

Minnesota Veteran



Volume 6, Issue 1

January 2012

In this Issue

- Home for Heroes
- From the Desk of the Commissioner
- 70th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Remembered
- Farewell to Steven Kleinglass
- January's Veteran of the Month
- Live Radio Show - Jan. 19
- Upcoming Events



We Want to Hear From You!

If you have story ideas, events, to nominate a Veteran in the Spotlight or just have information for MDVA's *Minnesota Veteran* newsletter, contact Beth Kocian at Beth.Kocian@state.mn.us or (651) 757-1550.

Home for Heroes

A Look Inside the Minnesota Veterans Homes

Kelly Hanson, MDVA

Thanks to a generous grant from the V4V Trust Fund, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and Twin Cities Public Television (tpt) recently released a documentary entitled *Home for Heroes*, which gives viewers a rare look at the five Minnesota Veterans Homes. The documentary shows viewers the struggle families often experience as they make the difficult decision to move their loved one to a long-term care facility, the admissions process as well as a behind the scenes look at daily life for Residents of the Homes.



In the documentary tpt takes viewers into each of the five State Veterans Homes where families and Residents share their personal experiences and stories. What is particularly eye opening are the testimonies from both families and Residents in regards to how drastically their lives changed for the better after making the move. Spouses report feeling like a wife or a husband again, instead of a full time caregiver. Residents are given a renewed sense of dignity in a unique environment which emphasizes gratitude and honor for their military service. Residents also find a sense of community at the Homes, as they are surrounded by peers who have shared similar experiences. MDVA hopes that the release of this documentary will help raise awareness of the Veterans Homes, a benefit available to many Veterans and their families.

Home for Heroes first premiered on tpt in November, just around Veterans Day. In the month of January, tpt will air *Home for Heroes* on tpt MN Channel 2.2 on Friday, Jan. 20 at 3:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., and 3:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. *Home for Heroes* is also available to view online anytime on tpt On Demand Minnesota Video Vault <http://tinyurl.com/cjmymnd>.

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA)

20 West 12th Street, St. Paul, MN 55155-2071

Phone (651) 296-2562 • Fax (651) 296-3154 • website www.mdva.state.mn.us

From the Desk of the Commissioner



Commissioner Larry Shellito

This month marks my first anniversary as your Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs. The past year has been a steep learning curve for me as I acclimated to the vast number of issues and needs our Veterans community face. I am often asked, “How do you like it?” My answer has always been “I love it!” I have been most impressed with the dedication and commitment of our Veterans Service Organizations and the dedication of their leadership. They are totally committed to serving our Veterans.

The New Year is also a time to look forward to the future. One of my goals is to focus on one of the most pressing issues facing us . . . the return of our newest Veterans. The wars are winding down, the exit strategies have been made, and the VA and DoD are already looking at large budget cuts. Sound familiar?

Historically, the above signs have forecasted a Reduction in Force in which the military downsizes, and a flood of Veterans return home. This means many of our nation’s heroes will be sent home with little or no fanfare. I personally get flashbacks of post -Vietnam, a tight job market and a general population who wants to focus on other issues.

Several of my goals for the coming year center around the theme “Bring them all the way home!” In order to accomplish this it is imperative that we rally all Veterans to be involved. My minimum standard is that every Veteran be a member of a Veterans Service Organization (VSO). The VSOs are the voice of the Veterans in Washington. I struggle with Veterans who say they don’t need any help or that the VSOs don’t do anything for them. Just as we commit to leaving no fallen comrade behind, we must give at least some of our treasure (dues); your time and talent can come later when you are ready.

I will work closely with our County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) to ensure they have the resources available to them to guide our Veterans through the maze that leads them to receiving the services and benefits they’ve earned. Every Veteran should be a ‘Bird Dog’ flushing out the Veteran who needs a little help in finding their way all the way home!

A part of military strategic planning is the preparation of the battlefield! My experiences in life have led me to believe the next battlefield will be here at home. As one Veteran recently stated, “Home is not what you remember it to be. It’s the same, but you are different. You expect everything to be better when you get home.”

Let us all commit to help make it better for all Veterans so they can come all the way home!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry W. Shellito". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Larry W. Shellito, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs*

70th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Remembered

On Dec. 7, 2011 the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, the Fort Snelling National Cemetery Memorial Rifle Squad and the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs hosted a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony to honor those who served, and remember those who gave their lives in the defense of Pearl Harbor. Three of Minnesota's remaining Pearl Harbor survivors were present at the event.

Naval Reservists from Minnesota, serving aboard the USS Ward, were conducting a patrol near the entrance to Pearl Harbor. They sank a Japanese midget submarine, thus firing the first American shots of WWII. The number three gun, which fired the shot, sits on the Capitol Grounds near the west side of the Veterans Service Building in St. Paul.

Dec. 7, 2011 marked the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Minnesotans have had a proud history of service related to Pearl Harbor. Visit MDVA's Facebook page for more photos



Fort Snelling National Cemetery Memorial Rifle Squad.



Tom Mullon, ceremony emcee.



Richard Thill, guest speaker at the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony, shared his story on board the USS Ward the morning of the attack on Pearl Harbor.



Left: Larry Shellito, MDVA Commissioner presented the proclamation from Governor Mark Dayton proclaiming Dec. 7 as Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day to Tom Mullon, from the Fort Snelling National Cemetery Memorial Rifle Squad.

Farewell and Best Wishes to Steven Kleinglass!



Steven Kleinglass. Photo credit Minneapolis VA Health Care System.

After 39 years of government service Steven Kleinglass retired December 31, 2011. Steven was appointed to Director of the Minneapolis VA Health Care System in 2002. Prior to that he served as acting director, assistant director and associate director.

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs salutes Kleinglass for his dedication and service to the Veterans of Minnesota. He was a tremendous partner with MDVA over the years. His outstanding leadership and commitment to providing exceptional health care to our heroes the past 39 years has made him an invaluable asset. On behalf of the 380,000 Veterans in Minnesota, thank you for your service to this state and country and best wishes in your retirement!

Veteran of the Month



**GLOBE UNIVERSITY
MINNESOTA SCHOOL
OF BUSINESS**

The Minnesota Department

of Veterans Affairs would like to thank Globe University / Minnesota School of Business for their continued partnership with WCCO Radio for the "Minnesota Veteran of the Month" campaign. The monthly spots and website components have been a success and continue to raise awareness of the services and benefits Globe and the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs have to offer Minnesota's heroes.

January's Veteran of the Month is Wes McCoy, a WWII survivor of Okinawa. Listen to the spot at <http://tinyurl.com/83yl2to>. This feature will air on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 4 p.m. on WCCO Radio 830 AM throughout the month of January.

Live Radio Show - Jan. 19

On Thursday, Jan. 19, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Shellito will join Minnesota Military Radio Hour Host Tom Lyons at the Chanhassen American Legion for a special live recording of the show from 5 - 6 p.m. Show your support and join Tom Lyons and Commissioner Larry Shellito for the show!



The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and the Minnesota National Guard have been producing the Minnesota Military Radio Hour show since Nov. 2010. The weekly hour-long military and Veterans public affairs program airs Sunday mornings at 7 a.m. on Twin Cities News Talk 1130 AM. For more information visit www.minnesotamilitaryradio.com.

To request alternative formats of this information, please contact MDVA at (612) 548-5961 or mdva.affirmativeaction@state.mn.us or through the Minnesota Relay Service at 1 (800) 627-3529.

Upcoming Events



**YOU WERE THERE.
YOU SERVED.
DRAW ON YOUR
EXPERIENCE.**



Veterans in the Arts
P.O. Box 16576
St. Paul, Minnesota 55116

Phone: 651.270.9489
Website: www.veteransinthearts.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/veteransinthearts

BRING A FRIEND.

We'll give you the tools to have a good time.
No critiques. No tests. Free tuition.
It's enough to have Curiosity, even a little Daring.
Take up the Challenge. **TAKE THE RISK.**

INTRODUCTORY ART CLASSES

Have you ever made paper, blown glass, pulled a print, or turned a pot? Want to try your hand? Or, have you ever thought about dialogue and sat in a playwright's chair? And what about drawing? Think it's impossible? No. We'll show you how.

New eight-week sessions begin in January and March:

- Thursday Mornings, January 12 – March 1, 2012, 9:00 am
St. Paul Veterans Resource Center
- Tuesday Evenings, March 6 – April 24, 2012, 6:00 pm
St. Paul Veterans Resource Center

ADVANCED ART CLASSES

Want to gain some fundamental skills and make real things. Want to be comfortable in a studio space and feel the freedom to be creative? We're giving you the chance to work with wonderfully talented teachers. Explore the themes that interest you alongside other veterans. Support and learn from one another.

Two twelve-week sessions begin in January:

- Thursday Evenings, January 5 – March 22, 2012, 6:00 – 10:00 pm
Minnesota Center for Book Arts
- Tuesday Mornings, January 10 – March 27, 2012, 9:30 – 12:30 pm
Highpoint Center for Printmaking

MUSIC CLASSES

Whether you are new to music, or whether you have a guitar already, you'll find these classes to be relaxing and challenging. You'll bond with fellow veterans. You'll learn something about the music you love whether it's rhythm or melody and harmony. There's a chance for improvising your own songs and for joint class sessions.

Two twelve-week sessions begin in January:

- Monday Mornings, January 23 – April 16, 2012, 11:00 – 12:15 pm
Percussion (Drums) at MacPhail Center for Music
- Monday Afternoons, January 23 – April 16, 2012, 1:00 – 2:15 pm
Guitar at MacPhail Center for Music

**TO REGISTER, PLEASE CALL 651.270.9489
OR GO ONLINE AT WWW.VETERANSINHEARTS.ORG**



This activity is made possible, in part, by funds provided by the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council from an appropriation by the Minnesota Legislature. The balance is from the generous contributions of our friends.

Veterans in the Arts is a fiscal year 2011-12 recipient of an Arts Learning Grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is funded, in part, by the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

Upcoming Events Cont.



MINNESOTA ASSISTANCE COUNCIL FOR VETERANS
MACV
SERVING VETERANS THROUGHOUT MINNESOTA

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans invites you to participate in a free:

DROP-IN LEGAL CLINIC FOR VETERANS

CHILD SUPPORT & FAMILY, EMPLOYMENT, BENEFITS, EXPUNGEMENT & DEBT COLLECTION

Tuesday, January 10th 10AM - 3PM | VA Medical Center
Flag Atrium Balcony Room 2S 114 (ask information desk for directions)
1 Veterans Drive | Minneapolis, MN
FREE Parking at the VA Medical Center

Attorneys, MACV staff, Veterans Service Officers, child support officers and VA Mental Health Homeless Program intake available throughout the day to assist veterans with questions, legal forms and counsel.

For more information contact:
Nathaniel Saltz, MACV - 651.224.0290 | nsaltz@mac-v.org

Past & Present

Honoring all Servicewomen

Servicewomen's Luncheon
March 31, 2012
Noon to 3:00 pm

More Information to Come

Save the Date!

Gallagher Hansen VFW Post #295
111 South Concord Street
South St. Paul, MN 55075

CRAGUN'S
Beyond The Yellow Ribbon *Rendezvous*

SPECIALY DISCOUNTED PACKAGE STARTING AT \$275
2 Night Package Family of 4

Winter Family FUN Weekend
February 24-26, 2012

2 Night Package—lodging in Lakeview Fireplace Room

Friday Night Welcome Reception & dinner buffet

DJ/Karaoke for adults Friday & Saturday

Saturday family activities and entertainment

Free Sunday breakfast buffet

Experience a Winter Family Weekend with other Yellow Ribbon Community Volunteers from all over the state of Minnesota! You can help our military families and have fun doing it!

Network and trade ideas with other Yellow Ribbon Volunteers on how to support our troops and their families.

Event will benefit the MMFF as a fundraiser for our Minnesota Military Families who might experience financial hardship as a result of their service to our state and country.

CRAGUN'S
1-800-CRAGUNS
1-800-(272-4867) • CRAGUNS.com

Weekend Activities

- Friday night dinner and program. Gathering of Yellow Ribbon Volunteers, guest speaker and family bingo.
- Silent Auction—all donations going to MMFF. Available Friday-Sunday, bid on many wonderful items generously donated—check your bids often!
- Saturday briefing 8:00-10:00 am
- Indoor and outdoor activities including horse drawn trolley rides, ice skating on our huge outdoor lighted rink, snowshoes, X-Country skis, dog sled rides, guided snowmobile trips, afternoon family carnival and evening family entertainment.
- Saturday Night Spaghetti Dinner (additional charge)
- Sunday Hot Breakfast Buffet
- Tom Lyons live from Cragun's with the Minnesota Military Radio Hour (7:00 - 8:00 am) with special guest speakers
- Sunday activities include and ice fishing contest and more indoor and outdoor fun including Cragun's HUGE indoor pool.

How Can I Help?
Bring your family and join the fun!
Donate a silent auction item or bid on silent auction items. Contact Mike Mohen at
Serve as a corporate sponsor or develop an event of your own.
Sponsor a family for the weekend.

For a complete listing of events across the state of Minnesota, visit <http://calendar.mdva.state.mn.us>.