



VETS NEWS ND

ND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

ISSUE 02 NOVEMBER 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.



[FACEBOOK.COM/NDDVA](https://www.facebook.com/NDDVA)



[@NDDVA](https://twitter.com/NDDVA)



(701)239-7165



WWW.ND.GOV/VETERANS



NDDVA Commissioner Lonnie Wangen Receives the “Iron Mike” Award from NASDVA



At their September conference in Florida, the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) honored North Dakota Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Lonnie Wangen with their highest award - the “Iron Mike”. Admiral Clyde W. Marsh (ret.) and Colonel John Scocos (ret.) presented the Iron Mike award to Commissioner Wangen during an awards banquet.

Over the last year, Commissioner Wangen has lead NASDVA to many successes and has played an important role in working closely with the

Federal VA’s top leaders to affect the change in how they will better serve veterans in the future. Commissioner Wangen attended many meetings with the Federal VA’s Secretary and key staff, addressed emergent needs of our veterans while working with our nation’s congressional leaders and in testimony to the US Congress.

Commissioner Wangen’s hard work and leadership has strengthened NASDVA’s partnership with the Federal VA and has improved our ability to serve our veterans into the future. Commissioner Wangen is the son of Floyd and Vaughn Wangen of Harvey, ND.

Past recipients of the Iron Mike include US VA Secretaries James Nicholson and Eric Schinseki, Governors Bob Riley and Arnold Schwarzenegger, US Representatives Bob Filner and Mike Michaud. Commissioner Wangen is the first recipient from North Dakota. Congratulations, Lonnie!



[FACEBOOK.COM/NDDVA](https://www.facebook.com/NDDVA)



[@NDDVA](https://twitter.com/NDDVA)



(701)239-7165



WWW.ND.GOV/VETERANS

North Dakota Veterans News

Electric Wheelchair Donated to Veteran—Cass County Veterans Service Office

Cass County Veterans Service Office delivered a donated electric wheelchair to Marvin Gutknecht, a veteran living in Manor Care, on Friday, October 9th.

The office had received a phone call from Gale Gutknecht, Marvin's wife, asking for assistance in locating an electric wheelchair for her husband.

The donation was made possible by Gerry Falkowski of the DAV-MN Donor Connect Program who found a donor in Wilmar, MN. Russ Foster, National Service Officer for the VFW, arranged a pick up and drop off of the chair.



Mr. Gutknecht was elated to receive the wheelchair, which can cost up to \$5,000 brand new. It will provide the mobility that he has been lacking due to the paralysis of his left arm and leg, giving him a better quality of life.

ND American Legion Donates \$16,000 Toward Fargo VA Health Care System Project

The Fargo VA Health Care System has received one of its biggest donations.

The North Dakota American Legion presented a \$16,000 check to the VA. The money will go towards developing healing gardens, which will feature walking paths, plants, a parade lawn, gazebos and sitting areas.

Those working on the project say the purpose of the gardens is to help make a hospital visit a little bit better.



“We’re actually planning on holding some group meetings here so mental health will have groups that will meet out here. I envision gardening and even maybe yoga in the grassy areas so it’s just a space that can really help all veterans,” says Karinn Davidson, Chief of Voluntary Service.

Construction of the healing gardens is scheduled to be completed next fall.

Story by Bianca Buono, KVRR



FACEBOOK.COM/NDDVA



@NDDVA



(701)239-7165



WWW.ND.GOV/VETERANS

App to Help Vets with PTSD

A student from St. Paul, MN has created a smartphone application aimed at helping veterans who suffer from PTSD and night terrors.

The app is called “myBivy”, and tracks heart rate and movement while you are asleep. The goal is for the app to predict night terrors and prevent them by disrupting sleep with sound or vibration on the smartphone or smart watch. According to the app’s Kickstarter page, the veteran can see how they slept the previous night, and will have the option to submit a statistical report to their VA doctor or clinician.

myBivy is currently in the testing stage, but you can find out more information on their Kickstarter page. Visit kickstarter.com and search for myBivy.

Frequently Asked Questions: The GI Bill

Can I be eligible for multiple education benefits?

You may be eligible for more than one VA education benefit program. However, you may only receive payments from one program at a time. You can receive a maximum of 48 months of benefits under any combination of VA education programs you qualify for.

Do I get the full Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits I am eligible for if my state has free tuition?

The VA cannot pay for something that isn’t charged, however the individual is still eligible for the books stipend and monthly housing allowance, subject to the rules and regulations that govern those benefits.

For more information, contact Rhonda Schauer,
Director, State Approving Agency at:

(701) 328-5445 or at www.nd.gov/veterans

What about student loan repayment?

The Post-9/11 GI Bill will allow service members who enlisted under the student loan repayment plan to qualify for the GI Bill benefits. However, time spent satisfying the student loan repayment obligation does not count toward the active duty service necessary to qualify for the benefits.

If I graduated from a Service Academy or had an ROTC Scholarship, can I still be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill?

Yes, the Post-9/11 GI Bill allows officers who graduated from service academies or received ROTC scholarships to qualify for the GI Bill benefit.



[FACEBOOK.COM/NDDVA](https://www.facebook.com/NDDVA)



[@NDDVA](https://twitter.com/NDDVA)



(701)239-7165



WWW.ND.GOV/VETERANS

November Events for Vets



Sponsored by:
Alan & Leslie Gleason

Presents:

“HONORING OUR VETERANS”
A Veterans Art Exhibit
Pekin Auditorium, Pekin, ND

November 9th-14th
Mon.-Fri. 3PM-7PM Sat.10AM-7PM

NO PHOTOS PLEASE

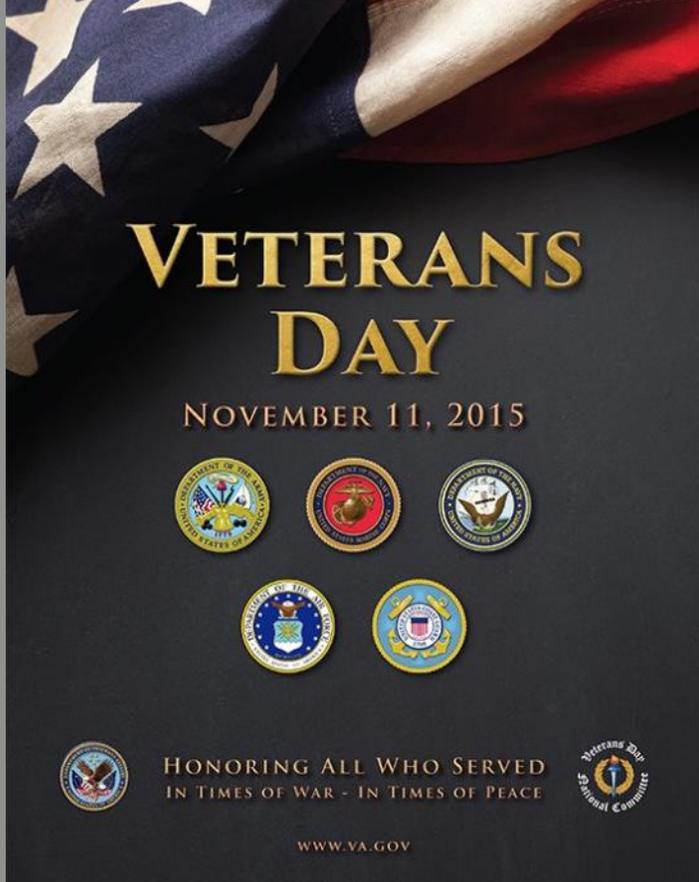
- Tuesday, November 11th, **Veterans Day**, there will be a Color Guard Presentation at 4:30PM outside Pekin Fire Hall, Coffee & Cookies, music and poetry along with Veterans art & conversation in the auditorium.
- Fargo Vet Center Bus - Readjustment Counseling Services
- Homeless Veterans art exhibited! A food drive will be held.

Donations go to help Homeless Veterans

701.296.4410
ncac@gondtc.com

Veterans can download a form to enter at:
www.nelsoncountyarts.com Deadline Oct. 25

 ncacpekin



VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 11, 2015







HONORING ALL WHO SERVED
IN TIMES OF WAR - IN TIMES OF PEACE

WWW.VA.GOV



Veterans Day Events (Nov. 11th)

American Legion Post #2 Annual Stew Feed
11:30 am - 2:00 pm 505 3rd Ave N, Fargo, ND

Fargo Air Museum Veterans Coffee Hour
10:00 am - 12:00 pm 1609 19th Ave N, Fargo, ND

VFW Veterans Day Celebration
10:45 am 308 Sheyenne St., West Fargo, ND
Flag-raising ceremony followed by a program.

Free Meals on Veterans Day

These restaurants in North Dakota offer Vets free meals on Veterans Day with Military ID or proof of service:

- Little Caesars
- LongHorn Steakhouse
- Olive Garden
- Red Lobster
- Texas Roadhouse
- TGI Fridays
- Village Inn
- Applebee's
- Chili's
- Denny's
- Golden Corral
- Green Mill



FACEBOOK.COM/NDDVA



@NDDVA



(701)239-7165



WWW.ND.GOV/VETERANS