



Jim Doyle, Governor
John A. Scocos, Secretary

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Veterans Benefits Information Fair to be held April 23rd in Kenosha

(MADISON) -- Veterans can apply for an array of state and federal benefits at one convenient location during a **Veterans Benefits Information Fair (VBIF)** sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA). In an ongoing effort to serve more veterans through education and outreach, the WDVA will host the fair on **Saturday, April 23, 2005 – from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, at the **Kenosha Job Center**, located at **8600 Sheridan Road, Kenosha**.

"As part of the department's 'Mission: Welcome Home' program to assist new veterans, the Veterans Benefits Information Fair will provide one-stop services and benefits information, at one location convenient to them in southeastern Wisconsin, where they can learn about and apply for benefits and services they've earned," said WDVA Secretary John A. Scocos. "Our outreach includes welcoming and reintegrating returning soldiers from the Middle East back home to their communities. The department, through the 'I Owe You' campaign of outreach started in 2000, is ensuring our veterans and their families receive the benefits they deserve."

Secretary Scocos also said, "At the same time, many who have been veterans for years may believe they are no longer eligible for benefits after being out of service for decades, and are surprised to find out that many benefits have no time limits, and new benefits have been instituted. For many of our older veterans, we strongly encourage them to come out to the information fair. We will have information available about what the Wisconsin Veterans Home in Union Grove has to offer: affordable assisted living, structured activities, and a friendly environment with camaraderie."

The Veterans Benefits Information Fair (VBIF) is the first of six outreach events being planned for 2005, with Supermarkets of Veterans Benefits events and other VBIFs to be hosted in LaCrosse, Platteville, Fort McCoy, Green Bay, and Milwaukee.

At these "one-stop" shops for benefits, veterans can:

- Establish eligibility for state veterans benefits (veterans are advised to bring their **DD form 214**).
- Apply for benefits, such as VA health care and prescription drug benefits, disability compensation and pension, personal loans, home mortgage loans, home improvement loans and education or job training grants.
- Receive assistance in obtaining military medals and records.
- Find out about employment opportunities.
- Pre-register for burial in state veterans cemeteries.
- Obtain information about nursing care and aging services. *Information about the Wisconsin Veterans Home at nearby Union Grove will be offered at the Kenosha VBIF.*

This event is sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, in partnership with local county veterans service offices, tribal veterans service offices, Wisconsin Veterans Service Organizations, and other county, state, and federal agencies. Admission and parking are free. For more information about the Veterans Benefits Information Fairs, call 1-800-WIS-VETS. (1-800-947-8387) or go to the WDVA web site at www.dva.state.wi.us/news.asp. Or contact a local County Veterans Service Office or Tribal Veterans Service Office.