

# Cedar County Veteran News

The official newsletter of the Cedar County Veteran Affairs Office

## State of Iowa unveils new laws and a tribute to Iowa's fallen Iraq and Afghanistan Soldiers

Volume 1, Issue 1

Summer 2006

The State of Iowa honored the fallen soldiers of the Iraq and Afghanistan War at the State Capitol Rotunda on May 8, 2006.

Each of Iowa's fallen soldiers received recognition for the ultimate sacrifice they made. Cedar County has 2 soldiers in this Memorial to date.

Staff Sgt. Don Griffith Jr., Mechanicsville and Sgt. Aaron Sissel, Tipton. The families of these soldiers were presented a flag from Governor Vilsack and Lt. Governor Sally Pederson.

During this ceremony, Governor Vilsack also signed new Veteran bills. They benefit



the Veterans and their families by allowing shorter service time to 18 months before Veterans are eligible for the military service property tax exemption, down from the current three years. There is also \$950,000 to aide wounded Veterans as they recover.

Disabled veterans can now purchase a lifetime hunting or fishing license for \$5.

If you would like to see this memorial, it is located in the State Capitol on the 2nd Floor Rotunda, right outside of the Governor's Office.

### Special points of interest:

- Monthly Commissioner Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. in the Cedar County Veteran Affairs Office.
- The normal office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. However, please remember that the office is operated by 1 staff member. Therefore, there will be times when the office is closed. For your convenience, it is best to call 886-2170 before coming to the office to set up an appointment time.
- I will be attending Summer School Training August 7th and 8th in Marshalltown at the VA Facility the local Veteran Affairs office will be closed.

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## New Cedar County Veteran Affairs Administrator

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you, and there are many, that I have yet the pleasure of meeting. My name is Patricia "Patty" Hamann and I was appointed to this position in August of 2005. I have replaced the former Administrator Rob Young. It has almost been a year that I have been in this

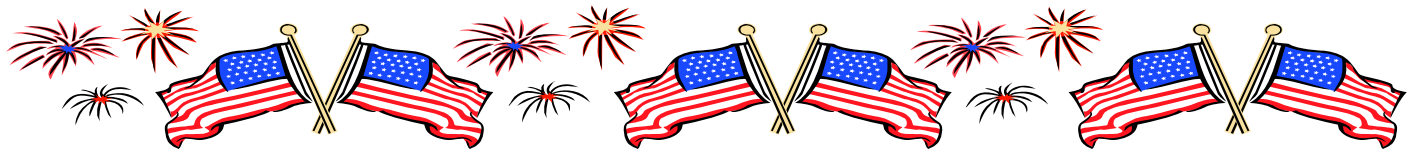
office and I am still very "wet behind the ears" when it comes to the "ins and outs" of Veteran Affairs. I will say though that it is my goal to help each and every Veteran, through either my knowledge or the knowledge of others, to finally put Veterans 1st! My goal for this office is to be as informed on your needs and issues as possible. Recently, I

was elected as the District 1 Director at the Spring Commission of Veterans Affairs School.

I look forward to meeting you and would appreciate any input, questions or concerns you may have. It's my turn to give back for all that you have done.

Patty





## Home Ownership Program

The Iowa legislature has reauthorized the Guard and Reserve Home Buyer Benefit Program. Two million dollars has been allocated to assist with home purchases for military service members who served on active duty in support of 9/11. Qualified Veterans can get matching grants up to \$5,000.00. You may call 1-800-827-0611 or visit the website at: [www.vba.va.gov/ro/central/stpau/pages/homeloans.html](http://www.vba.va.gov/ro/central/stpau/pages/homeloans.html).



## Veteran Commissioners

Who are your Cedar County Veteran Commissioners?

Everett Kruckenberg, Chairman

Bruce Jeffries                      John Sauer

Robert Doran                      Richard Moon

### Contact information:

To contact a Commissioner or the Cedar County Veteran Affairs Office:

Phone: 563-886-2170 or

Email: [phamann@cedarcounty.org](mailto:phamann@cedarcounty.org)

## VA Health Care Benefits



Are you eligible for benefits? You won't know until you apply. In order to apply for VA Health Care you must fill out a form called the 10-10EZ. Along with sending in the form, you need a copy of your DD214 (discharge papers).

I'm sure you are wondering where do I get this form and will I know how to fill it out? That's where your local Veteran Affairs office can help. The forms are available here, and I will help you fill out the forms

so that we can get you signed up. The forms request basic information regarding your military history, marital status and financial situation. Please note there are several deciding factors regarding your finances and service time that qualify you for benefits. These are all determined by the Veteran Affairs Hospital, not by this office.

Please give me a call to set up a convenient time for you to come in at 886-2170.

## Common Questions and Answers

Do you have a question regarding Veteran issues? Let me know, you may not be the only one. In the future newsletters I hope to have this section filled out with answers to those important questions.

In this issue however, I am going to list some resource information instead.

What is the number for the VA Hospital in Iowa City?



Toll Free:  
1-800-637-0128

Can Veterans get a tax break on property taxes?

Yes you sure can. You need to bring your certified discharge papers to the Cedar County Recorder's Office, if they aren't already recorded, to get them put on record. After recording those papers, you then need to inform the Assessor's office at which time you will fill out a form. It's as easy as that.



## Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming

events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find “filler” articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your news-



*Caption describing picture or graphic.*

letter to a Web publication. So, when you’re finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

## Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is grow-

ing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

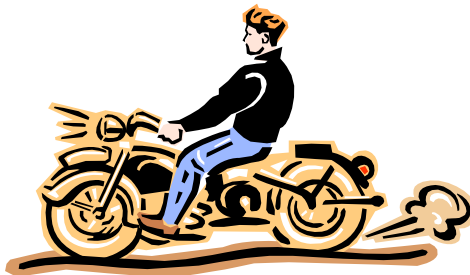
*“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”*

## Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or



*Caption describing picture or graphic.*

enhances the message you’re trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are

also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.

**The official newsletter of the Cedar  
County Veteran Affairs Office**

400 Cedar Street  
Tipton IA 52772  
Your Address Line 3  
Your Address Line 4  
Phone: 555-555-5555  
Fax: 555-555-5555  
Email: xyz@microsoft.com



*Your business tag line here.*

**We're on the Web!**  
**example.microsof**  
**t.com**

*This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.*

*It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.*

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## Back Page Story Headline

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your

organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.



*Caption describing picture or graphic.*

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third

Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.