

MAJOR MN VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS ANNOUNCE

TRUST FUND GRANTS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT VETERANS

St. Paul, Minn. —Dec. 1, 2006-- The Big Island Veterans Camp of Minnetonka Board of Governors, comprised of representatives from several state-wide veterans organizations, sold the Big Island Veterans Camp on Lake Minnetonka to the City of Orono in January of 2006. The proceeds from the sale were placed in a trust fund and proceeds from the fund were to address the needs of all veterans across the state through the collaboration of the four veterans organizations through the fund Board of Directors and a grant process..

The established trust fund, totaling more than \$5 million, was named the MN V4V Trust Fund (Veterans 4 Veterans). Funds will be used to provide service and support projects and programs to Minnesota veterans. It is run by a board of directors with appointed representatives from the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. The Office of the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs will also be involved in the approval of grants using the process in place. The availability of grants is being announced today and initial grants are expected to be granted in the January / Feb timeframe. Grant applications for veterans projects will be accepted and reviewed for funding throughout December, 2006 and January / February 2007, with the first grants targeted for March 2007. This process of review and awarding will be done on a quarterly or semi-annual basis thereafter. Specific areas of charitable veterans service projects considered will be:

EMPLOYMENT

HEALTHCARE

EDUCATION

SOCIAL/HUMAN SERVICES

RECREATIONAL

Information about the trust fund, award criteria and the grant process and applications can be found on the web at:

https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_574?SA=SNA&FID=35016

or link to this site from the MN Dept of Veterans Affairs website at www.mndva.state.mn.us

Additional questions can be answered by contacting Dean Ascheman at 651-291-1212 or Marland Ronning at 651-291-1800

“All board members and the organizations they represent are excited about this unprecedented opportunity to work as a single team to address the needs of the veterans on a state-wide basis,” said Dean Ascheman, chairman of the V4V board of directors.

###

