



VETERANS CONNECTIONS

News from the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs ★ Volume 6, Issue 9 ★ September 2026



Message from IDVA Director Terry Prince

September was Suicide Prevention Awareness Month—a time to not only amplify awareness of veteran suicide prevention but also to remember those we’ve lost. The statistic of 22 veterans a day doesn’t even begin to scratch the surface of the many families and friends who are impacted when a veteran loses all hope. A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of attending the semi-annual Forgotten Warrior Memorial Ceremony in Channahon, Illinois where sadly, 12 more veterans’ names were added to the memorial. Reading each of their stories, I was moved by how much joy they brought to their

families and friends and yet, through all their humor, talents, and approaches to life, we were unable to save them from their invisible wounds.

Suicide prevention begins with awareness and getting care BEFORE a crisis occurs. Did you know that in 2023, the VA reported that 61% of veterans who died by suicide were not receiving VA health care in the last year of their life, highlighting the importance of engagement with VA services. They even took it a level further by offering free 24/7 emergency mental health care through VA and non-VA facilities, regardless of enrollment status. If you are in crisis right now, Call or text the Veterans Crisis Line, which is available 24/7 by dialing 988 – then press 1 or Text: 838255. This is a direct way to contact a licensed professional, right away and when you need it.

While awareness of programs like the VA and 988 crisis line are key, IDVA knows it has an additional role, and that is to help Illinois veterans thrive in our state. We do this by assisting them in establishing a firm foundation for a productive and meaningful life through connections to federal and state benefits, housing, education, employment, and overall well-being. IDVA’s Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) are poised to work one-on-one with veterans and their families to ensure they receive what they have earned.

It can be incredibly frustrating to know that the scourge of suicide continues, despite all the resources and the many organizations across the nation who have instituted critical and effective programs to prevent it from happening but know this, they are making a difference. It may not feel that way because even one suicide is too many, but the commitment and love these people have for this crusade is unbelievable. IDVA is proud to be a part of a wholly committed network that connects veterans and their families to resources that are available to them throughout their post military lives.

While September has been focused on Suicide Prevention, we promise to continue this work throughout the year and pay honor to the fallen by caring for those they leave behind. Please take a moment to view this short video on how you can support veterans in your life and help prevent veteran suicide:

[Veteran Suicide Prevention Message 2026](#)

As always, thank you for staying connected to IDVA.

Sincerely,

Terry Prince, Director and U.S. Navy Veteran

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Overcoming Financial Stress

Information published with permission from the JAMA Network and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

In a case study of 17,439 veterans conducted by the JAMA Network, verified financial stressors—including mortgage delinquency, repossessions, past-due credit card payments, lower and declining credit scores, and cumulative numbers of stressors—were associated with increased odds of suicide. Integrating national credit data with confirmed suicide deaths enhanced precision and timing of financial risk measurement while accounting for key psychiatric diagnoses among VA users. These findings identify financial stressors as potential contributors to suicide among veterans and likely the general population. Incorporating strategies to identify and mitigate financial stressors may support comprehensive approaches to reducing suicide mortality.

The USDVA recently launched FINVET, a comprehensive online repository created with support from VA Office of Suicide Prevention, which focuses on enhancing the financial well-being of Veterans, recognizing the connection between financial stability and mental health. FINVET helps mitigate suicide risk by connecting Veterans to trustworthy financial tools, information, videos, calculators, and worksheets.

How FINVET Supports Veterans: After military service, Veterans work toward financial success. But finding financial tools can be a challenge since they are located in many different places. FINVET steps in as a one-stop website, making it easier for Veterans to find money resources and navigate their financial journey. These resources include:

1. Paying for essentials like housing, food, car, and clothes.
2. Saving money through budgeting, discounts, and reducing impulse buys.
3. Increasing income through work, investments, education, and benefit utilization.
4. Managing debt by building credit and addressing medical, legal, and utility bills.
5. Protecting money by avoiding scams, using safe banks, and planning for the future.

To view the complete summary of how FINVET can support veterans experiencing financial challenges, please view this [short video](#).

IDVA Director Terry Prince Addresses the American Legion



IDVA Director Terry Prince, in his role as President of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA), addressed The American Legion's 107th National Convention in Louisville, KY. Thousands of American Legion, Sons of The American Legion and Auxiliary members gathered to participate in commission meetings, workshops, training sessions and Legion Family activities and to hear from distinguished guests, including Director Prince.



Veteran Homelessness Grants

USDVA Awards \$39 M in Grants to End Veteran Homelessness in Illinois

Source: USDVA September 15th Release

The Department of Veterans Affairs today awarded \$38,899,927 in grants to 25 community organizations to help Veterans in FY 2027 who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in Illinois. This funding is part of a record-high \$1.17 billion in grants awarded to 680 organizations across the country to fight Veteran homelessness. The grants follow VA's success in [housing 51,936 homeless Veterans](#) in Fiscal Year 2025, the highest number in seven years.

Resource and supportive services grants will be distributed through the agency's [Supportive Services for Veteran Families](#) (SSVF) program to:

- Prevent the imminent loss of a home.
- Identify new, more suitable housing situations for Veterans and families.
- Rapidly re-house Veterans and their families who are homeless and might remain homeless without assistance.

If you are a Veteran who is experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-4AID-VET 877-424-3838). Visit the [VA Homeless Programs website](#) to learn about housing initiatives and other programs for Veterans exiting homelessness.

Illinois grants were awarded to:

Thresholds
Heartland Human Care Services
Featherfist
Midwest Shelter for Homeless veterans
Chestnut Health Systems
Veterans Path to Hope
Volunteers of America
The Salvation Army

Per Diem was offered to:

Home Sweet Home Ministries (Bloomington)
Supportive Way Foundation (Calumet City)
The Salvation Army (Champaign)
Featherfist (Chicago)
The Boulevard of Chicago
Volunteers of America of Illinois (Chicago)
The Eagles nest of St. Clair County (East St. Louis)
Transitional Living Services (Hebron)
Family and friends Day Center (Joliet)
The Salvation Army (Peoria)

Veterans' Home at Quincy Long-Term Care Building Move-In

The Veterans' Home at Quincy's new long-term-care building welcomed 29 new residents on August 11th, to join the original 30 residents who moved into the home in September 2025. The move followed the home's final accreditation by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, which is a thorough and diligent assessment of the building's functions.

The day before the move, volunteers, many of them from American Legion Post #37, packed and moved the resident's belongings. Golden Bridges, a local senior and specialty move managers, and IVHQ staff, unpacked and assembled the residents' rooms, settling the residents in less than 90 minutes. During the move, the activity staff entertained residents with games, trivia, music, snow cones, and lunch.

The highlight of the day came when a Quincy Fire Department pumper truck pulled in front of the Markword building and seven firefighters escorted residents to their new home. The firefighters pushed wheelchairs, assisted those who were walking, and brought encouragement and enthusiasm to the veterans throughout the move. It was a wonderful example of heroes serving heroes.

The new long-term care building is part of a \$300 million investment in the Veterans' Home at Quincy which also includes a domiciliary for independent living. The buildings were designed to provide a high-level of care in beautiful and comfortable spaces. Residents enjoy living, dining, and outdoor spaces, a chapel, fitness center, and a pub.

To learn more about the Quincy Home or the homes in Anna, Chicago, LaSalle, and Manteno, visit: [Veterans' Homes](#).



Quincy Fire Department: Station #4, 1115 Locust Street



Navy Veteran Tony Pabalan (walking) and Navy Veteran Chuck Vespa (wheelchair) escorted by Quincy firefighters.



Army Veteran Justin Van Wie with Quincy firefighter and IVHA Activity Therapist Rachel Stuckman.



Army Veteran John Bradford (walking) and Navy veteran John Slattery (wheelchair) escorted by Quincy firefighters.



Marine Corps Veteran Joseph Follis and his wife Marcella accompanied by Quincy firefighter, Army Veteran Robert Hunt with IVHQ Activity Aide, BJ Spangler, and Navy Veteran John Reicher.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Veterans' Homes

Veterans' Home at Chicago: Go Cubs Go



From Bottom left to right: Marine Corps Veteran William Odean, Marine Corps Veteran Arnold Aront, Army Veteran Jim Provost, Navy Veteran John Galbreath, Navy Veteran Tom Riesterer, and Army Veteran Edward Vanderbosch. Top left to right: Activities Director Julia Moreno, Battle of the Bulge Association member Margie McCartney, Veteran Service Officer Brandon Jagers, and VNACs Laquita Taylor and Chaimae Hendache.



Residents of the Veterans' Home at Chicago were VIPs at the Chicago Cubs Game on September 11th, where they enjoyed a 12-2 win

over the Pittsburgh Pirates. The veterans were invited as part of a special remembrance of the 25th anniversary of 9/11. They sat behind home plate, near the player's families, were invited for a photo on the field, and the home was recognized on Wrigley Field's marquis. Margie McCartney of the Battle of the Bulge Association acquired the tickets and coordinated with the Cubs staff throughout the game. IVHC Activities Director Julia Moreno and Veteran Service Officer Brandon Jagers accompanied the veterans to the game. Brandon commented that the Cubs were welcoming and gracious, and said, "If you weren't a Cubs fan before, you are now!"

Director Prince Receives Veteran of the Year Award



IDVA Director Terry Prince received the Medal of Honor Allen Lynch Foundation Veteran of the Year at the 2026 Illinois Association of County Veterans Assistance Commissions (IACVAC) annual award banquet in East Peoria.

In presenting the award, IACVAC President Jennifer Solum said:

"Terry Prince came to the IDVA in April of 2021 and has been the longest-tenured Director in many years. In addition to addressing many concerns he was brought into address, he has proven to be incredibly approachable and always willing to help. Whether it is his fellow brothers and sisters in the many

Veteran Service Organizations, his colleagues at the VAC's, his counterparts in other State Agencies, his employees, or just your average Veteran - Terry will talk to you and have a conversation with you like two regular people. - not as a bureaucrat, not as a representative with constituents, but just two regular people talking to each other and working through problems. Terry has undoubtedly moved the ball down the field for veterans in Illinois improving his agency and the welfare of all veterans that call America's 10th most veteran populous state, Home."

Veterans' Home at Manteno: Bike Across America

The Manteno Veterans Home Bike Across America is a challenge between three teams, red, gold, and green, of veterans competing to bike 125 miles or 875 laps on the Manteno Home's campus.

The competition, established by the Restorative Nursing Department, is an opportunity for physical exercise and fellowship. The Home offers eight different styles of bikes for veterans to choose from based on their abilities and comfort.

The award ceremony included musical entertainment by That 80s Band, and sweet treats.

"The veterans engaged in a spirited competition to reach the ambitious goals of 125 miles of bike riding," said Home Administrator Tanya Smith. "The camaraderie and physical fitness are valuable to the overall well-being of the participating veterans."

This year, the IDVA Executive Leadership Team participated in two days of learning and meeting at the Home, and joined the veterans for the Bike Across America celebration where they cheered the teams on, enjoyed the music, and visited with veterans. The team meets quarterly at one of the five Veterans' Home across the state.



The IDVA Executive Leadership Team

Front row: left to right: Central Region VSO Supervisor Kimberly Yantis, Field Services Manager Mark Patterson, Assistant Director Anthony Vaughn, Director Terry Prince, Chief of Staff Jassen Strokosch, Senior Home Administrator Angela Simmons, Chief Lega Counsel Brittany Hawkins, and Equal Opportunity Officer Jay Johnson. Second row: Veterans' Home at Manteno Administrator (and meeting host) Tanya Smith, Communication Director Maureen Hartigan, Northern Region VSO Supervisor Melissa Paris, Deputy Chief of Staff Asia Gentry, State Approving Agency and Veterans Education and Training Administrator Jeffrey Lewis, Chief Informational Officer Byron Alexander, and Deputy General Counsel Matt Eddington. Third Row: Senior Policy Advisory Crystal Womack, Assistant to the Director Terri Shawgo, Labor Relations Director Shannon Clay, Chief Internal Auditor Russell Needler, Metro Region VSO Supervisor Robert Iverson, Veterans' Home at Quincy Administrator Chuck Newton, and Human Resources Director Michele Cusumano.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Veterans' Homes



Navy Veteran George Kovalcik accepts the winner's trophy for the Gold Team from Director Terry Prince.



Army Veteran Bruce Mettlock receives his certificate for completing 305 laps for the Gold Team.



Navy Veteran Gerald Kovalcik receives his certificate for completing the most laps in one day - 105 laps.

Army veteran Curtis Casey (not pictured) achieved 214 laps for the Green Team.



Army Veteran Lewis Jefferson receives his certificate for completing 306 laps for the Red Team.

Field Services



Veteran Service Officer Carlos English represents IDVA at the the Illinois State Fair booth at the Illinois Building.



Veteran Service Officers Jeff Eagler and Jordan Heap (Decatur) hosted a table with resource information for local veterans during the Annual Warrior Run. The ride, organized by Coziahr Harley Davidson, traveled through Decatur, Springfield, and Chatham to visit Camp Butler, Oakridge Cemetery, Veterans Memorial Square, 911 Memorial, VFW Post 755, AJ's Corner, and the Decatur Airport to honor veterans.



Veteran Service Officer Chad Roach participates in the Carlinville Area Hospitals and Clinics Health Fair.



Veteran Service Officer Gerald Enriquez at the Nicor Gas Event in Alsip where resources and meals were provided to veterans and their families.

In thanking the participants, Nicor's Outreach Coordinator Amber Brown said, "On behalf of Nicor Gas, I wanted to extend our sincerest gratitude for your participation in our Community Connection Resource Fair in Alsip Wednesday evening. There was a total of 206 families served totaling 4,120 individual meals to the community last night. You all should be proud of the amazing work you did! Your presence and support were invaluable in making the event a resounding success. Your contributions helped us create an engaging and informative experience for all attendees, fostering a sense of community and connection. If you have yet to submit your vendor stats, please submit using the attached QR code. We truly appreciate the effort and enthusiasm you brought to the fair, and we are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with such dedicated partners."



Veteran Service Officer Carla Waibel participated in the Veterans and Seniors Fair in Coal Valley where 55 vendors visited with 250 attendees.

Field Services



State Senator Li Arellano, Jr. (37th District) hosted a Veterans Appreciation Program and Expo in Peoria where U.S. Navy Veteran and Special Assistant to the Director Ashley Tuburan spoke to the veterans attending the event.



As part of elevating its community outreach, the Veterans Service Officers have committed to hosting their own event in the region they cover. This is in addition to the numerous events which they co-sponsor or participate in. This is Veteran Service Officer Jordan Heap at his "Meet Your VSO" event at the Decatur Public Library.

VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

**Veterans Seeking Information and Assistance
Join us at a Veteran Resource Fair**

Tuesday, October 13, 2026
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
 American Legion Post 1080
 2625 Ingalls Avenue
 Joliet, IL 60435

Call us: (815) 730-4334

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs Mission:
Ensuring Veterans Thrive in Illinois

IDVA VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER ROCHELLE JOHNSON

Rochelle Johnson, United States Army veteran, joins the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs as a Veteran Service Officer serving Richton Park. She has over 20 years of consulting and management experience within the financial sector at Northern Trust. Rochelle has an extensive background in trust/custody accounting, and training.

Rochelle has over ten years of service. She was a Human Resource Specialist (42A) formerly 75D (Personnel Records Specialist), serving domestically and overseas. She maintained official Military Personnel Records (MPRJ). She managed multiple teams that supported infantry and air defense artillery units.

Rochelle earned her Bachelor of Science in Finance from the University of Illinois, Chicago. She has been a member of the Richton Park Veterans Commission since 2022 and she has a rich family history of military service. Her grandfather served in the Army, her youngest son is currently at Fort Benning, Georgia, and her oldest son served in the Army Reserves.

Rochelle has four children and five grandchildren. She enjoys her time with her family and is always interested in a good book.

"I have been a resident of the Richton community for over 20 years, and I am honored to support and serve my fellow veterans, their family, and my community," said Rochelle.

Rochelle Johnson
 Richton Park VetCenter
 4511 Sauk Trail, Richton Park, IL 60471
 rochelle.johnson3@illinois.gov
 8-4 (Monday-Friday)

MEET YOUR VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER

★★★★★

October 29th
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Forsyth Public Library
 268 S. Elwood St
 Forsyth, IL 62535

Veteran Service Officer
 Jeff Eagler
Veteran Service Officer
 Jordan Heap

IDVA FIELD SERVICE OFFICE COORDINATOR BAVAN SINGH

Bavan Singh, United States Air Force veteran, joins the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs at the Forest Park location, taking the role of office coordinator. He joins IDVA after serving as a junior project manager for software upgrades at Net-at-Work. He was also in the project management spectrum for Johnson & Johnson- procurement and Rollins- environmental services.

In the military, Bavan served in the USAF- AD & Reserves from 2010-2016 at Cannon AFB, NM(AD) and Westover AFB, MA (Reserves). He came to Chicago in 2022 from New Jersey and enjoys sports, hiking, and writing. He and his wife Mannu, an Army veteran, live in Oak Park.

"I have helped many friends learn of and assist in obtaining their benefits, and start the process," said Bavan. "I am eager to continue serving Illinois veterans at IDVA."

Bavan Singh
 Bavandeep.singh2@illinois.gov
 Cell: 312-339-4791
 1515 S. Harlem Ave, Forest Park, IL 60130
 8-4 (Monday-Friday)



Women Veterans Program



On August 23, 2026, Margo Watson, Women Veterans Coordinator, and Cynthia McKee, Veteran Service Officer, representing the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA), participated in a community event held at Chicago State University.

The event brought together students, families, community members, organizations, and service providers for a day focused on engagement, connection, and access to valuable resources. Throughout the event, veterans visited a variety of vendors and resource tables, participated in activities, and learned about programs and services available to students and the surrounding community.

Margo and Cynthia connected veterans, women veterans, military-connected students, and community members with information about veteran benefits, programs, services, and available resources. Their participation also increased awareness of IDVA services and strengthened connections with veterans and community partners.

Events such as this are an important part of IDVA's outreach efforts, allowing staff to meet veterans where they are, increasing awareness of earned benefits and services, and ensuring Illinois veterans and their families know where to turn for assistance.



25 Illinois Women Veteran Leaders in 2026



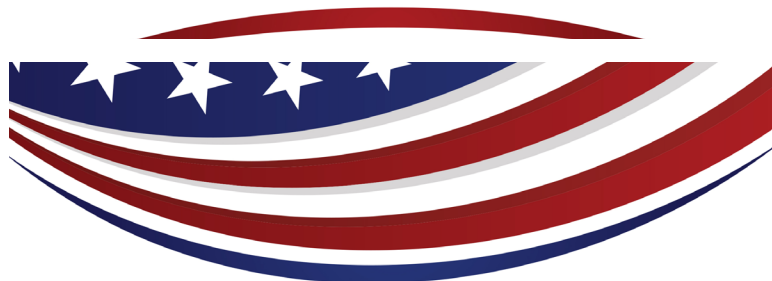
Staci Boyer, Navy

Staci Boyer is a U.S. Navy Gulf War Veteran who served 12 years as a Hospital Corpsman and Surgical Technician. Today, she channels that same dedication into serving her community and empowering others. Staci is the Founder and CEO of Motiv8n'U and Phoenix Productions, an award-winning author, IFBB Pro, NPC Bodybuilding Competition Promoter, personal trainer, motivational speaker, and transformational wellness coach. With over 37 years in the health and wellness industry and a Master of Fitness Sciences from ISSA, along with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science, she brings a wealth of expertise and passion to help others unlock their potential.

In addition to her professional achievements, Staci is a committed leader in the veteran community. She serves as the Commander of the Naperville VFW for a second term, with All American status, represents the State of Illinois on the National Legislative Committee for Veterans Affairs, and holds key leadership roles as Legislative and Women's Program Chairperson for VFW District 19. She recently spearheaded the development of new legislation to improve Veterans Burial rights Public Act 103-0841.

Staci also co-chairs a veteran-owned business group that uplifts and empowers fellow entrepreneurs and has recently been appointed to the advisory board for The Veterans Business Project. Deeply rooted in her hometown, Staci is active with both the Naperville Rotary and Chamber of Commerce.

Her dedication to service was recently recognized at the highest level, as she was honored with the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteerism. A passionate advocate for wellness, empowerment, and those who have served, Staci Boyer continues to inspire, lead, and uplift her community every step of the way.



25 Illinois Women Veteran Leaders in 2026



Justyna Berry, Army

Following her military service, Justyna Berry has demonstrated sustained and measurable leadership within the veterans' community through her work at the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. She has supervised multidisciplinary teams responsible for public contact operations, outreach, congressional liaison work, and claims clinics across Illinois. Her leadership has directly expanded access to VA benefits for rural, underserved, homeless, justice-involved, elderly, LGBTQ+, and women veteran populations. As a Public Contact Coach and Supervisory Veterans Service Representative, she mentors Legal Administrative Specialists, Veteran Coordinators, and supervisors, fostering trauma-informed, veteran-centered service delivery. She has personally trained new VA staff nationwide, strengthening institutional knowledge, and ensuring consistency in benefits delivery. Her leadership has resulted in improved outreach outcomes, reduced barriers to care, and enhanced trust between veterans and the VA system, creating a lasting impact that extends well beyond her immediate team.

She has been a strong advocate for women veterans both through her professional leadership and her lived experience. In her supervisory VA role, she has overseen and supported Women Veteran outreach initiatives, ensuring that women veterans receive equitable access to benefits, specialized services, and trauma-informed care. Her work has helped normalize conversations around military sexual trauma, family advocacy, and gender-specific veteran needs. By mentoring staff and shaping outreach strategies, she has advanced inclusive service models that recognize the unique challenges faced by women veterans, contributing to a more responsive and respectful VA environment.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ IDVA is Hiring

IDVA is always hiring skilled and professional individuals to staff its five Veterans' Homes, Veteran Services Offices, and Central offices. We provide tools, resources, and programs to set candidates up for success. Take a look at the Virtual Job Fairs and the upcoming Creating a Profile workshop. Candidates will learn how to navigate applying for state jobs and general tips on interviewing. Sign up today.

Virtual Job Fairs

10/2/26 10:00-10:45AM How to read a Job Bulletin.....



10/5/26 9:00-9:45 AM IDVA Extraordinary Employees.....



10/7/26 5:30-6:15 PM Creating a Profile, Putting Your Best Foot Forward.....



10/8/26 8:30-9:15 AM How to Certify Your Veterans Points.....



10/14/26 2:00-2:45 PM How to read a Job Bulletin.....



10/15/26 5:30-6:15 PM Interview Tips and Tricks.....



10/19/26 2:00-2:45 PM How to Certify Your Veterans Points.....



10/20/26 10:00-10:45 AM Creating a Profile, Putting Your Best Foot Forward.....



10/22/26 2:00-2:45 PM IDVA Extraordinary Employees.....



10/28/26 12:00-12:45 PM Interview Tips and Tricks.....



Learn the Ropes of Working for the State of Illinois

Working for Illinois means being part of a diverse community dedicated to making a difference in people's lives every day. Join us in shaping the future of our great state, where innovation, collaboration, and opportunity thrive.

Illinois offers opportunities in nearly every field and experience. Join the Illinois Career Workshops to learn how to seek and apply for positions leading to life-changing experiences and meaningful careers

Illinois offers excellent benefits for employees and their families.

- Career counseling
- Instructions on building a state profile and reading a job bulletin
- Interview Tips

The first Thursday of each month:

**August 6th
September 3rd
October 1st
November 5th
December 3rd**

**10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Veterans are welcome at 10:00 AM**

Illinois Department of Employment Security
107 N. 3rd Street, Quincy, Illinois



Interested in serving Illinois veterans at the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs?

First step: Creating a Profile - Putting your Best Foot Forward

This in-person session provides tools and tips for creating a strong profile to position you for success.

Monday, October 5, 2026

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Illinois Department of Employment Security
5608 W. 75th Place, Burbank, IL 60459

Registration required

Employment Workshop starts promptly at 10:00 AM

Ask a recruiter Q & A: 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

IDVA is seeking extraordinary employees with a heart for public service to join our team in serving veterans across Illinois.



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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ DuQuoin State Fair

Hundreds of veterans joined Veterans Day at the DuQuoin State Fair where they were treated to lunch, accessed a robust resource fair, and participated in a program and Yellow Rose ceremony.



Left to right: Veterans' Home at Anna Administrator Amy Keistler, Director of Nursing Shelly Miller, and Assistant Director of Nursing Lori Godwin sharing information about the Home.



Assistant Director Anthony Vaughn delivers remarks to the veterans and their families.



Assistant Director Anthony Vaughn presents Gold Star family Sue and Ray Wieczorek with a yellow rose honoring their hero Robert M. Weinger, Army SGT.



Do you have a Compliment, Recommendation, Question, or Complaint?

Illinois Veterans Accountability Unit (VAU)

Let us Know!

If you are an Illinois veteran or other Illinois resident who seeks services from the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA); a resident of any Illinois Veterans' Home, a family member of a resident, a visitor of any Illinois Veterans' Home; a vendor and/or contractor of the IDVA; or staff of the IDVA, we want to hear from you.

This office welcomes feedback about the services being provided to the veterans of Illinois.
If you received exceptional service or have concerns involving any member of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, please let us know.

Email us at

IDVA.accountability@illinois.gov

or Call our Toll-Free Helpline

1-855-660-7011

More information about the VAU can be found on the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs website

<https://veterans.illinois.gov/>

The VAU maintains the confidentiality of investigations, complainants, and witnesses to the maximum extent allowable, but must disclose complaints to the Office of the Executive Inspector General (OEIG).

You can obtain more information about the OEIG or file a complaint with the OEIG directly through its website at **<https://oeig.illinois.gov/>**.

Our mission at the IDVA is very simple. To serve those who have served. In doing so, we serve not only the men and women who have worn the uniform, but also their families. It is our privilege to be able to help our veterans receive the benefits they have earned through service to our nation. Our goal is to empower our veterans and their families to thrive in all aspects of their lives.

We know there are many veterans within our great state who do not require any assistance – but we still want to encourage you to “Stand Up and Be Counted!” by registering with your local VSO. In doing so, you’re helping IDVA to do a better job of planning for services, seeking federal funding and understanding the needs of our veteran communities statewide. [Click here to register.](#)

We thank you for your service and for your sacrifice and we at the IDVA look forward to offering our services to you.



**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

★ Follow us

