

The Official Newsletter of Cedar County Veterans Affairs

CEDAR COUNTY VETERAN BENEFITS FAIR

Save the date: Saturday March 26th from 8:30—10:30 a.m.

Cedar County Veterans Affairs, along with the VA Medical Clinic in Iowa City, will be available for questions, concerns, and for sign up of benefits.

Local Service Organizations have been invited to participate by offering information on what benefits they can provide members.

If you are interested in signing up for benefits, whether it is for health benefits, compensation for a service connected condition or a pension, certain documentation is needed.

One of the most important of the documentation is a certified copy of your discharge papers. If you cannot locate it, please contact the office right away so we can request it from St. Louis.

There is also other documentation that is necessary depending on which benefit you are applying for. Give us a call and we would be happy to go through what that documentation consists of.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your Cedar County Commissioners, Administrator of the office, VA medical clinic staff and members of local service organizations.

We will be providing light refreshments of coffee, juice, rolls and cookies.

Please join us whether you are the Veteran, Widow or a family member inquiring about what benefits your service member is entitled to.

We will be having this Veteran Fair at the Cedar County Courthouse in the large room of the basement. There is an elevator for those in need.

If you have any questions about this event, please call the office at 563-886-2170. Hope to see you there!

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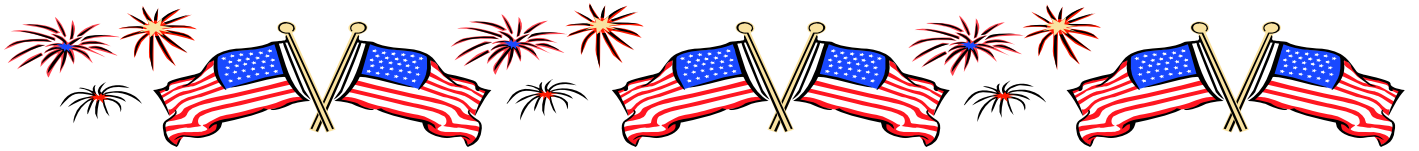
Special points of interest:

- Monthly Commissioner Meetings are generally held the fourth Wednesday every month at 5:30 p.m. in the basement of the Cedar County Courthouse.
- **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 Honor Flight Update

The Cedar County Honor Flight will be taking off in the Spring of 2011.

World War II Veterans or Veterans from other eras who are ill are still encouraged to apply. It's not too late. They are still taking names.

Rod Daebelliehn is the coordinator for Cedar County and can be reached at 563-886-2033 if you have questions or concerns.

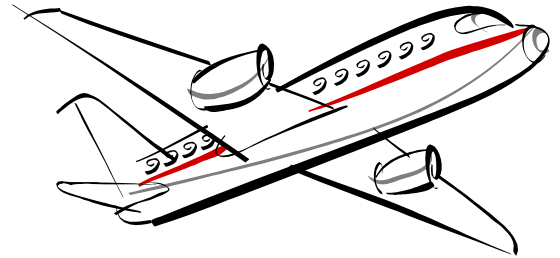
If you are in need of an application, you can either contact Rod or call the Cedar County Veteran Affairs Office at 563-886-2170.

We are encouraging all World War II Veterans to sign up for this amazing gift of honor. This is not just for those who fought, but it is for those who served during the war time.

It is a whirlwind day of excitement and remembrance for those who served. The

day will start early and get over late. Most who have gone on this trip can't believe how quickly the day went by.

There are volunteers to help those who need assistance. Please put in your application for this trip.



Cedar County Commissioner Update

Cedar County Veteran Affairs is currently looking for 2 female Veterans to serve on the Commission.

The State of Iowa is requiring gender balance on all Commissions appointed by the Board of Supervisors. By 2012 the Commission should be gender balanced.

This appointment involves monthly meetings and training as necessary. Commissioners receive compensation for meetings and mileage. Commissioners provide oversight of the County Commission of Veteran Affairs.

Must be an honorably discharged Veteran, pref-

erably a war-time Veteran, and if possible, each member of the Commission shall be a Veteran of a different military action.

If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact the Cedar County Veteran Affairs Office for more information.

Did you know?

Did you know that if you receive the military property tax exemption on property that you own and move you have to re-apply?

That's right, if you move the exemption does not move with you. You must fill out the form with the County Assessor's Office, same as for your homestead credit.

Did you know that Veterans with a 10% or more disability rating compensable from the VA are eligible for a lifetime hunting and fishing license?

For \$7.00 you may make application for this license. You will need a copy of your DD214 (discharge papers) and a copy of your compensation letter. These applications are available at your County Veteran Affairs and Recorder's Office.

Did you know that the definition of a Veteran changed in the State of Iowa July 1, 2010?

It now states that a resident of this state who served on active federal service, other than training, in the armed

forces of the United States, and who was discharged under honorable conditions, meets the definition under the State of Iowa definitions. This entitles armed force members who may not have qualified for State programs prior to new benefits.

Did you know how important it is to sign up for health benefits through the VA?

The VA medical clinic receives money even for the Veterans who apply and don't qualify for health benefits. This money is allocated to the hospitals and helps provide better service and care to Veterans.

There are financial restrictions if you are not service connected in order to be put in a priority group that the VA health system is accepting. This benefit is one that all Veterans should apply for. Many of you feel that your health insurance is adequate and someone needs it worse than I do. It's time to stop thinking that way.

VA physicians are aware of the presumptive conditions

and if it warrants, refer you to file a claim to be financially compensated for such.

Most private physicians do not have the training in these areas and are not aware of health conditions that Veterans of war face. There are health concerns for every war Veteran whether World War II, Korea, Vietnam, or current war.

Did you know that the Iowa Veterans Foundation is offering academic scholarships?

The Iowa Veterans Foundation is offering five \$500 scholarships to Veterans, dependents, or descendants of Veterans. This scholarship is a one-time award. All Cedar County School Guidance Counselors have been sent the application and requirements.

If you are interested in more information, you can contact the Cedar County Veteran Affairs Office at 563-886-2170.

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Veteran Commissioners

Who are your Cedar County Veteran Commissioners?

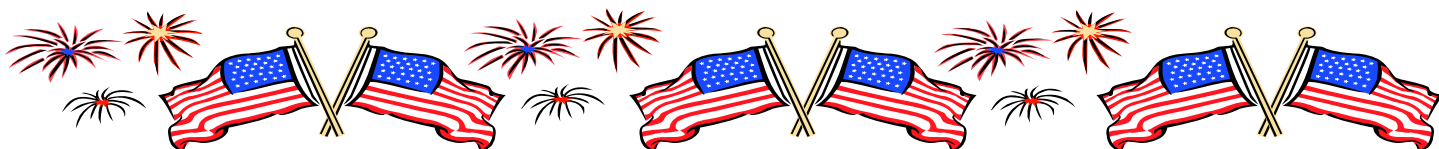
Bruce Jeffries, Chairman

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 a listing of those willing to help active duty soldier families during deployments. If interested, please contact Cedar County Veteran Affairs.



New Director at Iowa Department of Veteran Affairs

Governor Branstad names retired Brigadier General Jodi Tymeson as head of Department of Veterans Affairs. She will serve in the Branstad/Reynolds administration.

She served in the Iowa Army National Guard from 1974-2007. She is the first female promoted to brigadier general in the Iowa Army National Guard. She retired in 2007 with 33 years of service.

Tymeson's husband, John, is a retired brigadier general with 34

years of military service. He is a Vietnam Veteran.

"Our National Guard troops are at their highest deployment since World War II, and Jodi has the knowledge and experience to understand their needs here at home," said Governor Branstad.

"Jodi is an outstanding leader, and I am pleased she will be serving in this extremely important role within my administration."

From 2001-2010, Tymeson served nearly 30,000 constituents

as a state representative for Madison, Warren and Dallas Counties.

"I'd like to thank Governor Branstad for this opportunity to serve Veterans and their families," said Tymeson. "I look forward to working with the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs, the team at the Department, the county directors, and all the Veteran organizations and advocates throughout the state."