

# SAC COUNTY VETERANS NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR SAC COUNTY IOWA VETERANS

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 1 Spring/Summer 2011

**W**elcome to the seventh issue of the Sac County Veterans newsletter! This newsletter is an outreach campaign to inform our county veterans and spouses on the services and benefits they may be entitled to.

The Sac County Commission of Veterans Affairs office is located on the 2nd floor of the Sac County Courthouse. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 8:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:30. The office is staffed by Peggy Dettmann as the Director and is governed by three appointed Commissioners and the Board of Supervisors.

The current Commission consists of Ron Feilmeier, Early; Richard Petschauer, Carnarvon; and Wally Worth, Sac City.

The Commission of Veterans Affairs provides assistance to Sac County veterans who were discharged under honorable conditions. The office is governed by Iowa Code, Chapter 35B. Financial assistance can be provided to help with shelter and utility expenses, medical, food, and burial costs, grave markers, and other types of basic needs.

The office also provides assistance to all veterans and or family members in applying for **federal** and **state** benefits. This would include, but is not limited to: Service Connected Compensation, Non-service connect pension, special monthly compensation, surviving spouse pension, Aid & Attendance, copies of military records, discharge upgrades, VA Health Care, admission to the Iowa Veterans Home, Government issued headstones, appeals and much more! If you have any questions about any of these programs, give us a call NOW. ★

## SAC COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS

Sac County Courthouse  
100 N. West State, P.O. Box 114  
Sac City, Iowa 50583  
Questions: Please call 712-662-4552

### Important Phone Numbers:

Sac Co. Veterans Affairs	712-662-4552
Iowa Dept. of Veterans Affairs	515-242-5331
VA Regional Office	800-827-1000
VA Clinic-Fort Dodge	515-576-2235
VA Medical Center- Des Moines	515-699-5999
VA Medical Center-Omaha	402-346-8800
Iowa Veterans Home	641-752-1501

### Important Web Sites:

Veterans Affairs	<a href="http://www.va.gov">www.va.gov</a>
VA Records	<a href="http://www.archives.gov">www.archives.gov</a>
VA Benefit Rates	<a href="http://www.vba.va.gov">www.vba.va.gov</a>
VA Life Insurance	<a href="http://www.insurance.va.gov">www.insurance.va.gov</a>
VA Health Care	<a href="http://www.va.gov">www.va.gov</a>
Burial Benefits	<a href="http://www.cem.va.gov">www.cem.va.gov</a>

## IDVA Welcomes a New DIRECTOR

**T**he Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs welcomes Jodi Tymeson as its new executive director. Jodi brings a wealth of experience with her to IDVA. She is the first female promoted to brigadier general in the Iowa Army national Guard; she retired from the Guard in 2007 with 33 years of service. From 2001-2010 she served as a State Representative for Madison, Warren and Dallas Counties. We look forward to Jodi's leadership and her commitment to serving and working with all the veteran's organizations and advocates throughout Iowa. ★



## Carroll Outpatient CLINIC

**T**he Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Carroll opened its door on February 22nd. The clinic is staffed with a primary care doctor, one RN, one LPN and two health technicians. Other specialty clinics, such as optical and audiology are to open in the near future.

Operating hours are 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, closed holidays and weekends. The address and phone numbers are: 311 S. Clark Street  
Suite 275  
Carroll, IA 51401

Telephone: 712-794-6780  
Toll Free: 712-792-6780

If you would like to change your care from the Fort Dodge Clinic to the Carroll Clinic, you can call the Carroll Clinic direct and take care of this over the phone! ★

## UPDATE VAN TRANSPORTATION

**T**he van has been available now for one year. We have tracked 158 hours of volunteer driving hours and a total of 4,630 miles. If you need a ride to your VA appointment, please call 712-662-4552★

## TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is located in Arlington National Cemetery. It is a monument dedicated to American service members who have died without their remains being identified. The tomb has been guarded continuously, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, since July 2, 1937. Inclement weather does not cause the watch to cease. There is a meticulous ritual the guard follows when watching over the graves:



Photo courtesy of [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/photo\\_gallery](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/photo_gallery)

1) *The soldier walks 21 steps across the Tomb. This alludes to the 21-gun salute, which is the highest honor given to any military or foreign dignitary in America. His weapon is always on the shoulder opposite the tomb.*

2) *On the 21st step, the soldier turns and faces the Tomb for 21 seconds.*

3) *The soldier then turns to face the other way across the Tomb and changes his weapon to the outside shoulder.*

4) *After 21 seconds, the first step is repeated.*

This is repeated until the soldier is relieved of duty at the Changing of the Guard. During the day in summer months (April 1-September 30) the guard is changed every half hour. During the winter months (October 1-March 31), the guard is changed every hour. After the cemetery closes to the public for the day, the guard is changed every two hours until the cemetery reopens. The ceremony can be witnessed by the public whenever Arlington National Cemetery is open. The Tomb Guards, a special platoon with the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment work on a team rotation of 24 hours on, 24 hours off, for five days, taking the following four days off.

The inscription on the western panel of the Tomb are the words:

“HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN AMERICAN SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD”.

More information can be found at [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil) ★

## TRAVEL BENEFITS

If you meet the criteria below, you may be eligible for mileage reimbursement for travel to and from your VA appointment.

You qualify if:

- You have a service connected (SC) rating of 30% or more
- You are traveling for treatment of a SC condition
- You receive a VA pension
- Your income does not exceed the maximum annual VA pension rate
- You are traveling for a scheduled compensation or pension examination

The current reimbursement rate is 41.5¢ per mile. Some travel is subject to a deductible of \$6 for a round trip. You may file for travel reimbursement at any VA Outpatient Clinic, or VA Medical Center. Further information can be found in the Beneficiary Travel “Frequently Asked Questions” at [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility)

You cannot collect reimbursement if your travel is provided by the DAV van.

If you are needing a ride to your VA appointment, please call several days in advance! Please call **662-4552** (days) or **662-7818** (evenings) to schedule a ride. ★

## DISABLED VETERAN

OUTREACH REPRESENTATIVE

**Floyd Twyman**  
Iowa Workforce Development

619 N Carroll Street  
Carroll IA, 51401  
712-792-2685

Veterans Employment Representatives coordinate services to Veterans, including counseling, testing and identifying training and employment opportunities. Veterans may receive preferential assistance for job placement services, as well as other programs.

For more information, visit the website at [www.iowaworkforce.org](http://www.iowaworkforce.org) ★



## OLD FLAG DISPOSAL

I am your country’s flag. I was proud to serve you, but now I am worn and tired. Please repair me and/or replace me with a strong new flag of which you can be proud. Old Glory should be retired with ceremony.

Please take me to your local American Legion or VFW Post, so that they may dispose of me with honor and dignity.



# Special Environmental Health Registry Evaluation Programs

The VA maintains several health registry evaluation programs to track the health of Veterans exposed to environmental hazards during military service. These programs include the following:

## You qualify if:

- Ionizing Radiation Registry
- Agent Orange Registry
- Gulf War Registry
- Depleted Uranium Follow-Up Program
- Toxic Embedded Fragments Registry

## QUESTION & ANSWERS

### What is a Health Registry Evaluation?

It is a voluntary medical evaluation tailored to the needs of Veterans with possible exposures to environmental hazards.

- The evaluation can include medical histories, laboratory tests, and in many cases, a physical exam.
- Information from the evaluation is maintained in VA databases to help track the health outcomes of Veterans.

### Is there a Fee for the Registry Evaluation?

- No. The evaluations are available free of charge to all eligible Veterans

### Can a Veteran have more than one health registry evaluation?

- Yes. Veterans can receive follow-up evaluations, particularly if new health problems develop.

To schedule a Health Registry Evaluation at the VA Medical Center in Des Moines, please call **515-699-5999**, ext. **9-4181**. More information is available on the internet at [www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures), or you can call the VA's Special Issues Helpline at **1-800-749-8387**. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in VA health care to take part. ★

# Camp Algona POW Museum

During WWII, Algona, Iowa was the site of a main camp for prisoners of war. This camp was the "home" for 10,000 German prisoners from April 1944 to February 1946. The value of the work done by the prisoners in the 4 state area was estimated at \$3,506,000.

The museum was created in 2004. This unique museum features artifacts and information relating to the American military personnel and German prisoners brought together by the war.

The museum is located at 114 South Thornton, Algona. The museum is open April-December, Saturday and Sunday 1:00-4:00. Tours and appointments are available by calling **515-295-3719**.

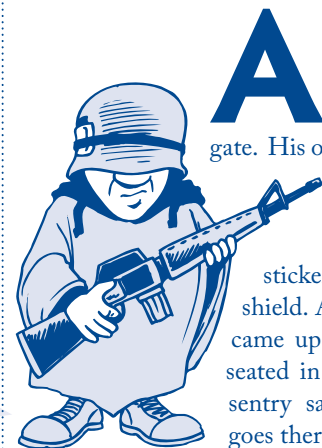
More information is available on the website at [www.pwcamp.algona.org](http://www.pwcamp.algona.org) ★



Photo courtesy of [www.pwcamp.algona.org/POWexhibit.html](http://www.pwcamp.algona.org/POWexhibit.html)



## "Soldier Stands Guard"



A new soldier was on sentry duty at the main gate. His orders were clear. No car was to enter unless it had a special sticker on the windshield. A Big Army car came up with a general seated in the back. The sentry said, "Halt, who goes there?"

The chauffeur, a corporal, says, "General Wheeler."

"I'm sorry, I can't let you through. You've got to have a sticker on the windshield."

The general said, "Drive on!"

The sentry said, "Hold it! You really can't come through. I have orders to shoot if you try driving in without a sticker."

The general repeated, "I'm telling you, son, drive on!"

The sentry walked up to the rear window and said, "General, I'm new at this. Do I shoot you or the driver?" ★



# SAC COUNTY

## VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION

Sunday, May 29, 2011

2:00 p.m.

Sac County Courthouse – Sac City

Fly Over

Welcome

Color Guard

Flag Raising

Invocation

Presentation of the Committee

Introduction of the Guest Speaker

Guest Speaker

Military Salute – Honoring Our Veterans

Closing Remarks

Benediction

21 Gun Salute

Taps

Please join us for an afternoon of celebration. Some seating will be available, but we do ask if you are able, to bring a lawn chair or blanket. *(In the event of inclement weather, this event will be held at the 4-H Building, Sac County Fairgrounds, Sac City – seating will be available here)*

Sincerely,  
Sac County Veterans Memorial Committee

Peggy Dettmann, Ron Feilmeier, Ron Gansemer, Dean Graeve, Darwin Jones, Rich and Barb Jorgensen, Gordon Mooney, Dick Petschauer, Jim Scott, Jim Stock and Wally Worth

*For more information on the Veterans Memorial, visit our website at*  
[www.saccountyveteransmemorial.com](http://www.saccountyveteransmemorial.com) ★



# BUS TOUR

Tuesday, June 21st

## **Iowa Gold Star Military Museum – Camp Dodge, Johnston**

**L**earn about Iowan's contributions to the defense of their state and nation as you view such artifacts as uniforms, flags, trench art, medals and insignia, scale models, howitzers and cannons, a vintage Jeep, antitank weapons, a UH-1 Huey helicopter, and an F-84F fighter plane. The museum features the largest military weapons collection in Iowa. Recently added was a new 18,000 square foot addition that hosts a new exhibit gallery. The new library has over 2,000 books including the enlistment records of Iowa soldiers through WWI. Your patriotism will soar as you view memorabilia from all wars in which Iowa citizens served.

## **Lunch: Greenbriar Restaurant/Johnston**

## **Iowa Veterans Cemetery – Van Meter**

The Iowa Veterans Cemetery was created through a 7.6 million dollar federal grant with additional funds provided by the State of Iowa. The 80 acre site includes the Administration/Maintenance complex, a serve assembly area, the committal service shelter, the Fallen Heroes monument, the Columbaria Plaza wall and a Memorial Wall.

The cost of this one day event is \$65. This includes the transportation, the meal and all gratuities. Transportation will be provided by Wind Star Lines, Carroll. If you are interested, please call **712-662-4552** (days) or **712-662-7818** (evenings/weekends) for more information and to make your reservation. Plans are to leave Sac City at 7:30 a.m., and return at 5:30 p.m. The maximum seating is 47.





# Honoring our Veterans on MEMORIAL DAY

**W**e remember the men and women who have so honorably served this country throughout history. We remember their courage, their selflessness and their dedication. We remember the hardship, their suffering and the sacrifices they endured. On Memorial Day and every day, we remember with respect those who have fought to defend our democratic ideals and secure our freedoms. With deep gratitude, we salute our country's brave and honorable Veterans.★

