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Janesville to be location of a *Supermarket of Veterans Benefits*

(MADISON) -- Veterans can apply for an array of federal and state benefits at one convenient location, during a *Supermarket of Veterans Benefits* in Janesville, Wisconsin, hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) with sponsorship from Southern Wisconsin 32nd Division Red Arrow Club and other veterans organizations. The federal VA, veterans service organizations, and County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) will also participate and provide direct assistance. Wisconsin and Illinois veterans and their families are invited to attend, as representatives of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs will be on hand to assist veterans in learning about VA health care and other benefits.

The *Supermarket*, as part of WDVA's "*I Owe You*" outreach program, will take place from **9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 12th** at the **Pontiac Convention Center**, located at **2809 N. Pontiac Drive**, in **Janesville**.

The *Supermarkets* provide 'one-stop shop' information for veterans' benefits and services, health care, education, and employment, as part of the "*I Owe You*" statewide effort to ensure Wisconsin veterans are receiving the federal benefits they're eligible for. Since November of 2000, the department has held 26 information fairs in various locations around the state, assisting thousands of veterans and their families in applying for benefits and services.

The upcoming *Supermarket of Veterans Benefits* is the department's first "*I Owe You*" outreach event to be held in Janesville. Close to 40 vendors will be present at the two-day event.

The WDVA encourages veterans of all ages to come to the *Supermarket*; newest returning veterans can find out about benefits helpful to them, such as education, health care, and loans. The department offers low fixed rates on home loans, home improvement loans, and personal loans available right now to eligible veterans and their families.

At this "one-stop" shop for benefits, veterans and service members can:

- Establish eligibility for state veterans benefits (veterans are advised to bring their **DD form 214**, if available).
- Find out about employment opportunities.
- Learn about education and job training programs, including the "Wisconsin G.I. Bill" and the Montgomery G.I. Bill.
- Apply for benefits and services, including VA health care and disability compensation.
- Apply for personal loans, home mortgage loans, home improvement loans.
- Receive assistance in obtaining military records and medals.
- Receive information on retiree benefits and services.
- Learn about the new state property tax credit for qualifying elderly 100% disabled veterans.
- Get information about nursing and long-term care at the Wisconsin Veterans Homes in King and Union Grove.
- Pre-register for burial in state veterans cemeteries.

The **Pontiac Convention Center** is located at **2809 N. Pontiac Drive in Janesville, just off Highways I-39/I-90 and US-14**. Parking and admission are free. There will be a concession stand available on site.

For further information on Supermarkets of Veterans Benefits, visit the WDVA Web site at www.dva.state.wi.us/Ben_Supermarket.asp , call 1-800-WIS-VETS (1-800-947-8387), or contact a local County Veterans Service Officer or Tribal Veterans Service Officer. For more information on the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and other veterans benefits visit the department's home page at www.dva.state.wi.us.