



# VILAS COUNTY

# VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

From: Veterans Service Officer  
To: Vilas County Board of Supervisors  
Via: Veterans Service Commission  
Subj: Veterans' Service Office 2015 Annual Report

Attached is the annual report for the Veteran Service Office and data of the accomplishments for 2015.

The 2468 veterans in Vilas County and their dependents continue to be the focus of effort for the Veterans Service Department. This past year saw many more veterans applying for VA health care and the processing of over 1000 state and federal claim forms for compensation benefits. The Veteran Service Office not only makes a difference in the lives of veterans, but in Vilas County itself. The services provided by the Veterans Administration most assuredly alleviates the strain on other Vilas County departments and most importantly the county budget.

During 2015 Vilas County Veterans "EARNED" over **\$25,043,597.00** in direct and indirect monetary benefits. Many of those dollars earned are spent right here in Vilas County and assist our local economies greatly.

The future will remain challenging, dynamic and ever changing. But rest assured that the Vilas County Veterans Service office will continue to put Veterans first and provide quality, caring and compassionate service to our deserving veterans and their dependents. In closing I ask for your continued support to the veteran community and to the mission of the Vilas County Veterans Service Office.

Respectfully submitted, M.A. Biszak

# MISSION STATEMENT

To assist Veterans and their dependents in understanding and obtaining **earned** benefits provided by the federal and state governments.

# **Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (State Programs)**

Retraining Grant

State Veterans Cemeteries

Military Funeral Honors

Veterans & Surviving Spouse Property Tax Credit

WDVA Division of Veterans Homes

Professional/Occupational Licensure

Veteran Identifier on WI Driver's License

# **US Department of Veterans Affairs**

## **(Federal Benefits)**

Burial Allowance Benefits

Burial Flag

Health Care

Chapter 30: Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty

Chapter 31: Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits

Chapter 33: Post 9/11 GI Bill - Active-Duty

Chapter 35: Survivors' and Dependents'  
Educational Assistance

Pension

Dependency and Indemnity (DIC) Pension

Disability Compensation Benefits

Home Loan Guarantee

Military Records

# Federal Claims for 2015

- Application for Health Benefits (**94**)
- Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative (**144**)
- Compensation Claims (injury) (**88**)
- Pension Claims (low income) (**31**)
- Death Pension for Surviving Spouses (**15**)

# Federal Claims for 2015 (con't)

- Aid and Attendance (29)
- Health Care for Spouses (11)
- Requests for Military Records (48)
  
- TOTAL NUMBER OF FEDERAL CLAIM FORMS  
COMPLETED DURING 2015  
(924)

# **VETERAN DATA FOR VILAS COUNTY**

**2,468 - VETERANS**

**11.5% of population**

**70 - 100% disabled**

# FINANCIAL IMPACT OF VETERANS ON VILAS COUNTY

- Comp & Pen- \$7.5 million
- Medical Benefits- \$8.7 million
- VA Home Loans- \$8.0 million
- ED & Vocational Rehab- \$208,000
  - Life Insurance- \$480,000
- Property Tax Credit- \$116,983
- **Total Benefits Earned- \$25,043,597**

# Office Budget Data Comparison 2011-2015

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Budget</u> |
|-------------|---------------|
| 2011        | \$128,018     |
| 2012        | \$122,364     |
| 2013        | \$139,159     |
| 2014        | \$117,453     |
| 2015        | \$104,365     |

(budget savings of  
**40K per year**  
because both  
employees do not use  
County Health Care  
Plan)

\*\*\*\*\$10,000 annual  
Grant from WDVA  
supplements the  
Budget/ Tax levy

**VILAS COUNTY  
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE**

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**VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER**

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