

WOODBURY COUNTY VETERAN AFFAIRS

Welcome to the ninth edition of our Woodbury County Veterans Affairs Newsletter! As we begin another quarter, we're pleased to continue sharing news, resources, and information with the Veterans and families in our community. Our hope is that each edition gives you something useful. Whether it's an update on veterans' benefits, information about upcoming events, local resources, or a program you may not have known was available to you.

We know that veterans and their families have many questions about the benefits and services they've earned. Our office is here to help you find answers, navigate available resources, and connect with the assistance you need.

As always, we encourage you to share this newsletter with a fellow veteran or family member who may find the information helpful. Thank you for your service and sacrifice. It is our privilege to serve you and your families.

2025 Expenditures

Behind every number is a veteran or family member we had the opportunity to assist. Here's a look at our total expenditures for 2025 and the resources dedicated to serving our county's veteran community.

Total Direct Expenditures	Compensation & Pension	Insurance	DIC & Survivors Pension
\$37,908,017	\$34,880,822	\$2,804,760	\$222,435

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HOURS: 8AM - 4PM

**Please make an
appointment.**

WEBSITE:

[HTTPS://WWW.WOODBURYCOUNTY
IOWA.GOV/VETERAN AFFAIRS/](https://www.woodburycountyia.gov/veteran-affairs/)

FACEBOOK:

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

Veteran Affairs News

DISABLED VETERAN HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

The Iowa Department of Revenue recently issued formal guidance addressing frequent questions regarding the Disabled Veteran Homestead Property Tax Exemption (Iowa Code § 425.2):

- **Grandfathered Credit Modifications:** If a physical footprint changes on a grandfathered property (such as adding new appurtenances, demolishing, or rebuilding a dwelling) and the modification does not legally require a brand-new application, the change is automatically included in the grandfathered credit.
- **Stacking Exemptions:** Claimants receiving the Disabled Veteran Homestead Credit are fully eligible to stack additional exemptions. Qualified veterans may simultaneously receive the 10% homestead exemption and the 65+ homestead exemption provided basic requirements are met.
- **Automatic Carry-Forward & Refiling Rules:** The credit automatically carries forward year-to-year without refiling, provided the veteran or spouse maintains legal/equitable ownership, declares Iowa residency for income tax purposes, and occupies the homestead for at least six months during each calendar year.
- **When Refiling IS Required:** Refiling is required when a property is sold or transferred to a new owner. (Exception: Transfers resulting from a dissolution of marriage under Iowa Code Chapter 598 do not require refiling.) Additionally, if the owner ceases using the property as a homestead or moves out for more than six months in a calendar year, they must notify the county assessor, terminating the claim.
- **Surviving Spouse & Prior Approvals:** Taxpayers receiving the credit prior to July 1, 2026, do not need to submit new exemption forms. Furthermore, surviving spouses qualifying under Iowa Code § 425.1(2)(b)(1)(d) are not required to file a new application; the existing credit automatically continues to the estate of the owner, surviving spouse, or qualifying child.

IOWA VETS CEMETERY SECURES EXPANSION GRANT

The Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs has officially been awarded a \$1,358,525 federal grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration (NCA) to expand the Iowa Veterans Cemetery in Dallas County.

Expansion Scope & Impact:

- **2,160 New Above-Ground Niches:** Funding will construct 2,160 new columbarium niches along with extensive surrounding site improvements.

Veteran Affairs News Continued...

- **Zero Cost to Taxpayers:** Fully funded through the federal Veterans Cemetery Grants Program, this project brings vital infrastructure dollars directly to Iowa at zero cost to state taxpayers or military families.
- **Meeting Modern Demands:** Out of more than 9,300 total interments at the 103-acre Van Meter sanctuary, over 6,700 cremated remains are placed across 11 existing columbarium walls. This proactive expansion ensures Iowa can accommodate the growing national and statewide preference for cremation interments while maintaining a peaceful, dignified resting place.

Benefits you may not know about!



TDIU (Temporary Disability Individual Unemployability)

If you cannot work because of a disability related to your service, you may qualify for TDIU. This means you may be eligible to get disability compensation or benefits at the same level as a Veteran who has a 100% disability rating.



Am I eligible?

You may be eligible if you meet the requirements listed here:

Must be true: You can't have a steady job that supports you financially because of your service-connected disability. Odd jobs don't count.

And 1 of these must be true:

- You have at least 1 service-connected disability rated at 60% or more disabling OR
- You have 2 or more service-connected disabilities with at least 1 rated at 40% or more disabling and a combined rating of 70% or more.

Contact our office for more questions!



Benefits continued...

Free Lifetime National Parks Pass

Every Veteran with a service-connected disability rating, any rating, even 0%

OR Veterans with a permanent disability – whether or not service –connected, receive a FREE lifetime America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass.

****Active military members (free annual pass, not lifetime)**

What it covers:

- ALL national parks
- National forests
- Bureau of Land Management recreation sites
- Army Corps of Engineers sites
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service refuges
- Bureau of Reclamation sites

How to get it:

- In person (easiest): Walk up to any national park entrance station or federal recreation site. Show your VA award letter and they hand you on the spot.
- Online: Visit store.usgs.gov/pass and apply with your VA award letter. Pay \$10 shipping for the physical pass.
- By mail: Send a copy of your VA award letter to USGS (address provided at the website above)

Upcoming Events

- **October 29 - City of Sioux City Health Fair, STF Expo Center**
- **November 4 - Annual Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast, Sgt Bluff Legion**
- **November 11 - Annual Veterans Day Program, County Courthouse**





Veterans in Suicidal Crisis

The VA will provide, pay for, or reimburse emergency care for certain veterans and individuals, for ambulance transportation costs, follow-on inpatient, or residential care related to the event for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days, including social work. Inform the emergency care provider to report your emergency treatment to the VA Centralized Emergency Care Reporting Center as soon as possible after your treatment starts by using the VA Emergency Care Reporting portal or calling the VA 72-Hour Notification Hotline at 844-72-HRVHA (844-724-7842).

Military dates to remember:

October:

- 13 - Navy Birthday
- 26 - National Day of the Deployed

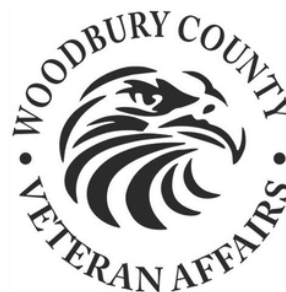
November: (Military Family Month)

- 10 - Marine Corps Birthday
- Veterans Day

December:

- 1 - Civil Air Patrol Birthday
- 7 - Pearl Harbor Day
- 13 - National Guard Birthday
- 19 - National Wreaths Across America
- 20 - Air Force Birthday
- 28 - Anniversary of the Army Chaplain Assistant

American Legion: 515-323-7532
VA Benefits Hotline: 1-800-827-1000
QTC: 1-800-682-9701
VES: 877-637-8387
Optum Serve/LHI: 866-933-8387
Sioux City CBOC: 605-232-2800
Sioux Falls VA Hospital: 1-800-316-8387



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