



# Anoka County

MINNESOTA

Veteran Services

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

# VETERANS ADVOCATE

Winter 2022-23

## REMINDER: VISITS TO ANOKA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Reminder, Anoka County residents who are seeking assistance applying for Veteran or Survivor Benefits must schedule an appointment to meet with one of our Service Officers. We are no longer able to take clients on a walk-in basis. The best way to schedule an appointment is to call our office at (763) 324-4500 and speak with a Service Officer so they can explain to the client what supporting documentation they must bring with them to our office.

## NO-COST FLU SHOTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS

Getting a flu shot protects you, your family and your community. And if needed, you can safely get vaccinated for COVID at the same time you get a flu shot – one visit, two vaccines. (Call ahead so your community provider has COVID vaccine available.)

Eligible Veterans can get a no-cost flu shot at a community provider in VA's network. Find an in-network community care provider by choosing a location in the drop down menu of the VA locator. You can choose one of 70,000 in-network pharmacy or urgent care locations nationwide.

No-cost flu vaccines are available at retail pharmacies and urgent care locations from Sept. 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023.

To find a VA in-network pharmacy click here: [VA IN-NETWORK PHARMACIES](#)

## PACT ACT RELATED CLAIMS

The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps VA improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

If you're an Anoka County resident and are a Veteran or survivor, and you believe the PACT Act affects you, contact Anoka County Veteran Services to schedule an appointment for assistance filing claims for PACT Act-related benefits.

## **ANOKA COUNTY VETERANS SUPPORT NETWORK**

Similar to how the Veterans Advisory Board operated, there will be quarterly meetings with stakeholders, and the Anoka County Veteran Services Office will serve as a facilitator for these meetings. This renamed group will allow for all local Veteran Service Organizations, support groups, and stakeholders to collaborate and ensure that the needs of our local Veterans are met.

Please help us spread the word to ensure that any interested groups or individuals can attend.

The next meeting will be held:

**\*\*Monday, December 12, 2022 - 2:00 PM\*\***  
**Anoka American Legion Post 102**  
**400 W. Main Street**  
**Anoka, MN 55303**

## **POST-9/11 VETERAN SERVICE BONUS**

The 2022 Legislature passed and Governor Walz signed the first-ever Veterans Omnibus Bill that included funding for a service bonus payable to eligible Veterans who served from 9/11/01 to 8/30/21. MDVA is honored to facilitate this program for eligible Veterans, currently serving service members, or Veterans' beneficiaries.

The application opened July 7, 2022 and since that date, MDVA has received 20,547 applications, approved 17,173 bonuses, and issued \$18,389,600 in payments.

They are currently receiving about 30 applications per day and continue to ask that you help promote the service bonus through your channels. Averaging the current numbers MDVA has enough funding to award about 6,000 more bonuses. They have change requests into the Governor's office asking for additional 20 million in funding and that the Inherent Resolve Medal be added to the list of medals and that the Minnesota home of record at time of entry onto active duty be taken out. They will keep us posted on the status of those requests

and we will pass any updates along to our network. In the event that MDVA exhausts the current funding before they receive any additional funding, or if they do not receive any additional funding at all, they will still be accepting Post 9/11 Veteran Service Bonus applications until June 30, 2024 and encouraging those who are eligible to apply until that date.

If you have questions, contact the Anoka County Veteran Services Office for assistance.

## **MACV LEGAL CLINIC FOR LOW- INCOME VETERANS**

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) has returned to holding legal clinics for Veterans, but with some changes. They are changing the services they offer and tightening guidelines for these legal clinics by focusing on housing stability-related legal issues for low-income Veterans, which is better aligned with MACV's mission of Ending Veteran Homelessness in Minnesota. What services will be changing?

- They will no longer offer Estate Planning services
- Services will target low-income Veterans, not all Veterans
- They cannot advise family members of Veterans

They are still willing to discuss a broad range of legal issues that may impact housing stability, including family law, criminal expungement, debt, driver's license issues, employment, financial issues, access to benefits, and any other legal issue that impacts a veteran's ability to become or remain housed. As always, no appointment is necessary but if a Veteran has questions about what services MACV can provide please have them call prior to coming out to the clinic to discuss. The next date for the legal clinic in Anoka for is:

**Thursday, December 1 from 9 AM-3 PM**

**Anoka County Government Center - Room 237**  
**2100 3rd Avenue**

Anoka, MN 55303

## **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

### **Coon Rapids American Legion and Auxiliary Post 334**

Meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month at  
6:30 PM at the Anoka American Legion  
400 West Main Street  
Anoka, MN 55303

### **Lino Lakes American Legion Post 566**

Meeting on the first Monday of each month at 6:30  
PM at the Lino Lakes American Legion  
7731 Lake Drive  
Lino Lakes, MN 55014

### **Coon Rapids VFW Post and Auxiliary Post 9625**

Meeting on the second Monday of each month.  
Auxiliary meets at 6:30 PM and VFW Post meets at  
7:00 PM at the Coon Rapids VFW  
1919 Coon Rapids Blvd NW  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

### **Anoka DAV Chapter 39**

Meeting on the second Thursday of each month at  
6:30 PM at the Coon Rapids VFW  
1919 Coon Rapids Blvd NW  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

### **Columbia Heights VFW Post and Auxiliary Post 230**

VFW Post meets on the second Tuesday of each  
month at 1:00 PM and the Auxiliary Post meets on  
the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM at  
the Columbia Heights VFW  
4446 Central Ave NE  
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

**Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 470**  
Meets at 7:00 PM on the first Wednesday of each  
month at the Anoka American Legion  
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)

## **2022-23 ANOKA COUNTY HOLIDAYS**

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

**November 24-25, 2022 - Thanksgiving**  
**December 26, 2022 - Christmas (Observed)**  
**January 2, 2023 - New Years Day (Observed)**  
**January 16, 2023 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day**  
**February 20, 2023 - Presidents' Day**  
**May 29, 2023 - Memorial Day**  
**July 4, 2023 - Independence Day**  
**September 4, 2023 - Labor Day**  
**November 10, 2023 - Veterans Day (Observed)**  
**November 23-24, 2023 - Thanksgiving**  
**December 25, 2023 - Christmas**

## **ABOUT ANOKA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES**

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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