



# Anoka County

MINNESOTA

Veteran Services

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

# VETERANS ADVOCATE

Winter 2019-20

## 2020 CENSUS, WHY YOUR ANSWERS MATTER

The results of the census are critically important because this once-a-decade census data helps businesses, researchers, and communities make decisions. The data can help inform where your community needs a new fire department, more funding for school lunches, or new roads.

The census also collects data that is valuable for businesses, which rely on census results to help make decisions such as where to open new stores, where to expand operations, and which products and services to offer.

Starting March 2020, census invitations are sent to residences. Responses can be completed online, by phone or paper via mail. If online access is unavailable, Anoka County Libraries will have computers available to complete the census. If online responses are not received, the Census Bureau will follow up by mail or in person at your household between April – August 2020



## 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  
Anoka, MN 55303**

## **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, December 16, 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](mailto:veterans@co.anoka.mn.us) or 763-324-4500. We hope to see you at the next meeting.

## **LOCAL VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Anoka American Legion Post 102**

Meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00  
PM

400 West Main Street  
Anoka, MN 55303

\*\*If your organization's meeting information is not listed here, email the dates and times of your meetings to [veterans@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:veterans@co.anoka.mn.us)

## **2019-2020 ANOKA COUNTY HOLIDAYS**

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

**December 24, 2019 NOON (Christmas Eve)**

**December 25, 2019 (Christmas)**

**January 1, 2020 (New Year's Day)**

**January 20, 2020 (Martin Luther King Day)**

**February 17, 2020 (Presidents' Day)**

**May 25, 2020 (Memorial Day)**

**July 3, 2020 (Independence Day Observed)**

**September 7, 2020 (Labor Day)**

**November 11, 2020 (Veterans Day)**

**November 26-27, 2020 (Thanksgiving)**

**December 24, 2020 NOON (Christmas Eve)**

**December 25, 2020 (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](mailto:veterans@co.anoka.mn.us)**

**Website: [www.anokacounty.us/veterans](http://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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