

Price County Veterans Service Office

126 Cherry Street
Courthouse, Room 104
Phillips, WI 54555

Office Phone Number: 715-339-2545
Fax Number: 715-339-5116

Website: <https://www.co.price.wi.us/245/Veterans-Service>

Where everyday is Veterans day!!!

Office Hours: Monday—Friday 8:00 AM—4:30 PM (excluding holidays)
By appointment only—MASKS ARE REQUIRED

Tony Lueck—CVSO
email: cvso@co.price.wi.us
tony.lueck@co.price.wi.us

Lisa Nagro—VSO Asst.
email: lisa.nagro@co.price.wi.us

Mon., Wed., Fri. 8:00 A.M.- 4:30 P.M.



Due to COVID-19, the Park Falls Outreach site will be closed until further notice!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Price County Veterans Service Office provides assistance to Price County veterans and their dependents in obtaining federal and state veterans benefits. Information regarding complex eligibility requirements, as well as benefit counseling and assistance with all stages of the application process is provided without cost.

All federal and state veterans' benefits have specific eligibility criteria that can change over time or with changes to the laws. What you may not have been eligible for in the past, you may be eligible for now. If you are interested in a specific benefit and are unsure if you are eligible, please contact our office and we will assist you in determining if you qualify.

Things that may affect eligibility:

- ◆ Character of discharge
- ◆ Length of service
- ◆ State of residence at entry
- ◆ Yearly income



Special edition of Price County Veterans Service Newsletter

A Tribute to our Hometown Hero

Specialist 4 Frank Zydzik Jr. 5/31/48 - 01/07/70 KIA VIETNAM

Some benefits offered by the Federal VA

VA home loan guaranty program - certificates of eligibility

VA Health Care – available to veterans that meet various eligibility requirements

Disability Compensation benefits – for veterans with current illnesses and disabilities incurred because of military service

Educational Allowances – Montgomery GI Bill, Post 9/11 GI Bill, REAP, and Select Reserve GI Bill

Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling – for veterans with service connected disabilities

Government Life Insurance Policies – beneficiary changes, death claims

Veterans Pensions – often referred to as Aid and Attendance benefits – eligibility based upon war-time service, disability, and family income. Possible eligibility for widows with low income levels.

Burial Benefits – grave markers, flags, in certain cases small financial burial allowances may be available

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation – widows of veterans that have died because of service connected conditions may be eligible for some benefits

State of Wisconsin Veterans Benefits

Wisconsin GI Bill – if you entered the military from Wisconsin, or have been a Wisconsin resident for the last 5 years. Possibly available to spouses and children of 30% or higher service connected veterans

Wisconsin Veterans Homes – in

Union Grove, Chippewa Falls, and

King – near Waupaca

Veterans Assistance Program – Transitional housing for homeless or near homeless veterans

Military License Plates

Property tax reimbursement for 100% service connected veterans with at least 5 years residency

Free or discounted park pass and fishing licenses – for 50% or higher service connected veterans

Residents awarded the Purple Heart are eligible for a WI DNR Conservation patron license for \$10

Other services provided by the Price County Veterans Service Office

Recording of DD 214's with Register of Deeds office

Referrals to Department of Workforce Development veterans employment specialists

Assistance with Applications

Appeals and Waivers

Troubleshooting with VA Healthcare Administrative Complications

Cemetery flag holders

Explanations of veterans benefits to small groups

Obtaining military records and awards

Corrections to discharges/DD214's

Referral to other county agencies

THIS YEARS VIETNAM VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE TRAIL AND PRICE COUNTY VETERAN'S WELCOME HOME WAS CANCELLED THIS SUMMER DUE TO COVID-19. IT WAS TO BE HELD AT THE OLD TOWN MUSEUM IN FIFIELD IN HONOR OF OUR HOMETOWN HERO, FRANK ZYDZIK JR.



Please keep Frank and his family in your thoughts and prayers

Frank Zydzik Jr.

Army

SP4

Frank Zydzik Jr. was born in Phillips, Wisconsin on May 31, 1948 to Frank and Marilyn Zydzik. He graduated from Phillips High School in 1966 and moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he worked for Ladish Drop Forge. He was drafted into the U.S. Army on June 10, 1968. He did Basic Combat Training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. In October of 1968 he completed eight weeks of advanced infantry training at Fort Lewis, Washington. From there he received special counter guerilla training and combat training in Okinawa and was sent to Vietnam in April 1969. He returned to Phillips in November 1969 on emergency leave for the death of his father. He returned to Vietnam in December 1969. Specialist 4 Frank Zydzik Jr. was killed in action in Vietnam on January 7, 1970.

Article published by: Phillips Chamber of Commerce



The following memorial article is provided by Frank's sister, Kathy (Zydzik) LaPointe

Pages 4-7 **(A family Remembers!)**

A Family Remembers

Specialist 4 Frank Zydzik Jr.

Born May 31, 1948 in Phillips Wisconsin

KIA January 7, 1970 in Viet Nam

Forever Our Brother

It has been 50 plus years since January 7, 1970. One day in the history of forever but one day that changed my family forever. My memory has faded somewhat with the years and with age but I still have the facts because our mom saved them all – every letter, telegram and article pertaining to January 7, 1970.

Our parents were Frank and Marilyn (Brazelton) Zydzik. I was an only child for one year and thirty nine days. On May 31, 1948 my brother Frank was born in Phillips Wisconsin. He was followed by four more boys – John, twins Jerry and Jim and Ed. We were a family of eight plus our paternal Grandmother, Anna Zydzik. We lived on a farm about 5 miles south of Phillips.

I remember our growing up as happy times. We worked on the farm – although this was not our favorite part but we did as we were told. We had playmates which included each other and also neighborhood kids who were also all growing up on farms on Highway 111 – the Perger and Bezrouch girls, the Kozey kids, and my brothers best friend John Lasica who lived across the road and through the fields. Some where during this time, Frank got the nick name Butchie. I really don't remember why but that is what we all called him and still refer to him as.

Our birthday parties always included the Perger girls. One of Gloria Pergers memories of Frank is when we were fortunate enough to each get a bottle of soda for one of these parties (kool aid is usually what we had), Frank would grab a cup and take a little of each flavor that we all had and mix it together for his drink. He was always willing to try something new plus he was great at “pushing our parents buttons”.

During the summers, our cousins from Milwaukee and Chicago would always come to stay for two weeks. They always came to our house because Grandma lived with us. Frank was always in a little bit of trouble during these weeks tormenting our city cousins. His favorites were our two girl cousins from Chicago. They would show up in their new clothes and shoes and by the time they left, their knees had scabs on them and their shoes were covered in cow manure. And this is where our Grandma always came in. Whenever any of us were in trouble with our parents, she would take us off to the side and give us a piece of hard candy which she always kept in the pockets of her dress or apron. He was for sure the recipient of more hard candy than all the other grandchildren put together. In later years, when Butchie was probably 18 or 19, dressed in black pants, black leather jacket, black shiny pointed toe shoes with dark slicked back hair, him and I would sit on either side of her with our arms around her and ask her who was her favorite? No matter how hard we pressed her, she would never choose saying we were both her favorites. I do know for a fact though that he was her favorite – the candy did not lie.

We started school at Pioneer School. It was a one room school house about three quarters of a mile from our house and we walked almost every day. When he was in 6th grade, we were bused to Phillips to attend the new elementary school.

My brothers greatest love growing up was baseball. He played baseball (the Zydzik front yard had the bases ground into the lawn) whenever he could and with four brothers and a sister and many Highway 111 playmates they played often in the summer. He also was an avid baseball card collector. When he passed away, our mom still had his baseball card collection and put some of his favorites with him.

In addition to baseball, he did like most sports and would try out for every team in High School accepting any position the coaches would give him including water boy if that meant being on the team. We were so lucky to have coaches that allowed everyone to participate no matter their ability. Phillips High School still has an annual Sportsmanship award given in his name every year.

He also loved music and had quite a collection of rock n roll 45's which he left behind when he was drafted. He played them on a small one record at time player. I still have the records although unfortunately they have become somewhat warped over the years, but I cannot give them up.

Frank graduated from Phillips High School in 1966 and moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he worked for Ladish Drop Forge for about 2 years.

He was drafted into the U.S. Army on June 10, 1968. He did Basic Combat Training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. In October of 1968 he completed eight weeks of advanced infantry training at Fort Lewis, Washington. From there he received special counter guerilla training and combat training in Okinawa and was sent to Viet Nam in April 1969. (Thank you mom for keeping all of his things.)

I remember him coming home on leave for 30 days after training and borrowing my car for that time period. After a month of cruising in my white 1964 ½ mustang he did return the car in one piece with an "oh by the way, here is a ticket – your muffler is too loud and you need to get it fixed". I wonder how that happened. The muffler was fine when I gave him the car. Some memories do not fade.

In November 1969, he applied for emergency leave as our dad was very ill. Unfortunately, dad passed away while he was on his way home.

He returned to Viet Nam in December 1969 after our dads funeral.

His job in Viet Nam was "tunnel rat". His unit would search for small Vietnamese camps and destroy the camp sites. On January 7, 1970, his unit came across what they thought was a small camp. Frank, his Sergeant, his Lieutenant and 2 other men were sent in one direction. The Vietnamese camp turned out to be a base camp and when the fighting was over, Frank and the Sergeant and the Lieutenant and 2 other men had all been KIA. Frank had only 4 more months and he would have been discharged and sent home. He was 21 years old.

His body was shipped from Viet Nam to Seattle and then to Minneapolis. From there it arrived in Phillips on a 2 passenger airplane – a pilot, an Army escort and Butchie. As the small plane landed in Phillips, Highway 13 and the road to the airport was lined with cars supporting the Zydzik family – something the family will never forget. He was picked up by Heindl Funeral Home. Owner Frank Heindl was a very good friend of Frank Sr. and the family. His funeral was held on January 17, 1970 at St. Marys Catholic Church and he is buried in St. Patricks cemetery next to his father in Phillips, Wi.

At the time of his death, he was survived by our mother and five siblings – Kathy, John, Jerry, Jimmy and Ed. Our brother John was also serving our country at the time. He had enlisted in the Marines for 4 years after he graduated from high school. Our father had passed away on November 28, 1969 only 5 ½ weeks before. Our mother passed away in December 2016. She lived 46 years as a Gold Star Mother – never forgetting her first born son – and yet also never forgetting she had 5 other children.

He was also survived by our 92 year old paternal Grandmother, Anna Zydzik. The loss to her was beyond what you could put in words. She had just lost her youngest child, Frank Sr. and then 5 ½ weeks later her Grandson – her favorite Grandchild. There are no words to describe her sadness for the rest of her life. She passed away in December 1972.

He is today survived by his sister Kathy (Bob) LaPointe and brothers Ed (Luann) and Jim all of Phillips and by his brother John in Milwaukee. Also surviving are nephews Pat and Matt Zydzik (sons of John), Travis and Brad Zydzik (sons of Ed) and great nephews Liam, Jaxon and Carson (grandsons of John) and Sawyer and Tanner (grandsons of Ed). Although the nephews and great nephews never knew him they do know of him. Many questions are still being asked about him and what happened to him. When one of the great nephews was about 5 years old he said to me –“ I wish they had never invented guns”. When I asked why he wished that, his response was “then your brother would never have died and we would still have him”. (This coming from a young man who is now 14 and quite the marksman and hunter.)

The loss was and is still devastating to the family and also to many of his friends (including those Highway 111 playmates and first friends of life including the Perger and Bezrouch girls who still speak of Butchie often.

While the horrible punch in the stomach I felt when told the news is no longer there and the feeling in the morning when I would first wake up and remember has diminished, I still remember. Some days it brings a smile, some days it brings some tears. I am always grateful when others remember him as I think of him often.

My other brothers still remember. We wonder what his life could have been. For us and his friends, he was taken way too soon leaving a hole in all of our hearts but we do not forget him.

He was a young farm boy from Phillips Wisconsin and just one of how many others that were called to serve our country, which he did so willingly. But he was much more than that number – he was my parents son, our brother, our Grandparents grandson, our aunts and uncles nephew and his friends friend. He was special to all of us – Frank (Butchie) Zydzik you mattered to all of us and still do.

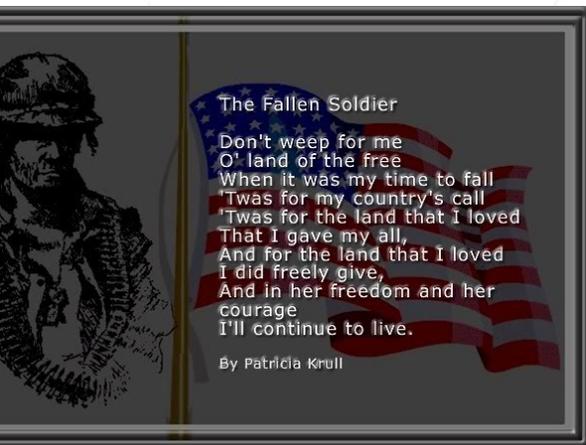
Our family shares our memories and thoughts with all the other families that got the same news about their brother or sister or son or daughter all those many years ago and still today. You all matter. Thank you all for your service.

Kathy (Zydzik) LaPointe



The Zydzik Family all together!

Zydzik High School Graduation 1966



ATTENTION: VETERANS!!!

We need your assistance please!

COVID-19 is still here and will be for some time. With Gov. Evers restrictions extended, we remind you all that you MUST call ahead for an appointment with our office. Even though there are multiple signs at the Price County Courthouse indicating appointments are necessary and masks are required with an appointment, we continue to have clients coming in unannounced, some with unnecessary visits. (This is not only to protect Tony, myself, and Co-workers, this is also to protect you, our Veterans)

While it is frustrating to our Veterans as they want a immediate answer, business through our office is NOT life threatening. Most issues can be handled via email or phone and through this newsletter, we have provided our Veterans with sufficient contact numbers within the Department of Veterans affairs. We are all frustrated as we work though this new way of life, but for our safety and your safety, please follow the guidelines implemented. Thank you for your assistance.



PLEASE CALL AHEAD FOR AN APPT., COURTHOUSE REMAINS OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!

How to get in touch with your Price County Veteran's Service Office?

To better assist our Veterans, we have upgraded our main phone line (715-339-2545) to an automated call system.

This automated system will allow Veterans to call in and connect to Tony, Lisa, or VA health care centers, or directly connect to VA information center, (VA 411), Our hope is to improve the accessibility to the VA federal programs for our Veterans.

When calling our office you will get a recording:

To talk to:

- Tony (Press 1),
- Lisa (Press 2),
- Iron Mountain VAMC (Press 3),
- Tomah VAMC (Press 4),
- Mpls. VAMC (Press 5)
- VA benefits questions, (Press 6)
- Community Care Authorization and billing questions, (Press 7)
- TriWest (WPS/VA) VA medical payment questions, (Press 8)



**Price County Veterans Service
Phone Tree—Keep by your phone**

With our office being staffed by one full time Service officer and only one part-time staff person, there will be times we are unavailable. We may be on another call, with a Veteran, away from our desk, or out of the office.

If you wish to leave a message with us, please include the following: Please leave your name, the name of the Veteran, the last 4 numbers of the Veterans Social Security number (For Verification purposes only), a contact number where we may reach you and a brief description of the reason for your call.

Our goal is to return your call in a timely manner, often people leave a message not indicating their name, why they are calling or even a return phone number. We can't assist if we don't know who you are or how to reach you.

**The Price County Courthouse remains open,
but by appointment only! until further
notice due to COVID-19.**

MASKS ARE NOW REQUIRED



American Legion Post 182 weekly 52 card Game

**The Park Falls American Legion Post 182
274 3rd Ave North, Park Falls Wi 54552**

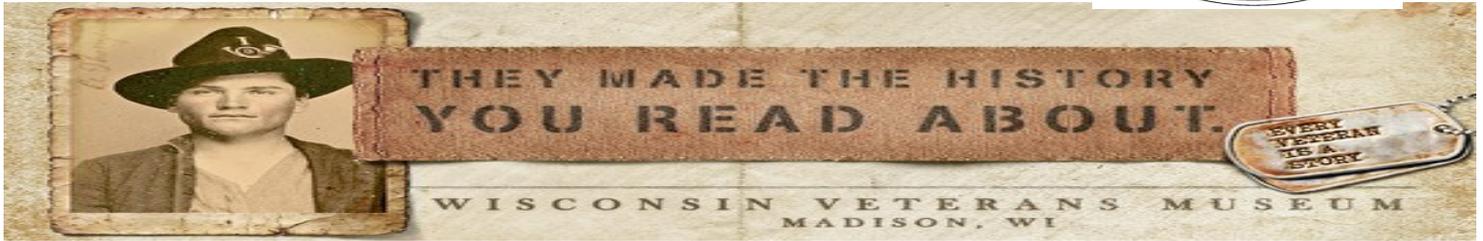
**Come on down to the American Legion hall every Wednesday night
and take a chance at the growing pot. Each week the American Le-
gion plays the 52 card progressive game. The hall opens at 6:30 pm
for ticket sale. The winning ticket gets drawn at 7:30!**

**PLAN AHEAD, CALL BEFORE YOU GO!,
STILL LOTS OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
CANCELLED OR POSTPONED DUE TO COVID**

**Moose Lodge Bingo
1ST Saturday, each month
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Phillips VFW Post 5778**

**Moose Lodge Bingo
3RD Saturday, each month
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Club 13**





Talking Spirits Cemetery Tours Continue Despite Restrictions

MADISON—For a 23rd year, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum will continue its renowned “Talking Spirits Cemetery Tours,” but with a spin. The “Talking Spirits Cemetery Tours: Myths and Realities” will be presented as a 360-degree virtual tour, launching October 15, 2020 at MadisonCemeteryTours.com.

Due to current restrictions on gatherings set forth by the City of Madison, the museum was unable to obtain a permit for the event at the historic Forest Hill Cemetery on Madison’s near west side. That did not deter the staff from devising a plan to tell the stories of Wisconsin veterans and others interred there.

"This year’s tour presents a unique challenge, and an equally unique opportunity. Using virtual technologies to show you the cemetery, we can take you to remote locations on the grounds and provide you with more stories and details which we haven’t been able to tell on previous tours," said museum director, Chris Kolakowski.

Embedded in the virtual tour are all the anticipated features of the in-person tour. It includes featured vignettes performed by actors who bring to life the tales of four intriguing people. Learn about the man for whom Truax Field is named, Madison’s oldest woman—who has a secret, a Civil War soldier who was shot in the head—and lived, and the capitol’s veteran gardener who suffered a tragic loss on the Fourth of July.

In addition to these riveting tales of Wisconsinites from the past, museum guides share accounts of unique points of interest on the grounds, such as the Caitlin Chapel, Union Rest, Confederate Rest, the effigy burial mounds within the veterans section of the cemetery, stories from the 1918 Pandemic, and more.

More information is available at MadisonCemeteryTours.com.

For additional information, contact:

Wisconsin Veterans Museum

Jen Stevenson | Senior Marketing Specialist

at (608)224-9653

jennifer.stevenson@dva.wisconsin.gov

About the Wisconsin Veterans Museum

Since its creation in 1901, the [Wisconsin Veterans Museum](http://WisconsinVeteransMuseum.org) has existed to acknowledge, commemorate, and affirm the role of Wisconsin veterans in the United States of America’s military past and present. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is an educational activity of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

Program Sponsors

This project is supported by Dane County Arts with additional funds from the Endres Mfg. Company Foundation, The Evjue Foundation, Inc., charitable arm of The Capital Times, the W. Jerome Frautschi Foundation, and the Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation. This project is also funded in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council, with funds from the National Endowment for Humanities and the State of Wisconsin. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this project do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Wisconsin Humanities Council supports and creates programs that use history, culture, and discussion to strengthen community life for everyone in Wisconsin.

This production is costumed in part with the assistance of Children's Theater of Madison and the Madison Arts Production Center.



VA's Home Loan Guaranty program provides regulatory relief in response to COVID-19

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that VA is allowing home mortgage loan deferments for Veterans who have experienced financial hardships due to the COVID-19 national emergency.

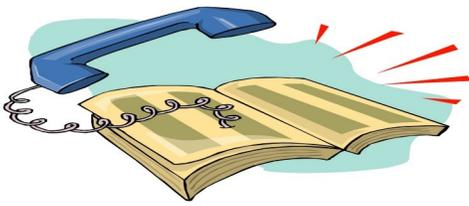
In [Executive Order 13924](#) President Trump directed federal agencies to rescind, modify, waive, or provide exemptions from regulations and other requirements that may inhibit economic recovery.

Many Veterans have taken advantage of the loan forbearance program provided by the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act](#) (CARES Act). Under the Act, borrowers who have federally-backed loans can receive forbearance of their monthly home loan payments, for up to 360 days. Forbearance does not mean forgiveness. As Veterans exit their CARES Act forbearance periods, they must work with their mortgage company to determine when to repay the missed amounts.

To protect against predatory lending, VA regulations generally prohibit a large, lump-sum balloon payment from being included in the loan. However, temporarily waiving the regulation in these limited circumstances means [Veterans have additional options](#) when resuming regular monthly payments after a CARES Act forbearance — without penalty, additional interest, or late fees.

“A loan deferment can work like a reset button to help alleviate economic burdens some Veterans may be experiencing,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Providing loan deferment as an option could be the one thing standing between financial normalcy and foreclosure.”

VA cannot require mortgage companies to offer loan deferments. Veterans who want to know whether loan deferment is an option should consult their mortgage company directly. Learn more about [VA's deferment options](#).



IMPORTANT VA CONTACT NUMBERS



Iron Mountain VAMC Travel Pay Dept. 1-906-774-3300 X32811

<https://www.ironmountain.va.gov/> Iron Mountain VAMC-Ironwood-Rhineland

Tomah VAMC Travel Pay Dept. 1-608-372-3971 X66588

<https://www.tomah.va.gov/> Tomah VAMC-Owen-Wausau-Wisconsin Rapids

Minneapolis VAMC Travel Pay Dept. 1-612-467-1396

<https://www.minneapolis.va.gov/> Minneapolis VAMC-Rice Lake-Hayward-Twin Ports

Patient-Centered Community Care (PC3) is a nation-wide network of community providers VA uses

Optum/CCN Provider Services 1-844-839-6108

Note: This is a provider only contact number. Optum will not speak to the Veteran directly.

Optum/CC Provider Services

<https://veteran.vacommunitycare.com/tpa-ap-web/?navDeepDive=VACCN%20publicMemberHomeDefaultContent>
(Register online track your Optum account)



**National Community Care Contact Center 1-877-881-7618 or
(VA Community Care payment questions) 1-844-802-5847**

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs 1-800-827-1000

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs 1-800-947-8387

TriCare for Life (Retiree) 1-866-773-0404

Direct Deposit for VA Compensation 1-877-838-2778

National Centralized Call Center for Community Care Emergency Treatment Notifications. Veteran or Veteran's Rep. must call within 72 hours being treated in a community emergency room or admitted to a community hospital for emergency reasons) 1-844-724-7842

How else can I update my VA payment information? To cancel paper checks and start direct deposit

Call us at [800-827-1000](tel:800-827-1000) (TTY: [800-829-4833](tel:800-829-4833)), or

Go to your [nearest VA regional office](#) and change this information in person, or

Fill out a VA Direct Deposit Enrollment (VA Form 24-0296) [Download VA Form 24-0296 \(PDF\)](#)

Veterans: A very important reminder.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU NOTIFY THE VA, YOU MUST CALL THE VA WITHIN 72 HOURS OF YOUR VISIT.

If you do not provide notification to the VA, you WILL be responsible for the medical bills. Same holds true with Ambulance, you must give notification to the VA. This is not a new procedure, the VA policy has always been that the Veteran, or Veteran's representative MUST call the VA within 72 hours to inform the VA of their visit. I just want to remind everyone of this responsibility.

THIS IS NEW! PLEASE TAKE NOTE ON NEW EMERGENCY TREATMENT NOTIFICATIONS

Effective June 8, 2020 there will be a national Centralized Call Center for Community Care Emergency Treatment Notifications. To notify the VA if a Veteran is being treated in a community emergency room or admitted to a community hospital for emergency reasons, **call 844-724-7842. Notifying the VA within 72 hours that you are being treated in a community emergency room is still required but it will be made through the national Centralized Call Center, not your local VA (as was done in the past).**

In July, the call center will be staffed 24/7. The notification can be made by the Veteran, the emergency room provider, the Veteran's representative or family member.

email: VHAEmergencyNotification@va.gov

You will be required to provide the following information when emailing your Notification to the VA

Veteran Information

**Name
Social Security #
D.O.B.
Address
Date of Service
Date of Discharge
Admitted? Y / N
Reason for the ER visit**

Treating Facility information

**Name
Address
Contact person**

PACT is the cornerstone of the New Models of Care initiative that is intended to transform the way Veterans receive care. PACT assists VHA in transforming Veterans' care by providing patient-driven, proactive, personalized, team-based care focused on wellness and disease prevention resulting in improvements in Veteran satisfaction, improved healthcare outcomes, and costs. The PACT model is built on the well-known concept of the patient-centered medical home staffed by high-functioning teams.

What is PACT?

A Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) involves each Veteran working together with health care professionals to plan for the whole-person care and life-long health and wellness.

Patient Advocate Tomah VAMC	608-372-7723 Ext. 67723
Patient Advocate Iron Mountain VAMC	906-774-3300 Ext. 34400
Patient Advocate Minneapolis VAMC	612-467-2106



Team-based care
with Veterans as the
center of their PACT

How PACT



Access
to care using
diverse methods

Does a Function



Coordinated care
among team
members

A PACT is a partnership between you and your health care team to ensure you receive whole-person care. This is personalized care to meet your individual health care goals. Your care team looks at all aspects of your health with emphasis on prevention and health promotion.

A PACT offers many ways to access health care. In addition to personal visits with your primary health care provider, you may schedule visits with other members of your team. You also may have access to group clinics and educational seminars, plus a wealth of information on the web through MyHealtheVet. Also, you can communicate with members of your PACT by telephone or through Secure Messaging via MyHealtheVet.

A PACT achieves coordinated care through collaboration. All members of your team have clearly defined roles. They meet often to talk with you and each other about your progress toward achieving your health goals. The focus is on building trusted, personal relationships resulting in coordination of all aspects of your health care.

A PACT uses a team-based approach. You are the center of the care team that also includes your family members, caregivers, and your health care professionals—primary care provider, nurse care manager, clinical associate, and administrative clerk. When other services are needed to meet your goals and needs, another care team may be called in.

WISCONSIN MILITARY I.D. LOCATIONS

(Please note: Call ahead as these numbers are subject to change and many of the sites now require a reserved appt.)

115th FW Wisconsin ANG Madison
115 FSS3110 Mitchell St
MADISON, WI 53704-2591
(608) 245-4468

[Get Directions](#)

128th ARW Wisconsin ANG Mitchell ANGB
128th Air Refueling Wing
1919 E. Grange Ave
MILWAUKEE, WI 53207-6142
(414) 944-8245 Ext:1

[Get Directions](#)

157th MEB Bldg., Milwaukee
4108 N. Richards St
MILWAUKEE, WI 53212-1055
(414) 961-8685

[Get Directions](#)

AG HQ WISCONSIN
2400 Wright Street
MADISON, WI 53704-257
(608) 242-3420

[Get Directions](#)

AG HQ Wisconsin (Deployable 2)
4108 N. Richard St.
MILWAUKEE, WI 53212-1055
(414) 961-8685

[Get Directions](#)

AG HQ Wisconsin (Deployable 3)
HQ 2-127th Infantry
2801 West Second St.

APPLETON, WI 54914-4410
(920) 832-2712

[Get Directions](#)

AG HQ Wisconsin (Deployable 5)
HQ Wisconsin ARNG
724th Engineer Battalion
2811 East Park Avenue
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 54729-3505
(715) 720-3400

[Get Directions](#)

Ft. McCoy
BLDG 35 SOUTH 8TH AVE
FT MCCOY
SPARTA, WI 54656-5150
(608) 388-4563

[Get Directions](#)

NOSC Green Bay
2949 Ramada Way
GREEN BAY, WI 54304
(920) 336-2444 Ext:101

[Get Directions](#)

It has come to our attention that the following announcement from TRICARE (military retirees) has confused some of you and my hope is to clarify the confusion.

TRICARE ANNOUNCES ENROLLMENT FEE FOR RETIREES:

TRICARE Select Enrollment Fees for Group A- If you or your sponsor's initial enrollment or appointment occurred before January 1, 2018, you are in Group **A. Retired Beneficiaries**

You and your family members must now pay a **TRICARE** Select monthly enrollment fee. Your monthly enrollment fee payment will start on **Jan. 1, 2021.**

- For an individual plan, you'll pay \$12.50 per month or \$150 annually.
- For a family plan, you'll pay \$25.00 per month or \$300 annually.

Learn More about **TRICARE Select Enrollment fees.**

This enrollment fee has NOTHING to do with your VA medical care. UNFORTUNATELY, this fee will be implemented on January 1, 2021 for MILITARY RETIREES.

I believe that some of our Veteran's are confusing **TRICARE** with **TRIWEST.**

TRI-WEST is the previous contracted VA Community Care provider services. The new provider services are with **OPTUM**, Community Care Provider services (see pg. #11 in this issue). **TRICARE** is for **military retirees,** and these are the folks that will now have to start paying an enrollment fees starting January 1, 2021.

Veteran Transportation



Transportation for Veterans originates at the Price County Veteran's Service Office (CVSO). If you are a Veteran, contact the CVO at 715-339-2545 to find out if you qualify. Veterans will be allowed up to 3 scheduled trips per week provided a driver is available and other sources of transportation such as family and friends are not available. Fees are based on the Price County Veteran's Service Office rules and regulations.

Transportation of veterans to VA medical facilities is a service provided by the Price County Veterans Service Commission. It is funded by Price County taxpayers and administered on a daily basis by the Price County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) who schedules the transportation with the Price County Aging Unit's volunteer driver organization. **THIS SERVICE IS NOT FOR EMERGENCIES.**

Though drivers are only compensated for the use of their personal vehicles (they receive no hourly pay or meal reimbursement), Since we have an obligation to the taxpayers and our veteran population to use our limited resources to benefit the greatest number and the most needy veterans, the following policies have been established:

This service is for veterans who are unable to get themselves to scheduled VA medical appointments due to disabilities and/or unavailability of transportation. Those veterans who are able should drive themselves or make arrangements with family members or friends. This service is not intended to simply be a more convenient or cheaper transportation option. If you have, or can arrange, other transportation, but don't have funds for fuel, contact the CVSO, and we will try to assist. **Family members will not be reimbursed for transportation.**

A small fee will be charged to partially offset the cost of providing this service.

You are expected to pay .25 cents per mile. A bill will be mailed from the Veterans Service office the first week of the preceding month.

It is **your responsibility** to personally collect your travel pay by insuring your direct deposit information is correct at your VAMC facility.

We try to be flexible on this point. If a financial hardship exists, don't let that stop you. Please discuss the matter with the CVSO, and we will try to assist if at all possible.

Drivers are instructed not to accept or request gratuities in any form (tips, meals, etc.) and to avoid unauthorized stops and/or side trips. Food and bathroom stops are authorized. **If you need to arrange transportation to a medical facility, you will need to contact the COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE directly at (715) 339-2545. Please do not contact the Commission on Aging or the drivers.**

This office will not reimburse members of Veterans Service Organizations for short notice transportation. Only transportation scheduled with the Commission on Aging will be reimbursed.

If, in the judgment of the County Veterans Service Officer, it is determined that transportation services are being abused or used unnecessarily, services may be denied. The decision of the CVSO may be appealed to the Veterans Service Commission; they will make the final decision. If you have complaints, questions or suggestions concerning this service, please put them in writing and submit them to either the CVSO or the Commission on Aging. **We want to provide a quality service to you.**





American Legion

Time and Place of Meeting

- Post 122 600 PM 3rd Tuesday/ VFW Hall, Phillips
- Post 182 630 PM 2nd Monday/Legion Hall, Park Falls
- Post 452 700 PM 2nd Thursday/ Town Hall, Spirit
- Post 362 600 PM 1st Wednesday/ Fire Station Kennan April - December
- Post 532 600 PM 2nd Tuesday/ Fifield Town Hall



AL Aux.

- Unit 122 1:00 PM 3rd Tuesday/Concrete Park Studio
- Unit 182 6:00 PM 2ND Monday/Legion Hall, Park Falls

AMVETS

- Post 50 630 PM 1st Tuesday/VFW Building, Phillips

AMVETS Aux.

- Unit 50 8:00 a.m. 2nd Wednesday/Phillips Café, Phillips

VFW

- Post 5778 600 PM 1ST Monday/ VFW Hall, Phillips
- Post 8491 700 PM 3rd Sunday/ VFW, Prentice

VFW Aux.

- Unit 5778 1:30 pm 2nd Monday,VFW Phillips



This Newsletter is brought to you by Price County Veterans Service Office. It is our intent to provide this newsletter every month or every other month to keep you informed and updated on VA procedures and practices.

Occasionally, we make an error. We apologize in advance and welcome your input! If you would like to receive a copy of this Newsletter via email: contact Lisa at lisa.nagro@co.price.wi.us

If you know of a Veteran that would like to be added to our email list, please have the Veteran email or call me with info.



If you would like to post an event or newsworthy information in our Newsletter, please email or call me at least a week prior to publishing, I will do my best to get your notices in our Newsletter.

October Important Military Dates

- October 12, 2015 – Columbus Day
- October 13, 2015 – Navy Birthday
- October 26, 2015 – National Day of the Deployed



DID YOU KNOW????? Thousands of resources in Wisconsin

<https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/providers>

211 connects you with thousands of nonprofit and government services in your area. If you want personal assistance call the three-digit number 211 or 877-947-2211. **A friendly voice to talk with you 24/7/365.**



Veterans wishing to volunteer their time are always needed to participate in local parades/celebrations/Military funerals.

If you are or know someone who may be interested, please contact Chuck Johnson at 715-339-6193. Now, more than ever we need your help as our Veteran volunteer groups are diminishing.



LINKS: [Price County Veterans Service Webpage](#) [Camp American Legion](#)
[Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs](#) [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
<https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/>

Memorial Grove Hemlocks

Location

This grove is located in the Pike Lake region. From the intersection of State Highways 70 and 13 in Fifield, go east on 70 18 miles to a small wayside on the north side of the road. A footpath from the parking area leads north into the forest. Alternatively, from Fifield go east on 70 18 miles, then north on Turner Lake Road/Forest Road 143 0.25 miles to a small parking area, a footpath, and an interpretive sign east of the road.

Description

Memorial Grove Hemlocks features an excellent example of old-growth hemlock forest dominated by hemlock with yellow birch and sugar maple and exhibiting very little evidence of human disturbance. Other trees include basswood, white ash, black ash, paper birch, and balsam fir. Sugar maple is reproducing vigorously in canopy gaps created by windthrow and disease while hemlock seedlings are frequent on down, well-rotted logs but are not reaching sapling size due to browsing by deer and snowshoe hare. Deer browse is also responsible for the reduction of Canada yew, which is present but uncommon in the understory. The shrub layer and herb layer consist of mountain maple, fly honeysuckle, beaked hazelnut, red elder, intermediate wood fern, small enchanter's-nightshade, Canada mayflower, wild sarsaparilla, shining club-moss, and wood sorrel. The forest is situated on end moraine with numerous kettle holes throughout. The site provides good habitat for a variety of forest songbirds including blackburnian, and black-throated green warblers, ovenbird, solitary vireo, golden-crowned kinglet, and brown creeper. The grove was established as a memorial to four Forest Service employees who lost their lives in World War II. Memorial Grove Hemlocks is owned by the U.S. Forest Service and was designated a State Natural Area in 1996. This site is also recognized by the Forest Service as an established Research Natural Area.

History

Memorial Grove Hemlocks, established in 1947, is dedicated to four members of the U.S. Forest Service who gave their lives in World War II. The stand is 325 years old. It is an excellent example of an old-growth hemlock forest dominated by hemlock with yellow birch and sugar maple and exhibiting very little evidence of human disturbance. It is home to various songbirds, white-tailed deer and other animals that depend on old growth forests for their survival and is a fitting place to remember veterans who fought and died for the freedoms we enjoy today.

Research and Natural Area

Memorial Grove Hemlocks is owned by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service. In 1988, the area was established as a Research Natural Area to protect and preserve its unusual old growth native plant and animal communities for scientific study and research, and for the teaching of conservation and natural history. In 1996, it was also designated as a Wisconsin State Natural Area. The public is asked to protect this fragile and unique area by staying on trails and leaving only footprints.

Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP)



Price County energy assistance program 715-339-2158 <https://energybenefit.wi.gov/>

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Department of Administration (DOA) has adjusted the eligibility requirements for residents who are seeking heating and electric assistance through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP).

Eligibility is now based on the household's previous month of income, rather than the former requirement of the previous three months of income. This move was made to ensure those who are recently affected by the COVID-19 response are able to receive assistance quickly. Eligibility requirements are available below:

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) provides assistance for heating costs, electric costs, and energy crisis situations. Operating with federal and state funding, the program provides assistance to households across the state to help lower the burden incurred with monthly energy costs.

Most types of fuel are eligible to receive assistance. Whether you use wood, propane, natural gas, electricity, or fuel oil to heat your home, energy assistance is available if you qualify.

Heating Assistance: WHEAP assistance is a one-time payment during the heating season. The funding pays a portion of the heating costs, but the payment is not intended to cover the entire cost of heating a residence. The amount of the energy assistance benefit varies depending on a variety of factors, including the household's size, income, and energy costs. In most cases the energy assistance benefit is paid directly to the household energy supplier.

Electric Assistance: Your household may be eligible to receive a payment for non-heating electric energy costs through funding provided by Wisconsin's Public Benefits. WHEAP electric (non-heating) assistance is a one-time benefit payment during the heating season. The funding pays a portion of the household's electrical (non-heating) costs, but the payment is not intended to cover the entire cost of the non-heating costs. The amount of the non-heating assistance benefit varies depending on a variety of factors, including the household's size, income, and non-heating costs. In most cases the non-heating assistance benefit is paid directly to the household energy supplier.

Crisis Assistance: A household may be eligible for crisis assistance if you are experiencing an energy emergency. Crisis assistance is available through local WHEAP agencies that provide a 24-hour crisis phone number to help with emergencies that occur after business hours. Crisis assistance is intended to provide emergency and/or preventative services to assist eligible households experiencing an energy emergency. Non-emergency or preventative crisis services are also available and include providing information on how to reduce fuel costs, counseling on budgeting and money management, providing payments to a fuel supplier, and co-pay agreements.

Furnace Assistance: WHEAP emergency heating system assistance can provide services to eligible home owners if the furnace or boiler stops operating during the heating season. Heating system assistance includes payment for repairs, or in some situations your residence may qualify for a total replacement of a non-operating furnace or boiler. Call the local energy assistance office immediately if you are experiencing a no heat situation.

How to Apply: Your household may be eligible for Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) services based on a number of factors. However, if the gross income for your household is less than the amount shown on the following chart, you might be eligible to receive assistance. Households must complete a Home Energy Plus application through the local WHEAP agency: [715-339-2158](tel:715-339-2158)

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ONE MONTH	ANNUAL INCOME
1	\$ 2,389.42	\$28,673
2	\$ 3,124.67	\$37,496
3	\$ 3,859.83	\$46,318
4	\$ 4,595.08	\$55,141
5	\$ 5,330.33	\$63,964
6	\$ 6,065.50	\$72,786
7	\$ 6,203.33	\$74,440
8	\$ 6,341.25	\$76,095

