



MORRISON COUNTY

Veterans Service Office Newsletter

Fall 2025 Edition

1. PACT ACT — Presumptive Conditions You Should Know

The PACT Act expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. Below are the Top 5 Conditions Claimed by era.

Vietnam Era Veterans	Gulf War Era Veterans
1 Hypertensive Vascular Disease (High Blood Pressure)	1 Allergic Rhinitis
2 Malignant Genitourinary Cancers (e.g., bladder, kidney)	2 Maxillary/Chronic Sinusitis
3 Prostate Cancer	3 Bronchial Asthma
4 Ischemic Heart Disease	4 Chronic Rhinitis
5 Type II Diabetes Mellitus	5 Gastrointestinal Cancers (including liver, pancreas, bile duct)

Reminder: If you served in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Guam, or Johnston Atoll—or in Southwest Asia after August 2, 1990—you may qualify for presumptive service connection under the PACT Act. Contact our office to see if your condition qualifies.

2. For Surviving Spouses of Veterans

If your spouse was a Veteran, you may be eligible for:

- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC): Monthly benefit if the Veteran's death was service-connected or the Veteran was rated 100% for at least 10 years prior to passing.
- CHAMPVA Health Coverage: For survivors not eligible for TRICARE.
- Education Benefits (Chapter 35 – DEA): Financial aid for schooling or training.
- Burial Benefits: Funeral reimbursements, headstones, and Presidential Memorial Certificates.

Contact us—we'll help determine what benefits you qualify for.

3. Attention National Guard Members & Reserve Components

You do not need to wait until retirement to file for VA benefits! If you served on federal active-duty orders (Title 10) or were activated under qualifying Title 32 orders, you may be eligible for:

- Disability compensation for service-connected conditions
- VA health care enrollment
- Education and home loan benefits

Don't wait—let us help review your service history and start your claim now.

4. 100% Service-Connected Veterans with High School Minors

Children of Veterans rated 100% Service-Connected may qualify for \$1,537 per month for up to 5 months under Chapter 35 (Dependents Educational Assistance) if they attend Pierz, Little Falls, Swanville, or Upsala High Schools.

This special benefit expires August 2026.

Do not miss this opportunity!

5. Education Opportunities

There are numerous scholarships and grants available to all Veterans' dependents—including local, state, and national programs. Call our office for a full list and application assistance.

6. Financial Hardship Assistance

If you are a Veteran or Surviving Spouse experiencing financial hardship, contact our office. We can help determine if there are state or emergency assistance options available to help with:

- Rent or mortgage payments
- Utilities and home repairs
- Food or transportation costs

Every case is reviewed individually—don't hesitate to reach out for support.

7. Minnesota State Soldiers Assistance Program (SSAP)

The SSAP is a Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs program that provides short-term financial assistance for Veterans and their families during times of need.

Types of Assistance Include:

- Veterans Relief Grant: Temporary help for rent, mortgage, utilities, or other emergencies.
- Dental and Optical Grants: Covers part or all costs for dental care, dentures, eye exams, and glasses.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Minnesota resident and honorably discharged Veteran.
- Income generally below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline (approximately \$2,500/month for an individual, \$5,000/month for a family of four). Must not have a lot of money in any checking, saving, or retirement accounts.
- Proof of current hardship and documentation of expenses is required.

Contact our office for help with the application process—these grants can make a real difference.

8. Military Retirement Seminar — Save the Date!

Date: April 15, 2026

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Hangar Conference Center, Camp Ripley

Cost: Free (Breakfast Provided)

Join us for an informative seminar on preparing for military retirement and navigating benefits, TRICARE, and state resources. Open to all military branches and family members.

Contact Us

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