Kanabec County Veterans Services

September 2018

Veterans Service Office

18 N Vine ST, Suite 104
1st Floor of Courthouse

Hours

Monday-Friday
0830-1600

Office Closed

September 3rd - Office Closed

September 3rd - Office Closed

September 10-12 Fall CVSO Conference

September 11th - Patriot Day

Coffee Talk

Join us for coffee and comradery
4th Tuesday of each month
10:00-11:00 @ Kev’s Depot
118 Railroad Ave, Mora MN
# Veterans Organizational Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Legion Post 201</td>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Monday of month</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Crystal Bar 39 N Union St, Mora</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Legion Post 640</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Wednesday of month</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Civic Center 102 N Hill Ave, Ogilvie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans of Foreign Wars</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Tuesday of month</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Braham Area Community Center 655 SW 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; St, Braham</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Legion Auxiliary</td>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Monday of month</td>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>Crystal Bar 39 N Union St, Mora</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Legion Auxiliary</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Wednesday of month</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Kanabec TWSP Hall 200 E Rutherford, Ogilvie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disabled American Vets Chapter #4</td>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Thursday of month</td>
<td>6:45 pm</td>
<td>Hinckley American Legion 201 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; ST NE, Hinckley MN</td>
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**Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs**

The MN Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) offers supports to MN Veterans and families.

Customer Service for Veterans and Families
Phone: 1-888-LinkVet (546-5838)
International: +1-651-556-0596
TTY: 1-800-627-3529

**Chat support is available**

Chat hours are listed below.
Monday - Friday: 07:00 AM - 07:45 PM CDT
Saturday: 09:00 AM - 02:15 PM CDT
Sunday: 11:00 AM - 04:15 PM CDT

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"One Veteran Suicide is One Too Many"
Veterans Links & Phone

http://www.va.gov  All health care & VA Info

http://mn.gov/mdva
888-546-5838       MN State Benefits
877-294-6380       VA Pension
800-827-0648       Debt Management Office

www.ebenefits.va.gov
Set up an account to access and track all your VA benefits, obtain important documents, pay, certificate of eligibility education, and VA home loans. Also, Veterans Preference and employment assistance.

https://www.myhealth.va.gov
Online access to health records

Timber Trails Veteran’s Transportation
1-888-217-5222

DAV Transportation
320-252-1670 x 6676 or stephanie@davmn.org

Senior Linkage Line  800-333-2433

Veterans Choice Program
St Cloud VA-Non VA Care   320-255-6483
Minneapolis VA   612-467-6565

www.va.gov/opa/choiceact

Kanabec County
http://www.kanabeccounty.org/

http://www.kanabeccounty.org/departments/veterans_services.php
Facebook: Kanabec Veterans
MN Veteran Homes

Admission Requirements

Our Homes Residents must be:

- Honorably discharged Veterans who entered service from Minnesota, or are current Residents, who served 181 consecutive days on active duty, unless discharged earlier because of disability incurred in the line of duty.
- The spouse of an eligible Veteran who is at least 55 years old and meets residency requirements.
- Able to demonstrate a medical or clinical need for admission.

Residents contribute to the cost of their care according to their means. For questions or more information, contact the benefit coordinator of each Home.

Fergus Falls
(218) 736-0400
1-877-VET-HMFF (838-4633)

Virtual tours are available on line for all homes

Hastings
(651) 539-2400
1-877-VET-3803 (838-3803)

Luverne
(507) 283-6200
1-877-LUV-VETS (588-8387)

Minneapolis
(612) 548-5700
1-877-VET MPLS (838-6757)

Silver Bay
(218) 353-8700
1-877-SBY VETS (729-8387)
On behalf of our nation’s Veterans, we are all saddened by the passing of one of America’s great warriors. Senator John McCain’s life of courage and sacrifice continued a legacy of selfless service begun by his family over one hundred years ago.

He will be missed by all of those who have worn the uniform and all of those who love America. Senator McCain and his family are in the thoughts and prayers of America’s Veterans.

Prisoner of war

McCain’s capture and subsequent imprisonment occurred on October 26, 1967. He was flying his 23rd bombing mission over North Vietnam when his A-4E Skyhawk was shot down by a missile over Hanoi. McCain fractured both arms and a leg when he ejected from the aircraft and nearly drowned after he parachuted into Trúc Bạch Lake. Some North Vietnamese pulled him ashore, then others crushed his shoulder with a rifle butt and bayoneted him. McCain was then transported to Hanoi’s main Hòa Lô Prison, nicknamed the “Hanoi Hilton.”

Although McCain was seriously wounded and injured, his captors refused to treat him. They beat and interrogated him to get information, and he was given medical care only when the North Vietnamese discovered that his father was an admiral. His status as a prisoner of war (POW) made the front pages of major newspapers.

McCain spent six weeks in the hospital, where he received marginal care. He had lost 50 pounds (23 kg), was in a chest cast, and his gray hair had turned as white as snow. McCain was sent to a different camp on the outskirts of Hanoi. In December 1967, McCain was placed in a cell with two other Americans who did not expect him to live more than a week. In March 1968, McCain was placed into solitary confinement, where he would remain for two years.

In mid-1968, his father John S. McCain Jr. was named commander of all U.S. forces in the Vietnam theater, and the North Vietnamese offered McCain early release because they wanted to appear merciful for propaganda purposes and also to show other POWs that elite prisoners were willing to be treated preferentially. McCain refused repatriation unless every man taken in before him was also released. Such early release was prohibited by the POWs’ interpretation of the military Code of Conduct which states in Article III: “I will accept neither...
parole nor special favors from the enemy". To prevent the enemy from using prisoners for propaganda, officers were to agree to be released in the order in which they were captured. Beginning in August 1968, McCain was subjected to a program of severe torture. He was bound and beaten every two hours; this punishment occurred at the same time that he was suffering from dysentery. Further injuries brought McCain to “the point of suicide,” but his preparations were interrupted by guards. Eventually, McCain made an anti-U.S. propaganda “confession”. He had always felt that his statement was dishonorable, but as he later wrote, “I had learned what we all learned over there: every man has his breaking point. I had reached mine.” Many U.S. POWs were tortured and maltreated in order to extract “confessions” and propaganda statements, virtually all of them eventually yielded something to their captors. McCain received two to three beatings weekly because of his continued refusal to sign additional statements.

McCain refused to meet various anti-war groups seeking peace in Hanoi, wanting to give neither them nor the North Vietnamese a propaganda victory. From late 1969, treatment of McCain and many of the other POWs became more tolerable, while McCain continued actively to resist the camp authorities. McCain and other prisoners cheered the U.S. “Christmas Bombing” campaign of December 1972, viewing it as a forceful measure to push North Vietnam to terms.

McCain was a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for five and a half years until his release on March 14, 1973. His wartime injuries left him permanently incapable of raising his arms above his head. After his release from the Hanoi Hilton, McCain returned to the site with his wife Cindy and family on a few occasions to come to grips with what happened to him there during his capture.

McCain will lie in state in the Arizona State Capitol in Phoenix on August 29 (McCain’s birthday), followed by a service at North Phoenix Baptist Church on August 30. His body will travel to Washington to lie in state in the rotunda of the United States Capitol on August 31, before a service at the Washington National Cathedral on September 1.

He will be buried at the United States Naval Academy Cemetery, next to his Naval Academy classmate Admiral Charles R. Larson.

REST IN PEACE SIR
Secretary Wilkie is refocusing VA providers’ commitment to veteran care and the VA’s ability to deliver that care.

As a result, unions will no longer be able to use collective bargaining when it comes to VA providers on issues indirectly related to their professional conduct or the care that they provide patients at the VA.

“President Trump has made it clear that we want our providers laser-focused on caring for Veterans and that’s exactly what we’re doing here,” said Secretary Wilkie. “This move today ensures that unions can’t bargain on issues related to our providers’ professional conduct or competence, essentially patient care. Our nation’s heroes deserve no less.”

Approximately 300,000 VA employees are represented by one of five national unions. The executive order’s restrictions regarding time spent on government work include member solicitation, lobbying activities, elections of union officials and collection of dues.

As part of VA’s implementation of the executive order, VA employees who previously spent 100 percent of their official work hours on union issues can devote no more than 25 percent of that time to the union. Union leaders also must request and receive approval of their use of taxpayer-funded union time to allow the VA to monitor the use of this time to ensure that it’s only used for authorized purposes. This is regarding 1700 VA employees who spent 100% of their taxpayer-funded time working on union business; including 2 doctors, 65 nurses and 405 other employees.
VA speaks at American Legion Convention

Priorities of VBA

1. Providing veterans with the benefits they have earned in a manner that honors their service
2. Ensure VBA is a strong fiscal steward of the money entrusted to it
3. Foster a culture of collaboration

Cheryl Mason, chairman of the Board of Veterans’ Appeals (BVA), said there currently are 400,000 appeals of VA decisions pending, most of which reside with VBA currently. Approximately 150,000 are with the board, which consists of 91 judges and an additional eight judges pending with the VA secretary and White House.

The board has issued 75,000 decisions this year – a record, Mason said. The board is on pace to hit its goal of 81,000 decisions by the end of September. Modernization continues to be a priority for the board, which currently works with 40-year-old technology. A confusing VA appeals system also hinders the effort.

“It takes too long for veterans,” Mason said. “We are losing veterans while they’re waiting, and that’s not acceptable.”