

The Official Newsletter of Cedar County Veterans Affairs

CHANGE TO MEDICATION COPAYS FOR SOME VETERANS

Courtesy of News Release from the Department of Veterans Affairs June 10, 2010: Washington - As previously announced on January 7, 2010, the Department of Veterans Affairs froze prescription copayment increases for six months. Veterans who generally have higher income and no service-connected disabilities—referred to as Priority Groups 7 and 8 Veterans—will now pay an additional \$1 for each 30-day supply of outpatient medications. Taking effect July 1, the increase to \$9 from \$8 is the first change in VA’s medication copay since January 1, 2006.

“Because of the harsh economic reality facing many Veterans, we

delayed the change,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “We’re now ensuring the Veterans most in need of VA care are those least affected. Yet, even with this increase, VA medication copays are lower than much of the private sector.”

This change DOES NOT impact Veterans in Priority Groups 2 through 6 who will continue to pay \$8 for each 30-day supply of medications for their non-service connected conditions unless otherwise exempted. These Veterans will also continue to have their out-of-pocket expenses for VA outpatient medications capped at \$960 per calendar year.

Veterans who have an injury or illness con-

nected with their military service resulting in a disability rated 50 percent or greater—who are known as Priority Group 1 Veterans are exempt from the copay.

VA generally sets its outpatient medication copay rate based upon a regulation that ties the rate to the Medical Consumer Price Index for prescription drugs.

Veterans who have difficulty paying copayments for outpatient medications should discuss the matter with their local VA enrollment coordinator. Veterans may also contact VA at 1-877-222-8387 or visit VA’s health eligibility web site at www.va.gov/healtheligibility.

ISSUE 5

Summer 2010

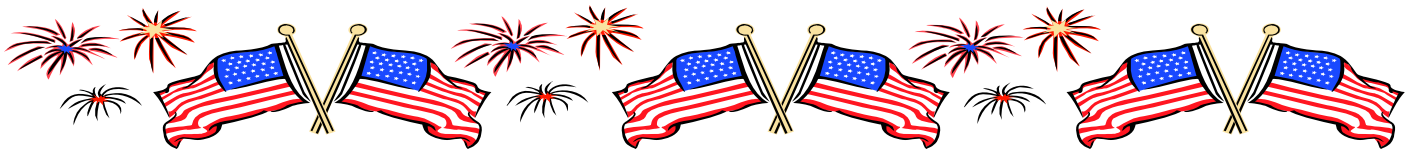
Special points of interest:

- Monthly Commissioner Meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. in the basement of the Cedar County Courthouse. The meetings will be as follows: July 28, August 25, and September 22.
- For your convenience, it is best to call 886-2170 before coming to the office to set up an appointment time. Some appointments can take more than an hour, and when applying for benefits, there are items you will need to bring with you to apply.

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Cedar County Veterans Affairs Donates \$5,000

On June 28, 2010, the Cedar County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to use \$5,000 out of the Cedar County Veterans Affairs' 2009-2010 remaining budget to donate to the Honor Flight.

A presentation was given on Thursday, June 24, 2010, by Rod Daebelliehn, Cedar County Representative for the Honor Flight of the Quad Cities. He has taken on the task

of trying to get a flight out of the Quad Cities for Cedar County World War II Veterans to visit the WWII Monument, plus many more sites while on a whirlwind day trip.

It was brought up in discussion that the Board had previously donated \$5,000 to the soldier's memorial at the Tip-ton Library square and felt this could also be a one time donation.

This donation from the county will go toward the fundraising efforts on behalf of Cedar County to raise \$30,000. The actual cost of the flight is \$90,000.



Oliver A. Hansen passed away April 13, 2010. He enlisted in December 1942 and served in the Veterinary Corps until June 1944 and then in the 40th Infantry Division. He also served in the 24th Corps headquarters in the Philippines and the Occupation of Korea. He was honorably discharged as a 1st Lt. in May 1946.

Roger Strefling passed away December 7, 2009. He served from January 5, 1959 to March 14, 1962 in the Army during the Vi-

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etnam War Era. He received the Berlin Occupation Medal for his time served.

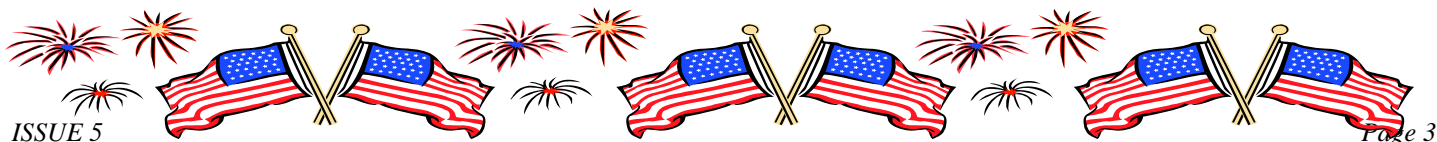
This corner is reserved for recognizing the Cedar County Veterans who have left us. If you have recently lost a loved one who served in the military, please contact the office with their information. We will publish names, branch of service and service times of those who have recently passed.

Please understand that the office does not receive a

list of Veterans who have passed. The only names that can be published are those received from family or friends who contact the office with the information.

We will do our best to honor those who served our country honorably and be sure to publish it as such.





HONOR FLIGHT OPPORTUNITY

IT'S FINALLY HERE...the opportunity for Cedar County Veterans to go on a flight filled with other Cedar County Veterans to Washington, D.C.

The Honor Flight of the Quad Cities has always offered the opportunity to Cedar County Veterans. There, however, has not been fundraising efforts done to try and get a Cedar County specific flight.

Thanks to Rod Daebelliehn, these efforts are now under way.

What do you need to do? Sign up! If you are a WWII Veteran, the opportunity has finally arrived. There is no time for reasons as to why you shouldn't go. This flight is an honorable gift to say **Thank You**. If you are a terminally ill Korean or Vietnam Veteran, the opportunity is there for you also.

What is the Honor Flight? It is a flight that is paid for by donations of corporate sponsors and private citizens. It is a flight designed to get Veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials dedicated in their honor.

Are you interested in making a donation? The actual cost for the flight is \$90,000. It generally is able to hold 162 passengers of which about 40% of them are Guardians, the rest are Veterans. Cedar County is trying to gather \$30,000 to put toward the flight. This will almost ensure that the flight is filled with Cedar County Veterans and their Guardians.

If you are interested in making a financial donation, please make your check payable to Honor Flight of the Quad Cities and send it to:
Rod Daebelliehn
501 Mulberry Street
Tipton, Iowa 52772

These fundraising efforts will be in full force through the end of August. If you are interested in helping with the efforts, please contact Rod at 563-886-2033.

The flight for the Veteran is **FREE!** The flight provides oxygen, wheelchairs and scooters as needed. Meals, tee shirts and other amenities are provided **FREE** to our Veterans on the flight.

If you are interested in being a Guardian, the cost will be \$550. You **DO NOT** have to be a Veteran in order to be a Guardian. When making application, you should send your check along for \$550.

The financial donations made to the Honor Flight of the Quad Cities are tax deductible. They are a 501(c)3 organization. The Honor Flight receives **NO** Federal government funding. Honor Flight does not accept donations from WWII Veterans who are signing up for the flight.

Included in this newsletter are the applications for the Veteran, Guardian and Volunteers. Please send all completed applications to Rod Daebelliehn.

Now is the time to act and be part of this opportunity. If you or someone you know would benefit from this trip, please don't wait. We have a limited amount of time to get the flight organized. The flight will hopefully be this fall or next spring.

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Veteran Commissioners

Who are your Cedar County Veteran Commissioners?

Bruce Jeffries, Chairman

John Sauer

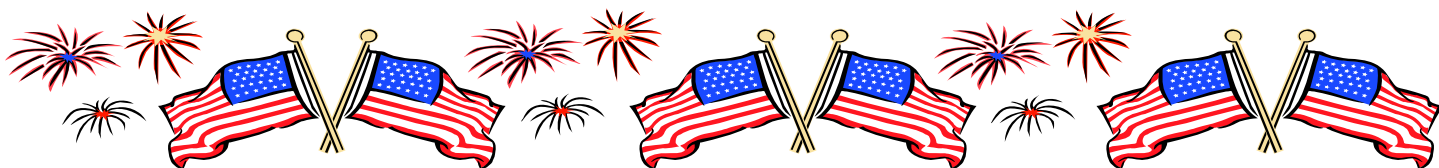
Virgil Kruckenberg

Marlin Hillyer

Timothy Beck

Do you have email? Would you rather receive this newsletter by email? To sign up call the office at 563-886-2170 and we will get you set up on our emailing list. Thank you for helping to keep mailing costs down and save paper.

Volunteers needed: Do you have services you would be willing to donate for families of active duty soldiers? We are trying to make of listing of those willing to help active duty soldier families during deployments. If interested, please contact Cedar County Veteran Affairs.



Service Organizations

AmVets:

Eligibility: To be eligible for membership you must have served in the US Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, anytime after September 15, 1940.

Additionally, unless still serving, your discharge must have been under honorable conditions. If you served as an American citizen in the armed forces of an allied na-

tion, under honorable conditions, between September 15, 1940 and May 8, 1975, you are also eligible, as are war-time members of the Merchant Marine.

The benefits for members range from insurance to discounts on traveling, moving, vision care and pharmaceuticals.

There are many different providers that offer these discounts. For a complete list you can go online to www.amvets.org.

If you would like more information about joining AmVets you can contact the local Post 16 in Lowden located at 512 Main Street.