



STATE OF IOWA

GOVERNOR TERRY E. BRANSTAD
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS

IOWA COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MONICA BLAKLEY, CHAIR

December 2015

Dear General Assembly, Iowa Veterans and Friends of Veterans:

As 2015 draws to a close, we reflect on the activities and accomplishments of the past year and begin to plan for 2016.

I would like to invite you to join the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs for the 2016 Veterans Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, January 20, 2016.

On the First Floor of the Capitol Rotunda beginning at 9:00 a.m., you will be able to visit several vendor tables with veteran information 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 2016 Iowa Veterans Council Coalition Legislative Initiatives.

Hope to see you on the hill!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monica Blakley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Monica Blakley, Chair
Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs

MB/mlm
Attachments:
Program
2016 Initiatives

PLEASE JOIN US

The Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs invites you to join us for the annual Veterans Day at the Capitol. You will have an opportunity to meet with your elected officials and discuss key issues affecting our Iowa veterans. A number of veteran-related organizations will be available to make you more aware of the services that they provide. We hope to see you at the 2016 Veterans Day at the Capitol.



SCHEDULE

January 20, 2016

09:00 - 10:00 Visit vendor tables - Capitol Rotunda – First Floor

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

- Col. Robert King (Ret) – Master of Ceremonies
- Executive Director Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs
- Col. Monica Blakley – Chair Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs
- - Pledge of Allegiance
- Rev. Daniel McClure, PhD. - American Legion State Chaplain
- Invocation/Moment of Silence
- Governor Terry E. Branstad
- Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds
- Maj. Gen. Timothy Orr - Adjutant General - 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
- Jodi Tymeson – Commandant Iowa Veterans Home
- Rev. Daniel McClure, PhD. - American Legion State Chaplain
- Benediction

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

Noon - Depart Capitol

For more information about this event, please contact Mari Mielke at 515-252-4698 or at mari.mielke@iowa.gov.

2016

VETERANS DAY AT THE CAPITOL



January 20, 2016
Des Moines, IA



*“Empowering
Veterans through
activism and unity”*

Iowa Veterans Council Coalition 2016 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
2. Allow Iowa disabled veterans with a 50% or greater service-connected disability rating as certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, acquire the current disabled veteran license plate with all fees and registration waived for one personal vehicle.
3. Allow an increase of the Military Property Tax Exemption from \$1852 to \$5,000.
4. Addition of term "Veteran" on Iowa State driver's licenses for individuals who have completed their initial term of service in the National Guard or Reserves and received an honorable discharge.
5. 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.

The Iowa Veterans Council Coalition is comprised of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, American Veterans (AMVETS), 40 & 8, Marine Corps League, and Ex-Prisoners of War.

Ex-official members include the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, Iowa Veterans Home, Iowa Commission of Veteran Affairs, Iowa County Association, Des Moines VA Regional Office, VA Central Iowa Health Care System (Des Moines), Iowa City VA Health Care System, and Sons of AMVETS.