

# WOODBURY COUNTY VETERAN AFFAIRS



## WELCOME!

The Woodbury County Veteran Affairs Office is happy to serve our Veterans with our very first newsletter! We hope bringing this new feature to you will help bring awareness to what changes are happening in the VA world, Veteran events in the community, and services we offer assistance with.

### What has our office been up to?

The summertime is what seems to be the busiest time for us. From outreach events, appointments in the office, and the Woodbury County Fair, there is no downtime for us!

In the summer of 2022, we started an annual event where we would setup shop in a random spot in rural towns of Woodbury County. We wanted to bring our office out to Veterans who cannot always make the drive to Sioux City for whatever the reason may be, and we have had such a great response to these events!

Our office has also been occupied with PACT ACT claims since the beginning of the year. If you are unaware of what the PACT Act is, it is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for

## STAFF

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**CVSO:**  
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**Please make an  
appointment.**

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**WEBSITE:**  
[HTTPS://WWW.WOODBURYCOUNTIOWA.GOV/VETERAN\\_AFFAIRS/](https://www.woodburycountiowa.gov/veteran_affairs/)

**FACEBOOK:**  
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WOODBURYCOUNTYVA](https://www.facebook.com/WOODBURYCOUNTYVA)

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Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that we assume are caused by exposure to these substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans, and their Survivors, with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve. For even more information on the PACT Act you can reach out to our office and set up an appointment or visit <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>.

This Fall we will still stay busy with events, but with the colder months starting to stroll in, the foot traffic in the office will slow down and events will not be so often. If you ever have any questions about what our office can help you with or you want to set up an appointment, please call us at 712-279-6606! We look forward to hearing from you!

## Upcoming Events

- October 9 to 12- Commisser and CVSO training
- October 26- City of Sioux City Health Fair
- November 3rd- Annual Vet Together, WIT, 10-2 PM
- November 8th - Pancake Feed, Sergeant Bluff Legion Hall, 8-10 AM
- November 11th - Veterans Day Ceremony, Woodbury County Courthouse, 11 AM

## Changes to Iowa Veterans Benefits This Year

- The new Armed Forces Hunting and Fishing licenses are now available to residents of Iowa who serviced in the armed forces of the United States on federal active duty. The new annual hunting and fishing license is \$5 with a \$2 processing fee. To qualify, Veterans will need to submit a one-time application with a copy of their DD 214. To apply you can stop by our office.
- Governor Kim Reynolds signed a new property tax law on May 4th. With the new law, the military service property tax exemption and credit increased from \$1,852 to \$4,000, starting with the assessment year beginning on Jan 1, 2023. The exemption is available to "an honorable separated, retired, furloughed to a reserve, placed on inactive status or discharged Veteran." To make sure you are signed up for this benefit, please stop by the county assessor's office with your DD 214.



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



## Eligibility for VA Disability Benefits

Review VA disability benefits eligibility criteria to find out if you can get disability compensation for an illness or injury that was caused by—or got worse because of your active military service. Compensation may include financial support and other benefits like health care.

### Eligibility for VA disability benefits

You may be eligible for VA disability benefits or compensation if you meet both of these requirements.

#### Both of these must be true:

- You have a current illness or injury (known as a condition) that affects your mind or body, **and**
- You served on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training

#### And at least 1 of these must be true:

- You got sick or injured while serving in the military—and can link this condition to your illness or injury (called an in-service disability claim), **or**
- You had an illness or injury before you joined the military—and serving made it worse (called a preservice disability claim), **or**
- You have a disability related to your active-duty service that didn't appear until after you ended your service (called a post service disability claim).

### Presumptive conditions

For some conditions, we automatically assume (or “presume”) that your service caused your condition. We call these presumptive conditions. If you have a presumptive condition, you don't need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.

**Find out more about these categories of presumptive conditions at [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov).**



## Iowa Veterans Trust Fund

The State of Iowa established a multi-million-dollar fund to provide certain services to Veterans. Interest from this fund has been available to provide relief for Iowa Veterans and their families. Currently, funds are used for unemployment or underemployment assistance due to service-related causes, assistance with vision, hearing, dental care, durable medical equipment and prescription drugs; counseling and substance abuse services; emergency vehicle repair; housing repair; and transitional housing in an emergency. Trust fund expenditures are approved through the Iowa Veterans Commission. Application is based on income and circumstances. To learn more, please contact our office.



*All profits from the Iowa lottery game provide support to Veterans and their families through the Iowa Veterans Trust Fund.*

### What other State of Iowa benefits are available?

To see a complete list of State of Iowa benefits available to Veterans go to <https://dva.iowa.gov/benefits-assistance/benefits> or contact the Woodbury County Veteran Affairs Office.

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### Home Base Iowa Communities

Home Base Iowa cities provide additional resources and discounts for Veterans who relocate to these communities. The incentives stand alone or complement those offered by the county and state.

Visit Woodbury County's Home Base Iowa site at <https://www.homebaseiowa.gov/resources/communities/woodbury/> to learn more about the resources available to Woodbury County Veterans.



## Greetings From Our Office

*"Just one small positive thought in the morning can change your whole day." Remember this when going through the VA system. We all know that there are ups and downs with the current system and we, your CVSO's in Woodbury County, will continue to do what is best for the Veterans of our County. I truly feel that we as humans, one of our many purposes is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others. Our office is a true representative of that thought and I hope that we provide all we can for Woodbury County's Service Members.*

**-Loni Kuhlmann, Executive Director**

*I am so happy to finally be working in a position that means so much to me personally, and that I know is making such a difference in my community. To be able to help as many Veterans as we do is something I am so thankful for! I have met such amazing people and have made connections with so many others that help our Veterans receive the benefits and resources they need!*

**-Sasha Downs, CVSO**



Do not hesitate to contact the Woodbury County Veteran Affairs Office to find out what VA Benefits you might be entitled to. Some could include:

- Healthcare
- Disability Compensation
- Veterans Driver's License
- Veterans License Plates
- Veterans Hunting/Fishing License
- Pension
- Survivors Benefits
- Burial and Memorial Benefits

### ***Military dates to remember:***

October

- 13- Navy birthday
- 26- National day of the deployed
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November (Military Family Month)

- 11- Veterans day

December

- 1- Civil Air Patrol birthday
- 7- Pearl Harbor Day
- 13- National Guard birthday
- 3rd Saturday- National Wreaths Across America
- 28- Anniversary of the Army Chaplain Assistant

**SEE YOU IN JANUARY 2024 WITH OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER!**