



Anoka County

MINNESOTA

Veteran Services

Government Center
2100 3rd Avenue, Suite 216
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 324-4500

VETERANS ADVOCATE

Fall 2019

2019 MILITARY RETIREE ACTIVITY DAY

Retiree Activity Day at Treasure Island Casino (formerly known as JRAD-Joint Retiree Activity Day) will be on September 21, 2019 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This yearly event provides retirement benefit information to military retirees, their spouses and widows located in the surrounding areas of the Twin Cities.

For more information, registration, and program information visit the Retiree Activity Day website (<https://sites.google.com/site/metrojrad/jrad-2016>) or call (952) 451-7980.

BLUE WATER VIETNAM VETERANS BENEFITS UPDATE

On June 4, 2019 the U.S. Justice Department decided not to appeal the Federal Circuit decision Procopio v. Wilkie. This means that once VA implements a business process, they will begin to adjudicate claims for service connected disabilities due to herbicide exposure for Blue Water Navy veterans.

Though the Justice Department has decided to not appeal the Procopio decision, VA must still determine how claims for Blue Water Navy veterans will be decided and how effective dates will be assigned. In the meantime, VA will still hold these claims. However, we urge Blue Water Navy Veterans who suffer from disabilities related to herbicide exposure visit our office to file a

disability claim. We anticipate these claims will begin to be adjudicated in January 2020 after the VA hires additional staff and prepares current staff to handle these claims.

MACV DROP-IN LEGAL CLINIC FOR VETERANS

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) hosts free walk-in legal clinics staffed by legal services representatives and pro bono attorneys to assist with legal issues about housing, employment, benefits, expungement, debt collection, family law and more. Individuals should bring any and all relevant legal forms and documents to the clinic.

Upcoming dates for legal clinics in Anoka for 2019-2020 are:

Thursday, December 5 2019 - 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.
Thursday, March 5, 2020 - 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.
Thursday, June 4, 2020 - 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.
Thursday, September 3, 2020 - 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Anoka County Government Center - Room 237
2100 3rd Avenue
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ANOKA COUNTY FAIR FLAG RAISING

The 30th annual Veterans Flag Raising Ceremony at the Anoka County Fairgrounds Veterans Memorial Flagpole area took place on July 23, 2019. Thank you to everyone who helped make the event a success!

ANOKA COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD

The purpose of the Anoka County Veterans Advisory Board is to facilitate communication between Veteran Service Organizations, their members and the Anoka County Veteran Services Office.

We ask all Veteran Service Organizations to have at least 1 member in attendance at the quarterly Veterans Advisory Board Meetings, but having more than 1 member is welcomed.

Having an open line of communication between our office and local service organizations moving forward will ensure that Anoka County Veterans and their families will be served to the highest level possible.

The next meeting will be held:

****Monday, September 23, 2019 - 1:00 PM****

Anoka American Legion Post 102

400 W. Main Street

Anoka, MN 55303

If you have questions please contact the Anoka County Veteran Services Office at veterans@co.anoka.mn.us or 763-324-4500. We hope to see you at the next meeting.

2019 ANOKA COUNTY HOLIDAYS

The Anoka County Veteran Services Office will be closed on the following dates in observance of Federal Holidays:

November 11, 2019 (Veterans Day)

November 28, 29, 2019 (Thanksgiving)

December 24, 2019 NOON (Christmas Eve)

December 25, 2019 (Christmas)

ABOUT ANOKA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES

Anoka County Veteran Services provides professional, caring and quality assistance to veterans and their dependents in obtaining benefits through county, state and federal programs. As advocates, we work with the US

Department of Veterans Affairs, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and nationally chartered Veteran Service Organizations to ensure that our veterans and their dependents receive the benefits they have earned through military service.

When visiting the Anoka County Veteran Services Office you will be referred to a service officer for assistance. Our County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO's) are highly trained, professional advocates that share an understanding of the challenges our veterans and their dependents face. Our CVSO's attend the most current training on the extent, the meaning and the application of laws that have been passed by the U.S. Congress in the interests of veterans and their dependents. They also know the rules and regulations adopted by the Department of Veterans Affairs to clarify and implement those laws. Our CVSO's will apply specialized knowledge in the best way suited to the needs of every individual veteran or other beneficiary who visit our office for assistance. We are located in Downtown Anoka on the 2nd floor of the Anoka County Government Center in Room 216. We are a walk-in office and do not accept appointments.

Our hours of operation are:

Monday - 8:00am - 4:00pm

Tuesday - 8:00am - 4:00pm

Wednesday - 8:00am - 4:00pm

Thursday - 8:00am - 4:00pm

Friday - 8:00am - 3:00pm

Closed on all Federal Holidays

Phone: (763) 324-4500

Fax: (763) 324-1040

Email: veterans@co.anoka.mn.us

Website: www.anokacounty.us/veterans

VETERANS CRISIS LINE

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call

1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.



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