



STATE OF WISCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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Attention Newsroom—News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Supermarket of Veterans Benefits to be held May 13-14 in LaCrosse

(MADISON) -- Veterans can apply for an array of state and federal benefits at one convenient location during a **Supermarket of Veterans Benefits** being hosted 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 **Friday, May 13, 2005 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.** and **Saturday, May 14, 2005 – from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, at the **LaCrosse Center**, located at **300 Harborview Plaza, LaCrosse**.

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 *Supermarket of Veterans Benefits* will provide one-stop services and benefits information, at one location convenient to them in western Wisconsin, where they can learn about and apply for benefits and services they've earned. "This is the first time the department is holding an event like this in the LaCrosse area," said Secretary John A. 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."

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

The *Supermarket* is the second of six veterans benefits outreach events this year, with others to be hosted in 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.
- 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/news.asp. Or contact a local County Veterans Service Office or Tribal Veterans Service Office.