



Jim Doyle, Governor
John A. Scocos, Secretary

STATE OF WISCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

30 West Mifflin Street, P.O. Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843
PHONE: (608) 266-1311 1-800-947-8387 (WIS VETS)
WEB SITE: <http://dva.state.wi.us>
E-MAIL: Headquarters@dva.state.wi.us
FAX: (608) 264-7616

Attention Newsroom—News Release

May 12, 2005
For Immediate Release

Contact: Andrew Schuster 608-267-1797
or Kathleen Scholl 608-267-3582

Veterans Benefits Information Fair to be held in Platteville on May 20

(MADISON) -- Veterans can apply for an array of state and federal benefits at one convenient location during a **Veterans Benefits Information Fair** 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 a fair on **Friday, May 20 – from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, at the **National Guard Armory**, located at 475 North Water Street in **Platteville**.

"The *Veterans Benefits Information Fair* will provide one-stop services and benefits information where veterans can bring their questions, problems and needs, at one location convenient to them in southwestern Wisconsin," said Secretary John A. Scocos.

As part of the department's "I Owe You" outreach campaign and a new initiative called "Mission: Welcome Home," a program to assist new veterans, the information fair will provide a venue where veterans and their family members can learn about and apply for benefits and services earned. "This is the first time the department is holding an event like this in the Platteville area," said Scocos. "Our outreach includes working with partnering agencies to help ensure our veterans and their families receive the benefits they deserve and to welcome and reintegrate returning Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom veterans back home to their communities."

"Many veterans 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," Scocos said. "We strongly encourage older veterans to come out to the benefits fair."

The information fair is the third of six veterans benefits outreach events this year. A one-day fair was held on April 23rd in Kenosha and a two-day *Supermarket of Veterans Benefits* is taking place in LaCrosse on May 13th and 14th, with others to be held yet in Fort McCoy, Green Bay-Oneida, 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.
- Learn what the Wisconsin Veterans Homes in Union Grove and King offer: affordable assisted living, activities, and a friendly environment.
- Find out about employment opportunities.
- Pre-register for burial in state veterans cemeteries.
- Obtain information about nursing care and aging services.
- The WDVA is now offering eligible veterans the convenience of applying online for Home Improvement Loans at fixed rates as low as 5%, for terms of 5 to 15 years. Go to the department web site for more information.

These events are 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, parking, and refreshments are free. For more information about the Veterans Benefits Fairs, call 1-800-WIS-VETS (1-800-947-8387) or go to the WDVA web site at www.dva.state.wi.us. Or contact a local County Veterans Service Office or Tribal Veterans Service Office.