



Illinois Veteran News

An Update from the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs ★ October 2016

★ From the Director

New Illinois Veterans Home Construction Starts

Thanks to Governor Rauner and the Legislature passing the current Stop Gap budget, the construction of the new Veterans Home at 4350 North Oak Park Avenue in Chicago will restart with an anticipation of construction to be substantially complete in the summer of 2018. The general contractors have been contacted, contracts are being renegotiated and a construction schedule is being finalized.

IVH-Chicago will be the fifth veterans' home in the state. This home will be five stories and include major efforts to harness green energy and construction values as the home will be built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification. This is a testament to its energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly design, which features single-occupancy rooms with private bathrooms, common areas for dining, resident recreation and areas for visitors and guests.

The property is on 7.8 acres of land at the Southwest Corner of Forest Preserve Drive and Oak Park Avenue, with close proximity to the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital and to public transportation. In addition to rooms for residents requiring skilled care, the home will have 40 long-term care beds for veterans with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. When we are closer to the completion of the new home, we will share information regarding resident applications, transfers and other factors for interested veterans and their families. We have a lot to do and will continue to focus on building the best possible home for our much deserving veterans.



This is an architecture drawing of the building and landscaping when all is finished.

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.

★ Serving Those Who Served

You can register a project for volunteers to assist Veterans in November. Illinoisans can look for a project in their area and sign up to volunteer for that project. To register a project or to volunteer for a veteran project go to www.illinois.gov/veterans and click on 'Serving Those Who Served' Follow the prompts on the page and you will be registered either with a project for your veterans organization or to volunteer and help with that project. And after you register, be sure to pick up a STWS t-shirt for only \$10.00 plus shipping. Rags of Honor is a company who hires only veterans, many formerly homeless vets! Here is the link to order your shirt -

<http://shop.ragsofhonor.us/IDVA-Serving-those-Who-Served-Unisex-tee-p/idva-uni-t1.htm>

This is the first year for this program and is planned to become an annual event. "You, your family, friends, church, civic club, scout troop, neighbors could be a big

An Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs program

SERVING ★ THOSE WHO ★ SERVED



help to a group of men and women who could use your volunteer assistance! Whether it's painting, helping with an event or other activities, your volunteer time will make a big difference," said Assistant Director Harry Sawyer.

★ Veterans Home Wish List

The IDVA operates four Veterans Homes throughout Illinois. The homes are caring for our Illinois Heroes. Not all of our Veteran residents can afford items for themselves. Our homes have created a Wish List for our Illinois Heroes. If you would like to donate to the Homes, you can either purchase a new item (we cannot accept used) or mail a check to the Member Benefit Fund. Here is the partial wish list and addresses. Thank you for your consideration!

Clothing Donations	Rationale
Polo Shirts.....	M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL
Cotton Slacks.....	same as above
Velcro Tennis Shoes.....	Sizes 9-10-11-12-13-14
Sandals Velcro Straps	Sizes 8 thru 13
Sweat Suit Outfits.....	Mostly L, XL, XXL
Underwear – Briefs.....	L, XL, XXL,
Underwear- Ladies.....	Sm, Med, Lg
Socks – Ankle Length.....	Large
Socks for Women.....	Anklets
Diabetic socks.....	Mostly L, XL, XXL
Gloves - Men.....	Cold Weather
Gloves – Women.....	Cold Weather
Suspenders (men)	
Belts – Men & Women.....	All sizes

Specific clothing lists are available. We also accept monetary donations for clothing to use when we are out of specific items or sizes. All donations aid the veterans with daily expenses which free up personal funds.

Monetary Donations	Rationale
Postage Stamp Fund.....	Letter Writing
Out to Eat Fund.....	Favorite activities
Blackjack & Bingo.....	Favorite activities

Address

The Adjutant Illinois Veterans Home Anna
792 N. Main Street, Anna, Illinois 62906
Phone: (618) 833-6302

The Adjutant Illinois Veterans Home LaSalle
1015 O'Conor Avenue, LaSalle, Illinois 61301
Phone: (815) 223-0303

The Adjutant Illinois Veterans Home Manteno
1 Veterans Drive, Manteno, Illinois 60950
Phone: (815) 468-6581

The Adjutant Illinois Veterans Home Quincy
1707 N. 12th Street, Quincy, Illinois 62301
Phone: (217) 222-8641

★ IDVA Calendar

- 10/21** Patriotic Volunteer and Appreciation Award-VFW 10302 *Springfield*
- 10/22** Veterans Advisory Council - *Anna Veterans Home*
- 10/27** Veterans Advisory Council - *Peoria*
- 10/29** Montgomery Cemetery civil war Dedication
- 10/29** Korean Vet Recognition Event - *Aurora*
- 11/01-11/30** Serving Those Who Served Projects around Illinois
- 11/05** Veterans Day Parade – IVH-Quincy-flyover Chinook helicopter
- 11/08** General ElectionI - *State Offices Closed*
- 11/09** Heart of Illinois HR CouncilI - *Peoria*
- 11/10** Mt. Zion Middle School-Veterans presentation
- 11/10** Honoring 23 Korean Vets - *Manteno Veterans Home*
- 11/11** Veterans Day - *State Offices Closed*
- 11/11** Camp Butler-Veterans Day program
- 12/07** 75th Anniversary of Pearl HarborI - *Springfield*

★ ADME Applications open!

Are you an entrepreneur in Chicago, Rockford or Peoria with a business idea you are passionate about? We invite you to apply to be a member of the first ADME cohort. The Advancing the Development of Minority Entrepreneurship program will give selected applicants the tools they need to turn their idea into a reality, including access to focused business training, mentoring and networking opportunities, and assistance obtaining capital.

You can find more information, including how to apply, at www.admeillinois.org. Applications are open until October 23, 2016.

★ Gold Star Mother's & Family's Day



Last month we observed and honored all Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Families with two different programs. Governor Rauner and the First Lady joined the Gold Star Mothers at a solemn and sincere luncheon program in Springfield. The next day, the Governor and Assistant Director Harry Sawyer led a Gold Star Family program in the Rotunda of the Capitol.

Since 1936, the last Sunday in September has been designated as Gold Star Mother's Day to recognize and honor those who have lost a child while serving the country in the United States Armed Forces. The event was the result of legislation passed unanimously in the General Assembly last spring to bring recognition to people who are sometimes forgotten when a member of the military is killed.



State of Illinois
Department of Veterans' Affairs



Illinois Department of
Veterans' Affairs