



# VETERANS ADVOCATE

## New Minnesota License Plate for Veterans

### Special points of interest:

- MN License Plates
- Presidential Memorial Certificates
- The National Veterans Museum
- RH Insurance
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Minnesota veterans now have the opportunity to purchase a special license plate and simultaneously donate to the World War II Veterans Memorial Fund. Minnesota's Driver and Vehicle Services Division (DVS) and the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs have announced that the new veteran's license plates are now available.

The plates feature a prominent United States flag and the legend, "Proud to Be a Veteran." The license plates may be displayed on cars, vans, pick up trucks and recreational vehicles. A special plate application is available at all deputy registrar locations or on DVS's website, [www.mndriveinfo.org](http://www.mndriveinfo.org).

To be eligible to purchase the plates, one must have participated in active military service in a branch of the United States armed forces and received an honorable discharge. Unlike the situation with other veteran plates, there is no restriction regarding dates of service.

Purchase of the new Veteran plates requires a one-time, \$30

contribution to the World War II Veterans Memorial Fund, a \$10 plate fee and a \$7 filing fee. Applicants must provide a certified copy of their separation papers (DD214 or equivalent) at the time of application.

The Minnesota World War II Veterans Memorial is currently in the planning stages; it will be built and placed on the Minnesota Capitol grounds near the already completed Korean and Vietnam Memorials. The cost of the Korean Memorial was about \$600,000 and the cost of the Vietnam Memorial was about \$900,000. The World War II memorial is anticipated to cost about one million dollars. The Memorial Fund is currently almost halfway to its goal. Contributions to the memorial fund are being accepted from veterans and general public at this time.

Michael Pugliese, deputy commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, says the plates were developed as a means for all veterans, even those who have not seen combat, to show pride in having served their country.



## Presidential Memorial Certificates

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased veterans.

### HISTORY

This program was initiated in March 1962 by President John F. Kennedy and has been continued by all subsequent Presidents. Statutory authority for the program is Section 112, Title 38, of the United States Code.

### ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) administers the PMC program by preparing the certificates which bear the President's signature expressing the country's grateful

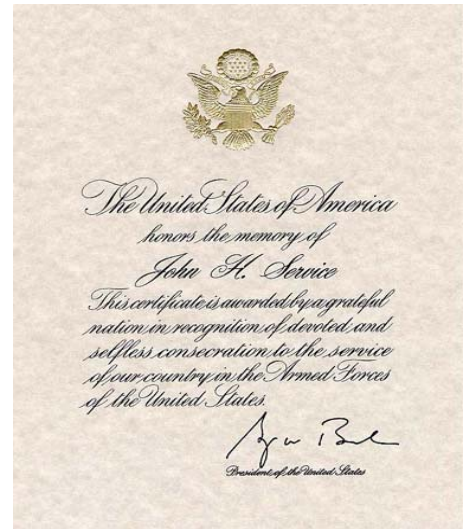
recognition of the veteran's service in the United States Armed Forces.

### ELIGIBILITY

Eligible recipients include the deceased veteran's next of kin and loved ones. More than one certificate may be provided.

### APPLICATION

Eligible recipients, or someone acting on their behalf, may apply for a PMC in person at any VA Regional Office or by U.S. Mail only. Requests cannot be sent via email. There is no form to use when requesting a PMC. Please be sure to include a return mailing address with your request and a copy of the veteran's discharge documents.



Please send your PMC request to:

**Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration (403A)  
810 Vermont Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20420-0001**

## The National Veterans Museum

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has commissioned LORD Cultural Resources and Cannon Design to create a Master Plan for an exciting new museum in the Nation's capital to open in 2004. The National Veterans Museum will tell the story of the VA - a story that is inextricably linked to American history and begins in the earliest years of colonization. The Museum will complement the National Veterans Memorials and military museums in Washington and around the country while providing visitors with a more comprehensive experience. The concept for the Museum is based on the "homecoming" theme.

A range of interactive exhibits will introduce visitors to the services provided by the VA and its precursors including: the benefits programs which have shaped many of the social services Americans know today; the VA health care services and medical research that have helped not only veterans and their families, but people all over the world; and finally, the National Cemeteries. Highlights of the Museum will include state of the art theatrical presentations, a Connections Center where visitors use multimedia computer terminals with Internet access, and interactive audio-visual exhibits. The National Veterans Museum will

reach people all over the United States through a sophisticated outreach program that makes traveling exhibitions, internet-based programs and other programs available to the many VA regional offices, medical centers and other facilities.

"The mission of the National Veterans Museum is to educate the public on the impact of the Department of Veterans Affairs on veterans and their families, the American people, and people throughout the world."

## Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (RH)

### What is Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (RH)?

Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance is life insurance for veterans with service-related disabilities. The basic program, which is called "RH Insurance", insures eligible veterans up to \$10,000. A supplemental policy, called "Supplemental RH Insurance", gives certain disabled veterans extra coverage of up to \$20,000.

### Who is Eligible?

*You are eligible for RH Insurance if:*

- ★ You left service after April 24, 1951 **AND**
- ★ VA has notified you that you have a service-related disability **AND**
- ★ You are healthy except for your service-related disability **AND**
- ★ You apply within 2 years of being notified of your disability.

*Note: If the veteran is mentally incompetent, call the toll-free number below for information about eligibility and time limits.*

*You are eligible for Supplemental RH Insurance if:*

- ★ You have RH Insurance **AND**
- ★ VA has notified you that you don't have to pay your insurance premiums (which is called a waiver) **AND**
- ★ You apply within 1 year of being notified of the waiver **AND**
- ★ You are under 65 years of age.

*Note: In some cases, veterans over age 65 can apply. Call the toll-free number below for details.*

**REMINDER: Waiver of RH Premiums** - you may be eligible for a waiver if you become too disabled to work before your 65th birthday and stay that way for at least 6 consecutive months. (Premiums for Supplemental RH Insurance can't be waived.) Call the toll-free number below for information.

### How Much Does It Cost?

The cost varies depending upon your age, type of plan you select (term or one of several permanent plans), and the amount of coverage.

### How Can You Apply?

*You can apply by using the following forms:*

- VA Form 29-4364 to apply for basic RH Insurance
- VA Form 29-0188 to apply for Supplemental RH Insurance
- VA Form 29-357 to apply for a waiver of your RH Insurance Premiums

For More Information Call Toll-Free 1-800-669-8477  
Or Visit Our Web Site At <http://www.insurance.va.gov>

You can also receive help with questions, or help filling out these insurance forms by visiting your local Veterans Services Offices.

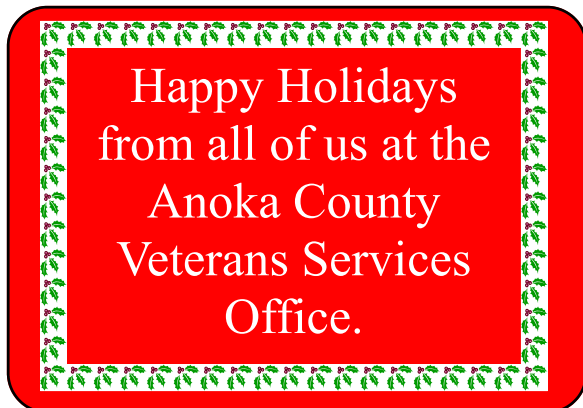
## Anoka County Veteran Services Office

Government Center  
2100 3rd Avenue, Room 233  
Anoka, MN 55303  
763/323-5290

Duane Krueger, Director  
763/323-5294

Phil O'Donnell, Assistant Director  
763/323-5295

Kellie Anderson, Secretary  
763/323-5290



## Service Office Closed

**The Anoka County Veteran Services office will be closed on the following dates:**

Tuesday, December 24, 2002 at Noon  
*Christmas Eve Day*

Wednesday, December 25, 2002  
*Christmas Day*

Wednesday, January 1, 2003  
*New Year's Day*

Monday, January 20, 2003  
*Martin Luther King Day*

Monday, February 17, 2002  
*Presidents' Day*

We highly recommend that you call the office to make sure that there is a service officer in to see you before you arrive. We are a walk-in office and see clients on a first come first serve basis.



### **HOW DO I FIND A SERVICEMATE OR MEMBER OF MY MILITARY UNIT?**

MarineLink supports The Reunions Page. Started April 1, 1998, the list contains reunions from all services listed by date of reunion. New reunions are added daily. You may also add reunion to this list.

You may also look at the veterans groups shown at <http://www.va.gov/bookmark/NonVA.htm>.

Switchboard at <http://www.switchboard.com/> contains over 90 million people and 10 million businesses with their addresses and phone numbers. You may also look at the newsgroups soc.veterans and

alt.war.vietnam. Please be quite cautious using personal information on the newsgroups.

As a Federal agency, according to the Privacy Act, we are obliged to protect the privacy of veterans' personal information. Therefore, VA cannot release personal information about a veteran in our records system without that person's permission. We can, however, forward a message from you to the veteran, providing the veteran has filed a claim with VA and we have an address on record.

Please write your message and place it in an unsealed, stamped envelope. Also include a note to VA explaining who it is you are trying to reach and add as much identifying information as you have. Place all of this in another envelope addressed to the nearest U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office (you can find the address in the "blue" pages of your telephone book).

If the veteran is in our records, your message to the veteran will be sealed and the envelope addressed to the address we have on file for the veteran. The veteran may not have informed us of a change of address. Furthermore, it is then up to the veteran to contact you. If you have questions, you can reach the regional office via phone at 1-800-827-1000. This process is designed to protect the privacy of our veterans as required by law.

Please visit the VA Home Page under the topic "Requests for Veterans' Military Information" for information on obtaining military records.