DeKalb County Veterans Assistance Commission

American Legion Posts 66, 99, 181, 337, 598, 654, 772, 1010
AmVets Post 90
Marine Corps League Detachment 847
Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts 1486, 5768 and 8387
40 et 8 Voiture 207

President – Celeste Latham, Vice-President Chuck Fish, Secretary Luz Maria Gilkey, Treasurer Bob Coulter

DeKalb County Veterans Assistance Commission
Meeting Agenda for
November 4, 2019
Meetings start at 7:00 pm

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

III. Roll Call of Delegates & Alternates

IV. Public Comment

V. Reading & Approval of the October 2019 Meeting Minutes

VI. Treasurers' Report

VII. Superintendent's Report
- **a. Approval of Expenses**

VIII. Committee Reports
- **a. Outreach Report**

IX. Old Business

X. New Business
- **a. Nominations for 2020 Commission Officer Positions**
- **b. By-Laws**

XI. For the Good of the Commission

XII. Adjournment

2500 N. Annie Glidden Road
Suite A
DeKalb IL 60115
Phone 815-756-8129 Fax 815-748-2142

DEKALB COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

October 7, 2019

COMMUNITY OUTREACH BUILDING

Meeting started at 7:04 pm with President Celeste Latham presiding, she led us in the pledge of allegiance.

Board Members Present: President Celeste Latham, Vice-President Chuck Fish, Secretary Luz Maria Gilkey and Treasurer Bob Coulter.

Employees Present: Tammy Anderson, Luz Maria Gilkey, Cindy Childress, Tim Stubinger and Jessica Morganegg.

New in Attendance: None.

Public Comment: None.

Meeting Minutes: September 9, 2019 minutes were reviewed. Motion was made by Gene Ege to accept the minutes as read, and seconded by Don Jones - Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer Bob Coulter reported a balance of $5,283.30 no additional income or expenditures. Motion was made by Mike Embrey to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Don Jones subject to audit. Motion passed.

Superintendents' Report: The Commission helped 14 Veterans and their families with Shelter Assistance totaling $5,575.00. There were 30 Veterans transported on 23 trips to the VA Medical Centers and Compensation & Pension (C&P) appointments, with the Drivers' donating 142.5 hours with 3843 miles driven. Drivers Per Diem was $370.00. Fuel cost was $487.37 and Fuel (gallons) 211.90. Vehicle Expenses/Oil change $24.43. Monthly Retro amount of $50,746.00 was collected with $13,829.00 of monthly payments for Veterans. Total year to date $1,084,484.00. Total Employee Activity was approximately 1046 in actions. The August expenses totaled $29,189.69. Motion was made by Don Jones to pay monthly bills - seconded by Gene Ege. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Committee Report: Tim reported Hines has flu shots at Sandwich or any of the VA outreaches. Tobacco cessation month see attached flyer. Hines COB Outreach is Tuesday due to Monday being Columbus Day. The outreach picks random monthly themes while some months are nationally designated. Flu shot question: is it one dose or two-Tim mentioned one dose. Gene Ege mentioned his Doctor suggested taking flu shot Mid October so it would last.

Old Business: None

New Business: Mike Embrey stated 150 people were in attendance to honor a deceased Veteran who had no family. They did have the Honor Guard, a Bugler and Military Officers from ROTC at the grave site service. To read about this event, go to www.dekalbcountyonline.com. Papa John's Pizza is Honoring DeKalb Veterans with 40% off cards for all on-line orders. Luz mentioned good information was provided by Mike Embrey, and she will send additional information by email this week. Celeste provided a reminder that Twelfth District has leadership training on October 19th to include training for the Commanders, Jr & Sr Adjutant, and Service Officers. R.S.V.P. with Dave Johnson, if you need his contact information let Celeste know.

For the Good of the Commission: None

Being no further business, Steve Walz made a motion to adjourn- Seconded by Mannie Olalde. Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm
Respectfully Submitted by Secretary Luz Maria Gilkey.

DEKALB COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF October 2019
STATE OF THE BUDGET

VA COUNSELING

Communication	Quantity	YTD
Phone	202	1900
Office	124	1044
Outreach/Home Visits	3	39
Email/Mail	81	863
Fax	18	196
Other/Forms	62	1527
Total Employee Communications	490	5569
Total Employee Activity	1097	11644

VA AWARDANCE

	Monthly	YTD
Monthly	$17,515.00	$235,324.00
Retro	$20,149.00	$886,824.00
Total	$37,664.00	$1,122,148.00

EXPENDITURES

		Monthly	YTD
Salaries & Benefits		$22,574.34	$241,380.60
Training & Meetings		$680.71	$14,414.97
Office Expenses		$362.48	$7,611.37
Building Space/Maintenance		$0.00	$23,500.00
Direct Assistance to Veteran	**Number Assisted**		
Shelter	14	$5,575.00	$57,050.00
Other		$0.00	$0.00
Drivers Per Diem		$460.00	$4,350.00
Vehicle Expenses			
Fuel Cost		$440.51	$3,939.00
Maintenance/Insurance		$0.00	$4,609.46
	Totals	$30,093.04	$356,855.40

Expense Description:

TRANSPORTATION LOGS

	Quantity	YTD
Trips	24	271
Hours Donated	175.45	1786.2
Transported	39	367
Miles	4398	45154
Fuel (gallon)	203.00	1821.70

SUMMARY

	Percentage of Budget	Amount
BUDGET	**100%**	**$511,000.00**
PREVIOUS EXPENDITURES (Jan to Present)	**-64%**	**-$326,762.36**
EXPEDITURES	**-6%**	**-$30,093.04**
BALANCE	**30%**	**$154,144.60**

Restricted Fund Balance **$681,624.09**

DeKalb County Veterans Assistance Commission
Report for the month October 2019
Veterans Assistance / Transportation

	Shelter		Transportation
Towns	Amount	# of Vets	# of Vets
Cortland			
DeKalb	$ 3,575.00	9	27
Fairdale			
Genoa			4
Hinckley	$ 400.00	1	1
Kingston			1
Kirkland			
Lee			
Malta			
Sandwich			
Shabbona	$ 400.00	1	
Somonauk	$ 400.00	1	
Sycamore	$ 800.00	2	6
Waterman			
Total	$ 5,575.00	14	39

Hines Community Outreach

November 2019

Come join the Hines Community Outreach team at one of our locations (see next page for details) for help with eligibility and enrollment, immunizations, minor health screenings, and medication reconciliation.

For November, the Outreach team will have information regarding Diabetes and healthy eating.

To sign up for healthcare benefits please bring a copy of your DD214

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4 Morris Outreach (9A-2P)-Morris American Legion 212 W Washington St. Morris, IL	5 DuPage County Outreach (9A-2P)- VFW Post #3873 908 Jackson Ave Naperville, IL	6	7	8	9
10	11 Veterans Day Event-Hines VA (10A-2P)	12 DeKalb County Outreach (9:30A-1:30P)-DeKalb County VAC 2500 N Annie Glidden Rd	13 Channahon Outreach (9Ap-2P)-Village of Channahon 24555 Navajo Dr Channahon, IL	14	15	16
17 Montgomery VFW MISSION Act Presentation (12:30P-1P)-Montgomery VFW 121 N River St. Montgomery, IL	18 Coal City Outreach (9A-2P)- 1752 E Division St Diamond, IL	19 Bolingbrook Outreach (9A-2P)-Levy Center 251 Canterbury Lane Bolingbrook, IL	20 Kankakee Outreach (9A-2P)-Kankakee Community College 100 College Dr Kankakee, IL	21 Sandwich Outreach (9:30A-1:30P)-VFW Post # 713 S Main St Sandwich, IL	22 Elgin Outreach (9A-2P)-American Legion Post #57 820 N. Liberty St. Elgin, IL Open Door Event (9A-12P)-DuPage County Fairgrounds 2015 Manchester Rd Wheaton, IL	23
24	25 Dwight Outreach (10A-1P)- Heritage Woods of Dwight 701 E Mazon Ave Dwight, IL	26 Iroquois County Outreach (10A-1P)-VAC Office 1001 Grant St Watseka, IL	27 Ottawa Outreach (10A-1P)-Ottawa American Legion 901 N LaSalle St Ottawa, IL	28 Thanksgiving	29	30

Come Join Us!

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

VETERANS DAY

Parade, Ceremony, Free Lunch & Resource Fair

When:
Monday, Nov. 11, 2019
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Parade at 10:00 a.m.
Ceremony at 11:00 a.m. followed by entertainment, free lunch and a Veterans Resource Fair until 2:00 p.m.

Where:
Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital
5000 S. 5th Avenue - Hines, IL 60141

- North parking lot
- Bldg. 1 entrance

All Veterans and their families are welcome to join us at Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital this Veterans Day as we recognize the men and women who have served our country.

Special thanks to the Gary Sinise Foundation for providing free lunch for our Veterans Day celebration.

Expected participants include:

- ★ *Guest Speaker* Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White
- ★ Proviso East Marching Band
- ★ Color Guard - Morton Grove Post 134
- ★ Blake Alexander – National Anthem
- ★ Gary Sinise Foundation
- ★ Guitars For Veterans
- ★ Salvation Army
- ★ Allen Force Vet Tanks
- ★ EMS Road Docs Motorcycles
- ★ Jesse White Tumblers
- ★ Pageant Queens
- ★ *Guest Speaker* Ryan Yantis, Lt. Col., U.S. Army, retired
- ★ Carlos May - White Sox Alumni
- ★ Chicago White Sox Volunteers
- ★ Chicago Police Dept. Mounted Unit & SWAT Vehicle
- ★ Broadview Fire Department
- ★ Hines Windy City Athletes
- ★ Kare 9 Therapy Dogs
- ★ Paralyzed Veterans of America
- ★ American Red Cross
- ★ American Legion Auxiliary Post 18

Office of Rick Amato
DeKalb County State's Attorney

DeKalb County Courthouse
133 W. State Street
Sycamore, Illinois 60178

Stephanie Klein, First Assistant
David Berault, Chief of Civil Bureau
Ali Friend, Assistant State's Attorney
Joseph Hodder, Assistant State's Attorney
Daniel Regna, Assistant State's Attorney
Neil Michling, Assistant State's Attorney
Alejandra Paramo, Victim Witness Coordinator

General Offices:
Tel: (815) 895-7164
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Suzanne Collins, Assistant State's Attorney
Alicia Caplan, Assistant State's Attorney
Scott Schwertley, Assistant State's Attorney
Monique Langrehr, Assistant State's Attorney
Brooks Locke, Assistant State's Attorney
Stephen Harrell, Assistant State's Attorney
Julie Beach, Office Manager

DeKALB SAO TO OFFER STACIA HOLLINSHEAD VETERANS DIVERSION PROGRAM

Seven months ago our office and community suffered a shocking and terrible loss when Assistant State's Attorney Stacia Hollinshead was shot to death, allegedly murdered by her former husband.

Stacia meant a lot to many people — she was a prosecutor, mother, daughter, sister, friend, NIU law school alumnus, and U.S. Army veteran. In reflecting on how best to honor Stacia, it was important to consider how she lived her life. At her core, Stacia served. In every capacity and relationship Stacia served others and paid respect to so many in her journeys and milestones.

It is in that spirit of service that we proudly introduce the Stacia Hollinshead Veterans Program. This program is designed to help military veterans who face certain criminal charges get professional rehabilitative services they need to reduce recidivism and assist veterans in returning to be productive members of the community.

The Stacia Hollinshead Veterans Program is a partnership of the DeKalb County State's Attorney's Office and the DeKalb County Veteran Assistance Commission. Both recognize that military service exposes service members to profoundly dangerous and stressful circumstances. They further recognize that the physical and psychological trauma from such exposure can have lasting effects and contribute to depression, anxiety, anger, post-traumatic stress disorder and substance use disorder, which can increase the likelihood of criminal behavior.

The DeKalb County State's Attorney's Office, in its sole discretion and under certain circumstances, may regard current and former military service as a compelling factor in mitigation when determining plea offers. In extending a plea offer to those with a record of military service, DeKalb County prosecutors may seek to enhance the application of rehabilitative and treatment-based sentences and minimize more punitive sanctions. However, the DeKalb County State's Attorney's Office will not consider domestic battery, sex offenses or aggravated violent offenses for the program.

PARTICIPATION AND REQUIREMENTS

A military veteran charged with a criminal offense should promptly notify his or her attorney of their veteran status. The attorney should then notify prosecutors if the defendant/veteran wishes to participate in the program. Prosecutors then will ask the veteran to submit an application, which will include consent forms.

The veteran is required to follow program procedures, which include a mental health and substance use evaluation. Prosecutors then will recommend a course of treatment. Upon successful completion of the program, the case will be resolved with a mitigated sentence. Unsuccessful completion of the program means that the case will be returned to the courts for prosecution and sentencing on the original charge.

DeKalb County State's Attorney Rick Amato said:
"I am pleased to make this program available to those who have served their country, and need an extra hand in their return to civilian life. This is an excellent and honorable tribute to Stacia, who served her country and her community with honor and sacrifice."

News Release

SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security Announces 1.6 Percent Benefit Increase for 2020

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for nearly 69 million Americans will increase 1.6 percent in 2020, the Social Security Administration announced today.

The 1.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 63 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2020. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 31, 2019. (Note: some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits). The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to $137,700 from $132,900.

Social Security and SSI beneficiaries are normally notified by mail in early December about their new benefit amount. Most people who receive Social Security payments will be able to view their COLA notice online through their *my* Social Security account. People may create or access their *my* Social Security account online at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Information about Medicare changes for 2020, when announced, will be available at www.medicare.gov. For Social Security beneficiaries receiving Medicare, Social Security will not be able to compute their new benefit amount until after the Medicare premium amounts for 2020 are announced. Final 2020 benefit amounts will be communicated to beneficiaries in December through the mailed COLA notice and *my* Social Security's Message Center.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To read more, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.

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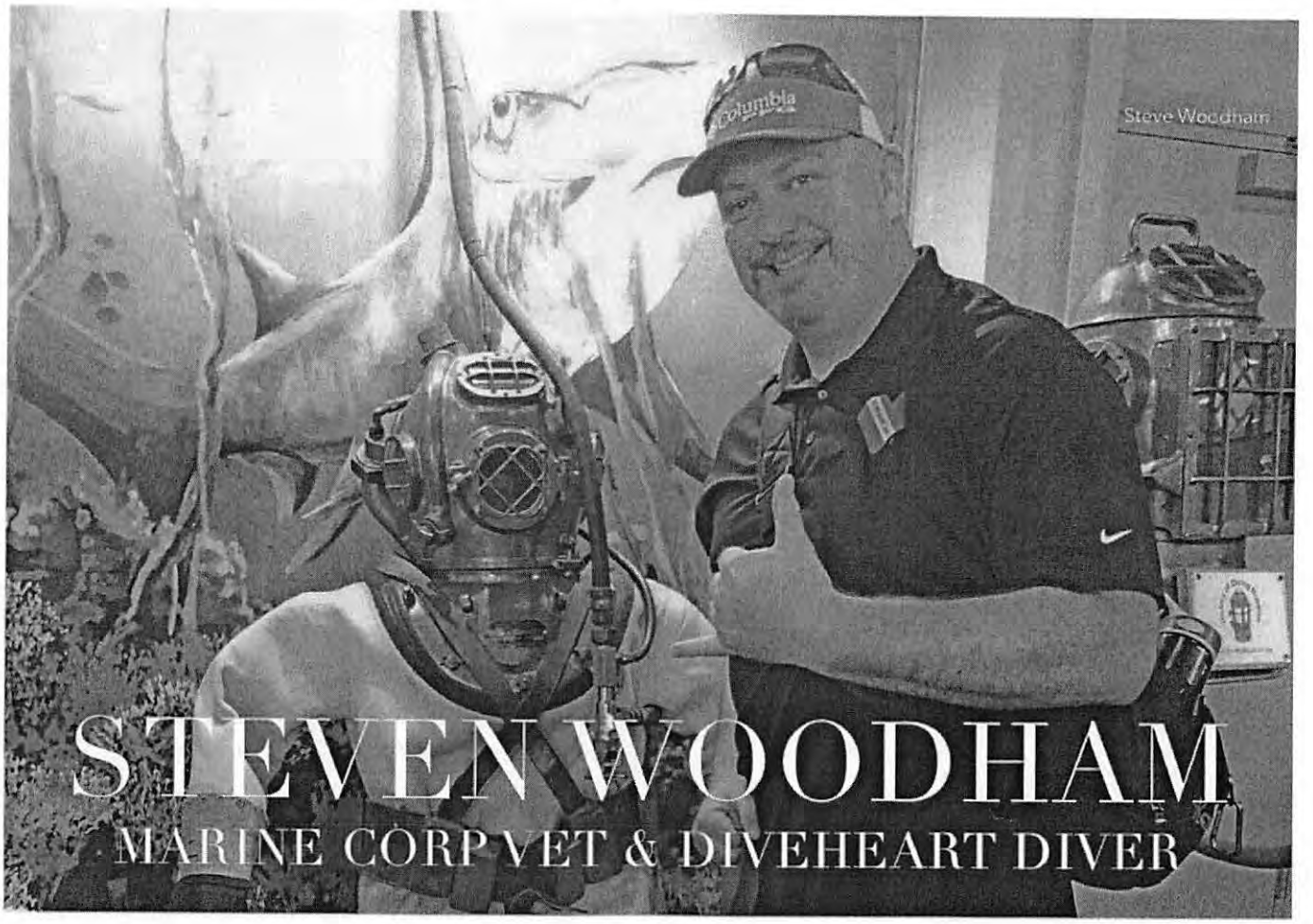
NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: Attached is a fact sheet showing the effect of the various automatic adjustments.

To get more Social Security news, follow the Press Office on Twitter @SSAPress.

This press release was produced and disseminated at U.S. taxpayer expense.



STEVEN WOODHAM

MARINE CORP VET & DIVEHEART DIVER

Q: HOW DID YOU FIRST HEAR ABOUT DIVEHEART?

I heard about Diveheart through the Aurora Vet Center. I was going there for readjustment counseling and was told that I might enjoy the Diveheart Scuba Experience (DSE) event that was being held nearby. This was in the Spring of 2017.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR ABILITIES?

I retired from the Marine Corps in 2010, after 22+ years of combined Active Duty and Reserve service, including deployments for Desert Storm and (3) deployments for OIF / OEF. I also spent 24 years as a police officer in Naperville. The combination of these two professions resulted in the onset of depression and anxiety as well as several other physical limitations caused by multiple injuries during my times of service.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US HOW DIVEHEART ACTIVITIES HAVE HELPED YOU HOW HAS MOLLY HELPED YOU?

I started diving in 2017 with Diveheart, and since then, I have attended around 20 different diving events, including a trip to Key Largo, FL in June of 2019 where I received my Open Water Diver certification. Through Diveheart I have been able to deal with my physical and emotional challenges in an environment that is safe, supportive, and fun.

Q: WOULD YOU RECOMMEND DIVEHEART TO OTHER VETERANS?

Molly and I have been together since Feb. 2019. She goes just about everywhere I do. Since retiring from both the military and police service, I no longer wear body armor when I go to work , or am generally out in public. I tell everyone that Molly has replaced that body armor for me. She acts as a barrier between me and the rest of the world and she only lets people in when I feel safe.

Q: HOW HAVE YOU SEEN DIVEHEART BENEFIT OTHER ADAPTIVE DIVERS?

Diveheart is what you choose to make of it. For some, it is just a bucket-list item to "go try" scuba. They may go to an indoor DSE, one of the open water dives in the area over the summer, or even try one of the trips to Cozumel or Key Largo, but then that's it. And that's okay since one of the tenants of Diveheart is, "Challenge by Choice." I however, have always been involved in teaching and training, so I thought that this program would be a great way for me to give back to my fellow veterans as well as others with special needs.

Currently I try and volunteer twice a week at the locations in Downers Grove. I do everything getting air tanks filled for other DSE events, to changing lightbulbs and vacuuming the office if needed. I just try and help where I can because I know that the freedom, challenge, sense of accomplishment, and happiness that the program brings to everyone who is involved, both volunteer AND participant, is something very special and I look forward to continuing for a long time. ■

Sweets4Troops - making deployment a litter sweeter

DeKalb (IL): Halloween is a special time of year for kids (young and old) to have fun and go trick or treating. But there are few Treats and too many Tricks for our U.S. Military members serving overseas. Almost every year there seems to be more candy leftover and parents and kids seem willing to share.

In 2014, DeKalb businessman Michael Embrey started the first "**Sweets4Troops**" program and collected over 250 pounds of candy. In 2018, **Sweets4Troops** collected 3,000 pounds of treats for military support groups.

Again this year, **Sweets4Troops** will be collecting any leftover and unwanted candy. These sweets and treats will be sent as a part of Holiday Packages for Military personnel serving at various locations throughout the world. Local agencies will forward these treats to military member units serving overseas and select domestic locations through our Veteran partnerships. In addition to treats, a couple of local schools also sent thank-you notes to military members for serving and protecting our country.
If you or your company have any leftover candy after Halloween (and trying to stay on that Diet), please bring any unwanted and surplus candy and treats to one of the following locations:

*** DeKalb Fire Department, 7th Street (700 Pine Street) in DeKalb**
*** Sycamore Fire Department, 535 DeKalb Avenue in Sycamore**
*** Daily Chronicle Newspaper, 1586 Barber Green Road in DeKalb**
*** Le Print Express, 1950 DeKalb Avenue in Sycamore**
*** County Liquors, 625 E State St in Sycamore**
*** Papa Johns Pizza 203 W Lincoln Hwy. in DeKalb**

Donations accepted from November 1 through November 18. Thank you one and all for supporting our troops.
Michael Embrey is a former USAF military veteran and involved in various veteran support programs and organizations. He is CEO/EAD of DeKalb (IL) based **FunME Events** and **Broadway To You**. See web site for additional information.

www.Sweets4Troops.com

For More Information about please contact **Michael Embrey** at 815-756-1263 or e-mail **M.Embrey@FunMEevents.com**

Michael Embrey - USAF Veteran

"Aim for the Moon, if you Miss - you'll still be in the Stars ....."

Illinois County Queen Relieved of Duties for Joining Military

The Illinois Association of County Fairs Board of Directors relieved Miss Illinois County Fair Queen **Alexi Bladel** of her duties after the young Rockford area woman enlisted in the military to serve her country in the **U.S. Army Reserves**.

The Illinois Fair Board said that due to the fulfillment of Queen duties, the Board is relieving Alexi Bladel of any further activities as Queen.

Bladel has been told she can keep her title, but will not be able to participate in the Miss Illinois County Fair Pageant coming up in January. Illinois State Representative Mike Marron believes under these particular circumstances the young lady should be allowed to participate in the final event.

Miss Bladel is now attending Army Reserves basic training. The Bladel Family and Representative Mike Marron hopes the Board will reconsider after media pushes the story about this special young lady who wants to serve her country.

DeKalb County Veteran Get French Legion of Honor

Local DeKalb County Veteran **Enoch "Nick" Scull**, a member of Sandwich VFW Post 1486 and Plano Legion Post 395, will be awarded the **French Legion of Honor** medal in recognition of his service during WW II. A representative of the French Council will officially present the Legion of Honor medal on Thursday, October 24th at 11:00 AM. Nick is a long-time member of Leon Burson Post 395 and was a former businessman in Plano following his return to Plano at the conclusion of his military service.

After arriving in Europe, **Pvt. Enoch "Nick" Scull** was taken a prisoner of war while serving with the 28th Infantry during the Battle of the Bulge. While recuperating in an area they thought to be safe he and others were captured by Germans. Captured around Christmas day, December 25, 1944, he was held at three different camps until they were liberated from Stalag IX-A by General George Patton's army on Good Friday, March 30, 1945. The last camp, Berga Am Elster, was a slave labor camp. While a POW he and others were marched through Germany to railroad area, put on a train without food or water. At the time they were liberated Nick had lost 55 pounds.

The **French Legion of Honor** is an order of distinction first established by Napoleon Bonaparte in May of 1802. It is the highest decoration bestowed in France and is divided into five
categories: Chevalier (Knight), Officier (Officer), Commandeur (Commander), Grand Officier (Grand Officer) and Grand Croix (Grand Cross). It is also presented to anyone who helps the cause of France, regardless of where they come from.

Recently members of Leon Burson Post 395, working in cooperation with Home Depot, acquired materials and arranged for the installation of a wheelchair ramp at the home of WW II veteran Nick Schull Jr..

Enoch "Nick" Scull is currently 95 and still involved with the local Veteran Groups.

Thank you 'Nick' for your service to your country and we salute you.

sandwichamericanlegion@yahoo.com
713 S Main St, Sandwich, IL 60548, USA

DeKalb County Honors Veterans

DeKalb County Clerk & Recorder Doug Johnson and the DeKalb County Board proudly inducted two new Veterans into the DeKalb County Veterans Honor Roll on Wednesday night's Board Meeting. Each veteran received a certificate of this honor.
Mr. Benjamin Byrd served in the U.S. Army from April 1946 to October 1947 and was awarded the WWII Victory Medal, the Army Lapel Button, and an M-1 Rifle Marksman Badge.
Mr. Arthur "Larry" Lundgren served in the U.S. Army from September 1966 to June 1969 and was awarded the Air Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Expert Rifleman Bage, Combat Infantryman Badge and the Bronze Star.
The DeKalb County Board and the Citizens of DeKalb County would like to thank Benjamin Byrd and Larry Lundgren for their Service and Sacrifice to our country.

The first Veterans awards were in March and April 2011 by then County Clerk John J. Acardo. They include:
Fred Utter - USMC, Donald Schoo - US Army, James Quinn - US Army, Gerald Horton - USMC, Herb Holderman - US Army, Joesph Bussone - US Navy, Jerry Busby - US Army, Phillip Bomar - US Army, Michael Embrey - US Air Force. There are over 150 Veterans in DeKalb County honored by the DeKalb County Board and Clerk's office.
Current County Clerk Douglas Johnson (US Army) received the honor in November 2011.

For more information please see: **https://dekalbcounty.org/departments/county-clerk-recorder/veterans-honor-roll/**

Photo includes County Clerk Johnston, veteran Larry Lundgren, veteran Benjamin Byrd, and County Chair Mark Pietrowski, Jr.

Veterans: Thank you for your service:
Michael Embrey, USAF Veteran
"Aim for the Moon, if you Miss - you'll still be in the Stars ....."

Fact Sheet

SOCIAL SECURITY

2020 SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES

Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA):

Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) from the third quarter of 2018 through the third quarter of 2019, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries will receive a 1.6 percent COLA for 2020. Other important 2020 Social Security information is as follows:

Tax Rate	2019	2020
Employee	7.65%	7.65%
Self-Employed	15.30%	15.30%

NOTE: The 7.65% tax rate is the combined rate for Social Security and Medicare. The Social Security portion (OASDI) is 6.20% on earnings up to the applicable taxable maximum amount (see below). The Medicare portion (HI) is 1.45% on all earnings. Also, as of January 2013, individuals with earned income of more than $200,000 ($250,000 for married couples filing jointly) pay an additional 0.9 percent in Medicare taxes. The tax rates shown above do not include the 0.9 percent.

	2019	2020
Maximum Taxable Earnings		
Social Security (OASDI only)	$132,900	$137,700
Medicare (HI only)	No Limit	
Quarter of Coverage		
	$1,360	$1,410
Retirement Earnings Test Exempt Amounts		
Under full retirement age	$17,640/yr. ($1,470/mo.)	$18,240/yr. ($1,520/mo.)
NOTE: One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every $2 in earnings above the limit.		

The year an individual reaches full retirement age	$46,920/yr. ($3,910/mo.)	$48,600/yr. ($4,050/mo.)
NOTE: Applies only to earnings for months prior to attaining full retirement age. One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every $3 in earnings above the limit.		
Beginning the month an individual attains full retirement age	None	

	2019	2020
Social Security Disability Thresholds		
Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)		
Non-Blind	$1,220/mo.	$1,260/mo.
Blind	$2,040/mo.	$2,110/mo.
Trial Work Period (TWP)	$ 880/mo.	$ 910/mo.
Maximum Social Security Benefit: Worker Retiring at Full Retirement Age		
	$2,861/mo.	$3,011/mo.
SSI Federal Payment Standard		
Individual	$ 771/mo.	$ 783/mo.
Couple	$1,157/mo.	$1,175/mo.
SSI Resource Limits		
Individual	$2,000	$2,000
Couple	$3,000	$3,000
SSI Student Exclusion		
Monthly limit	$1,870	$1,900
Annual limit	$7,550	$7,670
Estimated Average Monthly Social Security Benefits Payable in January 2020		
	Before 1.6% COLA	**After 1.6% COLA**
All Retired Workers	$1,479	$1,503
Aged Couple, Both Receiving Benefits	$2,491	$2,531
Widowed Mother and Two Children	$2,889	$2,935
Aged Widow(er) Alone	$1,398	$1,421
Disabled Worker, Spouse and One or More Children	$2,144	$2,178
All Disabled Workers	$1,238	$1,258

This press release was produced and disseminated at U.S. taxpayer expense.

121 South California Street,
Sycamore, IL 60178

SYCAMORE VETERANS HOME

NOVEMBER 2019 EVENTS CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				Craig Mathey Band 6-10PM		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
American Legion Riders Post 99 Meetiing @ 7PM *(First Monday of Each Month Director, Don Paulsen)*					Benefit for Rick "Spider" Kramer 5-11PM	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	VFW Post 5788 & VFW Post Auxiliary Dinner @ 6:30 PM followed by Meetings (Second Tuesday Each Month, Commander Chris Collins/President, Trudy Schlieben)		American Legion Post 99 Meeting @ 7 PM (Second Tuesday of Each Month, Commander Gene Ege)		Jazz in Progress Band 6-11PM	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
						Community Breakfast 8 AM - 11 AM
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	Sycamore Veteran's Home Board Meeting @ 7 PM (Fourth Tuesday of Each Month, President Ernie McGee)		Sons of the American Legion Post 99 Meeting @ 7 PM *(Last Thursday of Each Month, Commander Terry Eygabroad)*			

RECURRING MEETINGS SUMMARY
Every Monday Line Dancing From 6:30 PM - ??
Every Saturday Burgers From 11:30 - 1:30 PM
Every Saturday Lighting from 1-3 PM
Last Sunday of Each Month Breakfast Starts @ 8 AM
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 99 *(Presidnet Kat Carrier- No Meetings Scheduled)*

To Honor You and Your Service to Our Country

Malta Elementary Welcomes All Veterans To Attend Our All School Assembly On November 11th at 9am in the Gymnasium

(Please come to Door #1 and bring a driver's license or state ID as all visitors must be checked in at the office.)

NATIONAL VETERANS SMALL BUSINESS WEEK NOVEMBER 4-8, 2019

The Small Business Administration helps Americans start, build and grow businesses. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships, the Small Business Administration assists and protects the interests of small business concerns. The Small Business Administration (SBA) is an autonomous U.S. government agency established in 1953 to bolster and promote the economy in general by providing assistance to small businesses. One of the largest functions of the SBA is the provision of counseling to aid individuals in trying to start and grow businesses. They are especially helpful with minorities, women and military veterans who want to start a small business.

SBA programs provide access to capital and preparation for small business opportunities. They can also connect veteran small business owners with federal procurement and commercial supply chains.
The Veterans Business Outreach Center Program is an OVBD initiative that oversees Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOC) across the country. This small business program features a number of success stories and offers business plan workshops, concept assessments, mentorship, and training for eligible veterans. Devoted exclusively to promoting veteran entrepreneurship, the Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD) facilitates the use of all SBA programs by veterans, service-disabled veterans, reservists, active-duty service members, transitioning service members, and their dependents or survivors.

November is Veteran's Month and the SBA wants to both honor and celebrate the veteran- and the military-owned business community. Although these training events below were designed with veterans in mind, all current and future small business owners are welcome.

Wednesday, Nov. 6, 9 a.m. Veterans' Contracting Tools: Learn from the Experts How to Build Your Toolbox
SBA Illinois District Office (500 W. Madison St., Suite 1150, Chicago) Register at:
VetContractingNov6.eventbrite.com

Thursday, Nov. 7, 9 a.m. Veterans: Is Franchising For You?
SBA Illinois District Office (500 W. Madison St., Suite 1150, Chicago) Register at:
VetFranchiseNov7.eventbrite.com

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 11:30 a.m. Online webinar: Contract Financing & Surety Bonding for Veterans Register at: **VetFinancingNov13.eventbrite.com**

www.usa.gov/federal-agencies/small-business-administration
| SBA.GOV/VETBIZ | #VETBIZ
https://www.veteranownedbusiness.com/

thanks..... ***Michael Embrey - USAF Veteran***
"Aim for the Moon, if you Miss - you'll still be in the Stars ....."

Michael Th. Embrey, CHO/EAD
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- **Former Musician/Arranger USAF Band/Drum Corps**
- **Former Director NIU Marching Band**

2014 DeKalb Chamber Hall of FAME Inductee
2015 Chicago SKAL Tourism Board of Directors (VP)
2016 Tour Colorado Board of Directors (VP)
2017 DeKalb Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
2018 DeKalb County CVB Board of Directors
"You never get a second chance to make a great first impression."