



Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

Agency Overview

Commissioner Larry Herke

January 9, 2023



MDVA throughout Minnesota



-  **Veterans Homes**
Fergus Falls, Hastings, Luverne, Minneapolis & Silver Bay
-  **Future Homes**
Bemidji, Montevideo & Preston
-  **State Cemeteries**
Duluth, Little Falls & Preston
-  **Future Cemetery**
Redwood Falls
-  **Office Locations**
St. Paul (Veterans Service Building Central Office)
& Henry Whipple Building Claims Office,
Fargo/NW Minnesota Claims office

On-campus MDVA representatives serve public and private colleges and universities across the state.



MDVA Mission

Serving Minnesota Veterans, their dependents and survivors by connecting them with the federal and state care and benefits they have *earned*.



Minnesota's Veteran Statistics

USDVA (VA) estimates as of September 30, 2022:

- **Total Veterans:** 294,232 Veterans in Minnesota
- **Gender:** Male 91% - Female 9%
- **Conflict Service Period:**
 - WWII Era = 1%
 - Korean War Era = 6%
 - Vietnam War Era = 32%
 - Gulf War – Pre 9/11 Era = 13%
 - Gulf War – Post 9/11 = 17%
- 52% of Minnesota Veterans are age 65 or older
- 3 of 4 Minnesota Veterans served during a war period
- Approximately 47% of Veterans live in the seven-county metro area





MDVA Senior Leaders





MDVA Veterans Healthcare Division

- Current Minnesota Veterans Homes
- New Minnesota Veterans Homes
- Veterans Suicide Prevention



Current Minnesota Veterans Homes

- **Minneapolis**
 - 300 Skilled beds
 - 50 Domiciliary beds
 - 35 Adult Day Center (15-17 ADC)
- **Hastings**
 - 145 Domiciliary beds
- **Fergus Falls**
 - 106 Skilled beds
- **Luverne**
 - 85 Skilled beds
- **Silver Bay**
 - 83 Skilled beds



MVH – Minneapolis



New Minnesota Veterans Homes

- **Preston**
 - 54 Skilled beds
 - Anticipated opening June 2023
- **Bemidji**
 - 72 Skilled beds
 - Anticipated opening July 2023
- **Montevideo**
 - 72 Skilled beds
 - Anticipated opening August 2023





Veteran Suicide Prevention

Minnesota loses approximately 100 Veterans a year to suicide.

We are working to end this tragedy.

- September is Suicide Prevention Month
- First Saturday in October is Minnesota Veteran Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day
- How can you help?
 - Connect with at-risk Veterans.
 - Encourage Veterans to find a purpose that gives meaning to their lives.
 - Complete training offered by MDVA.

Minnesota Veteran Suicide Prevention & Awareness Day

We can all make a difference!

Join fellow Veterans, their families and their supporters as we come together to continue efforts to prevent Veteran suicide in Minnesota.

Event Date
Saturday, October 1, 2022
Program 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Coffee, donuts and resources available starting at 9:00 a.m.

Event Location
Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake®
11300 180th Street North
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047

Program Speakers

- MDVA Commissioner Larry Herke
- Minnesota State Representative Bob Dettmer
- Suicide Prevention Consultant Brittany Miskowicz

*Camp for the weekend. Learn more at VetsCampMN.org.
The event is hosted by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, Minneapolis VA Health Care System, MHealth Fairview, Regions Hospital and Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake.

For more information, visit MinnesotaVeteran.org/Events or email SuicidePrevention.MDVA@state.mn.us





MDVA Programs & Services Division

- Veterans Services
- Veterans Programs and Memorial Affairs
- Veterans Education and Employment



MDVA Programs & Services

Veterans Services

- **Claims Office**
 - Advocate for earned benefits from Federal VA
- **Outreach and Tribal Operations**
 - Outreach to groups of claimants who would not normally seek benefits due to cultural differences or geographic location
- **Women Veterans**
 - Ensure women Veterans have equitable access to Federal and State benefits and services
- **Gold Star Family Programs**
 - Honor the legacy of every fallen Minnesota hero, while supporting the needs of their families
- **County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) Training and Education**
 - Statutorily responsible for “certifying” the 87 CVSOs through a structured training program and receive accreditation to present claims on behalf of MDVA and the American Legion



MDVA Programs & Services

Veterans Programs and Memorial Affairs

- **Benefits**
 - Dental, disaster relief, financial assistance, optical, special needs
- **Homelessness Prevention and Assistance**
 - 283 current Veterans experiencing homelessness according to [registry](#)*
 - Functional zero declared in Continuums of Care outside of Hennepin and Ramsey County.
- **State Veterans Cemeteries**
 - Duluth, Little Falls and Preston
 - Redwood County opening summer 2023
- **Minnesota Service CORE**
 - Program designed to bring essential, community-based services directly to Veterans and their families across Minnesota at no cost
- **Veterans Claims**
 - Assists Veterans and their dependents who seek earned benefits from the Federal VA like compensation, pension, vocational or education benefits

*<https://mn.gov/mdva/resources/homelessnessandprevention/homelessveteranregistry.jsp>

Serving Veterans



MDVA Programs & Services

Education and Employment

- **Higher Education Veterans Program**
- **State Approving Agency**
- **MN GI Bill**
 - \$10,000 maximum benefit
 - Used for higher education costs, on-the-job training/apprenticeship or license and certification
- **Veterans Employment**
 - Veterans Preference
- **Post 9/11 Veteran Service Bonus***
 - Applications received: 21,466
 - Applications approved: 18,031
 - Expended funds: \$19.3 million out of \$24.8 million allocated in 183 days
 - Applications open until June 30, 2024 or until funds are exhausted

*data as of COB January 5, 2023



MDVA Key Allies and Stakeholders

- **Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers**
 - www.macvso.org
- **Minnesota Commanders' Task Force**
 - Leaders of the 8 largest Veteran Service Organizations (American Legion, DAV, VFW, AMVETS, PVA, Purple Heart, Marine Corp League, Jewish War Veterans)
 - Commissioner's informal board of directors
- **US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**
- **Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV)**
 - Leading non-profit working to end Veterans homelessness
- **294,000 Minnesota Veterans and their Families**
- **ALL Minnesotans**



2023 MDVA Focus Areas

- **Pass Veterans Administration and MDH Surveys**
 - 3 new Veterans Homes (Bemidji, Montevideo and Preston)
- **Dedication Ceremony**
 - 1 new Veterans Cemetery (Redwood County)
- **Intense focus to end Veterans Homelessness**
 - 2 Continuums of Care left to declare functional zero
- **Establish Veterans Community Health Capability**
 - Veterans Suicide Awareness and Prevention
 - Veteran Direct Care at Home (Hidden Heroes)

Questions

