

WOODBURY COUNTY VETERAN AFFAIRS

I don't know about you, but Fall is my favorite time of year! It is sad to see summer go, but we were busy with hosting our annual town events and spending a few days at the Woodbury County Fair. We gave away a plethora of items that we hope everyone enjoyed. It's always so fun to see our Veterans outside of the office! We will continue the rest of the calendar year with hosting our annual Veteran's Day event at the Woodbury County Courthouse and our Pancake breakfast we started last year that is held at the Sergeant Bluff American Legion. You will find a list of events later on in the newsletter and flyers will be attached as well.

We are still just as busy as ever with appointments and had over **120** appointments/walk-ins with over **90** claims filed since July! Woodbury County currently has **1,753** Veterans and/or surviving spouses receiving benefits, resulting in a total amount of **\$2,679,926**.



Starting in October, we will be sending out comment cards with the Veterans copies of their paperwork/claims that were filed in the office. Along with the cards we will include a self-addressed stamped envelope for your convenience. All returned cards will be put in for a quarterly drawing, the first one being in January 2025. We will have a drawing in January, April, July, and October. If your name is picked you will get one of our lovely white tumblers pictured below! So make sure to mail your comment card back to us!



STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
LONI KUHLMANN

CVSO:
SASHA DOWNS
LISA ROBINSON

COMMISSIONERS:
JOSEPH DONOVAN
EMILY CLAYTON
JOHN MANSFIELD
TJ FENNELL
ZANE CHWIRKA

1211 TRI VIEW AVE, STE A
SIOUX CITY, IA 51106
712-279-6606
FAX 712-224-4093

HOURS: 8AM - 4PM

**Please make an
appointment.**

WEBSITE:
[HTTPS://WWW.WOODBURYCOUNT
YIOWA.GOV/VETERAN_AFFAIRS/](https://www.woodburycountyia.gov/veteran_affairs/)

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

Upcoming Office Closures



- Oct 14- Closing at Noon due to office training
- Nov 11th- Veterans Day
- Nov 28th- Thanksgiving
- Nov 29th- Black Friday
- Dec 24-25- Christmas
- Jan 1st- New Years Day

Operation Green Light for Veterans

Shine a light of hope and support for our Veterans

America's counties have a long and proud history of serving our nation's veterans, a legacy that continues to this day as we work with our federal, state and local partners to ensure that the former service members have access to the resources they need to thrive.

Once again this Veterans Day, the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO) invite the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes, and boroughs to join Operation Green Light and show support for veterans by lighting our buildings green from November 4-11, 2024. By shining a green light, county governments and our residents will let veterans know that they are seen, appreciated and supported.

Woodbury County participated in Operation Green Light last year and we plan on participating again this year!

Counties Matter for Veterans

- CVSO's in 29 states are responsible for successfully processing more than \$52 billion in compensation, pension, health care and other benefits for Veterans each year.
- Counties across the nation operate Veterans Treatment Courts, through which we can connect justice-involved Veterans with programs and benefits that can treat underlying mental health and substance abuse conditions.
- Counties support Veterans' access to stable housing, employment and education, and critical mental health services that treat trauma and prevent suicide.

**Light it green to
welcome America's
veterans home**



Veteran Affairs News!

VA TO REVIEW POSSIBLE SERVICE CONNECTION BETWEEN PFAS EXPOSURE AND KIDNEY CANCER:

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it will conduct a scientific assessment to determine if there is a relationship between per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) exposure during military service and kidney cancer among Veterans.

This scientific assessment – a process codified under the PACT Act – will help VA determine if kidney cancer should be considered a presumptive service-connected condition for Veterans exposed to PFAS. When a condition is considered presumptive, eligible Veterans do not need to prove that their service caused their disease in order to receive benefits for it; instead, if they served in certain locations during certain time periods, VA automatically assumes (or “presumes”) that exposure during military service caused the disease and provides benefits accordingly.

This review is a part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s efforts to expand benefits and services for toxic-exposed Veterans and their families, and helps advance the President’s Unity Agenda and Biden Cancer Moonshot goals to understand and address environmental and toxic exposures and end cancer as we know it. As a part of these efforts, VA expedited health care and benefits eligibility under the PACT Act by several years – including extending presumptions for head cancer, neck cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, reproductive cancer, lymphoma, pancreatic cancer, kidney cancer, melanoma, hypertension for Vietnam Veterans, and much more. Since the PACT Act was signed into law, VA has extended presumptions for more than 300 new conditions, including most recently for male breast cancer, urethral cancer, and cancer of the paraurethral glands.

“At VA, we want to understand the health conditions that Veterans are living with so we can provide them with all of the benefits they deserve – and that’s what this review process is all about,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “As a result of this scientific review, we may be able to make kidney cancer a presumptive condition for Veterans exposed to PFAS, thus lowering the burden of proof on these Veterans. But make no mistake: Veterans should not wait for the outcome of this review to apply for the benefits and care they deserve. If you’re a Veteran and believe your military service has negatively impacted your health, we encourage you to apply for VA care and benefits today.”

PFAS are a class of over 12,000 chemicals and have been used in the military since the early 1970s. VA’s assessment methodology follows guidance from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and other key stakeholders, and will consider available peer-reviewed scientific literature, Veteran claims data, and other relevant data.

Veteran Affairs News Continued...



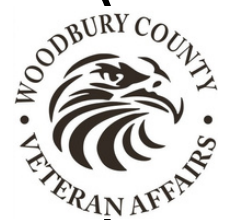
Regardless of whether a condition is an established presumptive condition, VA will consider claims on a case-by-case basis and can grant disability compensation benefits if sufficient evidence of service connection is found – and VA is always working to get to yes.

VA prioritizes claims processing for Veterans with cancer and offers comprehensive cancer care services to Veterans across the nation – from screening through treatment. Since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law, VA has delivered disability compensation benefits to more than one million Veterans and their survivors, amounting to more than \$7 billion in earned PACT Act benefits. During the same period, nearly 740,000 Veterans have enrolled in VA care and more than 5.6 million Veterans have been screened for toxic exposures.

VA is soliciting public comment on the proposed scientific assessment between PFAS exposure and kidney cancer via the Federal Register. The public will have a 30-day period to provide comments. VA will also host a listening session Nov. 19, 2024, to allow individuals to share research and input. Individuals interested may register to participate. The public may also comment via either forum on other conditions that would benefit from review for potential service-connection.

Upcoming Events

- **October 10th- Coffee & Donuts, Hospice of Siouxland Sioux City, IA**
- **October 18th & 25th- Flu shots, CBOC, Dakota Dunes, SD**
- **November 11th- Veterans Day Program, Woodbury County Courthouse**
- **November 12th- Veterans Lunch, Hospice of Siouxland, Sioux City, IA**
- **November 13th- Pancake Breakfast, Sergeant Bluff American Legion**
- **November 14th- Vet Net Event, Sioux City Elks Lodge**



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





U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

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 Day
- 27- Navy Day

November (Military Family Month).

- 1-5- National Veterans Small Business Week
- 10- Marine Corps Day/Birthday
- 11- Veterans Day

December

- 1- Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday
- 7- Pearl Harbor Day
- 13- National Guard Birthday
- 28- Anniversary of the Army Chaplain Assistant

