

Veterans Commission Mtg minutes

11/14/2023

4:00pm 970 Court Ave ICCVA Office downstairs in Court House

Called to order at : 4:06pm

Motioned for Adjournment: 4:39pm

Members Present: Kayne Robinson, Patty Heitshusen

Guest: *Jon Degen*

Phone Conference: Michael Waughop

Open Forum: (Guests welcome).

New Business:

December 2023 Schedule: Monday and Tuesday December 25th and 26th, 2023 the office will be closed. Monday January 1st the office will be closed as well.

Iowa County Veteran of the Year: The plaque was presented to Mr. Tom Thys on Friday November 10th, 2023 at the HLV School Veteran's Day presentation.

Donation Drive for the Iowa Veterans Home: The donation boxes to receive items for the Iowa Veterans home have been placed in the Iowa County Court House in the entry, as well as Williamsburg City Hall. The final date for donation will be December 12th, 2023. All items will be delivered to the Veterans Home in Marshalltown on Thursday December 14th, 2023.

Concerns: In October we discussed the concerns about the two suicides of elderly veterans in Marengo. The office has been notified of two veterans (One from Marengo, one from Williamsburg) that are currently missing. The one from Williamsburg has made contact with someone in Davenport but his whereabouts are still unknown. The last contact I had from the Veteran from marengo was last Thursday November 9th, 2023 at 6:30pm. His last know whereabouts was in Grinnell Iowa. The sheriff's office is aware of both veterans and will keep the office posted with any developments.

C&C (Coffee & Camaraderie): Coffee & Camaraderie Thursday 9 November 2023 at DK Eatery at 9:00am was well attended, we had 7 veterans in attendance. December's coffee and camaraderie will be in Williamsburg at the Brick House Coffee shop on Thursday December 14th, 2023 at 9:00am.

VA Percentage increase for 2024: A 3.2% percent increase is forecasted for all veterans receiving pension and/or compensation benefits.

Veteran Grave Donation and approval for use: The Iowa County Commission of Veteran Affairs had another donation of a grave plot, located at the International order of the Odd Fellow (IOOF) cemetery in Marengo. The City of Marengo submitted the deed to the recorders office.

On an unrelated note, we have a younger veteran who passed away from cancer. His name is Larry D. Sabin. He was a Persian Gulf veteran who died of Cancer. His mom is buried at this cemetery, which is how we began working with his family (who reside in Washington State). I am working with the family to file for benefits as well. I am recommending that the commission approve the Veteran to be buried in Section B, Plot section 33. Motioned for approval by Patty, seconded by Mike, all in Favor.

World War II Veterans: Veterans of World War II who served anytime from Dec. 7, 1941, to the end of 1946, are entitled to no-cost VA health care, meaning no co-pays or monthly premiums, the department said. That includes care at nursing homes. This update from the VA was posted approximately 22 hours ago. There has been no additional information or guidance provided by the VA on how to assist veterans in obtaining this benefit.

Claims Generated in the past 30 days:

23 claims has been submitted since 10/24/23, 14 claims are new to filing anything through this office.

Closed Session if needed: NA