

HF1227

Chief Author:

Representative Matt Bliss



SF249

Chief Author:

Senator Justin Eichorn

Camp Bliss is a one of a kind non-profit Retreat Center formed through Independent Lifestyles, Inc. a Center for Independent Living (ILICIL)

Veterans are in great need of community based solutions to heal, rejuvenate, acclimate into society, tend to their relationships and cope with Post traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries and much more.

Camp Bliss is seeking \$75,000 to be added to the base funding for Independent Lifestyles, Inc. to serve Veterans in providing lifesaving and life changing retreats for themselves, their spouses and their families.

The average cost of a two or three day retreat ranges from \$600-\$650 per person. This funding would provide retreats for between 100-120 Veterans each year.

Facts:

- More U.S. veterans have committed suicide between 2008 and 2017 than the number of U.S. soldiers that died during the entire Vietnam War. The current number is approximately 23 Veterans per day who die by suicide.
- The [VA statement accompanying their report](#) underlined just how complex of an epidemic this really is. Officials in charge explained that the department is simply incapable of addressing the issue and that it needs help from the private sector to properly tackle it.
- Dr. Richard Stone, the Executive in Charge of the Veterans Health Administration. "We cannot do this alone," said "We call on our community partners to join us in this effort."
- Veterans in Minnesota and across the nation are in crises and a community based, effective and efficient approach is what is needed.
- Veterans in Minnesota and throughout the US are not getting the support, resources or assistance they need to thrive during or after deployment.
- The VA is overworked and simply cannot provide the community based support that Veterans need to function within their families, employment or their community.
- We keep pouring millions of dollars into reacting to Veteran crises. Mostly in the form of high cost medical care. I urge the MN State legislature to fund Camp Bliss so that we can continue to provide the wellness and therapeutic experiences that provide lasting change, save marriages, and create wellness.

Representative Bliss graciously accepted our request to be Chief Author. Although the name is resembled in our Retreat Center, there is no connection to Representative Bliss.