



Department of Veterans Affairs

September 2018 Newsletter | Vol. 9, Ed. 5

A Message from Veterans Affairs

Dear Veterans:

This newsletter contains information regarding legislation and programming designed to benefit veterans and their dependents.

The Cook County Department of Veterans Affairs would like to thank the many veterans who participated in the Vietnam-era Commemoration program at Chicago Botanic Garden. We look forward to welcoming veterans to a picnic and outreach forum we are hosting in their honor at Brookfield Zoo.

Veterans have more opportunities to receive discounts on food and supplies. To be eligible for these discounts, you must show proof you are a veteran. You can do this in one of two ways: Military veterans are able to get an updated driver's license/ID card with the word "veteran" under their signature. Visit the Secretary of State's [website](#) for more information. The second option is to apply for the Cook County Military and Veterans Discount Card. This information can be found on the Cook County Recorder of Deeds [website](#).

NOTE: The next Veterans Affairs newsletter will be released in November.

If you have a specific topic that you would like Veterans Affairs to present, please do not hesitate to email your suggestions to veterans.affairs@cookcountyil.gov.

Cook County Veterans Affairs encourages

In This Issue

- 1 A Message from Veterans Affairs
- 2 Helpful Links
- 3 Upcoming Events

you to share this information with other veterans and their dependents, and to use this newsletter as a reference tool for upcoming veteran activities, events and workshops. Please visit the Cook County Veterans Affairs website at www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/veterans-affairs.

Bill Browne, Director
Cook County Veterans Affairs

The Department of Veterans Affairs was created by Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle in December 2012 to serve the County's employee veterans and veterans who live in Cook County through outreach and support services.

Contact Us

Bill Browne: 312-603-6423

Email: veterans.affairs@cookcountyil.gov

Website: www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/veterans-affairs



Department of **Veterans Affairs**

Helpful Links

Forever GI Bill Expands VA Educational Benefits

Learn more about new and existing provisions that help veterans achieve their educational goals.

VA Releases Healthcare Benefit Application for Spanish-Speaking Veterans

This is part of the VA's effort to ensure healthcare benefits are accessible for all veterans.

Illinois Legislation

Find out more about legislation that affects veterans in Illinois:

HB4288 – Veterans Preference Act

HB4576 – Combat Action Plates

SB2225 – Desert Storm Plates

VA Updates Disability Rating Schedule Related to Skin Conditions

The rating schedule is the collection of federal regulations used by Veterans Benefits Administration claims processors to evaluate the severity of disabilities and assign disability ratings.

Looking for a job?

When applying for employment with Cook County Government, preference is given in the application process to honorably discharged veterans who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States for more than 180 consecutive days, or during war time. For current employment information, please visit the links below.

Offices Under the President:
[www.cookcountyil.gov/
current-job-listings](http://www.cookcountyil.gov/current-job-listings)

Forest Preserves District:
<http://fpdcc.com/about/jobs/>

Health and Hospitals System:
[www.cookcountyhhs.org/about-
cchhs/human-resources/careers/](http://www.cookcountyhhs.org/about-cchhs/human-resources/careers/)



Department of **Veterans Affairs**

Upcoming Events

Combined Veterans of Berwyn Welcome Home Barbeque

Saturday, September 22, 2018
Noon to 4 p.m.
Proksa Park
3001 Wisconsin Ave., Berwyn

RSVP by 9/15 to (773) 551-3831 or
cvbbbq@yahoo.com
[https://www.facebook.com/
events/2092419504411353/](https://www.facebook.com/events/2092419504411353/)

Kevlars to Careers A Welcome Home Event

Wednesday, October 24, 2018
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Malcom X College
1900 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago

For more information and to register for
the event, please contact (312) 603-5788 or
brian.cross@cookcountyil.gov

National Women Veterans **United** Stand Down Conference

Saturday, September 15, 2018
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Jesse Brown VA Hospital
820 S. Damen Ave., Chicago

RSVP by contacting the following:
(872) 731-2150, Nwvu.org@gmail.com or
[http://nwvu.org/event/nwvu-stand-
down-conference-for-military-women-
veterans-2018/](http://nwvu.org/event/nwvu-stand-down-conference-for-military-women-veterans-2018/)