

# VETERANS ADVISORY NEWS

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2016

### MESSAGE FROM COOK COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS

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THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WAS CREATED BY COOK COUNTY BOARD PRESIDENT TONI PRECKWINKLE IN DECEMBER 2012 TO SERVE THE COUNTY'S EMPLOYEE VETERANS AND VETERANS WHO LIVE IN COOK COUNTY THROUGH OUTREACH AND SUPPORT SERVICES.

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Dear Veterans:

This newsletter contains information on the following: Amended Veterans Preference Outreach Ordinance to assist veteran-owned businesses; National Cemetery Administration scheduling office update; the state of women veterans memorial benefits; FAQ for MyVA Community program; Network of Care program for veterans developed in cooperation with the National Association of Counties; and the proposed resolution for POW/MIA chair in the Cook County Board Room.

Cook County through the Office of Contract Compliance has developed an outreach plan to increase the certification of veteran-owned businesses with the county. Veterans Affairs and Contract Compliance continue to reach out to businesses that are *at least 51 percent* veteran-owned, to better assist them that they may become certified with the County. Businesses that are at least 51 percent owned by a veteran can contact Veterans Affairs or Contract Compliance at (312) 603-5502 to become certified with the County. To learn more about the County's VBE program or to start the certification process, visit [www.cookcountyiil.gov/agency/contract-compliance](http://www.cookcountyiil.gov/agency/contract-compliance).

Cook County Commissioners John Daley and Luis Arroyo Jr. are sponsoring a resolution to recognize all POW/MIA veterans. The resolution seeks to have an empty chair placed in the Cook County Board Room as a reminder of the veterans who were prisoners of war or missing in action. The proposed resolution will be presented at the October 26th board meeting. Veterans Affairs would like to thank the approximately 400 Vietnam War veterans who attended the 50th Commemoration on September 29th at Brookfield Zoo. Those veterans were recognized with a lapel pin and a certificate of appreciation. Cook County will be hosting a similar event in 2017.

Cook County Veterans Affairs encourages you to share this information with other veterans and to utilize this newsletter as a reference tool for upcoming veteran activities, events and workshops. For current or past editions of the Cook County *Veterans Advisory News*, please visit [www.cookcountyiil.gov/agency/veterans-affairs](http://www.cookcountyiil.gov/agency/veterans-affairs).

Bill Browne, Director

Cook County Veterans Affairs

### VIETNAM WAR 50<sup>TH</sup> COMMEMORATION, BROOKFIELD ZOO SEPTEMBER 29, 2016





## COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER JEFFREY TOBOLSKI AMENDS VETERAN'S PREFERENCE AND OUTREACH ORDINANCE TO BETTER ASSIST VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/> for "Contract Compliance" and type in "Veteran Owned Business program"



*"After reviewing monthly procurement reports, I was surprised to find that the available pool of veteran-owned businesses and service disabled veteran-owned businesses is extremely low," said Commissioner Tobolski. "Expanding outreach, requiring detailed reports, and providing resources to help with the County certification process better assists and encourages our veteran entrepreneurs to certify with the County for eligible contracts." –*

*16<sup>th</sup> District Cook County Commissioner Jeffrey Tobolski and Chairman of the Veterans Committee*

Building on the efforts of a resolution passed last year, 16<sup>th</sup> District Cook County Commissioner Jeffrey R. Tobolski introduced an ordinance to amend various sections of the Cook County Procurement Code that ensures Veteran-Owned Businesses (VBEs) and Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses (SDVBEs) benefit from eligible Cook County contracts. The amendment passed unanimously at the Cook County Board Meeting on September 14, 2016. Currently, the County offers a bid preference of five percent of the amount of a contract to eligible veteran-owned businesses. Moreover, the County provides for a three percent participation goal each year of its total expenditures for supplies, equipment, goods, and services to VBEs and SDVBEs. However, Commissioner Tobolski found that these goals were not being met.

"After reviewing monthly procurement reports, I was surprised to find that the available pool of VBEs and SDVBEs is extremely low," said Commissioner Tobolski. "Expanding outreach, requiring detailed reports, and providing resources to help with the County certification process better assists and encourages our veteran entrepreneurs to certify with the County for eligible contracts."

Prior to this amendment, the County did not have an outreach plan in place to help identify problems and solutions related to the lack of VBE and SDVBE certifications with the County. This amendment provides for detailed annual reports to the Veterans Committee to better assist on contract categories where resources can be directed to help veterans with certification and participation at the prime and subcontractor levels. Additionally, it increases awareness through public outreach such as seminars, workshops, and internet-based communications.

Last year, Commissioner Tobolski enlisted the assistance of the John Marshall Law School's Veteran's Clinic to help veterans with the certification process. Brian Clauss, the director of the Veteran's Clinic, committed to assist any VBE and SDVBE, at no cost, with legal assistance in preparing an application for VBE certification.

To be eligible, businesses must be at least 51% veteran-owned and based in Illinois. Military veterans are encouraged to certify with Cook County as Veterans Business Enterprises (VBEs) to help expand the available pool of VBEs and SDVBEs. For more information, please contact Bill Browne, Cook County Director of Veterans Affairs, at (312) 603-6423 or Jacqueline Gomez, Cook County Contract Compliance, at (312) 603-5502.

Commissioner Jeff Tobolski represents the 16<sup>th</sup> District of Cook County, which includes the villages of Berwyn, Cicero, Schiller Park, Franklin Park, Forest View, McCook, Hodgkins, Lyons, Summit, Willow Springs, Countryside, Western Springs, LaGrange, LaGrange Park, Northlake, Forest Park, Westchester, Stone Park, Berkeley, Broadview, Hillside, Melrose Park, Brookfield, Riverside, North Riverside, and Stickney.



## COOK COUNTY AMENDED ORDINANCE TO VETERANS PREFERENCE AND OUTREACH

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/> for "Contract Compliance" and type in "Veteran Owned Business Program"

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Cook County Board of Commissioners, that Chapter 34 Finance Section 236 through Section 34-238 of the Cook County Code is hereby amended as Follows:

### **Sec. 34-236. - Eligible Veterans' Preference Established.**

- (a) ***Veterans' Workplace Preference.*** The CPO shall give a preference of one percent of the amount of the Contract to a Responsible and Responsive Contractor for a Public Works Contract when such Contractor has committed by affidavit to utilize Eligible Veterans for at least five percent of the hours worked under such Contract. Failure to utilize Eligible Veterans in accordance with the affidavit will result in breach of contract, in addition to any available sanctions or actions the CCD may, within its discretion, recommend that the CPO take with respect to the contractor or subcontractor as specified in Section 34-275.
- (b) ***Veteran-Owned Business and Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Preference.*** The CPO shall give a preference of five percent of the amount of the Contract to a Responsible and Responsive VBE or SDVBE. The CPO shall develop procedures for implementation of this Section.

(Ord. No. 15-2578, 5-20-2015.)

### **Sec. 34-237. - Veteran-Owned Businesses.**

- (a) It is the goal of the County to award each year not less than three percent of its total expenditures for supplies, equipment, goods, and services to VBEs and SDVBEs. The CCD may count toward its three percent yearly goal that portion of all Contracts in which the Contractor subcontracts with a VBE or SDVBE. The CCD shall submit an annual report to the County Board that shall include, at a minimum, the following for the preceding fiscal year:
  - (1) The number of responsible VBEs and SDVBEs that submitted a Bid or proposal;
  - (2) The number of VBEs and SDVBEs that entered into Contracts, the specific industry or category of goods, services, or supplies for each Contract, and the total value of those Contracts;
  - (3) The participation of VBEs and SDVBE's at both contractor and subcontractor levels;
  - (4) The total number of the County's certified VBEs and SDVBEs available for participation in procurement, by category or industry;
  - (5) Whether the County achieved the goal described in this subsection.
- (b) Each year, the CCD shall review the three percent goal with input from the Cook County Chairman of Veterans Affairs, the Cook County Director of Veterans Affairs, countywide veterans' service organizations, and from the business community including VBEs and SDVBEs, and shall make recommendations to the County Board regarding continuation, increases, or decreases in the percentage goal. The recommendations shall be based upon the number of VBEs and SDVBEs and on the continued need to encourage and promote businesses owned by qualified veterans.
- (c) The CPO will make best efforts to recruit and solicit bids and make procurements from VBEs and SDVBEs.

*Continued on Page 4...*



*Ordinance Amendment to Veterans Preference and Outreach ...Continued From Page 3*

- (d) The above-stated goal shall not be treated as a quota nor shall it be used to discriminate against any person or business enterprise on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion or sex.
- (e) The CCD, in consultation with the Using Agency and the CPO, shall consider the size and complexity of the procurement before establishing contract specific goals and shall only be required to establish contract specific goals on procurements that have an available pool of certified VBEs and SDVBEs for supplies, materials and equipment, or services.
- (f) The provisions of this Division 6, Section 34-237(a) shall be effective as of July 1, 2013. The Contract Compliance Director shall as soon as practicable develop and implement procedures and any corresponding regulations for certifying and monitoring utilization of VBEs and SDVBEs.

(Ord. No. 15-2578, 5-20-2015.)

**Sec. 34-238. - VBE/SDVBE Certification and Outreach.**

- (a) The CCD shall certify a Person as a VBE when it is a small business:
  - (1) That is at least 51 percent owned, controlled, and managed by one or more Eligible Veterans; and
  - (2) That has its home office in Illinois.
- (b) The CCD shall certify Person as a SDVBE when it is a small business:
  - (1) That is at least 51 percent owned, controlled, and managed by one or more qualified service- disabled veterans; and
  - (2) That has its home office in Illinois.
- (c) In lieu of conducting its own certifications, the CCD by rule may accept formal certifications by other entities, provided that Cook County's requirements are met.
- (d) In order to increase awareness and provide opportunities for VBEs and SDVBEs, the CCD shall provide education, outreach, and the dissemination of information to VBEs and SDVBEs regarding the County's certification program and available opportunities. The CCD, in collaboration with other departments, shall from time to time, by way of seminars, workshops, and internet-based communications, make available to the business community such information, documents, and personnel as well as:
  - (1) Assist otherwise eligible businesses in applying for, gaining, and maintaining certification;
  - (2) Assist the business community in understanding the manner in which to properly complete a Utilization Plan including how a full or partial waiver may be requested, and the manner in which such a request may be supported;
  - (3) Identify best practices by other governmental entities and private sector firms that may improve the Program; and
  - (4) Identify systemic or organizational problems and related solutions associated with certification and contract participation.

(Ord. No. 15-2578, 5-20-2015.)

**Effective date:** This ordinance shall be in effect immediately upon adoption on September 14, 2016.





## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION: POW/MIA SEAT IN COOK COUNTY BOARD ROOM**

For more information, please visit [www.cookcountyil.gov/event/county-board-committee-meetings-october-26-2016](http://www.cookcountyil.gov/event/county-board-committee-meetings-october-26-2016).

NOTE: The Proposed Resolution is sponsored by Cook County Commissioner's Luis Arroyo and Chairman John Daley, and scheduled for approval October 26, 2016 at county board meeting (updated as of October 20, 2016).

### **COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

#### **LEGISLATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 5, 2016**

##### **16-5326 PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT AMENDING THE CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT**

##### **16-5673**

### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **RECOGNIZING AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION**

**WHEREAS**, since the founding of our nation, millions of courageous men and women have answered the call to defend democracy both at home and abroad, and many have made the ultimate sacrifice in the fight for freedom, liberty and peace; and

**WHEREAS**, we support the valiant efforts of our men and women who serve in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard and hope for their safe return at all times; and

**WHEREAS**, there are currently 83,204 unaccounted for U.S. personnel, including 73,547 from World War II, 7,883 from the Korean War, 126 from the Cold War, 1,642 from the Vietnam War, and six from Iraq and other recent conflicts, according to the Pentagon's Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office; and

**WHEREAS**, residents of Cook County owe an incredible debt to those men and women who have fought on behalf of this country to protect the principles of our great nation, including those residents of Cook County who bravely served in our country's Armed Forces and never returned home; and

**WHEREAS**, the service and sacrifice of prisoners of war and those missing in action is a testament to their love of country and their commitment to defending our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, we urge the U.S. government to never give up pursuing the safe return of all POWs and MIAs; and

**WHEREAS**, the creation of a POW/MIA chair in the Cook County Board Room will be a reminder that many American prisoners of war were left behind after previous wars and many other military personnel were missing in action. The chair also will enable the County Board Members to pay tribute to those individuals who made such a great sacrifice for their country; and

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of a POW/MIA chair will properly acknowledge the past and protect future Veterans from being left behind should they become prisoners of war or go missing in action; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Commissioners of Cook County that the Board does hereby acknowledge the sacrifices made by those military personnel who were prisoners of war or missing in action and as tribute shall establish a POW/MIA chair in the County Board Room as tribute to these heroes.



### NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION SCHEDULING OFFICE UPDATE

[http://www.cem.va.gov/burial\\_benefits/need.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/need.asp)



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration (NCA) values its partnership with funeral professionals as we seek to honor the service of Veterans and their families. We could not accomplish this task without your strong support. For that reason, we are sending you this information so that you can help us as we attempt to provide better and faster service when scheduling a burial at a national cemetery.

To schedule a burial, first fax all discharge documentation to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-866-900-6417 or scan and email the documentation to **NCA.Scheduling@va.gov** with the name of the decedent in the subject line. Please follow-up with a phone call to 1-800-535-1117 once your documents have been sent. We seek to minimize unnecessary wait times to speak with a representative. To better serve you, we ask that you please have the following information readily available when you call:

- **Cemetery of choice**
- First or subsequent burial (Veteran or dependent already buried)
- If subsequent interment, who is already interred, social security number and section and site number (if known)
- Decedent's full name, gender, Social Security Number (SSN), date of death, date of birth and relationship (Veteran or dependent)
- Contact Information (funeral director's name, as well as the name, address, and Email address of the funeral home)
- Next of kin information (name, relationship to deceased, SSN, telephone number, address)
- **Type of emblem of belief for headstone/marker** (religious, if desired)
- Did the decedent reside within 75 miles of requested cemetery?
- ZIP code of decedent at time of death
- County of decedent at time of death
- Type of burial (casket or cremation)
- Marital status of deceased (if veteran is buried in a private cemetery, must provide documentation of marital status of spouse at time of death)
- Casket size/liner size/urn size/urn vault size
- Is surviving spouse a Veteran?
- Any disabled children for future interment (must provide name and date of birth). If requesting immediate interment (must provide marital status, doctor's statement stating type of illness, date of onset of illness and capability of self-support).
- Military Honors requested. It is important to note that scheduling of military honors is the responsibility of the funeral home or family member requesting the interment. Our representative will be able to provide those telephone numbers for your convenience.

Thank you for your understanding regarding this matter. Should you experience future issues or if you have additional concerns regarding long wait times, please contact us using our **Inquiry Routing & Information System**, so we can track inquiries and respond promptly.



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## **STATE OF WOMEN VETERANS: BURIAL AND MEMORIAL BENEFITS**

<http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/31588/state-women-veterans-burial-memorial-benefits/>

While women veterans are accessing benefits through the **Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)** at roughly similar rates to men and make up about 7.5 percent of **VA's health care system**, we are significantly under-represented in **VA cemeteries**. This is likely, in large part, a function of demographics; in the past, we could legally only represent two percent of the military and women who served under that restriction most likely need these burial and memorial benefits today. However, lack of awareness of this benefit or our eligibility for it may also limit women's use of it, which is deeply unfortunate.

I recently had the honor of visiting two VA national cemeteries in San Diego with the VA Advisory Committee for Women Veterans: **Fort Rosecrans**, now closed to new interments and one of the oldest, and **Miramar**, a very new cemetery. Despite differences in how long they have been in service and surprisingly different landscapes given their relative proximity, they share important characteristics: both are pristine, immaculately cared for and maintained by staff made up primarily of veterans. Spending time in these somber yet serene landscapes paradoxically left me tremendously comforted. It is greatly reassuring to know that VA has burial benefits available to honor my military service, and my family will be able to remember me in an environment full of respect and reverence for all our nation's veterans.

All women veterans should know they may be **eligible** for burial in one of 135 VA national cemeteries located in 40 states that are currently open, as well as in state cemeteries. Many women veterans are in dual-military marriages; those couples may choose separate or shared grave sites. Other burial **benefits** include headstones, markers, or medallions; **burial flags**; and **Presidential Memorial Certificates**. You may also be able to honor the service of a woman veteran in your family who died after 1990 and buried in a private cemetery by requesting a **medallion** to affix to a privately purchased headstone or marker.

Burial benefits available for a veteran's spouse and dependents (including minor dependent children, and under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities) include burial with the veteran in a national cemetery, perpetual care and the inscription of name and date of birth and death on the veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family, even if they predecease the veteran. In addition to the comfort of knowing their loved one's final resting place will receive perpetual care, survivors of veterans may also be eligible for other benefits, including:

- **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)**, a tax free monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of military service members who died in the line of duty or eligible survivors of veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease.
- **The Survivors Pension benefit**, which may also be referred to as "death pension," a tax-free monetary benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse and/or unmarried child(ren) of a deceased veteran with wartime service.
- **The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship)** for children and spouses of service members who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001.
- **The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Program**, which offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or of veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.
- **Bereavement counseling** at Vet Centers.

The loss of a loved one is a challenging time for all of us. There is no convenient time for this life changing phenomenon to occur. We can help women veterans and their families in their time of loss by sharing what we know. Please help me ensure that they are aware of their eligibility for these benefits, to ease their burdens during those difficult times and to comfort them in the years to come.

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## FAQ: *MyVA Communities*

<http://www.va.gov/nace/myVA/index.asp>

What is *MyVA Community*? The *MyVA Communities* model enable veteran advocates, service providers, veterans, and stakeholders a voice identifying their community goals and work to resolve issues at the local level to improve service delivery for veterans, service members, and their families. Community involvement is key to success of the *MyVA* transformation effort. VA leaders are participating more actively in community-based efforts to maximize the collective impact of local services, stakeholders, federal/state agencies working to improve veteran outcomes.

- 1. What is a *MyVA Community*?** A *MyVA Community* is a locally driven movement that brings together leaders, advocates, and service providers to discuss and improve outcomes for the veteran community. The model provides a coordinated, community-based framework for local communities to convene, develop local solutions, create a network of service providers, ease access to resources, and provide a feedback mechanism to hear the voice of the community for veterans, service members, and their families.
- 2. What is a Community Veterans Engagement Board (CVEB)?** Local community leaders convene through a Community Veterans Engagement Board (CVEB) that unites veteran advocates around a common mission to improve outcomes in the veteran community.
- 3. Who leads the board?** The board is led by local community leaders and veteran advocates that choose to step up and lead the movement. Local VA facility directors assist in outreach to folks who may be interested and share information on the *MyVA Communities* model. As these are grassroots efforts, state/federal offices or appointed/elected officials do not typically lead the boards.
- 4. Who is on the board?** VA Directors from the local facilities serve as board members alongside local community veteran advocates, state/federal officials, service providers, educators, health care providers, non-profits, private organizations, and stakeholders.
- 5. Who is responsible for selecting board members?** Co-chairs from the community are responsible for selecting board members. Board membership size may vary.
- 6. How does the community get involved and provide feedback?** Boards will hold Public Forums with the intent to bring service providers and stakeholders together for the community to access. These will be events open to the public, offer networking opportunities, presentations, knowledge exchange, and a Q&A session to hear the voice of the local community. This is the board's opportunity to share what they are doing and how to get involved.
- 7. What does VA do?** VA's role is to enhance collaboration with existing groups serving the same mission and coordinate with local community leaders to build new boards that aim to improve the community experience for veterans, service members, and their families. VA will be actively engaged with the board and attend the board meetings.
- 8. Who joins a *MyVA Community*?** Anyone can join a *MyVA Community*. It is open to veterans, service members, advocates, service providers, organizations, and stakeholders to participate. The public forums are open to the public, including everyone in the veteran-community.
- 9. Is there a board in my area and how do I get involved?** *MyVA Communities* and CVEBs are not in every community yet, and many are just in the making. If you want to find out if one is in your area, please visit [www.va.gov/nace/myVA/index.asp](http://www.va.gov/nace/myVA/index.asp).
- 10. Can the VA Seal and Flag be used in promotion materials?** Use of the VA Seal and Flag is not authorized at this time.



### NETWORK OF CARE FOR VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

<http://veterans.networkofcare.org/>

The Network of Care is now in more than 500 counties and 27 states. Its emphasis on making service and support information easy to reach has made the Network of Care the strongest, most widely used local outreach tool for early intervention in the country. **Learn more in this brief YouTube video (Ctrl + Click).**



#### Successful Veterans' Outreach Program Expands

The innovative local outreach program called the **Network of Care for Veterans, Service Members, and Their Families** has shown unusually strong success and is spreading to many states and counties in the country.

This commercial-free project is the only one of its kind that combines all services and programs available to veterans into a single place. This includes programs from the VA, Department of Defense, State, local, grass-roots – everything, regardless of how it is funded. The Network of Care also brings together the best-in-class health and mental health information, job searches, personal health records, housing, support groups and much more.

“As head of the emergency outreach team, I can tell you that the Network of Care should exist in every single county and be at the reach of every single crisis outreach worker in America,” said Katherine Rovendro, Director of Service Development with the Anne Arundel County, Crisis Response Team. “There is nothing like it. It has transformed our work. It has saved lives. It needs to be nationwide.”

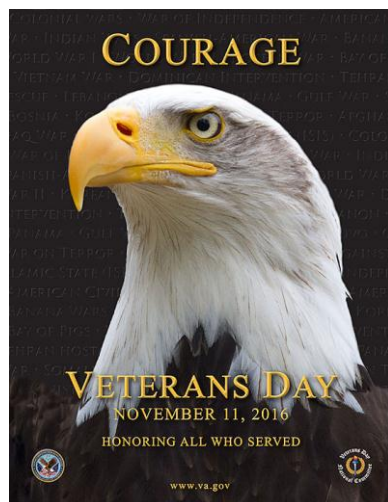
**Read other comments from around the country here.**

If you have any questions or would like a more in-depth demonstration of how the Network of Care works, please contact me anytime at [BBronzan@trilogyr.com](mailto:BBronzan@trilogyr.com).

Bruce Bronzan, President  
Office: (415) 458-5900 | Cell: (415) 225-4044

The Network of Care for Veterans, Service Members and Their Families is provided in partnership with the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors; the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors; Mental Health America, and many others. **It was developed in cooperation with the National Association of Counties.**





Cook County Employment Opportunities available for Offices Under the President, Forest Preserve District, and Health and Hospitals Systems can be found at:  
[www.cookcountyil.gov/current-job-listings](http://www.cookcountyil.gov/current-job-listings)

Cook County Forest Preserves District:  
<http://fpdcc.com/about/jobs/>

Cook County Health and Hospital Systems:  
[www.cookcountyhhs.org/about-cchhs/human-resources/careers/](http://www.cookcountyhhs.org/about-cchhs/human-resources/careers/)



## COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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## COOK COUNTY RESOLUTION – VETERANS DAY 2016

Cook County Department of Veterans Affairs will be presenting its Veterans Day 2016 Resolution at the October 26th County Board Meeting. Veterans Day, on November 11, is a day set aside to thank and honor living veterans who served honorably in the military for their service whether in wartime or peacetime. Cook County has always honored the wartime and peacetime contributions and sacrifice of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. When you see or meet a veteran, thank them for their service and let them know that they are appreciated.

## UPCOMING VETERANS BENEFITS AND RESOURCE EVENTS

*See Following Inserts for More Information and Event Details*

### COOK COUNTY OFFICE OF CONTRACT COMPLIANCE: VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESS PROGRAM

- AMENDED ORDINANCE: PREFERENCE AND OUTREACH (PAGES 3-4)
- TO LEARN MORE OR TO START THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS, PLEASE VISIT  
[www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/contract-compliance](http://www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/contract-compliance)

### YOUTH SAFETY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION – FIRST URBAN WARRIORS VETERAN CAFÉ EVENT

- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup> – FROM 3:00 P.M. UNTIL 5:00 P.M.

### ECC, IDES, USDVA, STATE AND COUNTY AGENCIES – VETERAN RESOURCE AND JOB FAIR

- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup> – FROM 10:00 A.M. UNTIL 2:00 P.M.

### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY CICERO UNIT 96 – CAFÉ & BAKERY PREMIUM BAKE SALE

- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> – FROM 7:00 A.M. UNTIL 2:00 P.M.

### PARK FOREST VETERANS COMMISSION - VETERANS DAY 2016: PAST-PRESENT-FUTURE

- FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> – STARTING AT 11:00 A.M.

### ONE SAVVY VETERAN HOSTS DIY JEWELRY MAKING AND PAINTING WITH SHEROES

- DIY WORKSHOP – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup> FROM 1:00 P.M. UNTIL 4:00 P.M.
- PAINT PARTY – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> FROM 1:00 P.M. UNTIL 4:00 P.M.

### UPS AND COOK COUNTY VA – VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION CALL OUT

- THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> – FROM 10:00 A.M. UNTIL 11:30 A.M.

### APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF GOD VETERANS MINISTRY – LEADERS BANQUET, \$20.00 PER PERSON

- FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> – STARTING AT 7:00 P.M.

### PSC STUDENT VETERANS CLUB – PTSD FORUM: "...IT'S ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU."

- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> – FROM 12:30 P.M. UNTIL 2:30 P.M.

### CARING PATRIOTS NFP, INC – VETERAN'S FOOD DRIVE FOR THANKSGIVING BASKETS

- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> – FROM 9:00 A.M. UNTIL 5:00 P.M.

### MILITARYBENEFITS.COM – 2016 VETERANS DAY FREE MEALS, DISCOUNTS, SALES AND DEALS

- VISIT [www.militarybenefits.info/veterans-day-discounts-sales-deals-free-meals/](http://www.militarybenefits.info/veterans-day-discounts-sales-deals-free-meals/)

### WINTER STAND DOWN FOR HOMELESS VETERANS AT NORTHWEST ARMORY IN CHICAGO

- FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT [www.chicagostanddown.org](http://www.chicagostanddown.org)
- FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> – STARTING AT 8:00 A.M.

# Cook County Office of Contract Compliance: Veteran-owned Business Program



## Certification Criteria:

1. Must be a small business;
2. At least 51% owned, controlled and managed by one or more eligible Veterans; and
3. Home office located in Illinois.

It is the goal of the County to award each year not less than three percent of its total expenditures for supplies, equipment, goods, and services to VBEs and SDVBEs. The size and complexity of the procurement is considered before establishing a contract-specific goal.

To learn more about the County's VBE Program or to start the certification process, please visit

[www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/contract-compliance](http://www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/contract-compliance)





FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



# Urban Warriors Veteran Cafe

**When: Oct 22, 2016  
3:00 P.M – 5:00 P.M.**

**Where: Youth Safety and Violence Prevention  
1608 W 21<sup>st</sup> Place  
Chicago IL 60608**

Hello all. My name is William and I am the Veteran Outreach Program Coordinator for the Urban Warrior Program. I am reaching out to invite you to our first Veteran's Café. Our plan is to create a space where we can get together once a month hang out, drink coffee, play pool and network.

**Bring a friend**



# VETERAN RESOURCE AND JOB FAIR

**Thursday, October 27, 2016**

**10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Jobe Lounge**

**Building B**

**Elgin Community College**

**1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin, IL**

## DESIGNED FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES!

- Free event; all are welcome.
- Over 30 employers.
- More than 30 resources and family services.
- Dress to impress and bring plenty of résumés!



***Does your Illinois driver's license or state ID show your VETERAN status? Veterans and non-veterans can renew or update their driver's licenses or state IDs at the event.***

United States of America  
Department of the Army

United States of America  
Department of the Navy

United States of America  
Department of the Marine Corps

United States of America  
Department of the Air Force

United States Coast Guard

*Presented by ECC's Veterans Support Team, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), Veteran Affairs centers, Illinois workNet® centers, Hanover Township, and state and county agencies.*



**Elgin  
Community  
College**

Bright Choice. Bright Future.

Information subject to change.

1700 Spartan Drive • Elgin, IL 60123-7193 • 847-697-1000 • [elgin.edu](http://elgin.edu)



**AMERICAN LEGION  
AUXILIARY CICERO UNIT 96**



**DATE**

**Monday, November 07, 2016**

**TIME**

**7:00am – 2:00pm**

**LOCATION**

**1<sup>st</sup> Floor Lobby  
Criminal Court Building**



**BENEFITING**

**The veterans, active-duty military, and their families to whom our unit provides assistance and support to through any number of our mission-related programs. The numbers speak for themselves!**

**WHAT WE DO\***

**VOLUNTEER HOURS**

- ★ For mission outreach: 10,021,911
- ★ Serving veterans: 5,766,535
- ★ Serving active-duty military: 710,726
- ★ Serving military families: 784,620

**DOLLARS RAISED**

- ★ On veterans & military families: \$100 million
- ★ Value of volunteer service: \$3.1 billion
- ★ Dollars spent in service to veterans: \$8,481,163
- ★ Dollars raised from poppy distribution to support veterans: \$5,501,696

**Lives Impacted**

- ★ Number of U.S. service members served: 379,117
- ★ Dollars spent for military families: \$5,744,422
- ★ Number of military families served: 865,200

**AMERICAN LEGION  
AUXILIARY  
CICERO UNIT 96**

**5820 West 35th Street  
Cicero, IL 60804**

**[www.cicerounit96.weebly.com](http://www.cicerounit96.weebly.com)**

**\*2014-2015 Impact Number Reports**





**The Park Forest  
Veterans Commission  
Proudly Presents**

**Veterans Day 2016:  
*Past-Present-Future***

**11 AM**

**Friday, November 11**

**Freedom Hall**

**410 Lakewood Blvd.**





One Savvy Veteran is hosting



# DIY Jewelry Making Workshop

**\$12**  
(includes all  
supplies  
and  
refreshments)

*Do you love unique jewelry pieces?  
Save money by learning to  
make your own!*

- Make your own high-end statement jewelry
- No sewing
- No experience necessary



**October 29, 2016 | 1 - 4 pm**



**4314 South Archer Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60632**



**Register at  
[jewelrypieces.eventbrite.com](http://jewelrypieces.eventbrite.com)**



# IN HONOR OF VETERAN'S DAY

We welcome all to come paint a masterpiece with women veterans!

Nov.12th  
1-4 p.m.

\$12

ONE  
Savvy  
VETERAN

is hosting

*Painting with Sheroes*  
Canvas Art Party

255 Augusta  
Oak Park, IL 60302

Register at:

[paintingwithsheroes.eventbrite.com](http://paintingwithsheroes.eventbrite.com)

# VETERANS

Employment and Education

UPS  
JOB

## Call out!

Serious  
about  
college?

Sponsored by  
Cook County Veterans Affairs  
&

### UPS

\$400 to  
\$600  
Monthly  
Bonus

**INTERVIEW:**

ON THE SPOT

**WORK:**

UPS four part-time shifts

**COLLEGE:**

Use your GI Benefits or UPS Benefits

**EARN:**

Weekly paycheck \$10.15 hour/ \$15.00 hour Supervisors

**BONUS:**

\$400 - \$600 monthly stipend for qualified Veterans

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016**

10:00 am -11:30 am (Refreshments 9:30am)

UPS Employment Center

7900 Willow Springs Road, Hodgkins, IL

**Veterans and Community Leaders**

***Call to reserve your spot today: 708.387.3213***

**For CRCP info call 708.387.2600 or  
go to [www.crcprogram.com](http://www.crcprogram.com)**







**Veteran's Ministry  
of the Apostolic Church of God**

*Invites you to a special celebration*

**Honoring Warrior Leaders**

**Friday, November 18, 2016**

**Banquet Hall**

**7:00 PM**

**\$20.00 per person**

*Introducing the new*

**Bishop Arthur & Isabelle Brazier Veterans Resource Center  
New Facility Opening 2017**

*Special Guest*

**Reverend Dr. Leon Finney, Marine Veteran  
Pastor, Metropolitan Apostolic Community Church**

*Gala Events*

**Memorial Tribute to Bishop Arthur Brazier  
360° of Service to God, Nation, Family, & Community**

**Appreciation Honor to Sister E. Isabelle Brazier**

**Vietnam Era Warriors 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration  
(It's About Time!)**

**Apostolic Church of God  
6320 South Dorchester Avenue  
Chicago, IL**

***Wheelchair accessible at southwest entry***





**PTSD isn't about what is wrong with you**

**“... it's about what happened *to* you.”**

**An open forum to discuss PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)  
will be held at Prairie State College.**

***Panelists from:***

**Jesse Brown VA Medical Center  
Chicago Heights Vet Center  
PSC Faculty  
Park Forest Veterans Commission**

**Moderated by:**

**Cynthia Cornejo, PsyD, Associate Professor of Psychology**

**Nov. 16, 12:30-2:30 p.m.  
PSC Conference Center  
Barnes & Noble College Auditorium**

**Free to general public.**

**2 CEUs or 2 CDPUs available. \$20 registration fee for Continuing Units. Registration is onsite.**



**Questions, please contact Cynthia Cornejo, PsyD, Associate Professor of Psychology,  
[ccornejo@prairiestate.edu](mailto:ccornejo@prairiestate.edu) or Georges Sanon, [gsanon@prairiestate.edu](mailto:gsanon@prairiestate.edu).**

**202 S. Halsted St. | Chicago Heights, IL 60411 | (708) 708-3500 | [prairiestate.edu](http://prairiestate.edu)**

# **Caring Patriots NFP, Inc. (Share with Veterans)**

CLICK ON BELOW PICTURE TO VISIT THE CARING PATRIOTS WEBSITE, TO FILL-OUT THE APPLICATION TO RECEIVE A THANKSGIVING BASKET.



The Veterans' Food drive began in 2009 as a dream to help provide a Thanksgiving Meal to roughly 15 Veterans who would not have otherwise had one. In its inaugural year, we were able to provide 109 Veterans and their families the means for a Thanksgiving meal they would not have had otherwise. Now, eight years later the need has grown tremendously as our desire to help those who have served us has grown as well. We collaborate with businesses, clubs, schools, and churches to help us collect non-perishable food items that are then used to help assemble and provide approximately 6-8 grocery bags aka "baskets" per Veteran families. \*Veterans must bring their DD-214 or equivalent.

## **WHEN:**

**Saturday, November 19, 2016 from 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

## **WHERE:**

**435 N. Weber Road, Romeoville, IL 60446**

**Caring Patriots NFP, Inc. - Home | [www.caringpatriots.org/](http://www.caringpatriots.org/)**

# Veterans Day Free Meals, Discounts, Sales and Deals by Military Benefits

<http://militarybenefits.info/veterans-day-discounts-sales-deals-free-meals/>

## Veterans Day



Free Meals

Veteran's Day is November 11, 2016. The list is updated as restaurants announce their Veteran's Day special, typically a week to days before, at <http://militarybenefits.info/veterans-day-discounts-sales-deals-free-meals/#ixzz4NSJ8jO1N>.

- **BE SURE TO review the official site for information and rules. Many websites are listing previous years' promotions that are no longer valid.**
- Be sure to bring proof of military service. Proof of service varies by company. Most restaurants' free meals are for dine in only; Call ahead if you're unsure about anything. Thank you for your service!

**Golden Corral** - Monday, November 14th, 2016 from 5PM-9PM, free sit-in "thank you" dinner for veterans.

**Baker's Square** - Veterans get a complimentary breakfast on Veterans Day at participating locations.

**Bob Evans** - On Veterans Day, veterans receive free select breakfast menu items. All these honored service men need to do is show proof of service, including U.S. Uniformed Services (current or retired) I.D. Card, current LES, or a Veterans' organization card (i.e. American Legion or VFW). Guests wearing a military uniform also are eligible.

**Bonefish Grill** – Nov. 11, active and retired service members with valid I.D. receive complimentary Bang-Bang Shrimp.

**Buffalo Wild Wings** - Veterans Day, veterans will receive 1 small traditional or boneless wings and a side of fries for free.

**Carrabba's** - All active and retired veterans receive a free appetizer at participating locations.

**Chili's** - Veterans receive a free meal on Veterans Day from a special menu. Must show proof of service.

**Country Buffet** - On Veterans Day, active duty, reservists and retired military enjoy a free dine-in lunch at participating Country Buffet locations. Show your military ID or proof of service to enjoy the free meal.

**Cracker Barrel Old Country Store** - Veterans receive complimentary dessert on Veterans Day only.

**Denny's** - On Veterans Day, veterans at participating restaurants receive a free Build Your Own Grand Slam breakfast.

**Hooters Free Meal** - Hooters invites all veterans to a free meal menu by presenting proof of service.

**IHOP** - Veteran's Day, participating restaurants will be honoring the brave men and women who have served, or are serving, in the United States Military by offering them free Red, White and Blue pancakes. At some locations, the RWB pancakes will be featured as part of a free combo plate including eggs, bacon and hashed browns.

**Krispy Kreme** - Free doughnut and small coffee to all who served or currently serving on Veterans Day (no ID required).

**Longhorn Steakhouse** - Complimentary Texas Tonion appetizer and non-alcoholic beverage on Nov. 11 for all veterans.

**Old Country Buffet** - Veterans Day, active, reserve, retired military enjoy a free dine-in lunch with proof of service.

**Olive Garden** - Veterans receive a free meal including entrees, freshly baked garlic bread sticks, and soup or salad.

**Outback Steakhouse** – Veterans Day, Free Bloomin' Onion® and beverage, and 15% discount for veteran families.

**Red Lobster** - Service members past and present receive a complimentary appetizer or dessert from a special menu.

**Red Robin** - Veterans get a free Tavern Double Burger and Bottomless Steak Fries on Veterans Day.

**TGI Fridays** - Veterans are invited to lunch from T.G.I Friday's lunch menu. Offer good at all participating locations.

**White Castle** - Veterans to receive free breakfast slider and small coffee or small soft drink on Veterans Day.

# Winter Standdown

**Friday, November 18, 2016  
8:00 a.m.**

**FOR HOMELESS VETERANS**

**Northwest Armory  
1551 N. Kedzie; Chicago, IL**



**Honoring Those Who Served**

For more information visit our web site at [www.chicagostanddown.org](http://www.chicagostanddown.org) or call the  
Oak Park Vet Center at 708 457 8805.