Bloomingdale VFW Post 7539

www.vfw7539.org

November 19, 2026



Service Officer: Our Service Officer reported that **The Richard Starr Act** that would reduce future veterans' disability compensation for tinnitus and sleep apnea passed.

The House **passed the clean, standalone Major Richard Star Act** by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 392-18 by **voice vote only**. Now the fight moves to the Senate. Despite proposed additions to the Take Care of America's Veterans Act (TCAVA), Section 108 would still reduce disability compensation for certain future veterans. A vote for TCAVA is a vote to cut veterans' benefits and sets the precedent for more cuts in the future. Email and call your senators to urge them to pass the clean Major Richard Star Act and oppose TCAVA. This Thanksgiving, ask your family and friends to make their voices heard, too. Take action now.

If you served in the military and received a dishonorable discharge for AWOL of 6 months or less, you can apply to have your benefits re-instated. The decision will go before the V.A. board to determine if you will be eligible for benefits. If you are reinstated, you will be issued a DD215 with the corrections to allow for benefits.

2027 VA Disability Pay Rates

VA Disability Rates in 2027 increased 3.6% in accordance with the cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) rate announced by the Social Security Administration. See the 2027 VA disability rates below.

https://veteran.com/va-disability-rates/

The Department of Defense will now electronically share your medical records with the V.A.. 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.

Sign up for the **Honor Flight Chicago.** Veterans will be put on a list awaiting your flight date. A companion will be assigned to you if you do not have one.

Your **wife cannot** be your guardian. Wheelchairs are available for each member who needs one. A Coach Bus is the transportation for the day in Washington D.C. Breakfast, lunch and snacks are provided. You will also receive an Honor Flight polo shirt and backpack for any carry-on items. Bring your medication if you need them.

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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.





Community Relations: We are collected over 700 winter clothing items at the Bloomingdale Village Hall, fire station, library and the Bloomingdale Park District. The donated winter items will be distributed to the Jesse Brown Veterans Center.

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.

Good of the Order On November 24th our Post donated 100 complete Turkey dinners including the condiments, to the Bloomingdale Food Bank. Overall, 200 complete turkey dinners were donated to area residents.

The ***VFW Illinois News*** is now an on-line issue only.

The Post voted to do flag donations on only one day. November 7 from 10 – 2 p.m.

Dates to remember:

December 5 Christmas meeting at the Bloomingdale Golf course

January 11 Breakfast Dinos (wives are invited)

The next meeting will be held on December 5 at the Bloomingdale Golf Course.