



THE SITREP

The **Situation Report** is provided by the Isanti County Veterans Services Department

As we move further into the world of technology and instant access to information, Isanti County's Veterans Services Department found it necessary to provide the community with a regularly published source of information regarding Veterans in our community.

Summer 2022

DEAR READERS:

Somehow we slid right through spring in just a few short weeks, and summer is upon us! Which means so many fun opportunities to mingle over BBQ and check on friends and neighbors! We have Isanti Rodeo & Jubilee Days beginning on July 7th with a parade, the Isanti County Fair's Freedom Fest on July 20th, where Veterans get in free from 1pm - 6pm, Braham's Pie Day on August 5th, and the Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon's Golf Tournament on September 16th just to name a few.

Freedom Fest is held in the same baby blue Sons of American Legion building again on the south end of the fairgrounds. We're planning on the same type of event as the last few years. Veterans and their loved ones will have an opportunity to learn about the various benefits available to them, and potentially leave with swag (freebies). Come on out and swap stories with folks you haven't seen in a while!

ISANTI COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE NEWS:

Our office's Director, Dan Meyer, has moved on to take on a new adventure. At this junction, we are continuing as we always have and will, to serve the Veterans of our community. Please understand that there are only two of us in the office and we'll do our best to serve everyone as quickly as possible. Thank you for your understanding and patience during the transition in our department. The position has been posted on the county's website, and more information can be found at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/coisantimn>.

GWOT VETERANS SERVICE BONUS INFORMATION :

Beginning July 7th, 2022 the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) is planning to begin accepting applications for the Post 9/11 Veteran Service Bonus for those Veterans that served anytime between September 11, 2001 and August 30, 2021. This fund will provide Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Veterans the Thank You from Minnesotans for their service and sacrifice. Veterans who qualify will receive a bonus of \$600. That amount jumps to \$1,200 if a veteran's service includes time overseas, as verified by campaign medals (Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, GWOT Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal Or Afghanistan Campaign Medal) or using the Veteran's DD214 discharge documents. And Gold Star families will be eligible for \$2,000. Residency in Minnesota must be listed on the DD214 Discharge Document as the Home of Record at the time of entry into the US Armed Forces and be a current Minnesota resident. MDVA will be mailing checks to individuals for this bonus, and this is the only payment method. Please refer to the MDVA website <https://mn.gov/mdva/resources/familyassistance/911-service-bonus.jsp> for the application.

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Cambridge, MN 55008
<https://www.co.isanti.mn.us/>

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Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty. This much we pledge--and more.

Inaugural Address of John F. Kennedy—Friday, January 20th, 1961

Summer 2022

MENTAL HEALTH NEWS:

988 is the new number for the Mental Health Crisis & Suicide Prevention Hotline! Now dialing 988 will provide a more direct line of support and services for those in need of mental health assistance. The call specialists are trained to use the least invasive intervention when possible and provide referrals to local community and support services that the person in need will accept on their own terms. And since we're on the topic, the counties of Pine, Isanti, Chisago, Kanabec, and Mille Lacs and created a group called, PICK-M Up Suicide Prevention Coalition. If you're interested in becoming a member of the coalition and are passionate making a positive impact towards ending suicide in our community, please reach out to our office or join by contacting Mindy Sandell, Pine County CVSO, at mindy.sandell@co.pine.mn.us, and if you're interested in visiting with a licensed social worker that comes to our office, just let us know and we'll submit the referral for him to contact you.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION:

Beginning July 18th, Mr. Tim LaBeau, Veterans Employment Representative with MN's Workforce Center & DEED, will be available in our office on the 3rd Monday of the month to become more accessible to Veterans that are looking to meet and go over employment options. Mr. LaBeau will be available from 9am - 1pm.

VETERANS BENEFITS:

Do you know about your benefits? Let's start at the beginning! **0% Service Connected** = outpatient treatment, civil service preference, and Service Disabled Veterans Life Insurance (offered for 2 years from the time a new condition is awarded, until you turn 70). **10% Service Connected** = No cost hearing aids and eye glasses (every 2 years), funding fees waived for home loan guarantee, free access to state and national parks, free travel on Metro Transit buses and Light Rail Transit with one attendant, No co-payment for treatment at the VA Medical Centers and Clinics. **20% Service Connected** = Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) replaced Voc Rehab. **30% Service Connected** = Additional compensation for dependent spouse / children, and travel allowance for scheduled appointments.

LOCAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS & MEETING TIMES:

American Legion Post 290 - Cambridge, MN	6pm, 2nd Tuesday of the month
Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon - Cambridge, MN	7pm, 3rd Thursday of the month
Military Order of the Cootie Pup Tent 99 - Isanti, MN	7pm, 1st Thursday of the month
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1731 - Braham, MN	7pm, 2nd Thursday of the month
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2735 - Isanti, MN	7pm, 3rd Monday of the month

Addresses for these meetings can be found at the following Isanti County website:

<https://www.co.isanti.mn.us/BusinessDirectoryII.aspx?lngBusinessCategoryID=28>