



# Anoka County

MINNESOTA

Veteran Services

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

# VETERANS ADVOCATE

Fall 2022

## PACT ACT BECOMES LAW

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans — and their survivors — with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

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 a Veteran or survivor, and you believe the PACT Act affects you, contact Anoka County Veteran Services 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, September 19, 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 will run until June 30, 2024, or until funds have been exhausted.

There are three tiers of the Post 9/11 Veteran Service Bonus.

- \$600 if the Veteran or currently serving service-member served honorably in federal service during the qualifying period (September 11, 2001 – August 30, 2021) and was **NOT** awarded one of the following medals: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; or Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; or Iraq Campaign Medal; or Afghanistan Campaign Medal.
- \$1,200 if the Veteran or currently serving service-member served honorably in federal service during the qualifying period (September 11, 2001 – August 30, 2021) and **WAS** awarded one of the following medals: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; or Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; or Iraq Campaign Medal; or Afghanistan Campaign Medal.
- \$2,000 for the beneficiary of Veteran who served federal service during the qualifying period (September 11, 2001 – August 30, 2021) **AND** died during the eligibility period (September 11, 2001 – August 30, 2021) as a result of a service-connect injury, disease, or condition, and **WAS** awarded one of the following medals: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; or Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; or Iraq Campaign Medal; or Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

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

\*\*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 ANOKA COUNTY HOLIDAYS**

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

**September 5, 2022 (Labor Day)**

**November 11, 2022 (Veterans Day)**

**November 24-25, 2022 (Thanksgiving)**

**December 26, 2022 (Christmas Observed)**

## **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.

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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