

VETERANS CONNECTIONS

News from the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs ★ Volume 3, Issue 1 ★ April 2023



★ Message from IDVA Director Terry Prince

Spring is in the air and with it comes a very busy time for the Agency. It began with the presentation of the IDVA Fiscal Year 2024 budget request to the Illinois House and Senate where we requested the largest increase in the Agency's history. Testimony season offers me a wonderful opportunity to share our story with members of the legislative budget committees about the great work IDVA is doing in districts all over the state.

In this issue of Veterans Connections, you will also see our recognition of "Purple Up" Day, where our staff paid homage to the nearly 1.2 million military children who are stationed with their families all over the world. Often referred to as "military brats" they feel the pride of their parent's service, the pain of deployments, and the stress of multiple household moves. Did you know the term "Brat" is an acronym for "British Regiment Attached Travelers (BRATs)? A term that dates all the way back to 1921 to describe family members who traveled abroad with British troops.

We also showcase our incredible volunteers as we have come to rely on them to make this mission work and, a very special retirement of a shipmate, who has served the State for over 14 years at the Illinois Veterans' Home at LaSalle. We are also busy planning for summer events including Memorial Day and the Springfield and DuQuoin State Fairs. Please consider joining us at one of the Fairs, which offer a full day of Veteran and family specific programming. More information will follow through this newsletter and other announcements.

You will also see IDVA Veteran Service Officers around the state at county fairs and local Veteran organization events to inform how we can serve Veterans in obtaining their earned benefits and services. Of course, you never have to wait for assistance as you can always reach the IDVA team at **217-782-6641**. Our friendly staff will gladly assist you or route your call to a local VSO who can answer questions and assist you with USDVA pension and benefit claims. Our VSO locations can be found here: <https://veterans.illinois.gov/serviceoffices.html>.

Friends, Illinois offers an incredible array of benefits for its Veterans, their families and survivors. One of the best are the Illinois Veterans' Homes in Anna, Chicago, LaSalle, Manteno, and Quincy. For those in need of long term or domiciliary care, we hope that you give us a look. Our teams are excited to welcome eligible new residents as COVID restrictions change.

Finally, it's an exciting time as we look ahead to the next four years, and I welcome your feedback on how we can improve and what seems to be working well. As always, thank you for staying connected with IDVA. It is an absolute honor to serve in this role.

Thank you for staying connected to IDVA.

Sincerely,
Terry Prince
IDVA Director

United States Department of Veterans Affairs Updates Mission Statement



VA | U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

"To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors."

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs recently announced an updated version of its mission statement, "To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors."

According to the USDVA, this new mission statement is inclusive of all those who have served in our nation's military — including women Veterans — as well as Veteran families, caregivers, and survivors. VA currently serves more than 600,000 women Veterans, the fastest growing cohort of Veterans. VA also serves more than 50,000 Veteran caregivers, more than 600,000 Veteran survivors, and millions of Veterans who did not serve in combat. In crafting the new mission statement, VA surveyed roughly 30,000 Veterans. Among Veterans surveyed, the new version of VA's mission statement was chosen over the current version by every age

group; by men and by women; by LGBTQ+ Veterans; and by white, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian and American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans.

"Whenever any Veteran, family member, caregiver, or survivor walks by a VA facility, we want them to see themselves in the mission statement on the outside of the building," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "We are here to serve all Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors — and now, our mission statement reflects exactly that."

"I applaud this forward thinking and the efforts to recognize all those who serve our nation," said Director Terry Prince. "IDVA's new Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles is inclusive of all Veterans' families and acknowledge that service is not finite, it lasts a lifetime. We are here to ensure that Veterans and their families are not alone in their quest for a good life for themselves and their families in Illinois."

IDVA's Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles can be found on the IDVA website: <https://veterans.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/veterans/features/spotlights-on-front-page/idva2023-2027strategicplan.pdf>

The original USDVA mission statement read: "To fulfill President Lincoln's promise 'to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan.'" The previous mission statement is posted in roughly 50% of VA's facilities. Over the coming months, VA's new mission statement will replace the previous version.



House and Senate Budget Hearings

On Wednesday March 23, IDVA testified before the House Appropriations Health and Human Services Committee, and on March 29, IDVA testified before the Senate Appropriations Health and Human Services Committee. Director Prince presented a detailed budget requesting resources to position IDVA to enhance its service to Veterans across Illinois.

In presenting the budget, Director Prince noted that the request focuses on three major areas of IDVA's new four-year strategic plan:

1. **OUR PEOPLE** — Knowing that the reputation of IDVA is defined by our most valuable assets, our people. A majority of our staff are women, and our strategic plan focuses on more targeted recruiting and retaining current staff by offering more formal mentoring opportunities and an IDVA Leadership Academy.

2. **OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE** — Our technology, systems, and policies must be state of the art as we serve Veterans and their families, often in their most vulnerable moments.

3. **THE VETERAN EXPERIENCE** — Veterans are our North Star, and we will leave no stone unturned to help them thrive in Illinois.

IDVA requested \$213.3 million budget, an increase of \$29.9 million over its FY23 enacted budget of \$183.4 million.

What is the increase for?

- Fully open the Illinois Veterans' Home at Chicago
- Support its five state-run Veterans' Homes
- Safety and security at its five state-run Veterans' Homes
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility efforts across the agency

This request also accounts for inflation and the annualization of staff hired in FY23.

If the General Assembly appropriates \$213.3 million to IDVA as requested, the budget will help IDVA maintain standard agency operations and expand efforts in a few key areas to improve the veteran experience.

The breakdown of the \$213.3 million budget is as follows:

- \$175.8 million in General Revenue Funds
- \$35.1 million in Other State Funds
- \$2.4 million in Federal Funds

The General Assembly will begin budget negotiations where agency budgets and major priorities will be discussed. The official FY24 budget bill for the State should be introduced mid-May.

Simultaneously, IDVA's Legislative Liaison will continue to track legislation that could impact the agency. Bills will move from their original chamber (House or Senate) and move into the next chamber. Previously, IDVA's liaison was tracking over 100 bills. Approximately 50 of those bills are now moving through the opposite chamber.



Team Budget: Pictured from left to right: Legislative Liaison Sara Augustinas, Fiscal Support David Moody, Chief of Staff Melissa Black, Equal Employment Officer Franklin "Jay" Johnson, Director Terry Prince, Assistant Director Anthony Vaughn, Chief Fiscal Officer Stephanie Heckenkamp, Senior Home Administrator Angela Simmons, Chief Results Officer Chris Wieneke.

Illinois Veterans Homes Are Hiring!

If you are in the pursuit of a meaningful career utilizing your talents and desire to be part of a strong, committed community, look no further than Illinois Veterans' Homes.

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs seeks to add highly skilled and motivated medical professionals and staff to deliver a comprehensive model of care which considers the medical, personal, and emotional needs of each resident. IDVA offers competitive salaries, excellent benefits, professional development opportunities, retirement plans, and outstanding work-life balance. The most rewarding benefit comes from providing service to our beloved Veterans' and their families.

At IDVA we strive to create a work environment that is supportive and develops individuals based on their skills and professional goals. The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs operates five unique Veterans' homes located across Illinois (Anna, Chicago, LaSalle, Manteno, and Quincy) providing skilled and domiciliary care. Whether you prefer to work in an urban, rural, or smaller town setting, there is a Home for you. Working in a Veterans' Home is an opportunity to join a team that shares a mission of building a strong and close community to care for Veterans. To learn more about each of the homes, [click here](#).

VETERANS' HOMES STATEWIDE ARE HIRING

Veterans Nursing Assistant - Certified, Food Service, Housekeeping, and More!



Anna Veterans' Home

618-202-6012 - Human Resources

Chicago

773-824-3876 - Human Resources

LaSalle Veterans' Home

815-410-8390 - Human Resources

Manteno Veterans' Home

815-907-3530 - Human Resources

Quincy Veterans' Home

217-222-8641 - Administration

For job postings, visit:

Careers at State of Illinois (jobs2web.com)



Field Services



Metro Division Supervisor Robert Iverson and Field Training Coordinator Kenneth Bonner (far right at the table) participated in The Veterans Meeting hosted by Prairie State College on March 24th. The interactive town hall meeting was an opportunity for Veterans to hear from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Office of Community Care, Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA), and Jesse Brown VA Hospital leadership, on topics such as the VA's PACT Act and the Mission Act.



Robert Iverson (center), Metro Division Supervisor, attended the Forest Park Veteran Center Vietnam Veterans' Luncheon on March 29th, National Vietnam Veterans Day. He was joined by (left) Elizabeth D. Soto, Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County Superintendent and (right) Deanna "De" Love (Maj. Ret) Director of Veteran Affairs Bureau of Administration, Cook County, IL.

Governor's Challenge Suicide Prevention Training

IDVA is a proud partner of the Illinois Governor's Challenge, a campaign to prevent suicide among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF). The Governor's Challenge is encouraging people from across the state to become part of this crusade to prevent suicide among SMVF. Most recently, it launched its training portal for people to become trained in suicide prevention. Its ambitious goal is to train 70,000 medical professionals, including hospital staff, primary care physicians, police, fire, EMTs and correctional officers, state and local Veteran Service Organizations, social workers and therapists, workplace leaders, school principals, teachers and counselors, faith leaders, and others interested in joining this effort.

Participants will be trained in best practices for preventing suicide by professionals in the field of behavioral health and suicide prevention. They will better understand the challenges and barriers to treatment and how to reach a Veteran before and during a crisis. Participants will also learn to identify the signs of a person considering suicide and how to communicate effectively along with strategies for safely storing firearms.

The online and in-person program includes 15-20-minute training modules. Training participants will earn certificates of completion and licensed employees can earn CEU'S upon course completion. Please take a moment to view this message from Director Prince and learn more about the Governor's Challenge: governorschallenge.illinois.gov

Join the Governor's Challenge in protecting those who have sacrificed to protect our nation.

The Military and Veteran Crisis line number has been simplified. Any Service Member, Veteran, or Family member can Dial 988, then press 1, or text at 838255 to be connected to a medical professional.



Hear the Call:

Know and look for the signs of a veteran in crisis.

Spread the Word:

Share information across Illinois to raise awareness of Veteran suicide and how to find help when it is needed.

Increase Safety by All Means:

Decrease access to lethal means in times of crisis.

Military Sexual Trauma

What is military sexual trauma (MST)?

Military sexual trauma, or MST, is the term used by VA to refer to experiences of sexual assault or sexual harassment experienced during military service.

More concretely, MST includes any sexual activity that you are involved with against your will. Examples include:

- Being pressured into sexual activities (such as with threats of negative treatment if you refuse to cooperate or promises of better treatment in exchange for sex)
- Sexual contact or activities without your consent, including when you were asleep or intoxicated
- Being overpowered or physically forced to have sex
- Being touched or grabbed in a sexual way that made you uncomfortable, including during hazing experiences
- Comments about your body or sexual activities that you found threatening
- Unwanted sexual advances that you found threatening



The identity or characteristics of the perpetrator, whether you were on or off duty at the time, and whether you were on or off base at the time do not matter.



How common is MST?

VA's national screening program, in which every Veteran seen for health care is asked whether he or she experienced MST, provides data on how common MST is among Veterans seen in VA.

National data from this program reveal that about 1 in 3 women and 1 in 50 men respond "yes," that they experienced MST, when screened by their VA provider. Although rates of MST are higher among women, because there are so many more men than women in the military, there are significant numbers of women and men seen in VA who have experienced MST.

How can MST affect someone?

Although trauma can be a life-changing event, people are often remarkably resilient after experiencing trauma. Many individuals recover without professional help; others may generally function well in their life but continue to experience some level of difficulties or have strong reactions in certain situations. For some people, the experience of MST may continue to affect their mental and physical health in significant ways, even many years later.





Monthly Highlights



Vietnam Veterans Pinning Ceremony

On March 29th, National Vietnam War Veterans Day, more than 40 Vietnam Veterans and their families attended the Vietnam War Veterans Pinning Ceremony hosted by The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, the American Legion Post 73, VFW Post 4495, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Remarks were delivered by IDVA VSO Chad Roach, Post Commander Dean Ray (Vietnam Veteran), Taylorville Mayor Bruce Barry, and Colonel Robert Tyler, USMC (ret). Additionally, Illinois state lawmakers voted March 29th as the first Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in Illinois. This year marked the 50th anniversary of the final United States combat troops withdrawing from Vietnam in 1973.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day, designated every March 29th, is a day to honor all the men and women who served and sacrificed. On this day, thousands of organizations from across the nation join to honor and thank over six million Vietnam War veterans and nine million family members for their service and sacrifice. They do this through various ceremonies and vigils where every Vietnam Veteran, surviving spouse or family member is properly welcomed home and receives a lapel pin as a small token of the Nation's gratitude.



Pictured from left to right: Gwen Diehl, Master of Ceremonies – Post Adjutant, VFW Post 4495 – Vietnam Era Veteran; Chuck Schneider, Past Commander, VFW Post 4495 - Vietnam Veteran; Colonel Robert Tyler, Keynote Speaker – Vietnam Veteran; Micah Hankla, Commander, VFW Post 4495 – Iraq-Afghanistan Veteran; Jim Businger, Past Commander, VFW Post 4495 - Vietnam Veteran; Glen Goodrich, Past Commander, VFW 4495 and District 21 – Bugler, Taylorville Honor Guard

IDVA Visits Marion VA Hospital

Director Prince and Senior Home Administrator Angela Simmons visited the Marion VA Hospital as part of IDVA's continued partnership with the VA. Each of IDVA's Homes is connected to a VA Hospital with the Marion VA Hospital serving the Veterans' Home at Anna. For the first time, quarterly meetings have been planned to strengthen communication and ensure seamless care for the Veterans at the Anna Home.



Pictured from left to right: VAMC Marion Chief of Staff Dr. Clint Connor, Executive Director Zach Sage, IDVA Director Terry Prince, IDVA Senior Homes Administrator Angela Simmons, and VAMC Marion Nurse Executive Dr. Donna House.



Director Prince congratulates the Loyola University SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society (SALUTE) inductees on Loyola's Lakeshore Campus. SALUTE recognizes and honors the service and the scholastic achievements of this generation's greatest veterans. SALUTE is an acronym for the Society's Values: Service, Academics, Leadership, Unity, Tribute, Excellence.

Purple Up Day In Honor of Military Children

"I wanted to send a BIG thank you to everyone that participated in today's Purple UP day to show appreciation for the military child. I participated today in honor of my daughter, Gabriella. She's been a military child her ENTIRE life (still going strong) and has made many sacrifices so her parents could serve. Everything that I went through, she went through too. These kids deserve the world."

- United States Marine Corps Veteran and IDVA Operations & Programs Manager Danielle N. Luevano

This is a photo of my daughter Gabriella pinning me to the rank of E-6 (Staff Sergeant)



Veterans' Home at LaSalle



Veterans' Home at Quincy: Chief Engineer Dave Clifford and Engineering Office Associate Lisa Schnelle. Ms. Schnelle is a Navy Veteran who served four years as an Aviation Maintenance Administrationman, or "AZ" for short.



Veterans' Home at Quincy: Fifer Hall



Veterans' Home at Quincy Residents: Ann Hughes (non-veteran) and George Herendeen (United States Marine)



Veterans' Home at Manteno Volunteers



IDVA Central Office: Fiscal Team



Veterans' Home at Manteno Staff



IDVA Chicago Office



IDVA Central Office



Veteran Service Officer Melissa Downey



Veterans' Home at Anna

Gold Star Spouses Day – April 5th
Gold Star Siblings Day – April 10th



To recognize the sacrifices of Gold Star Spouses and Gold Star Siblings, Governor JB Pritzker and Director Terry Prince shared these messages:

[Gold Star Spouses](#)

[Gold Star Siblings](#)

Volunteers Week – April 24-28

Thank you to IDVA Volunteers for all that you do for Veterans

IDVA's five Veterans' Homes across the state – Anna, Chicago, LaSalle, Manteno, and Quincy – are enhanced by the extraordinary contributions of volunteers in their homes. They bring energy, creativity, and compassion through acts of kindness from assisting with projects, simple visits, serving food, and accompanying Veterans to doctor's appointments. We treasure their time and talent and thank them not just during Volunteers Week, but every day. Here are some photos of our volunteers in action.

Veterans' Home at Anna



Volunteer Chelsea Maynor



Notre Dame High School volunteers with Veteran George Helfrich.



Notre Dame High School students



North Dame High School volunteers

Veterans' Home at Manteno



United States Army Veteran Louis King knows when to hold them with volunteer Kathy Call.



Volunteer Janet Fogarty and United States Army Veteran Joe Norz.



Volunteer Janis Caideux and U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Joe Knoll and Resident Council President have a serious pie discussion.

Veterans' Home at Quincy



Margie Sly with residents at Fifer.



United States Army Veteran Gloria Smith Deanes and Volunteer Kathy Call go for a stroll.



Craven Gilley calling bingo at Fifer Hall.



Volunteer Gerald Gengenbacher at the woodworking area with United States Army Veteran Frank Gavenia.



Pictured from left to right: Volunteer, resident, and United States Air Force Veteran Mike, Volunteer Peg Seeley, and Librarian Bobbi Mock.



Pictured from left to right: Volunteer and Resident United States Marine Corps Veteran Tom Spohr and United States Army Veteran Maurice Wells (sitting). Volunteer Linda McClelland, United States Navy Veteran Jeff Carnahan and, United States Navy Veteran Richard Atteberry (standing).



Popcorn Volunteers From left to right: Mike Fitzgerald, Tom Boden, Joan Queroli (resident & she helps them too), Donna Williamson, Kathy Fitzgerald. Sue Reichert, hospital representative for the American Legion Auxiliary provides goodie cart for residents every Tuesday.



Left to right: Residents Vivian Henry, June Huff, Betty Bradshaw, Volunteer Sue Reichert, and US Army Veteran Maurice Wells.

Veterans' Home at LaSalle



We LOVE
our
VOLUNTEERS!

Top Row: Volunteer Geri Anderson and resident United States Army Veteran and resident Robert Mladic; Pictured from left to right: Retired Volunteer Coordinator Susan Scully, Volunteers Kathy; Koscielski and Mitzi Banich; Honor Guard; Visit a Veteran Group; Second row: Residents enjoying lunch; Pastor Bill Jacobsen; Volunteers Marion Thompson, Hank Roe; Bottom Row: Volunteer Brandi Battaglia and US Navy Veteran and resident Dan Begyn; Jerilyn Brown and Jim Boldt; Combat Veterans Association; Volunteer Tracy Sment

Veterans' Home at Chicago



Happy Easter from volunteer Brian Supancic and the Chicago Activities Team from left to right: Celene Hernandez, Julie Moreno, and Ashley DiCristofano.



Volunteers Brian and Sandy Supancic.



Volunteers Robert Arens and Paul Bezazian.

Team IDVA

Administrative Professionals Day – April 26th

Join us in thanking our Administrative Professionals who are IDVA's foundation and are central to how we serve Veterans.



Director Prince and Jenny Franklin, Central Office, Springfield
"Since day one, Jenny Franklin has made my life easier, and I often think I would be lost without her. She, like all our Administrative Professionals, makes the impossible, possible. There are very few people who are cut out to function the way executive assistants do and quite frankly, Jenny Franklin is an all-star. What else can I say other than wow?! On this, Administrative Professionals Day, and every day, I say, THANK YOU!" Director Terry Prince



RoseAnn Winkel, Veterans' Home at Manteno
"RoseAnn Winkel is organized, skilled, and highly efficient and also fun! Her favorite quotes are "Go Packers" and "Happy Jeans Friday". I couldn't and wouldn't do this job without her! Thank you RoseAnn. We appreciate you every day!" Tanya Smith, Manteno Home Administrator



Maureen Draganowski, Veterans' Home at Chicago
"Maureen has become an invaluable member of our team. The impact of her enthusiasm, creativity, and can do attitude can be seen throughout IVHC. Maureen is always ready to jump in and help where needed, she freely shares everything from her administrative skills and community resources to the best recipes and delicious homemade treats. Her joy and kindness extends to all staff, residents, families and guests. Maureen is such a joy to work with and her support to the Home is very needed and appreciated." T'Kira Siler-Wilkerson, Chicago Home Administrator

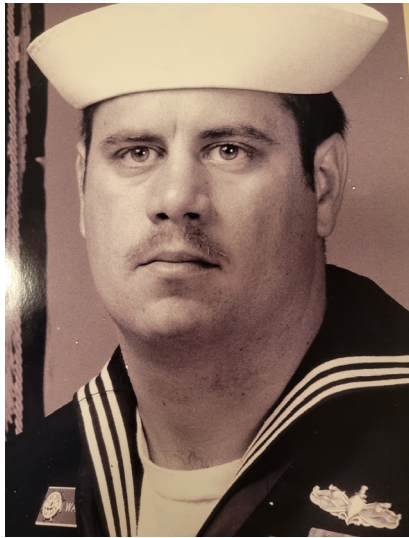


Carla Trautvetter started with IVHQ in February 2017 as the Executive Secretary to the Superintendent.
She comes from a lifetime history of bookkeeping and administrative experience in banking, construction and convenience store operations. Carla has a unique ability to warmly welcome all who visit administration. She conveniently prioritizes her guests' requests and responds directly to their needs timely. She is invaluable to the daily operation of this campus, organizing calendar events, managing correspondence with our regulatory agencies and politely fielding calls from our residents on a daily basis. "Carla keeps me in the right place at the right time. She keeps me organized and responsive to all of the critical needs of the day. She is a Joy to work with," said Superintendent Troy Culbertson.



Veterans' Home at LaSalle, Deirdre Worple
Deirdre is a former Supply Specialist (92Y) with the 233rd Military Police Company, Springfield Illinois Army National Guard from 1997-2005. She wanted to work in a field to support Veterans and joined the LaSalle team. "Deirdre typing skill and ability to follow a meeting is like watching a ninja at work. Balance of professionalism and deadly accurate," said Adjutant William Gaefcke

Rodney Andrew Wangelin Retirement



Rodney Wangelin, 1990 Navy Personnel Command Sailor of the Year

Congratulations to Rodney Wangelin on his retirement after nearly 15 years at the Veterans' Home at LaSalle. Rodney, a United States Navy Veteran, joined the LaSalle Home in August 2009 as the stationary engineer assistant chief where he has been instrumental in the expansion of the Home from 120 to 185 residents.

"As I look back on the past 40 years, I always wonder where the years went and what is next," said Rodney. I've learned so much from the Veterans including this quote, 'If you can dream it, then live your dream, for time is not on your side.'"

Rodney joined the Navy on April 1, 1983 and retired as a Senior Chief Engineman on March 31, 2005. During his 22 years of service, he was at sea for 16 ½ years and served on 13 cruises. He reached the rank of Chief Petty Officer within nine years and Senior Chief within 14 years. He was the youngest Sailor in the Navy to qualify as engineering officer of the watch on the USS Lake Champlain (CG-57) as an E-5. Rodney served during the Gulf War, where his last tour was on the USS Inchon (LPH-5) as the Chief Engineer. Over the course of his career, he met five United States Presidents and

the Emperor of Japan. In 1990, he was selected as the Navy Personnel Command Sailor of the Year and had the privilege of joining President H.W. Bush for dinner at the White House.

"As a proud Navy Veteran, Rodney brought real world experience to our Veterans in stories and memories as well as the technical expertise he learned while serving on a ship in the Navy," said Adjutant William Gaefcke. "Rodney was commonly told a problem like "Something is broken in the kitchen, and he would "add it to the list." I've never seen this mystery list, but things were always repaired."

Growing up, Rodney assisted his father on their 2,000-acre dairy farm where they raised the largest herd of Holsteins in Illinois. He graduated from Walnut High School in Walnut, Illinois in 1981 and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

In leaving the LaSalle Home, Rodney told Adjutant William Gaefcke, "Don't worry I'll see you eventually, I already have my room picked out for when it's my time to come here."

He has been married for 40 years to Susan Wangelin and has three children, Joe, Daniel, and Jennifer.

**"Never stop dreaming. Life is tough,
but living life is a gift."
- Rodney Wangelin**

Our mission at the IDVA is very simple. To serve those who have served. In doing so, we serve not only the men and women who have worn the uniform, but also their families. It is our privilege to be able to help our veterans receive the benefits they have earned through service to our nation. Our goal is to empower our veterans and their families to thrive in all aspects of their lives.

We know there are many veterans within our great state who do not require any assistance – but we still want to encourage you to "Stand Up and Be Counted!" by registering with your local VSO. In doing so, you're helping IDVA to do a better job of planning for services, seeking federal funding and understanding the needs of our veteran communities statewide. [Click here to register.](#)

We thank you for your service and for your sacrifice and we at the IDVA look forward to offering our services to you.



Illinois Department of
Veterans' Affairs

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