



VETS NEWS ND

ND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

ISSUE 01 OCTOBER 2015



Newsletter

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform readers of local events, community programs, Veteran-related news, and provide information on Veterans' benefits and other resources. This newsletter, in addition to our website and Facebook page, will keep Veterans and their families up-to-date on current events and hopefully serve as an informational guide to various topics, such as education benefits or filing claims.

North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Mission Statement

The mission of the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs is to assist veterans of North Dakota and their dependents in obtaining all benefits to which they are entitled, both federal and state, either by direct contact or through the assistance of the County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers.

North Dakota State Approving Agency Mission Statement

The North Dakota State Approving Agency works in cooperation with its partners; (1) to promote and safeguard quality education and training programs for all veterans and other eligible persons; (2) to ensure greater education and training opportunities that meet the changing needs of Veterans; and (3) to advocate and support the GI Bill® resources available for those programs.



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State Approving Agency Joins ND Department of Veterans Affairs

What is the State Approving Agency?

Congress determined that each State should create an agency that approves programs within their borders and determines which programs are appropriate for Veterans to enroll, in order for them to use their VA educational benefits. The first State Approving Agencies (SAA's) were formed for Veterans after WWII and the Governor of each state assigned the department to oversee the agency.

What kind of programs are approved?

The programs that can be approved are found in colleges, universities, vocational and technical schools, apprenticeships, on-the-job training programs, and flight schools. Programs are reviewed by each State's own standards and laws in addition to VA rules and regulations. Then, it is either approved or disapproved; continuous supervision is required of approved programs.

What does the SAA do?

The primary responsibility of the SAA continues to be the review, evaluation, and approval of quality programs of education and training under State and Federal criteria. SAA's also conduct on-site compliance surveys of approved institutions and schools. They provide technical assistance to all interested parties and are engaged in outreach activities to foster the use of the GI Bill®.

What is the approval process like?

The approval process is ongoing and involves regular monitoring of the programs. North Dakota has approximately 2,100 Veterans enrolled in approved programs. The programs are found in 103 schools, training establishments, and businesses.

For more information, contact Rhonda Schauer,
Director, State Approving Agency at:
(701) 328-5445 or at nd.gov/veterans



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Women Student Veterans Blog

The NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education's Veterans Knowledge Community is partnering with the Women in Student Affairs (WISA) Knowledge Community to generate some knowledge about the experiences of women student veterans.

They are looking for an array of women veterans to share their stories in 500 to 800 words, that will be published on a blog once they have received enough submissions. They hope to have a blog post schedule by this November.

If you are a woman student veteran and would like to share your story with other veterans around the country, or if you know of someone who would like to share theirs, visit WISA's webpage to sign-up for a time to submit a post to their blog. Everyone has a unique story, and this is a great way to share and discuss yours with other women veterans.

WISA Blog Sign-Up Page: <http://ow.ly/OZGHi> | Contact WISA: wisakcblog@gmail.com

NASPA Website: <https://www.naspa.org/>

Frequently Asked Questions: The GI Bill

How do I apply for the GI Bill®?

The easiest way to apply is through VONAPP:
www.vabenefits.vba.gov/vonapp/default.asp
You can also call 1-800-827-1000 and ask to be mailed a form that you send back to them.

How are BAH ratings determined?

BAH ratings for college areas are determined by the school's ZIP Code and based on the DOD's BAH rate for E-5 with dependents.

For more information, contact Rhonda Schauer,
Director, State Approving Agency at:
(701) 328-5445 or at nd.gov/veterans

Is there a time limit on using GI Bill®?

The time limit to use the Montgomery GI Bill® is 10 years, and the time limit for Post-9/11 GI Bill® is 15 years.

Can I combine my Montgomery and Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits?

No, you are allowed to only use one education benefit program at a time. However, in some cases you may be able to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill® when you have exhausted your Montgomery GI Bill®.



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North Dakota Veterans News

Bismarck High School Students Honor Those Who Died in Vietnam War

The Vietnam War remains one of the most controversial military conflicts in U.S. History. Many who fought for this country were mistreated when they got back home. Now, those who died for their country are getting the recognition they deserve thanks to the hard work of some Bismarck High School students.

150 students made projects for Veterans from around North Dakota. Fourteen of about 30 artifacts that the BHS students made are on display at the Heritage Center in Bismarck.

Once these artifacts are done being displayed, they'll be placed at the deceased Veteran's name on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC. In addition to these projects, Sen. Heidi Heitkamp has been sharing these Veterans' stories on the floor of the Senate all summer.

The artifacts will be on display in September/October at the Heritage Center.



Story by Max Grossfeld - KFYP TV

ND Department of Veterans Affairs Gives Away 6 New Vans for Veterans Transportation

The North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs gave away six new vans to highly rural Counties in North Dakota. The vans come from a Federal grant which the NDDVA was awarded last year. Eight vans were purchased in June from Harlow's Bus Sales in Bismarck. The six passenger vans are Dodge Caravans that have been converted to wheelchair-accessible vans with a ramp and chair tie-downs, so up to two wheelchair-bound Veterans can ride at the same time.

Dennis Kubistka, the CVSO from Steele County, received his van on July 17th at the NDDVA Fargo office. He made his first trip to the Fargo VA Medical center the following week. McKenzie, Golden Valley, Cavalier, Dickey, and Sheridan counties received their vans on July 20th in Bismarck and left with a complimentary full tank of gas! The vans can be used to transport Veterans to their medical appointments. These appointments can be at the Federal VA or any healthcare provider in the community.

For more information, or to inquire about a ride, please contact the CVSO's who have received the vans. More funding and vans may be available in Fall 2015.



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October Events for Vets

ND WWII VICTORY CELEBRATION

70th Anniversary of War's End

★ Victory Celebration Program & USO-style Dance

Saturday, October 10, 2015
2 p.m. Program ~ Dance Follows til 5 pm
World War Memorial Building in Bismarck
Free Event ~ Open to the Public
(WWII veterans: RSVP/register for special seating)

★ ND WWII Victory Roll Call

(For an historic roster/census of WWII veterans living in ND)
Please have the following info available:
Name & Address ~ Family Contact
Phone Number ~ E-mail Address
Branch of Service ~ Dates Served
Theater of Operations ~ Campaigns
Unit: Division/Regiment/Squadron/Ship

To Register for the Victory Celebration Program & USO Dance
AND the 2015 ND WWII Victory Roll Call,
please contact us by mail, email, or phone.

ND WWII Victory Celebration

Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502

701-333-2064 (Leave message for callback)

Email: ndwwiivictorycelebration@outlook.com

Website: <http://ndwwiivictoryceleb.wix.com/victory>

"A Single Generation of Men Determined the Fate of all Mankind....."

FARGO DEFENDER DASH

INFORMATION:

8K Walk/Run to Support

The Wounded Warrior Project

WHERE: Oak Grove Park (Main Shelter)
170 Maple St N
Fargo, ND 58103

WHEN: 10/10/2015 @ 8:00 AM & 12:00 PM

Pre-register online or the day of the event.

VETERAN STAND DOWNS

October 21, 2015 - Williston, ND

Contact: Tess Scully (701) 200-8113
theresa.scully2@va.gov

Grant Carns (701) 577-4550

October 22, 2015 - Fargo, ND

Contact: Rachel Salquist (701) 306-0030
rachel.salquist@va.gov

Sarah Kemp Tabbut (701) 306-0654

sarah.kemtabbut@va.gov

October 22, 2015 - Minot, ND

Contact: Tess Scully (701) 200-8113
theresa.scully2@va.gov

Gary Siewert (701) 420-5861

gary.siewert.ctr@mail.mil

October 23, 2015 - Dickinson, ND

Contact: Sarah Kemp Tabbut (701) 232-3241
sarah.kemtabbut@va.gov

Clanci Barnhart (701) 540-2778

clanci.barnhart@va.gov

For more information, visit www.va.gov/homeless/events.asp

FREE FLU SHOTS

Fargo VA Medical Center:

Oct. 1 - 9 AM to 12 PM

Oct. 7, 13, 21, 28 - 9 AM to 3 PM

Fargo Vet Center:

Oct. 2 - 9 AM to 2 PM

Community-Based Outpatient Clinics:

Devils Lake:

Oct. 7 & 21 - 9 AM to 2 PM

Fergus Falls (MN):

Oct. 7 & 23 - 9 AM to 3 PM

Jamestown:

Oct. 7, 13, 21 & 28 - 9 AM to 3 PM

For more information, call the Fargo VA office at (701) 239-3724



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