

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



Camp Dodge, Building A6A, 7105 NW 70th Avenue, Johnston, IA 50131
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Spring 2010

Director's Message

Dear Friends:

Summer is upon us and in full force now that Memorial Day has passed and children are out of school. Many Memorial Day events were held this year with good attendance. It is always great to see so many

veterans who think back and remember comrades who died while serving; many died in combat. They called them their heroes! They said they all did their duty... "It is what you do."



people pay honor to our fallen heroes who have gone before us.

It looks to be another busy summer, with send-off events being scheduled for all the National Guard members being activated from all across Iowa. Over the past few months, we have sent off members of Army and Navy Reserves, as well. Of course, we all look forward to their welcome home events even more...

Veterans Day at the State Fair will be August 16th beginning with our annual parade. We will be looking for participants for entries in the parade, and - as always - hoping to make this year the largest one ever.

I have enjoyed the pleasure of talking with so many

In turn, veterans deserve the best we can do for them - to make sure they receive the best care, benefits, services, and programs possible - because they have earned it.

These are challenging economic times; however, the department has remained committed to our mission of continuing to provide the veterans of Iowa with benefits and services that serve to express the gratitude of the people of Iowa - a commitment to them for their service and sacrifice, even while operating under certain budget limitations.

IDVA appreciates the support of partnerships and unity with the veterans' community and citizens.

Patrick Palmersheim
Executive Director, IDVA

Iowa Veterans Cemetery Update



Spring 2010 finally arrives at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery...

The Iowa Veterans Cemetery reports that through May 2010 they have:

Applications on file:	4,026	<i>In Memory of</i> markers:	18
Interments thru June 11:	531	States represented:	22
Dependents interred:	68		

There are many more internments scheduled throughout the upcoming summer months.

Other news: The cemetery continues to have many visitors at the administration building. On Thursday, June 10, 2010, training was held for 10 funeral directors under the direction of Kelly Broderick, ILES Funeral Homes, Inc. The training included a quick tour of the administration building and concluded at the committal shelter. Some of the topics discussed ran the gamut of basic eligibility to completion of the internment. The funeral director assistants asked many great questions and kept the cemetery staff on their toes!

Reminder: The Bronze and Silver fund-raiser medallions are still available for sale. Contact Mindy at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery to order. Bronze medallions are \$25 and silver \$50. These make memorable gifts for birthdays, retirements, and other special events.

And finally: Over the recent Memorial Day weekend, Keith Blum, Cemetery Superintendent, borrowed a car-counter from the IDOT. The cemetery had a total of 2, 237 cars! (That's cars - not people.) Keith also reports that the mowing, seeding, trimming, and irrigation systems are up and running. The large amounts of rain have been a challenge, but the cemetery landscape has turned a beautiful verdant green!



Iowa's Fallen Heroes

Since the last issue of the IDVA newsletter, Iowa has lost two fallen heroes. Command Sgt. Maj. John Keith Laborde, age 53, of Reinbeck, Iowa died of a heart attack on April 22, 2010, after leading soldiers in physical training at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan. He had served his flag and country for 31 years.



John was born on March 2, 1957 in Marksville, Louisiana, and at the age of 18, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. In 1985 he joined the Army Reserves. He deployed to Afghanistan in August of 2009; it was his tenth overseas deployment. At the time of his death, he was a U.S. Army Reserve soldier assigned to the 649th Regional Support Group, based in Cedar Rapids. Among his many military decorations, he received the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and a list of others. He was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Oelwein, Iowa.



Lance Cpl. Joshua Davis of Perry, Iowa was killed on May 7, 2010 while fighting in Helmand Province. Davis died while supporting combat operations.



Davis was born on November 3, 1990, and joined the Marines after graduation from Perry High School in 2009. He was assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He deployed to Afghanistan in March 2010. He was "an honorable and fearless friend," and even after being shot, continued to fight back with heavy machine gun fire. He died as a result of his injuries.

Davis' funeral was held at the high school where he was captain of the wrestling team, a football player, and where he graduated nearly a year ago. Marines accompanied his casket, draped with an American flag, into the gym. Hundreds of people waved flags and saluted the hearse that took Davis' casket from the high school. On the 27 mile trip to the Iowa Veterans Cemetery, hundreds of people offered their respect - from Highway 169 through Minburn and Adel.

Joshua Davis was the first veteran killed in action to be buried at Iowa Veterans Cemetery.



Central Iowa Bad Boy Buggies donated the use of their buggies during the service for Joshua Davis.



Hallett Materials, Adel, showed their support during the burial ceremony for Joshua Davis.

News Briefs

VA Recognizes “Presumptive” Illnesses in Iraq, Afghanistan

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki has announced that the Department of Veterans Affairs is taking steps to make it easier for veterans to obtain disability compensation for certain diseases associated with service in the Persian Gulf War and Afghanistan. According to Shinseki, this will be the beginning of historic change for how the VA considers Gulf War veterans’ illness.

The VA is publishing a proposed regulation in the Federal Register that will establish new presumptions of service connection for nine specific infectious diseases associated with military service in Southwest Asia during the Persian Gulf War, or in Afghanistan on or after September 19, 2001.

The proposed rule includes information about the long-term effects potentially associated with the following nine diseases: Brucellosis, Campylobacter jejuni, Coxiella burnetii (Q fever), Malaria, Myco-

bacterium tuberculosis, Nontyphoid Salmonella, Shigella, Visceral leishmaniasis, and West Nile virus.

For non-presumptive conditions, a veteran is required to provide medical evidence that can be used to establish an actual connection between military service in Southwest Asia or in Afghanistan and a specific disease.

Comments on the proposed rule will be accepted over the next 60 days (as of March 18, 2010). A final regulation will be published after consideration of all comments received. (Those regulations will be reported in this newsletter.)

For more information about health problems associated with military service during operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom, please visit:

www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar.

2010 Medication Copayment Rate

The VA charges a copay for each 30-day or less supply of medication provided on an outpatient basis for the treatment of a non-service connected condition. Effective July 1, 2010, the copay amounts are:

Priority Groups	Copay Amount		
	1-30 day supply	61-90 day supply	31-60 day supply
2 through 6	\$8	\$16	\$24
7 and 8	\$9	\$18	\$27

Copayments stop each calendar year for priority groups 2-6 once a \$960 cap is reached.

These changes apply to:

- ♦ Veterans without a service connected condition, or
- ♦ Veterans with a disability rated less than 50%
 - who are receiving outpatient treatment for a non service-connected condition, and
 - whose annual income exceeds the limit set by law.

Note: Medication copayments do not apply to former prisoners of war or those covered by other exceptions as set by law.

For more information, contact 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visit: www.va.gov/healthelibigility

News Briefs – Continued

National Cemetery Administration to Introduce New Burial Benefit

Vanguard Magazine, May/June 2010, reports that the National Cemetery Administration will introduce a new burial benefit this summer. Veterans and family members will soon be able to order a bronze medallion that can be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker to signify the deceased's status as a veteran.



The medallion (as pictured) will come in three dimensions designed to fit on various-sized headstones, grave markers, and columbarium niche covers. This new medallion will be furnished in lieu of a traditional government headstone

or marker to veterans whose death occurred on or after November 1, 1990, and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. Eligible veterans are entitled to either a traditional government-furnished headstone or marker, or the new medallion, but not both.

After accepting a claim for the new benefit, VA will mail the medallion, along with a kit that will allow the family or the staff of a private cemetery to adhere the device to a headstone, marker, or niche cover. More information is available at: www.cem.va.gov.

Vietnam Bonus and Trust Fund Update

To date, current numbers for the Iowa Vietnam Bonus are as follows:

Approved:	1,315
Awarded:	\$236,110.50
Denied:	777
Deferred:	15
Deferred amount:	\$1,275.00

Current figures for the Iowa Veterans Trust Fund are:

Awarded:	373 (total all years)
Deferred:	11
Denied:	125

Health Care Services for Women Veterans

The Women Veterans Health Strategic Health Care Group, VA Central Office, has announced that the "VHA Handbook 1330.01, Health Care Services for Women Veterans," has been released for publication. This VHA Handbook defines the scope of health care services to women veterans and delineates essential components necessary to ensure that all enrolled women veterans have access to appropriate services, regardless of VHA site of care.

The online handbook can be found on the following website:

http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=2246



Central Iowa Honor Flight

The Honor Flight Network, a nonprofit organization created solely to honor American's veterans for all their sacrifices, has announced that there will be two flights leaving from Central Iowa. The first, sponsored by HyVee and Casey's, will leave on August 17th, 2010. The second flight, sponsored by Bill Knapp, will leave on August 19th, 2010, and will be the last Central Iowa Honor Flight.

To apply, go to: <http://www.centraliowahonorflight.org>
or contact Jeff Ballenger, PO Box 125, Council Bluffs, IA 51502, (712)322-6638, jeff01@cox.net.

Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day, May 7, 2010

Typically, May is one of the busiest months at IDVA, and May 2010 was no exception. The month began with the second annual Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day, held every May 7th at the Vietnam War Monument on the Iowa State Capitol grounds. Featured speaker was Congressman Leonard Boswell, a Vietnam Veteran. Other participants included IDVA Executive Director Patrick Palmersheim, Chaplain Michael Wolfram, U.S. Navy; Steve Layton, bagpipes; VVA Chapter 790; VFW Post 738, Rifle Salute; veterans Robert Radke, bugler, Bob Steben, IDVA, Dan Gannon and Steve Mulcahy, VVA.



IDVA's Bob Steben reads a poem by Iowa poet, Robert Schultz.



Congressman Leonard Boswell addresses the crowd during the Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony.



*Chapter 790
Vietnam Veterans of America*



Bagpiper Steve Layton plays "Amazing Grace" at the conclusion of the Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony.

A huge THANK YOU to the staff of IDVA's Cemetery and Camp Dodge office for your dedication to veterans and the recent ceremonies that honored them.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Dedication

On May 23, 2010, members, families, and friends of Vietnam Veterans of America gathered at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery to dedicate a monument in honor of their fallen comrades. The monument reads:

*"NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE
GENERATION OF VETERANS
ABANDON ANOTHER"*

*In memory of those who honorably
served their country during the Vietnam War era.*

*For those who fought for our freedom, life has
a meaning the protected will never know.*



Special remarks were made by Roger Elliott, President of VVA Chapter 490; Dan Gannon, member of VVA Chapter 490, and Congressman Leonard Boswell, Vietnam Veteran, U.S. Army. Also participating were Craig Krouch, VVA, the Iowa Army National Guard Honor Guard, VVA Chapter 790; Wayne Waldron, VVA; Steve Layton, bagpiper, Megan Hartwig, vocalist, and many many others too numerous to mention. Prior to the dedication, the American Legion performed their very moving "Five-Star Salute." The National Veterans Awareness Organization was also on hand for the dedication...this was a planned stop on their annual motorcycle ride to Washington, D.C.



American Legion's Five-Star Ceremony



Megan Hartwig performs the National Anthem



Chaplain Wayne Waldron



VVA's New Monument

VVA Memorial Dedication – Continued



Vietnam Veterans Dan Gannon, Craig Krouch, Roger Elliott, and Congressman Leonard Boswell



National Veterans Awareness Organization



Bagpiper Steve Layton plays "Amazing Grace"



*Post 790
Vietnam Veterans of America*



*An attentive crowd
at the May 23rd, 2010 dedication*

Inurnment Service, May 14, 2010

Captain James Owen Perrine was buried at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery on May 14th, 2010. What is remarkable about this burial is that Perrine died in 1974, and his ashes somehow ended up on a shelf for the past 36 years. That fact would be a story in itself, but there is more...James Perrine was the first (and quite possibly the last) World War I veteran to be buried in Iowa's Veteran Cemetery.



Captain James Owen Perrine

Perrine's obituary in the *Waterloo Courier* stated that, "Perrine was a former physicist, University of Northern Iowa professor, and a pioneer developer of transatlantic telephone technology for AT&T. He held a Bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa, a Master's degree from the University of Michigan, and a doctorate from Cornell University. Dr. Perrine was involved in teaching and lecturing physics at those institutions and also at UNI, Yale University, Montclair State College in New Jersey, and 173 other U.S. and Canadian colleges. He earned his Ph.D. after leaving the military.

During his military career, Perrine joined the Army to head the officers candidate school for the Army Signal Corps at Yale University. During World War II, he was an advisor to the Navy in its submarine detection development program.

In 1919, Perrine became the first commander of the Cedar Falls American Legion Post 237, and was still an active member when that post celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1969.

Dr. Perrine was belatedly but elegantly laid to rest with all the respect and reverence he deserved. Approximately 750 - 1,000 people attended the service on a beautiful Iowa day. Joining together, the Legion Riders, Patriot Guard, Missing in Action, and other motorcycle groups accompanied Dr. Perrine's ashes from the funeral home to his final resting place. The funeral escort gathered at Hamilton's Funeral Home in West Des Moines and traveled on Interstate Highway 235 westbound to the Van Meter/Veterans Cemetery exit, and into the cemetery grounds.

Participating in the service were: Hamilton's Funeral Home, Casey's, HyVee, UNI, Congressman Leonard Boswell, Dean Brand, Bob's Septic, Van Meter High School Band, MacKenzie Highlanders Pipes and Drums, Chaplain Skip Manus, Brigadier General Janet Phipps, Assistant Adjutant General, Iowa Army National Guard; Mark Jastorff, President, Alumni Association; Des Moines Fairgrounds VFW, Post 738; Iowa Army National Guard Honor Guard, Gerald Pallesen - Buglers Across America, and a special thank you to Bill Lauchlan, Iowa State Coordinator, Missing in American Project. *(Additional photos on next page.)*



Inurnment Service, May 14, 2010 continued



*Bill Lauchlan, Iowa State Coordinator
Missing in America Project*



*Brigadier General Janet Phipps,
Iowa Army National Guard*

View a short video clip of the ceremony at:
<http://iowasurveyor.blogspot.com/2010/05/capt-james-o-perrine.html>



Mark Jastorff, President, UNI Alumni Association



Van Meter High School Band

Memorial Day 2010

Iowa Veterans Cemetery

The second annual 8:00 a.m. Memorial Day ceremony was held on May 31st at Iowa Veterans Cemetery. It was a beautiful Iowa day... certainly one befitting the day of remembrance. This year's attendees had the honor of hearing guest speaker, Governor Chet Culver. The family of Joshua Davis laid the wreath. Also participating in the program was the Central Campus Army Red Bull Battalion, Junior ROTC - under the watchful eye of Lt. Col. Bennett; Chaplain Michael Wolfram, U.S. Navy; IDVA Executive Director Patrick Palmersheim; and volunteer, Gloria Doyle, trumpeter, whose husband is buried in our Veterans Cemetery.



Director Palmersheim introduces Governor Culver



View of Iowa Veterans Cemetery on Memorial Day

Veterans Memorial Auditorium

Veterans Memorial Day at Vets Auditorium had a very special guest this year. Tammy Duckworth, Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, was the keynote speaker. (Duckworth was also in town to make closing remarks at the end of the National Golden Age Games. See related article on page 8.)

A Major in the Illinois Army National Guard, Duckworth served in Iraq as an Assistant Operations Officer and also flew combat missions as a Black Hawk helicopter pilot. During a mission north of Baghdad in 2004, her aircraft was ambushed and a rocket-propelled grenade struck the helicopter she was co-piloting. She continued to pilot the aircraft until passing out from loss of blood. As a result of the attack, Duckworth lost both of her legs and partial use of one arm. She received many decorations for her actions, including the Purple Heart, the Air Medal, and the Combat Action Badge.

Since her recovery at Walter Reed, Duckworth has dedicated her life to public service and advocating on behalf of disability rights and veterans.



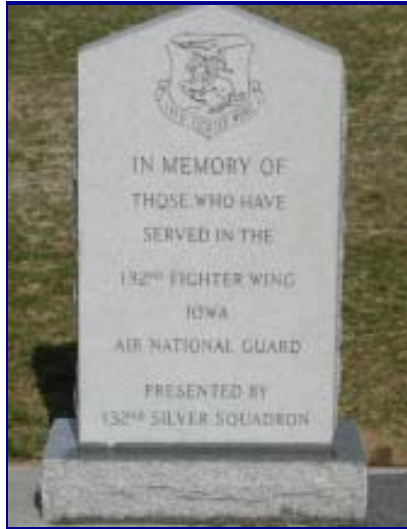
Major Tammy Duckworth

Also participating in the ceremony was Patrick Palmersheim, Presiding Officer; JROTC Cadets, North High School; Chaplain Cpt. Skip Manus, National Guard; honored guest Congressman Leonard Boswell; and the Argonne Memorial Day Band.

132nd Silver Squadron Memorial Dedication

When the Iowa Veterans Cemetery opened in 2008, the cemetery allotted space for commemorative stones to be placed. On May 19, 2010, a marker was placed and dedicated in memory of the 132nd Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard.

The Silver Squadron consists of approximately 375 retired members of the 132nd Fighter Wing. A steering committee, led by CMSgt. Michael B. Knight (ret.), met and decided to investigate the possibility of erecting a marker to honor the men and women of the 132nd Fighter Wing. Plans were presented to the larger group, who supported the idea. Funds were collected at the Silver Squadron's semiannual gatherings.



Submitted by: Michael B. Knight
CMSGT Ret.
Silver Squadron Commander

Members of the steering committee met with the staff from the Des Moines-Winterset Monument Company to develop and design the marker. The process took about a year and a half.

The monument was formally dedicated on May 19th, 2010. Colonel William D. DeHaes led a contingency of troops to witness the dedication. Many Silver Squadron members attended, as well as representatives from the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs. Lt. Col. Gordon Martin, (ret.) spoke on behalf of the members.

IDVA's Webpage Address Change

IDVA's webpage address has changed as a result of the March 3rd security compromise.

The new address is: <https://va.iowa.gov>

Veterans Get Dressed for Success

Iowa Workforce Development and the Men's Warehouse will partner again this September for the National Suit Drive. This project is designed to provide gently-used, professional attire to veterans and unemployed men as they transition into the workforce. 2010 marks the third year these two Des Moines businesses have joined forces to help local veterans dress for success.

"Not having an appropriate personal appearance can affect job opportunities," explained Jeff Johnson, Local Veterans Employment Specialist at Iowa Workforce Development. "The clothing, combined with the career skills training and resources they receive from Iowa Workforce Development, increase their chances of securing permanent employment."

Justin Stinson, manager of Men's Warehouse in West Des Moines, said, "We promote the National Suit Drive to local businesses and community organizations to encourage their employees and members to donate their gently-used, professional clothing. We are confident that the impact made by helping these men will positively affect our community."

Iowa Workforce Development provides resources for all Iowans regarding their unemployment needs. Visit one of 55 field offices across the state for personalized job search assistance, skills assessment, and career-readiness training. Or visit the Iowa Workforce Development website at www.iowaworkforce.org for a complete list of services offered.

Korean War Monument Dedication

At dawn on June 25, 1950, forces from the Korean People's Army crossed the 38th parallel and began attacking troops from the Republic of Korea Army, beginning what would become to be known as the Korean War. This year marks the 60th anniversary of that war.

Colin Powell, former secretary of state, national security adviser, and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke at the Veterans Memorial Park in Cedar Rapids on June 1st, to dedicate a new monument honoring the 507 Iowa natives who died or were declared missing in action during the Korean War. The monument (and Powell's visit) were paid for by PMX Industries, a Cedar Rapids subsidiary of a Korean company.

The monument, approximately six and a half feet high with granite faces, displays the names of all those in the military who were born in Iowa and died in the Korean War. The monument is located in Veterans Memorial Park outside Veterans Memorial Stadium in Cedar Rapids.

In his address to more than 700 people, Powell stated that, rather than the "forgotten war," America's involvement in the Korean Conflict should be remembered as the "forgotten victory."

Over 1,789,000 served in the Korean War:

33,741	Battle Deaths
2,833	Other deaths in service (theater)
17,672	Other deaths in service (non-theater)
103,284	Non-mortal woundings

It's estimated that there are 3,086,400 living veterans of the Korean War (VA estimate as of November 2008).



National Veterans Golden Age Games

Hundreds of veterans from around the United States gathered in Des Moines to compete in the 24th National Veterans Golden Age Games from May 26nd through the 31st. This is the largest annual sports competition of its kind in the world!

John Gingrich, chief of staff for the Department of Veterans Affairs stated that, "This extraordinary event is a true testament to the competitive spirit and will of our nation's veterans. I am thrilled that this premier sporting event for senior veterans was held in Des Moines this year - the heartland of America. Our competitors once again demonstrated that age is not a deterrent to an active, rewarding life."

The National Veterans Golden Age Games are open to all U.S. military veterans, age 55 or older, who receive care at a VA medical facility. The games are designed to improve the quality of life for older veterans - including those with a wide range of disabilities. They offer participants the opportunity to compete in ambulatory, visually-impaired, and wheelchair divisions - according to their ages. The event also serves as a qualifier for participants in the National Senior Games, which takes place every two years.

Also attending the games was VA Assistant Secretary Tammy Duckworth, who gave the keynote address for the Memorial Day service at Vet's Auditorium.

ATTENTION WOMEN VETERANS!! SUMMER CALENDAR

You are invited to the following activities
- **for women only** -
at the VA Central Iowa Health Care System in Des Moines

Friday, June 25 Time: 1:00 - 3:30 pm
Place: Building 12 - Room 109
 Craft: Come make a simple craft project - a small scrapbook. No supplies needed
 - everything will be supplied for you!

Wednesday, June 30 Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm
Place: Building 7M - Room 181
 Tai Chi and Music with Movement: Come learn some fundamentals of Tai Chi and
 do some fun exercises to music. Help your body and your mind! Easy to do and no
 equipment needed...dress comfortably.

Friday, July 9 Time: 10:00 - 1:00 am
Place: Building 12 - Room 109
 Women's Health Topic - Education and Discussion. Led by women Veterans
 Coordinator, Michelle Finley.

Monday, July 19 Time: 2:00 - 3:30 pm
Place: Building 23 - Room 109
 Come and make a beautiful bracelet! Bring your own beads if you have them, or
 use the ones provided. Come socialize with other women and have a light snack.

Wednesday, August 25 Time: 2:00 - 2:45 pm
Place: Building 7M - Room 181
 After MOVE class, we will walk around the VA grounds for a 1 mile walk and
 talk. Light refreshments following.

EVERY Wednesday Time: 1:00 - 2:00 pm
Place: Building 7M - Room 181
 ALL WOMEN VETERANS are invited to attend the MOVE class. This is a class
 that discusses health, eating properly, exercise, and losing weight.

Questions? Contact:

Michelle Finley, Women Veterans Coordinator: 699-5999 x5824 (michelle.finley@va.gov) or
Suzanne Anderson, Music Therapist: 699-5999 x4949 (Suzanne.anderson4@va.gov)

The Women Veterans Program

presents the

1st WOMEN'S VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY AND BENEFITS EXPO

Sponsored by the

Des Moines VA Regional Office and Des Moines VA Medical Center

Saturday, November 6, 2010 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Gold Star Military Museum - Camp Dodge

7105 NW 70th Avenue

Johnston, IA 50131-1824

Featured speaker:

Brigadier General Janet Phipps, Assistant Adjutant General, Iowa Army National Guard

Topics and Exhibits

- ♦ Honoring Iowa Women Veterans
- ♦ Health and Wellness Fair
- ♦ Veterans Resources
- ♦ Snacks and light lunch provided

Sponsored by

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Women Veterans Coordinators,
VA Medical Center Women Veterans Program Manager,
IDVA, Vet Center and other sponsors

For more information contact: angela.orr@va.gov or bonnie.christensen@va.gov

Registration form for 1st Women's Appreciation Day and Benefit Expo

Please complete form and send (by email above or regular mail) to:

Angie Orr, Women Veterans Coordinator, 210 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50309

or call Angie at (515) 323-7470 or Bonnie Christensen at (515)323-7566.

Please register by October 29, 2010, and note if you have special needs.

Please Hurry!! Limited Seating Available!!!

We hope you can join us for a day of inspiration and renewal!!!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Branch of Service _____

Dates of Service _____

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