



Bloomington VFW Post 7539

www.vfw7539.org

September 17, 2026



Service Officer: The **Richard Starr Act** which would reduce future veterans' disability compensation for tinnitus and sleep apnea was **one vote short** of passage in congress. Contact your State representative to tell them not to take away benefits our veterans have earned.

The Department of Defense will now share your medical records with the V.A. electronically. The timeline for filing a claim to be heard is around 6 months. Your V.A. records are stored in St. Louis Missouri at the National Public Records Center. To file a claim and download the forms go to <https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/> to complete the form necessary to file.

Reminder: The Judge Kendall VFW Post in Naperville will have a Service Officer present on the first Tuesday of the month. For any veteran who requires assistance with benefits or enrolling in the veterans' health care system, an officer will be present to help answer any questions. The officer will be available from 10a.m. - 2p.m.

Veteran Affairs: Our Post urged our members to call their Representative to ask them to support The Richard Starr Act. Call the Capitol Switchboard and ask to be connected to your Representative's office. Sample Phone Script: I'm calling to ask Representative _____ to vote NO on the **Take Care of America's Veterans Act**. While I support many of the bill's goals, it's wrong to reduce future veterans earned disability compensation to pay for other veterans' benefits.

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Community Relations: Our Community Relations Officer was in contact with the Village of Bloomington to discuss our upcoming coat drive in October. We will be having bins at the Bloomington Village Hall, fire station, library and the Bloomington Park District.

In February, we will also be collecting Move-In Essential items for the homeless veterans again this year. These items help a veteran who is homeless move into housing.

V.O.D: The VOD chairman has secured posters to promote the VOD scholarship program. The posters will be placed throughout the village of Bloomindale. Local area high school residents are eligible to participate in the program. Download the forms at va.gov and search for scholarships for more information.

Patriot Pen: The Patriot Pen chairman will try and get posters about the Patriot Pen program to be placed in local schools.

Good of the Order: There will be a booth at Trinity Lutheran Church for a clinic to provide information about joining our VFW Post on November 7th

Dates to remember:

October 6 Character Counts Honor Guard Old Town Park 6p.m. Honor Guard Uniform

November 7th flags at Jewel and Walmart. 10 – 2pm Saturday only

December 5 Meeting at the Bloomingdale Golf course

The next meeting will be held on October 15 at the Bloomingdale Library