

# GIVE A MEMORIAL BRICK FOR MEMORIAL DAY

## TIME TO MOVE ON

Veterans, Co-workers and Friends,  
 After serving our fellow Kewaunee County veterans for 15 years and 9 months, I am honored to announce that I have been hired as the new Winnebago County Director of Veterans' Services starting March 23, 2015. My last day in Kewaunee County was March 20, 2015.

To assist in the transition process I am hoping to work out an agreement with Winnebago and Kewaunee Counties to make myself available in some capacity until my replacement is hired.

I would ask that you would give Tara LaCrosse, CVSO Administrative Assistant/Benefit Specialist, your full support and confidence. She is very knowledgeable in VA benefits and does an awesome job. We are lucky to have her serving the Kewaunee County veteran community!

I passionately enjoyed serving my fellow veterans in Kewaunee County and I am grateful to the County Board that was serving in 1999 to give me this opportunity. It has changed my life.

I am proud of the fact that VA benefits increased from \$1 million per year to well over \$10 million per year having a \$15 million dollar economic impact.

You will all have a very special place in my heart!  
 As always, I am just a phone call or an e-mail away if you have any questions or concerns.

Serving those who served.

Joe Aulik-Kewaunee County  
 Veterans Service Officer  
 "Kewaunee Joe"



## BURN PIT REGISTRY

Proper disposal of waste during deployment is essential to prevent health problems and protect service members. In certain situations when sanitary and waste management facilities are unavailable, this waste may be burned in an open pit. Pits used for this purpose are referred to as "burn pits."

Since any particular trash burn is made up of several materials, it can result in different mixtures of chemicals released in the smoke. Because of this, it is difficult to quantify the levels of exposure to harmful chemicals that an individual service member may have had. A person's exposure is also dependent on how close they were to the burn pit, in which direction the smoke was blowing, and the length and frequency of their exposure. There is little actual testing data that measured levels of possible toxins in individual service members' breathing environments when burn pits were in use.

Short-term health effects can include nausea, headaches, and irritation of the eyes, respiratory tract, nose and throat. For the majority of healthy service members, these symptoms tend to go away or resolve soon after the exposure ends. Long-term health effects can include skin conditions, and problems with the respiratory system, eyes, liver, kidneys, central nervous system, cardiovascular system, reproductive system, peripheral nervous system and gastrointestinal tract.

Currently, the VA has not approved any presumptive conditions relating to burn pits due to limited scientific studies; however, you can still file a service-connected disability claim if you feel you have a condition or conditions caused by exposure to burn pits. Your claim will almost definitely be denied, but at least you have on record if the condition(s) claimed is approved as a presumptive condition in the future.

Whether or not you have any health problems at this point, it's strongly recommended all Iraq and Afghanistan veterans register using the VA's burn pit registry. To do this, go to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov). At the top under the "Health" link, go to "Public Health." From there, go to the bottom of the page and click on the block that reads "Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry."

## VA and EMERGENCY CARE – AM I COVERED?

At some point in your life, you may need emergency care. This article may help you understand some of the things the VA may be able to do for you.

When you require emergency assistance, and it is not possible

to get to a VA Medical Center, you should go to your nearest hospital. The VA basically considers a medical emergency as an injury or illness that is so severe, that without immediate treatment may threaten your life or health. If you believe your life is in danger, then your situation may be an emergency, in which case you should call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room. You do not need to call the VA first.

Eventually the VA must be informed. You, a friend or a family member should call the Fee Basis (or Non-VA Care) department at the nearest VA Medical Center within 72 hours of the emergency. Provide the VA with information regarding your emergency and the services you are receiving.

Some emergency services may or may not be covered. This is especially true if the doctor wants to admit you to the hospital. If it is an emergency, you do not need advance approval from the VA, but still must inform them promptly. If the admission is not an emergency, then you need advance approval. Once you stabilize and can be safely transported, you must move to a VA medical center if a bed is available if you want the VA to continue paying for your care.

If you are admitted to the hospital, the VA may pay some or all of your charges depending on your eligibility. The guidelines are too numerous to list here, but for service connected conditions, the bare-bones rules are: care must be provided as a medical emergency, the VA or other government medical facilities were not feasibly available, and the VA was notified within 72 hours of admission. For non-service connected conditions, the veteran must be enrolled in the VA Health Care system, received services from the VA within the previous 24 months, and have no other health insurance coverage.

The VA will pay for emergency care outside the United States but only for service connected conditions. This is called the Foreign Medical Program. Your VA health care provider or your local County Veterans Service Officer can help you contact them.

Remember, the above article is only meant to provide introductory information. As always, contact your County Veterans Service Office for more complete guidelines at [www.wicvso.org/your\\_cvso.htm](http://www.wicvso.org/your_cvso.htm)

## VA Simplifies Access to Health Care and Benefits for Veterans with PTSD

The Veterans Administration has simplified the process for a Veteran to claim service connection for PTSD. VA has reduced the evidence needed if the trauma claimed by a Veteran is related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity and is consistent with the places, types, and circumstances of the Veteran's service.

This science-based regulation relies on evidence that concluded that a Veteran's deployment to a war zone is linked to an increased risk of PTSD. Under the new rules, VA would not require corroboration of a stressor related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity if a VA doctor confirms that the stressful experience recalled by a Veteran adequately supports a diagnosis of PTSD and the Veteran's symptoms are related to the claimed stressor.

Previously, claims adjudicators were required to corroborate that a non-combat Veteran actually experienced a stressor related to hostile military activity. This final rule simplifies the development that is required for these cases. VA expects this rulemaking to decrease the time it takes VA to decide access to care and claims falling under the revised criteria. More than 400,000 Veterans currently receiving compensation benefits are service connected for PTSD. Combined with VA's shorter claims form, VA's new streamlined, science-based regulation allows for faster and more accurate decisions that also expedite access to medical care and other benefits for Veterans.

PTSD is a medically recognized anxiety disorder that can develop from seeing or experiencing an event that involves actual or threatened death or serious injury to which a person responds with intense fear, helplessness or horror, and is not uncommon among war Veterans. Disability compensation is a tax-free benefit paid to a Veteran for disabilities that are a result of – or made worse by – injuries or diseases associated with active service.

To get benefits under the new policy, a veteran with post-traumatic stress disorder must do four things to get benefits:

1. Be diagnosed by the Veterans Affairs Department. The PTSD diagnosis must come from a psychiatrist or psychologist either on VA's staff or under contract with VA. Diagnosis by a private doctor or by a military doctor is not enough.
2. Indicate on their disability benefits claim that their PTSD is related to a fear of hostile military or terrorist activity because they experienced, witnessed or were confronted with an event, injury or threat from an actual or potential incident that involved being under attack.
3. Indicate that their response to the real or threatened event was a state of "fear, helplessness or horror."
4. Ensure the claimed event or threat is consistent with places and circumstances of military service.

## 2015 Casco American Legion Post 319 Gunless Poultry Shoot

Casco American Legion Thibodeau-Drossart Post 319 is sponsoring the 2015 Gunless Poultry Shoot. Proceeds will go to the Casco American Veterans Activities Fund which includes American Legion Youth program, community programs, and Kewaunee County veterans who are in need. Come out and support the American Legion and your community. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00. During each raffle there are three or four items that can be won. There are about 20 raffles each afternoon. In addition, there are two 50/50 raffles each afternoon.

March 29, Sunday at Jim's Bar and Bowl, Casco, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Items to be raffled are: Frozen meats, baby back ribs, boneless turkey breasts, pork tenderloins, beef tenderloins, Marchant's side pork, ten-pound box of bacon, Green Bay Packer's jerseys, several hams, 50/50 raffle, and much more!!! If you have any questions call Chuck Zellner, Post 319 Commander, at 920-255-6767. Wisconsin Raffle License # B0028745B-12751.

## RECRUITING NOW: AMVETS, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Sons of the American Legion

If you served in the U.S. military and have not joined a local Post please consider taking the time to do so. These Organizations are a fighting voice for us in Washington to maintain and acquire benefits for all of us who have served in the military. If you need assistance signing up or transferring to a local Post please contact your local Post or the Kewaunee County Veterans Service office.

**Sons of the American Legion** - If your parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and they were eligible for American Legion membership you may be eligible to join the Sons of the American Legion (SAL), a program of the American Legion. If you are a current American Legion member you can also join SAL. Many Legionnaires hold dual membership in SAL. Contact your local American Legion Post or the Kewaunee County Veterans Office at 388-7198 to determine eligibility.

## Calendar

Mar 21	Luxemburg American Legion Post 262, Gunless Poultry Shoot, Burdick's Bar and Grill, Luxemburg, WI	1:00 p.m.	845-2807
Apr 2	Kewaunee VFW Post 3392 (1st Thur) Kewaunee Legion Hall	7:30 p.m.	388-0217
Apr 7	Kewaunee American Legion Post 29 (1st Tue) American Legion Auxiliary, Kewaunee Legion Hall	7:30 p.m.	388-2662
Apr 8	Robinson American Legion Post 538 (2nd Wed) Carlton Town Hall	8:00 p.m.	776-1136
Apr 13	Casco American Legion Post 319 (2nd Mon) Casco Village Hall	6:30 p.m.	255-6767
Apr 16	Algoma American Legion Post 236 (3rd Thur) Algoma Legion Hall	7:00 p.m.	487-3588
Apr 20	Luxemburg American Legion Post 262 and American Legion Auxiliary	(3rd Mon) Luxemburg Community Center	7:00 p.m. 365-6155
Apr 21	Kewaunee County AMVETS Post 42 (3rd Tue) Algoma Legion Hall	6:30 p.m.	487-2248

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Paradise Estates LLC would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Veterans and their spouses and to offer assistance in receiving your full benefits you deserve for any assisted living needs you or your spouse have earned.

Thank you, **Mike & Kathy Paral**

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March 14, Bubba Bowl  
 March 21, Kruisin Kids Bowl

March 15, Cuyoo  
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**Kewaunee County Veterans Organizations, their Auxiliaries, and the Sons of American Legion Want You!**

<p><b>AMERICAN LEGION</b></p> <p>Kewaunee Post 29                  Algoma Post 236                  Luxemburg Post 262</p>	<p><b>VFW</b></p> <p>Kewaunee Post 3392</p> <p><b>AMVETS</b></p> <p>Kewaunee County Post 42</p> <p><b>SQUADRON POST 538</b></p> <p>Sons of the American Legion</p>	<p>To apply or obtain more information, contact <b>Joe Aulik</b> at the County Veterans Service Office at <b>388-7198</b> or e-mail at <a href="mailto:aulikj@kewauneecc.org">aulikj@kewauneecc.org</a> to sign up for the veteran benefit e-mail list to keep up-to-date on benefits. Follow us on Facebook at <a href="http://www.facebook.com/KewauneeCVSO">www.facebook.com/KewauneeCVSO</a>.</p>
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