

Becker County Veterans Service Office

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Veteran News

988 = New Crisis Line Number

Please share the word on the new 3-digit number for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: 988

The PACT Act, signed into law on August 10, 2022, is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This fact sheet provides a summary of how the law addresses issues faced by Vietnam veterans and Gulf War veterans. <https://www.va.gov/files/2022-08/PACT-Act-1-Page-Summary%20and%20FAQ.pdf>

Veterans and Donuts

- Come share a cup of coffee and learn about Veterans issues and programs
- Detroit Lakes VFW on Fridays from 9:00 – 11:00

Virtual Women Veterans Health Care Forum

- October 20, 2022, at 5:15 pm
- [Join meeting](#) Meeting ID: 279+ 675 535 738 Password ut3oSU
 - Audio only by telephone 1-872-701-0185 Phone ID 472 050 872#

News from [Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs](#):

- Post 9/11 Service Bonus
 - What is it? <https://mn.gov/mdva/resources/familyassistance/911-service-bonus.jsp>
 - How do I apply? <https://vetservicebonus.mdva.mn.gov/Home> You'll need digital copies of your DD214, proof of MN residency, and a MN W-9 form (available at link).
 - Apply by June 30, 2024.
- Three new Minnesota Veterans Homes will open in 2023, in Bemidji, Montevideo, and Preston, with the MN DVA now accepting applications for the Bemidji and Preston sites.
 - <https://mn.gov/mdva/homes/futurehomes/>
- The State Soldier Assistance Program (SSAP) has revised some of the income limitations on the SSAP programs for dental and optical assistance, to expand the availability of these programs to more veterans and their families. The intent is that "Any Veteran and dependent whose household income is less than the median household income of all U.S. households should be eligible for assistance in Dental and Optical"

Medicare Open Enrollment Season is here!

Please remember the Senior Linkage Line at 1-800-333-2433 <https://mn.gov/senior-linkage-line/>