



Department of Veterans Affairs

September 2017 Newsletter | Vol. 9, Ed. 4

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A Message from Veterans Affairs

Dear Veterans:

This newsletter contains information on the following veteran-related issues: Town hall meeting on Agent Orange and its effects; educational benefits on the GI Forever bill; information about filing a VA claim; and a legislative bill that provides educational credit for military training.

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September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. It is a time for mental health advocates, prevention organizations, survivors, allies and community members to unite to bring awareness and share resources about an important subject that affects civilians and veterans alike. National Suicide Prevention Week is September 10 through September 16. It's a time to remember those affected by suicide, to raise awareness, and to focus efforts on directing treatment to those who need it most.

The month of September also brings together many significant days in recognition of the veterans, including Labor Day. [Click here](#) for more information about important dates this month.

In September we will also honor hundreds of Vietnam-era veterans.

Cook County Veterans Affairs encourages you to share this information with other veterans and their dependents, and to use this newsletter as a reference tool for upcoming veteran activities, events, and workshops. Please visit the Cook County Veterans Affairs website at: www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/veterans-affairs.

Bill Browne, Director
Cook County Veterans Affairs



Department of Veterans Affairs

Helpful Links

This outreach program provides information about Agent Orange and dioxin and actively pursues the recognition of presumptive disabilities from exposure. Check below for information about a local town hall meeting to discuss Agent Orange:

<https://vva.org/what-we-do/outreach-programs/agent-orange/>

Information about the "Forever GI Bill," which will bring significant changes to Veterans education benefits:

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/forevergibill.asp>

Electronic filing for VA claims:

https://explore.va.gov/file-claim?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_campaign=claimsandappeals&utm_content=25marchA

A new state law directs Illinois higher education institutions to establish a policy for awarding academic course credit for military training:

<https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/HB3701/2017>

Looking for a job?

When applying for employment with Cook County Government, preference is given in the application process to honorably discharged veterans who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States for more than 180 consecutive days, or during war time. For current employment information, please visit the links below.

Offices Under the President:
www.cookcountyil.gov/current-job-listings

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

Health and Hospitals System:
www.cookcountyhhs.org/about-cchhs/human-resources/careers/



Department of Veterans Affairs

Upcoming Events

September 8

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Operation Ruck 22

22k march along Chicago's Lakefront

South Shore Cultural Center

7059 S. South Shore Dr., Chicago

<https://chicagovets.org/event/operation-ruck-22/>

September 23

1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Town Hall Meeting on Agent Orange
and Its Effects

Irish American Heritage Center

4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago

<https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/about-us/events/Pages/Town-Hall-Meeting-on-Agent-Orange-and-its-effects.aspx>

September

is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Please support the campaign of education and intervention sponsored by the VA and Department of Defense.

For more information:

<https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/60791-bethere-to-support-veterans>

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.