

# Veterans Voice



April/May, 2017

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## THE OFFICE

Hours:

Monday thru Friday

8:00am to 4:30pm

Closed Noon to 1pm for  
lunch

**Director**

**Shannon Kreger**

Secretary

Katie L. Creguer

Contact us!

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## **Department of Veterans Affairs Committee**

John Nezworski, Chairman  
Vietnam

Douglas Banker  
Korea

Jeffery Lyall  
Vietnam

Donald Spinks  
Persian Gulf

**Our paper version is back.....but if you would like your newsletter sent to your email instead please contact our office to provide your email address!**

## **Seeking Veterans Affairs Committee Member**

We are currently looking for a Sanilac County resident that is also a veteran to sit on our Veterans Affairs Committee. We have openings for up to 3 new members. The Committee meets the last Tuesday of each month at 5:00pm and the meetings

usually last an hour or less. If you are interested please contact our office to find out about the criteria needed to qualify for an appointment to the Committee. Our contact number is 810-648-0212.



## **2017 Donation Drive**

Sanilac County Department of Veterans Affairs in coordination with Croswell American Legion, Sandusky District Library, Peck American Legion, Sandusky VFW and Sandusky American Legion gathered donations during the month of February for veterans in VA Medical Centers. Pictured is Shannon Kreger and Marleen Reynolds with the donated items taken to Saginaw VA Medical Center. Similar packages were distributed to Ann Arbor and Detroit VA Medical Centers. We want to thank everyone who participated.



*Thank you for the millage!*



## Post 9/11 GI Bill

The Post- 9/11 GI Bill is an education benefit program for individuals who served on active duty after September 10, 2001.

### Am I Eligible?

You may be eligible if you served at least 90 aggregate days on active duty\* after September 10, 2001, or were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days following September 10, 2001.

*Note: Children of a member of the Armed Forces who died in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001, may be eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits under the Marine Gunnery John David Fry Scholarship Program.*

### What will I receive?

You may receive a percentage of the following payments (see chart).

- A Tuition and Fee payment that is paid to your school on your behalf
- A Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA)\*\* that is equal to:
  - ⇒ the basic allowance for housing (BAH) payable for the zip code of your school to a military E-5 with dependents for students pursuing resident training
  - ⇒ one-half the BAH national average for students training solely by distance learning
  - ⇒ the national average BAH for students pursuing training at foreign schools
- A Books and Supplies Stipend of up to \$1000 per year

### How many months of assistance can I receive and how long am I eligible?

Generally, you may receive up to 36 months of entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. You will be eligible for benefits for 15 years from your last period of active duty of at least 90 consecutive days.

### What kind of training can I take?

You can use the Post-9/11 GI Bill at colleges, universities, trade schools, and for on-the-job training, apprenticeships, and flight schools. To see what programs are currently approved for VA benefits, go to our website, <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>.

You can use the Post-9/11 GI Bill for tutorial assistance,

licensing (attorney license, cosmetology license, etc.) and certification tests (SAT, LSAT, etc.)

*Note: If the program you are interested in isn't on our website, contact your State Approving Agency (list available on <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>) to see if it can be approved.*

### Can I transfer my entitlement to my dependents?

You must be a member of the uniformed services to transfer your unused benefits to your spouse or dependent(s). Please contact the VA Education Center for more information.

### What is the Yellow Ribbon Program?

The Post-9/11 GI Bill can cover all in-state tuition and fees at public degree granting schools, but may not cover all private degree granting schools and out-of-state tuition. The Yellow Ribbon Program provides additional support in those situations.

Institutions voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund uncovered charges. VA matches each dollar of unmet charges the institution agrees to contribute, up to the total cost of the tuition and fees.

Individuals serving an aggregate period of active duty after September 10, 2001, of:	Percentage of Maximum Benefit Payable
At least 36 months	100%
At least 30 continuous days and discharged due to service-connected disability	100%
At least 30 months < 36	90%
At least 24 months < 30	80%
At least 18 months < 24	70%
At least 12 months < 18	60%
At least 6 months < 12 months	50%
At least 90 days < 6 months	40%



# Sanilac County Historical Museum

## THE POLAR BEARS

Kicking off the summer is an afternoon of local history in honor of a special group of men that gave their lives and for some their physical and mental wellbeing. This World War I expeditionary force was made up of the 339th Infantry of ninety-seven men from Sanilac County who were later regarded as "The Polar Bears". These men also went on to fight for seven months after the war was over because this part of Russia refused to lay down

their arms. The Historical Museum will be opening the doors to an introductory speech from Mike Grobbel who is the President of the Polar Bear Memorial Association. This will be followed by a tour of the Polar Bear display at the Museum. Come visit with the Museum staff and the relatives of this group of men from WWI. Sunday, June 4th, 2017. Mike Grobbel's speech will be at 3pm followed by a tour of the display.

**The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration**

### Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin

*"A Lasting Memento of the Nation's Thanks!"*

**Front**  **Back** 

**Purpose:** To recognize, thank and honor United States military veterans who served during the Vietnam War.

**Eligibility:** Living United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive one lapel pin.

**Presentation:** These lapel pins will be presented in a dignified manner to each Vietnam veteran during public events held in their communities by Commemorative Partners. Accompanying remarks should reflect the nation's thanks for their service and sacrifice. In the rare instance when an honoree cannot attend a public event, the pin may be presented during a private ceremony.

**Symbolism:**

- **Eagle** - The eagle represents courage, honor, and dedicated service to our nation. As one of the most recognizable and notable American symbols, it is emblazoned with distinction on numerous military insignia.
- **Blue Circle** - The color blue matches the canton of the American flag and signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice. The circle shape and blue color also match the official seal of the Commemoration.
- **Laurel Wreath** - A time-honored symbol representing victory, integrity, and strength.
- **Stripes** - The stripes behind the eagle represent the American flag.
- **Stars** - The six stars represent the six allies who served, sacrificed, and fought alongside one another: Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, and the United States.
- **Message** - "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You" is embossed on the back, closest to the heart of the wearer. Also, the official name of the Commemoration is included to remind each veteran that this is a national initiative, and this lapel pin is the nation's lasting memento of thanks.

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Please contact our office for more information or to get your pin, 810-648-0212