



STATE OF IOWA

GOVERNOR TERRY E. BRANSTAD
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS

IOWA COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
KATE MYERS, CHAIR

December 10, 2013

Dear General Assembly, Iowa Veterans and Friends of Veterans:

As 2013 draws to a close, we reflect on the activities and accomplishments of the past year and begin to plan for 2014.

I would like to invite you to join the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs for the 2014 Veterans Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 (program is attached).

On the First Floor of the Capitol Rotunda beginning at 9:00 a.m., you will be able to visit several vendor tables and the program will begin at 10:00 a.m. We will all have an opportunity to meet with our elected officials immediately following the program. During that time, we will be able to discuss the attached 2014 Veterans Coalition Legislative Initiatives which is attached.

Hope to see you on the hill!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate Myers".

Kate Myers, Chair
Iowa Commissioner of Veterans Affairs

KM/mlm
Attachments

PLEASE JOIN US

The Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs invites you to learn about the latest legislative activity in Des Moines, hear from key policy makers, visit with event vendors about veteran-related services, and meet with your elected officials to make your voice heard on the key issues affecting veterans.



SCHEDULE

January 22, 2014

9:00 - 10:00 Visit vendor tables - Capitol Rotunda – First Floor

10:00 – 10:30 Veterans Day Program - Capitol Rotunda –
First Floor

- Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, Executive Director
 - Col. Robert King (Ret) Master of Ceremonies
- Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs, Chairperson Kate Myers
 - Pledge of Allegiance
- Rev. Daniel McClure, PhD., American Legion National Chaplain
 - Invocation/Moment of Silence
- Governor Terry E. Branstad
- Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds
- MG Timothy Orr, Iowa National Guard
- Chair, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
- Ranking Member, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
- Chair, House Veterans Affairs Committee
- Ranking Member, House Veterans Affairs Committee
- Iowa Veterans Home, Commandant Jodi Tymeson
- Benediction, Rev. Daniel McClure, PhD

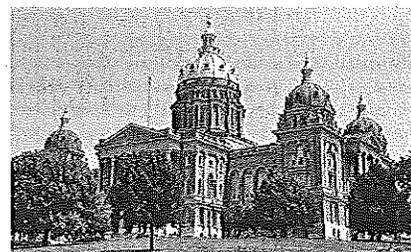
10:30 - Locate your elected officials to discuss legislative initiatives

Noon Depart Capitol

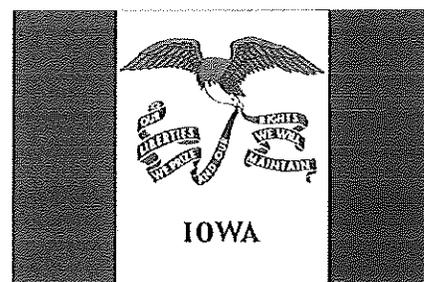
*For more information about this event,
or to register a vendor table, please
contact Mari Mielke at 515-727-3440 or
at mari.mielke@iowa.gov.*

2014

VETERANS DAY AT THE CAPITOL



**January 22, 2014
Des Moines, IA**



*“Empowering
Veterans through
activism and unity”*

2014 Veterans Coalition Legislative Initiatives

1. In order to continue the programs that support Iowa veterans and their families, we support the protection of the financial integrity of the following agencies and programs:
 - Iowa Veterans Home
 - Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Iowa Veterans Trust Fund
 - County Allocation Funds
 - Injured Veteran Grant Program
 - Military Home Ownership Program
 - Veterans License Fee Fund

2. In order to retain veterans in Iowa upon their retirement from military service, we support the enactment of an Iowa income tax exemption for military retirement pay. The return on investment by attracting and retaining our military retirees will be good for Iowa's economy as they will bring additional monies to the state.

3. In order to strengthen the statewide system supporting veterans, we support the language changes to Iowa Code, Chapter 35B proposed by the Iowa Association of County Commissioners and Veterans Service Officers (IACCVSO). These proposed changes will provide clarity to the Code language. There is no fiscal impact involved with these proposed changes.

4. In order to update the military property tax exemption, we support consideration of the following:
 - Remove "Iowa" from the definition of retired Guard and Reserve members (35.1). This would allow property owners who retired from other states' National Guard and Reserves to receive the property tax exemption when they become property owners in Iowa.
 - Eliminate the property tax for 100% service-connected disabled veterans rated as permanent and total.
 - Increase the amount of the military property tax exemption to 10% of assessed value of the property, with exemption not to exceed \$15,000.

5. Allow disabled veterans (50% service-connected or greater) to acquire the current disabled veteran license plate. Fees waived only for 100% service-connected disabled veterans. (Currently, this plate is only available to disabled veterans who acquire the vehicle through a VA program.)

AWARENESS ISSUES:

1. Encourage civic responsibility by requiring K-12 schools teach and model patriotism and Americanism.
2. Ensure proper protocol used when flying POW/MIA flag. The POW/MIA flag should be displayed second in order of precedence to the US flag, i.e., displayed directly below the U.S. flag and above the Iowa flag.
3. Ensure that when married couples are in a nursing facility and on Title 19 benefits, and in receipt of VA pension with Aid and Attendance (A&A), are afforded the personal needs allowance from the nursing facility of \$50.00 and the \$90 monthly VA allowance per patient. Currently only single veterans are allowed the Medicaid personal needs allowance of \$50.00 and VA allowance of \$90.00.