify for an increased monthly pension.

What are Aid and Attendance (A&A) benefits? In addition to your monthly VA pension payment, A&A benefits help cover the cost of in-home care, assisted living or a nursing home. Benefits are available to qualifying low-income and net worth, wartime and disabled Veterans, as well as their surviving spouses who are in nursing homes or who need help with everyday tasks, like dressing, bathing or eating.

(continued on Page 12)

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

(continued from Page 11)

You may be eligible for this benefit if you have a VA pension and:

- You need to stay, or spend, a large part of the day in bed because of illness, or
- You are in a nursing home due to the loss of mental or physical abilities related to a disability, or
- Your eyesight is limited even with glasses or contact lenses.

What are Housebound benefits? Like A&A, Housebound benefits increase your monthly VA pension amount. It is available to Veterans who are confined to their homes because of a permanent disability. If you have a disability that is rated 100% disabling and spend most of your time at home or have another disability, or disabilities, that are evaluated at 60% or more, you may qualify for Housebound benefits.

How do I know if I am eligible for VA pension benefits? You will still need to meet the same age, wartime and disability requirements needed to receive VA pension benefits. However, your medical expenses are considered when determining eligibility for A&A and Housebound benefits. This may reduce your monthly income, allowing you to qualify for enhanced pension benefits. It is important to note, however, that you cannot receive both A&A and Housebound benefits at the same time.

How do I apply? A&A and Housebound benefits are not automatic. If you believe you or someone you know may qualify, apply for these benefits with VA by completing the [application form](#) and sending it to the nearest [VA Pension Management Center](#) or applying in person at a [VA regional office near you](#). If you are not already in receipt of pension benefits, you will also need to complete an [Application for Veterans Pension](#) or an [Application for DIC, Survivors Pension and/or Accrued Benefits](#). Be sure to provide evidence that can prove your need for A&A or that you are housebound. For example, you could submit a report from your doctor that confirms your disability when you file your application.

If you're in a nursing home, you will also need to complete a [Request for Nursing Home Information](#) in connection with your claim for A&A. For more information by visiting [va.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound/](#), or call 1-800-827-1000.

From the Office of Brad Friez**National Service Officer**

As we head into the Fall of the year we wanted to take this opportunity to remind individuals of several tasks that should be completed.

Any Veteran who is enrolled into the VA Health Care System or who does business with the VA Regional Office please ensure that the VA has your up-to-date contact information. Any time there is a move that takes place or you obtain a new phone number or email address it is very important you notify our office and the VA. Our understanding is that a local VA Regional Office and a VA medical facility will share that information but not with our office.

For those who are about to move South for the Winter please notify the VA when that move will take place and what your snowbird address will be as well. Any snowbird's who have chronic health issues please mention this to your primary care provider who will put a consult in with the Traveling Veteran Coordinator to provide continuity of care once you arrive at your snowbird destination. Before your move down South please ensure that you have all of your necessary equipment in working order and you have enough of your medications and supplies to last during your time down South. For those who drive their vehicle to their snowbird location it is highly recommended that your vehicle be checked out before your travels. In the past we have even recommended that you have a copy of your benefits letter and your most recent rating decision reflecting your various health issues so that in the event of a healthcare issue or accident and you can't speak for yourself this information would be readily available to emergency healthcare workers.

Recently we have had a couple of Veteran clients draw our attention to situations where they assumed the VA would pay for remodeling or repairs to their homes without securing proper authorization and this can be very problematic. The same can be said for any other VA benefit where you need prior authorization before the VA will pay for that benefit.

With the abrupt recent removal of our military forces from Afghanistan we understand the Veterans Crisis Line # of 1-800-273-8255 where you press 1 has been overwhelmed with calls. Please reach out to your Veteran brothers and sisters and encourage them; especially those who did serve in Afghanistan over the past twenty years. Their service to their country as well as yours is very much appreciated.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**Rapid City VA Health Care System Flu Shot Clinics**

Fargo VA Health Care System flu shot clinics scheduled for September and October. The Fargo VA Health Care System will hold several free flu shot clinics in September and October for Veterans enrolled in VA healthcare. For questions about eligibility, call 1-800-410-9723, extension 3428 or 3427. Veterans should bring their Veteran ID card and wear a mask and appropriate clothing such as a short-sleeve shirt to receive a flu vaccine. Veterans experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should present for their flu vaccine when it has been at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms. COVID-19 symptoms need to be improved, and at least 24 hours without fever greater than 100.0 F. If you have questions regarding COVID-19 and the flu vaccine, please contact your healthcare provider. We have plenty of flu vaccine and have an efficient process to vaccinate everyone. We've seen an excellent response of Veterans arriving early and ready for vaccination. Unfortunately, this can create a longer line of people waiting to get vaccinated. So, if you're able, feel free to take your time when arriving to get your vaccination. It may save you some time! Locations, dates, and times VA-enrolled Veterans can receive their free flu shot:

Fargo VA Medical Center (2101 Elm St. N): • Sept. 22 and 29 and Oct. 6 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. via drive-through – follow the signs. • Oct. 13 and 19 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the third-floor auditorium. • Oct. 5 and 12 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the first-floor primary care department.

Bemidji VA Clinic (1217 Anne St.): • Sept. 23. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. via drive-through.

Bemidji Armory (1430 23rd St. NW): • Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bismarck VA Clinic (Gateway Mall, 2700 State St, Suite F): • Sept. 22 and 30 and Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. via drive-through.

Devils Lake VA Clinic (1031 7th St. NE): • Oct. 1 and 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dickinson VA Clinic (766 Elks Dr., Suite 6/H): • Sept. 22 and Oct. 6 and 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (MDT) via drive-through.

Fergus Falls Bigwood Event Center (925 Western Ave.): • Sept. 29 and Oct. 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Grafton VA Clinic (1319 11th St. W): • Sept. 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. via drive-through. • Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. via drive-through. (continued in next column)

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Grand Forks VA Clinic (3221 32nd Ave. S, Suite 700): • Sept. 30 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. via drive-through. • Oct. 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. via drive-through.

Jamestown VA Clinic (2430 20th St. SW): Sept. 28 and Oct. 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. via drive-through.

Minot VA Clinic (3400 South Broadway St.): Sept. 23 and 30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. via drive-through.

Williston VA Clinic (1542 16th St. W, Suite 300): • Sept. 24 and Oct. 1, 13, and 22 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (CST) via drive-through.

Black Hills VA Health Care System Flu Shot Drive Thru Clinics

To keep you safe, **Drive Thru Flu Vaccine Clinics** are now offered at the Fort Meade, Hot Springs, and Rapid City. Drive-thru clinics require an appointment.

Fort Meade: Every Tuesday and Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. starting on September 29th and 30th.

Hot Springs: October 13th 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., October 15th and 22nd 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Rapid City: October 6th 8:00 a.m. to noon, October 22nd, 27th, and 29th 8:00 a.m. to noon

To make an appointment for the drive-thru clinic call the Contact Center at 1-877-339-6837. When you come through the screening station you will be directed where to go. You can stay in your vehicle but don't forget to wear a mask or face covering. You can also receive a flu vaccine during a regularly scheduled appointment.



Support Paralyzed Veterans of America North Central Chapter by shopping at AmazonSmile.com. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your **eligible** AmazonSmile purchases to **North Central Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America Inc** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

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PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**SD Veterans Bonus**

South Dakota is paying a bonus to members of the Armed Forces who were legal residents of the state for no less than *six months before* their period of active duty and who served, or are serving, on active duty during one or more of the following periods.

1. August 2, 1990 to March 3, 1991 - All active service counts for payment.
2. March 4, 1991 to December 31, 1992 - Only service in a hostile area qualifying for the Southwest Asia Service Medal counts for payment.
3. January 1, 1993 to September 10, 2001 - Only service in a hostile area qualifying for any United States campaign or service medal awarded for combat operations against hostile forces counts for payment.
4. September 11, 2001 to a date to be determined - All active service counts for payment.

Veterans with qualifying service from August 2, 1990, to December 31, 1992, (Desert Storm) may receive one bonus of up to \$500.

Veterans with qualifying service after January 1, 1993, may receive another bonus of up to \$500. Active Duty for training is not allowed for Bonus purposes.

Applicants living outside of South Dakota may obtain an application by email at jeri.smith@state.sd.us. If you do not have email you may request an application and instructions by writing SD Veterans Bonus, 425 E. Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501 or by calling 605-773-7251.

VA VETSmile Pilot Program to Improve Affordable Dental Care Access for Veterans

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs launched a new initiative with community dental care providers to help improve dental care access for Veterans enrolled in [VA health care](#) who are [currently ineligible](#) for [VA dental services](#).

[VETSmile: Connecting Veterans with Dentists in their Communities](#) started early July to help [eligible](#) Veterans access free or discounted dental services at pilot sites in New York City and New Jersey through dental care providers at New York University College of Dentistry, Zuffall Health Center and Rutgers School of Dental Medicine. [VETSmile](#) is a Community Provider Collaborations for Veterans pilot program authorized under [Section 152 of the VA MISSION Act of 2018](#). It is the pilot program with a waiver request submitted to Congress under this authority. (continued in next column)

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[“VETSmile](#) is an opportunity for us to bridge the gap in Veterans’ access to continuous, accessible and affordable oral care, which is crucial for their overall wellbeing,” said [Center for Care and Payment Innovation](#) Acting Executive Director Roshni Ghosh, M.D. [“VHA’s Center for Care and Payment Innovation](#) plans to rapidly accelerate efforts to broaden [VETSmile](#) dental care partnerships in additional states after implementation at initial sites.”

For eligible Veterans who do not have regular dentists, partnering dental care sites will provide dental care and services. Depending on the community provider, the services offered to eligible Veterans will include: Acute emergency dental care, Preventive oral care, Treatment of oral disease, and Dental restoration, endodontics and periodontics. Additionally, dental care partners provide Veterans with oral health education to encourage adoption

[VETSmile](#) expects to serve 3,900 Veterans through 9,000 Veteran patient visits in the first year. The numbers are expected to increase as the pilot reaches other geographic locations

The program will carry on for the next five years and will be assessed for scaling or an extension.



Thursday, November 11th

Office will be closed.

Veterans Day Program

Thursday, November 11th - 10:30 AM

**SD Military Heritage Alliance Building
1600 West Russell Street, Sioux Falls, SD**

Sponsored by the Chamber’s Military & Veterans Affairs Committee and other veterans organizations, this annual program recognizes those who have served.

Free and Open to the Public

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**PVA North Central Chapter****Birthday Roster - October/November 2021**

Merlin Evans	Oct 01
Richard Scepaniak	Oct 01
Chad Jacobs	Oct 04
Steve Stanga	Oct 05
Richard Branaugh	Oct 06
Calvin Plenis	Oct 08
Ronald Smith	Oct 11
Jerry Painter	Oct 13
Leonard Ellens, Jr.	Oct 15
Scott Bentz	Oct 16
Curtis Bentz	Oct 17
Darrell Craig	Oct 17
Doug Feltman	Oct 19
Jesse Luce, Jr.	Oct 20
Charles Olson	Oct 20
Robert Thiss	Oct 20
Dana Davis	Oct 21
Ken Murphy	Oct 22
Kirk Spell	Oct 22
Andrew Foss	Oct 24
Raymond Berlin	Oct 25
John Effling	Oct 26
Arlis Backhaus	Oct 27
Daniel Kernan	Oct 29
David Cartner	Oct 30
Monica Chesshir	Oct 30
Darrell Christopherson	Oct 30
Robert Dietz	Oct 30

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Philip Miller	Oct 31
Leola Klosterbuer	Nov 03
Michael Olson	Nov 06
Darrell Poss	Nov 10
Rodney Melinsky	Nov 11
Corky Thorson	Nov 16
Danny Elston	Nov 18
Michael Needham	Nov 19
Dennis Weideman	Nov 21
Kevin Weishaar	Nov 22
William Livingston	Nov 23
Dennis Doherty	Nov 25
Barbara Biesboer	Nov 27
Dylan Lesselyoung	Nov 27
Larry Miller	Nov 28
Gary Salverson	Nov 28
Mark Grenfeld	Nov 29
Steven Stewart	Nov 30



Thursday/Friday, November 25th-26th

Office will be closed.

*We wish you and your families a
Happy Thanksgiving!*

*Leaves Are Falling
Autumn is Calling
Tis the Season to be Thankful!*

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PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

Veterans Stand Down

The PVA North Central Chapter attended the Sioux Falls Stand Down on Friday, September 24 at the Alliance along with many other organizations in attendance. The Chapter handed out hygiene kits, sanitizer and lip balm.



THANK YOU!

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Visit nrafoundation.org for more information

The PVA North Central Chapter would like to thank the NRA Foundation for their donation in providing ammunition through their 2021 grant program for our Trapshoot that was held on September 10-12, 2021 at the Crooks Gun Club, Sioux Falls, SD!!

SUPPORT PVA

NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

Paralyzed Veterans of America North Central Chapter relies solely on private donations and receives NO government funding! Your contribution is 100% tax deductible, as we are a 501(c)(3) corporation. Support by individual donors and businesses enable us to make our services FREE to members.

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PVA North Central Chapter
209 North Garfield Avenue,
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

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ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

BE SURE TO LOOK FOR YOUR
VOLUNTEER NUMBER OR VAVS
VOLUNTEER NAME SOMEWHERE
IN THIS NEWSLETTER AND CON-
TACT THE CHAPTER OFFICE IF
YOUR NAME OR NUMBER IS
LISTED.

CHUCK DOOM
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

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National Service Office: (605) 333-6896 NSO Email: www.dav.vbasux@va.gov
www.davsd.org www.dav.org

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North Central Chapter
209 N. Garfield Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

VA Health Care Systems Contact Information

Sioux Falls VA Health Care System

2501 West 22nd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
Phone: (605) 336-3230 or (800) 316-8387
Fax: (605) 333-6878

VA Black Hills Health Care System - Fort Meade Campus

113 Comanche Road
Fort Meade, SD 57741
Phone: (605) 347-2511 or (800) 743-1070
Fax: (605) 720-7171

VA Black Hills Health Care System

500 North 5th Street
Hot Springs, SD 57747
Phone: 605-745-2000
Fax: 605-745-2091

Minneapolis VA Health Care System

One Veterans Drive
Minneapolis, MN 55417
Phone: (612) 725-2000 or 866-414-5058
Fax: (612) 725-2049

Fargo VA Health Care System

2101 Elm Street
Fargo, ND 58102
Phone: (701) 232-3241
Fax: (701) 239-3705

VA Montana Health Care System

1892 Williams Street
Fort Harrison, MT 59636
Phone: (406) 442-6410
Fax: (406) 447-7916

Cheyenne VA Health Care System

2360 E. Pershing Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Phone: (307) 778-7550
Fax: (307) 778-7336

Sheridan VA Health Care System

1898 Fort Road
Sheridan, WY 82801
Phone: (307) 672-3473 or (866) 822-6714
Fax: (307) 672-1900

The PVA North Central Chapter proudly serves the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Southwest Minnesota, and portions of Montana and Wyoming.